

# Module 31 Unit 3 Activity 1

## Group Work: Vision and mission statement

Vivian, Natalie, Engela

Below are the vision and mission statements of each of our schools. We have added comments according to the discussion that took place in our group meeting. Our project is divided into three sections as seen below

### Section1: Mission and Vision statements of the three individual schools

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| 1. Mission statement table of each school, strengths and improvement areas | Page 1 |
| 2. Vision statement table of each school, strengths and improvement areas  | Page 2 |

### Saction2: Extra resources we reviewed to aid in the revision process of the mission and vision statements

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| 3. Philosophy and beliefs statement table of Natalie's school. | Page 3 |
| 4. Belief statement table of Vivian's school.                  | Page 4 |
| 5. Goals statement table of Engela's school.                   | Page 5 |

Included in this document is extra information regarding each schools' philosophies, beliefs, and goals. We realized in the discussion that these parts of information are linked to the individual schools vision and mission statements respectively and should be taken into consideration when we are aiming to understand the school, in order to revise the current vision and mission statement.

### Section 3: The revised mission and vision statement of one school

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| 6. Revised vision and mission statement of Vivian's school. | Page 6 |
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As a group we decided to review Vivian's school's vision and mission statement. Vivian shared that even though her school has all the information, procedures and planning done there seem to be a disconnect between the plan and the execution. What the school aims to do and what is being done in the classroom does not always align with each other.

Section 1	Mission Statement	Strengths	Areas of Improvement
SIS- Natalie	Shekou International School <b>provides</b> a rigorous education in a caring community and <b>inspires</b> our students to become principled, innovative contributors in a transforming world.	<p>A Thoughtfu statement- <b>what does SIS do:</b> provides a rigorous education  <b>Why:</b> for students to become principled-Natalie</p> <p>It sets high goals to reach, and has strong values combined with 21 century skills that makes the mission statement feel very current and with the development of the world. - Engela</p> <p>Contain aspirational words focusing on <b>education, community</b> and <b>inspiration</b> for the development of students, and highlights certain attributes in the IB Learner's profile.. - Vivian</p>	<p>Very “wordy” contains aspirational words in the statement.-Natalie</p> <p>I agree - it does feel a bit like a vision statement, and could me more focused on what is currently been done - Engela</p> <p>I think that it could be more simplified, direct, and easy for everyone to remember in order to be integrated into the operation of the school. - Vivian</p>
ISA- Vivian	To educate for international understanding	<p>Short, and to the point. It is something that is easily remembered - Engela</p> <p>Simple, and easy to remember, and highlights the international-mindedness, and authentic learning. - Vivian</p> <p>Focused and easy to read, very direct. -Natalie</p>	<p>Change ‘international’ to ‘global’ - Engela</p> <p>I think that the mission statement is not direct enough to be operational. It is a bit vague with focus solely on understanding, but lacking a mission to develop learning skills, and empower students to take action to make a difference in the real world. - Vivian</p> <p>What does “international understanding” mean? To educate students to be global citizens possibly. -Natalie</p>
SAP - Engela	The Sino-American Program <b>prepares</b> Chinese high school graduate students for university	This is a brand new mission statement, and I believe it will add value and clarify to all stakeholders	SAP did not have a concise mission statement at the beginning of the week. Parts of the mission statement

	<p>life abroad, <b>empowering</b> them to be comfortable with communicating and studying in an academic English learning environment.</p> <hr/> <p>If you would like to take a look at the process here is the link  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dgA3bkCEVRoF3qGD4jA0wPy_HnwSHbzyyKN1qhuFDwE/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dgA3bkCEVRoF3qGD4jA0wPy_HnwSHbzyyKN1qhuFDwE/edit?usp=sharing</a></p>	<p>what we are currently doing in the program. - Engela</p> <p>I like the use of the word “empowering” to explain what the Sino-American Program does.          -Natalie</p>	<p>were listed under the goals of the program. - Engela</p> <p>I think it could be “ The Sino-American Program <b>prepares</b> Chinese high school graduate students to enter university abroad, and <b>empowers</b> them to be confident in university life abroad.” Because I think that it might be more clear and direct when focusing on two stages in the development of student:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Prepare them to enter universities abroad with modified and enriched curriculum</li> <li>2) Empower them to be confident in communicating in an English-speaking environment in school and life.</li> </ol> <p>- Vivian</p> <p>I would change the ending to “<b>empowering</b> them with the skills and confidence to communicate and study in any academic English learning environment they choose.”          -Natalie</p>
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Section 1	Vision Statement	Strengths	Areas of Improvement
SIS- Natalie	N/A	N/A	As discussed in our meeting, the mission statement of the school would

			<p>be better suited as a vision statement, and probably be worded more concise. - Engela</p> <p>The Vision statement is partially reflected in the Mission statement, thus it would be beneficial to revise both of the M&amp;V statements together and clear focus on distinguished directions when rewriting them respectively:</p> <p>1) Mission statement: simple, direct and operational with focus on action</p> <p>2) Vision statement: aspirational, the big picture in the future - Vivian</p> <p>I agree with the comments above, the mission statement is clear but includes aspects of a vision statement that is aspirational for every child with the ability to “change the world” -Natalie</p>
ISA- Vivian	<p><i>To create a community of lifelong learners who value inquiry, critical thinking and creative thinking, take informed risks, and act with integrity and compassion.</i></p>	<p>Definitely a vision statement that reaches for a profound goal, I think it is a strong vision statement. - Engela</p> <p>I think that it reflects some of the fundamental values and visions we expect our students to become.</p> <p>This is very positive, as an employee of the school I would feel a sense of pride knowing this is the expectation for the future direction of the school -Natalie</p>	<p>Technology is at the forefront of our generation and I think that it could be added to the vision statement. - Engela</p> <p>I agree with Engela that the dispositions of digital learning through the lens of the Learner Profile could be integrated into the Vision statement.</p> <p>Additionally, I would really like to add curiosity, passion, confidence, balanced, reflective, collaborative, resilience, responsibility, striving for excellence, well-being into the vision</p>

			statement to have a holistic picture of what the leaders of the future could be. - Vivian
SAP - Engela	<p>The Sino-American Program envisions a future where all students are accepted into the top ten universities of the world.</p> <p>If you would like to take a look at the process here is the link  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dgA3bkCEVRoF3qGD4jA0wPy_HnwSHbzyyKN1qhuFDwE/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dgA3bkCEVRoF3qGD4jA0wPy_HnwSHbzyyKN1qhuFDwE/edit?usp=sharing</a></p>	<p>This is a brand new vision that was created through collaboration. It is unique, and not necessarily the same as other schools' vision statements, but it is true to the 'dream' of the program. - Engela</p> <p>This shows a very aspirational vision, where all students are accepted not only into the top universities, but specifically the top ten. -Natalie</p>	<p>SAP did not have a vision statement, because of this the SAP did not have a clear direction for the future, or milestone that they strive to reach. - Engela</p> <p>Moving forward, maybe think about what kind of learners that your school wants them to be and expects them to be able to do in the future. - Vivian</p>

Section 2	Philosophy Statement
SIS- Natalie	The purpose of education is to prepare people to play a full and active role as global citizens throughout their lives. Shekou International School was founded to serve the educational needs of expatriates residing in Shenzhen.
Comments	<p>This seems more like the school's mission statement.  <b>What does SIS do:</b> prepares students to play an active role as global citizens  <b>Why:</b> for students of expats living in Shenzhen - Natalie</p>
	<p>I like that it states very clearly who the target stakeholders are, and what it strives to do. I also feel that the use of global citizens creates an inclusive philosophy.</p> <p>A philosophy statement is a statement of beliefs and including examples of what you do to support these beliefs. In my opinion to strengthen the philosophy statement they should add what the school does to create active global citizens and what are the specific educational needs that are being met for the residents of Shenzhen. - Engela</p>



<p>grapple with the challenges in our world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learners acquire an awareness and understanding of the wider world, and their place in it.</li> <li>• Learners acquire knowledge and understanding of significant local and global issues and the interconnectedness and interdependencies within contemporary societies.</li> <li>• Learners develop multilingual and non-verbal modes of communication.</li> <li>• Learners develop skills for inquiry, digital and critical literacy.</li> <li>• Learners develop critical thinking and analysis.</li> <li>• Learners develop an argument and voice their own opinions</li> <li>• Learners develop creative thinking and the ability to turn their ideas into reality.</li> </ul>	<p>diversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learners develop an understanding of the beliefs, values, and experiences that shape their personal identities and how this impacts their multiple relationships.</li> <li>• Learners develop an appreciation of difference and diversity and of how a person's beliefs and values influence their unique perspective.</li> <li>• Learners develop the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes required for respecting difference, living peacefully with others and engaging with the world.</li> <li>• Learners understand their common humanity, sharing values and responsibilities that transcend cultures based on human rights.</li> <li>• Learners demonstrate digital citizenship including a positive self-image and persona in the digital environment.</li> <li>• Learners develop digital resilience, learning and unlearning, navigating ambiguity and dealing with novelty, diversity and change in the digital age.</li> <li>• Learners develop the ability to set priorities, make informed choices and manage challenges in order to achieve their goals.</li> </ul>	<p>sustainable world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learners are socially-connected and seek to build inclusive and empathetic relationships and networks, face to face and online, across cultural boundaries.</li> <li>• Learners have compassion for the feelings, needs, and concerns of others face to face and online, acting ethically and with empathy, tolerance and responsibility.</li> <li>• Learners understand their role in society and that their actions can make a difference.</li> <li>• Learners develop a mindset and the adaptiveness to know when and how to take effective and responsible action at local, regional and global levels in raising awareness of issues, solving problems, supporting human rights and engaging in environmental stewardship.</li> </ul>
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Comments	<p>The beliefs are well organized and structured, dividing them into the three important parts and then explaining each of them individually.</p> <p>Although the structuring is very well done, I feel that there are many beliefs, and that can seem overwhelming. Another thing is, how do you prove that you are taking action and standing by your beliefs - what is the school actually doing to adhere to these beliefs? I think making the beliefs shorter/fewer would make it more believable that these beliefs are being implemented. - Engela</p> <p>I agree with Engela, there are a lot of beliefs listed here, are these beliefs of the school or goals for each learner? -Natalie</p>
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Section 2	Goals
SAP - Engela	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main goal of our program is to prepare Chinese high school students for life and studying in universities abroad. <p>The primary method of this is through English language learning. English skills and subject based classes</p> </li> <li>• We strive to get our students to the level where they are comfortable communicating in English. <p>Exposing students to different learning environments Learning subjects through English</p> </li> <li>• Advanced seminars and tutoring on college application preparation. <p>These include TOEFL prep classes, SAT prep classes, and AP classes. College credit classes for our 12<sup>th</sup> graders through SUPA.</p> </li> </ul>
Comments	<p>The goal of the SAP is to expose the students to a different type of classroom, to give the students some kind of experience that is not just based on the Chinese education system, seeing that they want to study abroad.</p> <p>Another very important goal is English language skills and communication abilities. I think it is a strength to have two clear goals that are achievable, compared to many unattainable goals.</p> <p>The SAP is very focused on English language skills, and this might lead to a rigid system of education. The SAP can strive for exposure to different learning environments, but to what extent? Currently, the TOEFL, SAT and AP classes are taught by qualified Chinese teachers, but unfortunately these teachers still teach in the Chinese style. If we truly want to embrace communication in English, all classes should be taught by foreign teachers. Unfortunately, this brings in the problem of the language barrier, and that could impede understanding.</p> <p>A goal can maybe be bilingual subject classes where a Chinese and foreign teacher teaches the class together. -</p>



	Engela
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Section 3	Mission Statement	Vision statement
Original:	To educate for international understanding	<i>To create a community of lifelong learners who value inquiry, critical thinking and creative thinking, take informed risks, and act with integrity and compassion.</i>
Modified:	<p>Educate global citizens. - Engela</p> <p>To <b>educate</b> for international understanding, <b>create</b> an inspirational and compassionate learning community and <b>empower</b> to make a difference. - Vivian</p> <p>To educate students to become global citizens. -Natalie</p>	<p>Shape a lifelong learner community who value inquiry, critical and creative thinking applying technology to take informed risks and act with integrity and compassion. - Engela</p> <p>To create a community of passionate life-long learners who value balanced lives, well-being of self and others and healthy social relationships; inquiry with curiosity, critical thinking and creative thinking in the digital age; being resilient and reflective with beliefs and confidence to overcome challenges; striving for excellence with clear goals in mind; being effective communicators, collaborative and respectful in the community, take informed risks, and act with integrity and compassion to make positive impacts on the sustainability of the world. - Vivian</p> <p>To create a caring community consisting of lifelong learners who value inquiry, critical and creative thinking, who feel empowered to take risks while acting with integrity and compassion. -Natalie</p>
Explain how the modified vision and mission statement will clearly guide daily actions at the school.	<p>A global citizen is someone who is not identified by geography, they are part of humanity, instead of 'international understanding', it will be a more inclusive broader community. This ties in with the belief statements listed above. - Engela</p> <p>For the daily activities of the school, I think it</p>	<p>Adding technology relates to the belief of digital literacy as well as developing a positive responsible digital citizenship culture in the students. Technology can also assist the development of the community as stated in the beliefs statements as well. - Engela</p> <p>Looking at daily activities, this can help focus the in-class teaching and assist the teachers to connect the vision,</p>

	<p>can create a more inclusive environment, looking at humanity as a whole. Maybe 'international understanding' will focus attention to more 'popular' or well known subject matter or opinions. - Engela</p> <p>The mission and Vision statements allows everyone to have a clear understanding of why we are doing what we do, and guides the operational plans of the school. With a shared Vision and Mission statement, we could embed our philosophy of education explicitly into our written curriculum within and across IB programmes; professional development programmes; Service programmes, which would have direct impact on the daily teaching and learning, as well as students' outcome. - Vivian</p>	<p>mission and belief statements in a more holistic approach to the instruction given to the students in class. - Engela</p> <p>I think it is important to add that the community feels empowered to take risks, as well as to create a caring community. -Natalie</p>
<p>Explained how the implementation of the modified vision and mission statement will be evaluated for success.</p>	<p>The modified vision and mission statement can assist with the in-class activities and teaching instruction overall, leading to clearer goals and the steps that need to be taken to reach success. I also think if the beliefs are shortened, it can be integrated better into the curriculum, as well as maybe structuring the beliefs to grade level and giving each grade a few goals to reach, and by working together the whole school, scaffolding activities and goals that are supported by the vision and mission statements, success can be better evaluated. - Engela</p> <p>The success criteria for the implementation of the modified vision and mission statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The written curriculum has been comprehensively reviewed and articulated, horizontally and vertically, across all grade levels and subject areas with technology integration in mind</li> <li>- Approaches to learning provides a common language for teachers and students when planning, reflecting and building the process of learning</li> <li>- Curriculum overviews with particular reference to approaches to learning are accessible to students and parents.</li> <li>- The curriculum is up-to-date and clearly communicated to the school community</li> <li>- Explicit curriculum mapping of the progression of learning from PYP to DP would support the consistency of implementation of shared mission and vision</li> <li>- The professional dialogue through collaborative planning and reflection on teaching and learning to</li> </ul>	

	<p>reflect the core principles of concept-driven, inquiry-based teaching and collaborative approach to curriculum design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Create the culture of thinking with thinking routines to enhance understanding and learning</li><li>- Students are provided with opportunities to actively engage in interactive and exploratory authentic learning environments .</li><li>- The structure of the schedule and annual calendar promotes the well-being of students and staff in the learning community</li><li>- School supports sustained development of a culture of care to develop the social, emotional and physical well-being of the students and community members, and facilitates ongoing professional development and advisory programme reviews - Vivian</li></ul> <p>Surveys of all stakeholders involve, from the students, teachers, administration, and parents. How do they feel that the missions and vision reflect their student learning, and their day to day experiences within the classrooms.-Natalie</p>	
Strategic Plan		
<div><div><h3>Developing minds, character and community</h3><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Develop a common understanding of learning at ISA for the digital age</li><li>2. Ensure ongoing high-quality citizenship and collaboration within a culture of international mindedness.</li></ol><h3>Developing school</h3><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Ensure ongoing sustainability and perpetuation of the school to achieve its purpose.</li></ol></div><div><div><h4>Strategic Plan 2020-2025</h4><h5>Our Goals</h5><div><h6>Developing Minds, Character and Community</h6><div>1</div><div>Develop a common understanding of learning at ISA for the digital age.</div></div><div><h6>Developing School</h6><div>2</div><div>Ensure ongoing high-quality citizenship and collaboration within a culture of international-mindedness.</div></div><div><div>3</div><div>Ensure the sustainability and perpetuation of the school to achieve its purpose.</div></div></div></div></div>		
Section 3	Mission Statement	Vision statement
Explain how its modified vision and mission statement would clearly guide the strategic direction of the school.	By changing from international to global citizen it is a more uniform vision statement that reflects the second point of the strategic plan. - Engela	By adding technology to the vision statement, it will tie in more with the strategic plan, because it states learning for the digital age in the first point. - Engela
	By making the changes to the school's vision and mission statement the school will be able to reach the goal of achieving development as a whole. The vision will include the technological literacy development and the mission will include all citizens/humanity, in essence staying true to the third point of the strategic	

	<p>direction of the school. - Engela</p> <p>The modified vision and mission statements align with the strategic plan of developing mind, character and community for the students and school. The statements would guide the school development with focus on inquiry-based, concept-driven, and collaborative teaching and learning consistent with IB philosophy; cultivating a community of empathy and wellness where learners and community partners can thrive and interact with one another with respect and open-mindedness. - Vivian</p> <p>The modified mission and vision statements clearly guide the direction of the school into the future, (for the next 5 years). Educators don't look at the world internationally any more, we think globally. Education is also paralleled with technology, by including technology in the vision, you are directing the students and the school towards the future of education. -Natalie</p>
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