

Why Yokohama?

—Company Interview Series—

Saint Maur International School

We are proud to support our community by offering not only world-class education to our students, but also offering parents a platform to learn and share their culture, knowledge and experiences with each other.



Gilles Gaury
Public Relations Director
Saint Maur International School



Renata Jaroscakova (Left) & Caroline Piggott (Right)
Saint Maur Parent Support Group
Chair and Vice Chair

Saint Maur International School is the oldest international school in Japan, and offers education based on the values of embracing diversity and giving back to the community.

Saint Maur International School was founded in 1872 when Yokohama was one of the few areas of Japan open to foreigners. We were established only 4 years after the Meiji Restoration, and one year before Christianity officially became legal in Japan.

We are the first school in Japan to introduce the Montessori method in Japan, and our French School allows younger francophone students to continue their studies in the French system while also preparing them for the international system. Our curriculum culminates with students entering the International Baccalaureate program, one of the most widely recognized curriculum in the world.

As a Catholic school, we promote the values of openness and accepting each other's religion, and we have a diverse student base, with students of many different religions, from over 40 nationalities.

Yokohama is a hub for domestic and international travel with a growing potential.

As the historical entry point for foreign trade and activity in Japan, Yokohama has developed a great transportation network—international flights at Haneda Airport, bullet train at Shin-Yokohama Station and Shuto and Tomei expressways—while avoiding the congestion common to Tokyo.

There is still considerable land available for companies to acquire; new buildings are still being built in the Minato Mirai area where companies such as Nissan, Lenovo and Fuji Xerox have headquarters or R&D centers.

The Parent Support Group gives parents a platform through which they can create a community, share their talents and support each other and their children.

The Parent Support Group was created by Saint Maur International School to promote smooth interactions between parents, students, teachers and the school.

We act as a support network for both parents who live in Japan permanently and those coming for short periods of time, and offer help and advice about living in Japan. We also offer parents a platform where they can share their talents, experience, skills and culture with each other. Any parent can participate or volunteer to give a class.

We organize a variety of social events throughout the year for both parents and students, as well as a variety of fund-raising activities. The funds we gather are used to provide grants to parents, students or teachers for projects such as community activities, purchase new equipment or renovation of facilities.

I think we are very fortunate to live in Yokohama. The city feels less frantic and more relaxed than other large cities I have lived in, and I feel my children are safe even when out of the school. Also, living near the sea makes me feel like I am on vacation! (*Renata Jaroscakova*)

For expatriates, our group offers a unique safe zone from which parents new to Japan can learn about life in the country while being part of a very rich and active community.