

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Week 3 is in the books! We had our first presentation at Celebration of Learning today. It was so rewarding to our students so enthusiastically presenting about what they learned this week. It was also gratifying to see our new teachers embrace this very important part of the culture here at BAIS. All of our presenters did a wonderful job!

MAP testing begins Monday. The best way for you to help prepare you child to do the best that they can is to make sure that they get plenty of sleep each night and have a good breakfast before they come to school.

Our Student Council speeches and elections will be next Friday during CoL. Please see the information inside the Buzz. Thanks to Ms. Fatou for her efforts in organizing our Student Council! She has some excellent ideas for fun activities this year.

Saturday Soccer continues tomorrow. Younger players...generally any players in elementary...will be from 9:00 to 10:00, and older players...middle and high school...from 10:15 to 11:15. Players may bring friends from other schools.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Mon.-Fri., Sept. 22-26

Map Testing K-5

Fri., Sept. 26

Student Council Speeches Elections

Mon.-Fri., Sept. 29-Oct. 3

Map Testing 6-8

Wed. Oct. 1

Book Month Begins

Thurs. Oct. 2

After School Activities Begin

Wed. Oct. 8

Professional Development Day
12:00 dismissal



Staff Spotlight

Ms. Mary Jobe



My name is Mary Jobe, and this is my first year teaching at BAIS. I teach 6th Grade Social Studies, 7th/8th Grade Social Studies, and High School U.S. History. I also lead the High School Model UN program and will be taking students to a conference this spring. In addition, I serve as College Counselor for our upper-class students. Many of you may also know me as Sadie's mom and as a helper with the PTO.

Teaching has always been a passion of mine. At the University of Rhode Island, I majored in History and Political Science with the goal of becoming a secondary educator, completing my student teaching in my final year. After graduation, I decided to pursue law and earned my Paralegal Certificate before working as a paralegal in New York City and later in Washington, D.C. While working full time, I attended George

Washington University Law School in the evenings. After graduating, I worked at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission before taking a position at MissionSquare Retirement as Counsel.

Although I deeply enjoyed my legal career, I am thrilled to return to my first love, education. Our family moved to The Gambia full-time in August 2024, and we have been so grateful to join such a welcoming community at

BAIS. I continue to conduct legal research for Thomson Reuters in the U.S. and also serve as General Counsel for a local Gambian company.

When I'm not teaching, I love spending time with my husband, Momodou, and our daughter, Sadie. Education has always been deeply important to me as a pathway to the future, and it feels like a full-circle moment to now be teaching here at BAIS. I am so excited to learn and grow alongside our students this year!



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Map Testing Begins Monday



What is MAP?

NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Tests are administered at BAIS twice a year, in the fall and the spring. NWEA MAP Growth is a standardized achievement test which measures what students know and informs what they're ready to learn next by using a computer adaptive test that adjusts to the ability and knowledge of the student. MAP data allows schools to differentiate and adjust instruction for individual students, groups of students, or entire classes based on results of the assessment. Your child's teacher can use the results of the NWEA MAP Growth assessments to better understand your child's individual needs and to help him/her progress in the assessed area. Because the assessment is a growth measure, it can track the growth of the student between testing events and over multiple years of testing.

Starting September 22nd to October 3rd, Kindergarten to Grade 12 students will be taking MAP Growth tests. These are not timed tests and students are given all the time they need to complete tests. Parents new to BAIS may know little about MAP so I am providing some information on what MAP is, why we use it, and how to read your child's results. That information is below in a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

The Most Important Two Takeaways:

- MAP scores are **only one 'snapshot in time'** of your child's progress; they do not outweigh teacher observations or the semester report card but give additional external evidence and data about progress for the child, the family, the teacher and BAIS.
- Two scores are given – Growth and Achievement; **growth is the more important** since our goal is for all children to be improving their skills over time.

[MAP GROWTH FAQs](#)

[MAP Growth Fact Sheet](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the BAIS MAP Coordinator, Amal Alfa or your child's teacher.

*Amal Alfa
MS-HS Math Teacher
K-HS IT Teacher & IT/MAP Coordinator*

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BAIS Students Dive into Model United Nations!



Banjul American International School high school students are preparing to represent their school on the international stage at the **Barcelona International Model United Nations (BIMUN ESADE)**, taking place April 23–25, 2026.

Model UN (MUN) is a dynamic simulation of the United Nations, where students take on the roles of delegates representing countries and work together to tackle pressing global issues. It's an exciting opportunity for students to sharpen their **public speaking, critical thinking, leadership, and negotiation skills**, all while seeing the world through the eyes of real diplomats.

At BIMUN ESADE, our students will join peers from around the globe in three days of challenging debate, diplomacy, and problem-solving. They will debate real-world issues, draft resolutions, and even navigate a surprise "crisis situation" that will test their ability to think on their feet.

We are proud of the hard work our students are putting in as they research, write, and practice in preparation for this transformative experience. Stay tuned as BAIS takes Model UN to Barcelona!

Mary Jobe

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Student Council News

Leaders aren't born ... they apply!

Do you:

- Have fantastic ideas you would love to see happen at BAIS
- Approach problems with a positive attitude
- Work well with your friends and classmates
- Care about improving our school and making an impact

StuCo is looking for innovative and action-oriented students from **Grade 3 and up** who are ready to have a great year! If that sounds like you, or a student you know, applications can be collected from Ms. Fatou in the Grade 3 classroom or accessed using the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11j8KKz7iDgojZwJaxAqzgywmOPCjzXOi/view?usp=drivesdk>

Applicants should keep the following dates in mind.

1. **Tuesday September 23rd, 2025: All applications are due.**
2. Wednesday September 24th, 2025: Voluntary lunchtime meeting with Ms. Fatou in the library for help with campaign strategy and speeches.
3. Friday September 26th, 2025: Speeches and voting during CoL.
4. Monday September 29th: Final StuCo lineup announced during morning circle.

Ms. Fatou



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Saturday Soccer

Attention all soccer players! Saturday Soccer starts again tomorrow. Younger players will go from 9:00-10:00, and older players from 10:15 to 11:15. Players should bring a water bottle and should also wear sunscreen. Parents are also welcome to come and join in! Older players may also bring friends from other schools. See you tomorrow!

From the Business Office

Tuition invoices were sent out a week ago. Please remember to reply back to Ms. Leah to acknowledge receipt if you have not already done so.

Sometimes we are asked how we determine the exchange rate we use for parents who wish to pay in dalasi. We set the exchange rate once every quarter, in August, November, February, and May. To determine the rate, we use the [xe.com](https://www.xe.com) currency exchange website. We take the rate that is listed there, round up to the nearest dalasi, then add one dalasi. This helps to protect the school from any currency fluctuation during the quarter.

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September 2025

STUDENT NAME _____ Class _____

PARENT CONTACT Name: _____ Phone _____

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose Portion Size:

☐ Small - 200 Dalasi

☐ Large - 250 Dalasi

2. Choose how you will order:

☐ Tick here to order all the lunches for this month.

Full Period : 19 lunches (Total cost: Small = D3,800 OR Large = D4,750)

☐ Tick here to order lunches by the day.

By the day:

1. Tick the days desired in the chart below

2. Multiply x D 200 (small) or D250 (large)

3. Write in here: Total # lunches: _____ x Cost per portion _____ = D _____

3. Get money and form to BAIS OFFICE

Sept 2025	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Sept 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Grilled Fish served W/ Mexican Rice & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti W/ Creamy Tomato Sauce & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Creamy Mushroom Chicken Penne Pasta & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Fingers, French Fries with Salad & Fruit
Sept 8-11	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Tagliatelle With Truffle Mushroom Sauce & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fajita (Grilled Chicken & Bell Pepper Wraps) & Cake	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ <u>Faculty PD</u> <u>Noon Dismissal</u> ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Pasta in Creamy Tomato Meatball Sauce & Fruit
Sept 15-18	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Benachin & Vegetables with Bissap Sauce & Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Brochette with potato Salad & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Fish in Batter with Roasted Vegetables & Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Beef Bourguignon With Rice & Fruit
Sept 22-25	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Creamy Mushroom Chicken W/ Mixed Pasta & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Beef Burger, French Fries W/ Cucumber Salad	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Tagine with Rice & Vegetables & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream
Sept-Oct 29-2	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Grilled Fish with Rice & Butter-lime Sauce & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti Bolognese & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Crispy Chicken W/ Baked Vegetable Salad & Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tick to order</u> Beef Stew W/ Rice & Veggies & Fruit

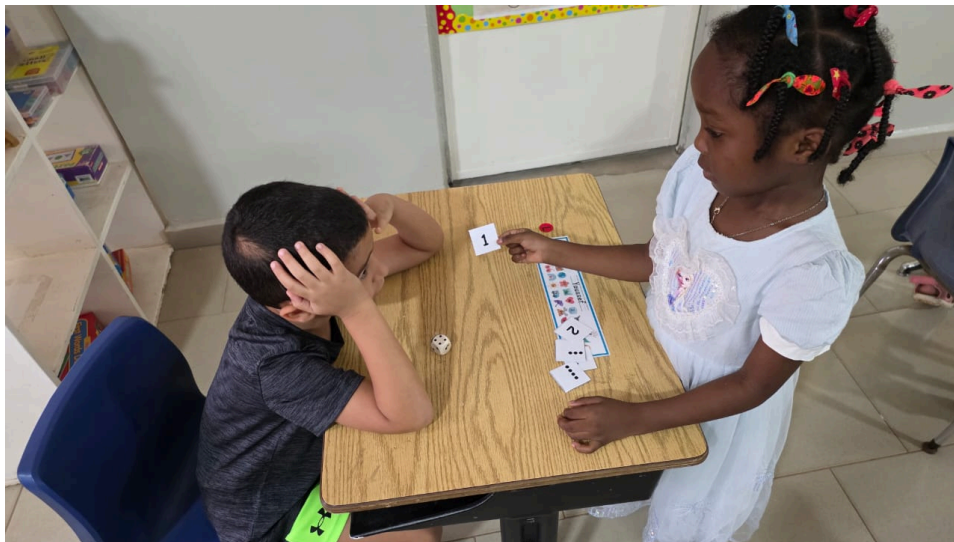
Grade 1/2 Learns French



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KG Math Scholars!



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Grade 3



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