

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

We are off and running on the 2025-26 school year. Classes are off to a good start; students are happy, engaged, and active. Our enrollment is between 70 and 75, as we were at the same time last year. We have several new students, and some students still have not returned from their summer travels.

This Sunday, our Board members will spend the entire day engaged in board governance training with Ms. Kristi Williams. Kristi is a highly experienced consultant who has worked with many international school boards, including ours here at BAIS. Funding for the training comes from our grant from the U.S. State Department Office of Overseas Schools; this, along with special needs, is an area of special emphasis for them.

Our first half-day staff development day is this Wednesday. Please remember that we will dismiss at 12:00. For our first staff development day, Dr. Kim Seefried will spend much of the time discussing our special needs program with teachers.

Please remember that this Thursday, September 11, we will have Open House from 6:00 to 7:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to come and meet your children's teachers. Also, as part of this evening, our Middle School teachers would like to meet with middle school parents...especially parents of 6th graders...from 6:30 to 7:00 to talk about the transition from elementary to middle school and what parents can expect.

Also included in this week's Buzz is the rest of the lunch menu for September.

Robert Harper, Director

Staff Spotlight (p. 2)
Important Updates (p. 4)
September Lunch Menu (p. 5)
Photos (p. 6)

Upcoming Events

Wed. Sept. 10

Professional Development Day
12:00 dismissal

Thurs. Sept. 11

6:00-7:30 Open House

Fri. Sept. 12

Celebration of Learning

Sat. Sept. 13

Saturday soccer begins

Tues & Thurs Sept. 16 & 18

Writing Diagnostic

Mon.-Fri., Sept. 22-26

Map Testing K-5

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

Map Testing 6-8

Thurs. Oct. 2

After School Activities Begin

Staff Spotlight

Mr. Michael Seefried



I am stepping into my new role as the 4th/5th grade teacher with a strong passion for ensuring every child has access to the best education and opportunities possible. My belief that students thrive when exposed to rigorous instruction paired with high expectations has guided my professional mission throughout my career. I am committed to building a classroom that is fun, safe, engaging, and academically challenging, with a focus on collaborating closely with families, staff, and the broader school community to support exceptional student growth and achievement.

Interestingly, I didn't begin my journey intending to become a teacher. I originally went to college to pursue a career as a pastor, but meeting my wife—Dr. Kim—shifted my path. From that moment, I have never looked back. That change in direction led me into a remarkable 34-year career in education, including 24 years as a principal. Along the way, I have left a lasting mark on schools and communities across the globe.

My story is deeply shaped by my upbringing. One of seven children, I grew up in Germany in a missionary family. I was the first in my family to graduate from college after my parents completed high school later in life. Together with my father, I co-founded a faith-based nonprofit orphanage in South Africa, which I continue to visit annually. My journey has also taken me around the world as the director of international schools in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, as well as the founding principal of a school in Kuwait. These experiences reflect my conviction that the cool thing about education is it opens up the world!



Equally important in my journey is my marriage of 40 years to my amazing wife, Dr. Kim, who is also a dedicated educator and leader. Our shared passion for teaching and supporting students has taken us around the world together, from international schools to district leadership in the United States. Our partnership has been a source of strength, joy, and inspiration throughout our careers and our family life. Together, we have raised three sons who each carry forward the values of service and commitment we have instilled in them.

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Outside of the classroom, I have served as a combat engineer in the U.S. Army, and my three sons also carry strong ties to service and leadership; one is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, another serves in the U.S. Navy on a submarine, and the youngest works as an engineer building submarines with a defense contractor. Since arriving in The Gambia, I am eager to bring my wealth of experience to BAIS, where I look forward to not only teaching but also building connections with students and families. My life's work and dedication show a deep commitment to shaping lives through education—something I am ready to continue in this new role.

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Welcome to the Newest Member of the BAIS Family!

We all missed Diminga Mendy while she was on maternity leave the second semester last year. Please join us in welcoming her new son Francis to the BAIS family! Diminga is beginning her 13th year at BAIS and is another of our loyal and hard working support staff. Congratulations Diminga!



From the Business Office

Parents, please check your emails for tuition invoices. Please remember to reply back to Ms. Leah to acknowledge receipt.

Morning Dropoff Procedures

Parents, please continue to remember our morning dropoff procedures. Students arriving by car should not be dropped at the front gate...they should only be dropped at the back gate. Treat the road across from the American Corner as a one way road coming to the back of the school. Then turn right, proceed to the back gate, drop your children, then turn right and exit back toward Atlantic Road.

Also, please use caution as you approach the school on Atlantic Road. We have several students who arrive on foot and on bicycle. Please be mindful of them and their safety.

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

PE Happenings



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Grade 3 At Work



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Pre-Kinder Happenings



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Kindergarten Happenings



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