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# BAIS Buzz

## Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

The school year keeps rolling along! The week ahead is full of special events. On Wednesday of next week, we will celebrate the 100th day of school. We will plan a few special things here at school for that day. Then on Thursday, our Student Council will have special activities to observe Valentine's Day. Finally, next Friday is our annual Gambia Day celebration, with lots of fun activities, cultural performances, and food. Please sign up to bring a dish if you have not already. More information is inside the Buzz.

Tomorrow is our first **golf tournament** which will be held at the Fajara Club. This event is to support our Model United Nations students for their upcoming trip to Barcelona for the Model United Nations conference. I cannot overstate the value of this activity and other similar programs for our students. Many of you remember **Ms. Halima**, who taught in our grade 2 the last couple of years. When I first visited BAIS in March of 2024, I had a conversation with Ms. Halima about the possibility of starting a Model UN program at BAIS. I still remember Ms. Halima's words. She said that attending a Model UN conference when she was a student had changed her life. What powerful endorsement! You can read more about the conference here:  
<https://www.bimunbarcelona.com/>

The golf tournament will be a fun event! You do not need to be a skilled golfer to participate...you can even be a beginner or a first time player! Teams are comprised of 4 players, in a best ball "scramble" format. All four players on your tee off, then you choose the best shot of the four, then all four players hit their next shot from that spot. Play will begin at 9:00, with each team beginning at the same time from various tees. Special thanks to **Mary Jobe** for organizing. And a special thank you to all our sponsors!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

## Upcoming Events

- Sat., Feb. 7**  
Golf Tournament
- Wed., Feb. 11**  
100th Day of School
- Thurs., Feb. 12**  
STUCO Valentine's Day
- Fri., Feb. 13**  
Gambia Day Celebration
- Wed., Feb. 18**  
Gambian Independence Day  
No School
- Thurs. Mar. 12**  
Art Show
- Fri. Mar. 13**  
Pi Day
- Sat., Mar. 28**  
Fun Run



## Staff Spotlight...Mr. Valentine Williams



Hello, BAIS family! I'm Valentine Williams, and it's hard to believe that I've been a part of this incredible community for the past 9 years. Last year, I worked with the Ms. Hala in our Kindergarten/Grade 1 class, and this year I work with Ms. Nora's Grade 1-2 class. Over the years, I've been lucky enough to work with every elementary grade, from Pre-K to Grade 5, and it's been a privilege to witness the growth and learning that happens at each stage of childhood.

When I'm not at school, you'll often find me enjoying quality time with friends, tutoring, taking a refreshing swim, playing volleyball, or unwinding with a good TV show. I also have big dreams for my future, my hope is to some day work towards earning my degree and becoming a certified educator, so I can continue to support and inspire students in even more meaningful ways.

I'm truly grateful to be part of such a warm, vibrant, and supportive community. Thank you for being a part of my journey!

*Valentine Williams*

**BAIS Model UN**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

 **BAIS**  
BANJUL AMERICAN INTERNATTIONAL SCHOOL





**FEBRUARY 7, 2026 - STARTS AT 9AM**

**Fajara Club Golf Course**

**9 Hole Tournament - All Welcome!** Regardless of skill level and age, and non-members of the Fajara Club are also invited.

To benefit BAIS high school students traveling to Barcelona for a Model United Nations Conference BIMUN Esade in April!

**D1,000 PER PLAYER**  
PLAYERS IN GROUPS OF 4  
Celebratory meal and prizes for the top 3 teams to follow!

**SIGN-UP TODAY!**

Contact: Ms. Mary Jobe - WhatsApp:  
**+1401-573-6199 or 220-723-6986**



# GAMBIA



## INDEPENDENCE DAY POTLUCK

PRESENTED BY THE BAIS COMMUNITY



**13  
FEB**

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL COL  
CELEBRATING THE GAMBIAN  
INDEPENDENCE**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH  
11 AM**

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE  
GAMBIAN DISHES/SNACKS TO SHARE!**

**SIGN UP USING THIS [LINK TO THE GOOGLE FORM](#),  
WHICH INCLUDES MANY  
RECOMMENDATIONS.**

**WANT TO CONTRIBUTE BUT  
CAN'T PREPARE A GAMBIAN DISH?**

**CONTACT LEAH JOHN IF YOU'D LIKE TO  
CONTRIBUTE TO THE SCHOOL'S POTLUCK  
PREPARED BY THE BAIS SCHOOL CATERER!**



## Gambia Day is Coming!

BAIS will celebrate the Independence of our host country on **Friday February 13<sup>th</sup> 2026** – from **11.00am to 1.00pm**. The official date is February 18<sup>th</sup>, but because it might coincide with the beginning of Ramadan, the school has decided to have this annual community event earlier. There will be a **variety of activities** on that day, including:

- **Presentations** from all Homeroom classes;
- Gambian dance by **masquerades**;
- A display of **Art works** and other pieces from our students;
- **Potluck**: a display and sharing of dishes from The Gambia/ West Africa.

We encourage everyone to dress up in their **Gambian attire**. Families can bring a local dish or liaise with the Office to sponsor one. (Click on link:  
<https://forms.gle/D8jkvCGEGskcD2wMA>)

Kindly mark this date on your calendar and we hope you will come and celebrate with your child(ren). We look forward to seeing you.

*Jerejef!*

*The Gambia Day Team (Ms. Sainab, Ms. Fatou, Mr. Valentine & Mr. Badjie)*

Here is a link to a video of last year's Gambia Day:

[https://youtu.be/N1Cqup\\_Z5d8?si=t2iV34aArlHgO8pA](https://youtu.be/N1Cqup_Z5d8?si=t2iV34aArlHgO8pA)

## Learning Support & iReady Update from Dr. Kim:

### i-Ready Diagnostic Reports Going Home Today!

Today, your elementary child and some middle school students are bringing home their i-Ready Diagnostic Initial (for students who took Diagnostic 1 in November) and the Mid-Year Report Diagnostic (for students who took Diagnostic 1 in October) for Reading and Math. These reports provide a snapshot of your child's progress in key skill areas and help us plan targeted support for continued growth. To better understand the results, please click the link below that explains how to read your child's i-Ready data — it's a helpful guide!

- [Understanding Your Student's i-Ready Diagnostic Results - CLICK Here](#)

If you would like to discuss your child's results, please feel free to reach out to me.

Dr. Kim

*Director of Learning Support*

[kseefried@baisgambia.org](mailto:kseefried@baisgambia.org)

## STUCO News...Valentine's Day

Student Council will be passing out Candy Grams next week. Candy Grams are a fun way to spread kindness and make someone's day a little brighter. Students can purchase small gifts for their friends, including slime, bubbles, or stretchy bands. All options come with a small candy as well. Orders must be submitted by Tuesday Feb. 10th, and Candy Grams will be delivered on Thursday Feb. 12th. Have a wonderful weekend!

## **Saturday Basketball Canceled**

There will be no Saturday Basketball tomorrow due to the golf tournament. We will be back in action on the court next week!

## **Pi Day is Coming!**

Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th (3/14) around the world. Pi (Greek letter “π”) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant — the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159. Pi Day is an annual opportunity for math enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi, talk to their friends about math, and eat pie!

Pi has been calculated to over 50 trillion digits beyond its decimal point. As an irrational and transcendental number, it will continue infinitely without repetition or pattern. While only a handful of digits are needed for typical calculations, pi's infinite nature makes it a fun challenge to [memorize](#), and to computationally calculate more and more digits.

Here at BAIS we will plan some fun activities on Pi Day. You can learn more about pi and Pi Day here: <https://www.piday.org/>

## Model UN Class to Attend Barcelona Conference!

**Dear BAIS Community,**

The Model United Nations class is thrilled to announce their upcoming MUN Conference in **Barcelona this April**, where students will debate real-world issues and represent countries in an international forum.

To help make this opportunity possible, we are hosting a **fundraiser golf tournament** at the Fajara Club on **February 7**. Everyone is welcome to join and enjoy the day!

We are also seeking **sponsors from local businesses**. Ideally, each of the nine holes will be sponsored by a different company. Sponsors will have the opportunity to **advertise at their hole**, have their **name featured in the event pamphlet**, and be **acknowledged at the celebratory meal** following the tournament.

If you own a business or know someone who would like to help our students attend this conference, please **contact me or Mr. Robert**. Your support will make a meaningful difference in our students' educational experience.

Thank you for helping our students reach their full potential!

Warm regards,

Mary Jobe - Whatsapp +1401-573-6199 or 220-723-6986.

## Chess News

Hello Chess Friends! It's time for another Chess Meetup! Join us this Saturday, the 7th of February, from 3PM to 6.30PM for an afternoon full of chess, ice cream, and fun! We can't wait to see you all!

Christina Aziz





# BAIS 2026-2027 School Calendar

Approved December 8, 2025

## August 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

17 TAs & New Teachers report to work  
24 All Teachers report to work  
25 TBC - Prophet's Birthday

## February 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

19 class days

3 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)

18 Gambian Independence Holiday

## September 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

22 class days

1 - School Opens

9 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)

## March 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

18 class days

3 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)

TBC 10 Koriteh/ Eid Ul Fitr

Holiday, Approximate date - BAIS will observe the date confirmed by Govt of Gambia

26 Good Friday

26- 2 Spring Break

## October 2026

### Book Month!

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

20 class days

1- Book Month begins

7 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)

22-23 BAIS Holiday

31 End of Quarter 1 (42 days)

## April 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

20 class days

8 End of Quarter 3 (46 days)

1-2 Spring Break ,

## November 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

21 class days

4 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)

## May 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

18 class days

3 Labor Day

17 Eid ul Adha/ Tobaski

Holiday, Approximate date - BAIS will observe the date confirmed by Govt of Gambia

25 Africa Day

26 Faculty PD (12pm dismissal)

## December 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

9 class days

11 Dismiss for break

Dec 11-Jan 4 – Winter Break

## June 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	31			

14 class days

17 End of Year Ceremony & Graduation

17 Semester 2 Ends (45/91 days)

18 Last Day (12pm dismissal)

21 Teacher Work Day

## January 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

20 class days

4 Classes resume

22 Semester 1 Ends (45/87 days)

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## 180 PK - Grade 8 Learning Days

Quarter 1 = 45 days Quarter 3 = 43 days

Quarter 2 = 46 days Quarter 4 = 46 days

Semester 1 = 91 days Semester 2 = 89 days

## 180 High School Learning Days

Quarter 1 = 44 days Quarter 3 = 46 days

Quarter 2 = 45 days Quarter 4 = 45 days

Semester 1 = 89 days Semester 2 = 91 days

## PD Half Days = 6 days

Sep 10; Oct 8; Nov 5

Feb 4; Mar 4; May 27

**Yoga!**  
Please note the change in times!

## YOGA KIDS

Ages 5-8  
Saturday 12-1pm

Ages 9-12  
Saturday 1-2pm

Drop-in 600d or  
1 month 1.800d



KOLOLI BEACH RESORT SHALA

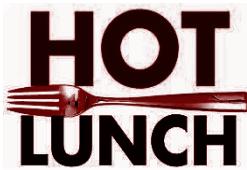
To Book: +44 7739 754673  
[hello@alinajaberyoga.com](mailto:hello@alinajaberyoga.com)

**Social Media Update**  
**Follow BAIS on Facebook AND Instagram!**

**<https://www.facebook.com/BAISGAMBIA>**

We are in the process of updating and restarting our school Instagram page. This will be a student council project, under the supervision of **Ms. Fatou**. We will have important safeguards in place (no public comments, no direct messaging). When we are ready to launch, we will send out the link. This can be a wonderful way (with appropriate supervision) for our student leaders to help promote the school. Thank you, Ms. Fatou!

And please continue to follow us on Facebook for more photos and updates! I really want to thank **Mr. Michael** for revitalizing our Facebook page. He has done such an awesome job of posting photos, videos, and stories. THis will continue to be the source to go to for photos of school happenings and events. Thank you to **Mr. Michael!**



## February 2026

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 : 14 lunches (Total cost: Small = D2,800 OR Large = D3,500)
- ***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

February 2026	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Feb 2 - 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Grilled Chicken With Roasted Potatoes &amp; Veggies &amp; Fruit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Fish Benachin Vegetables with Bissap Sauce &amp; Cake</li></ul>	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ <b><u>Faculty PD Noon Dismissal</u></b> ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce &amp; Fruit Salad</li></ul>
Feb 9 - 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Beef Stir Fried Noodles W/ Vegetables &amp; Fruit Salad</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Crispy Chicken W/ Baked Vegetable Salad &amp; Fruit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Fish in Batter With Roasted Potatoes &amp; Veggies &amp; Fruit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Chicken Friccasses with Pasta &amp; Fruit</li></ul>
Feb 16 - 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Spaghetti Bolognaisse &amp; Fruit Salad</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Butter Chicken W/ Rice &amp; Vegetables &amp; Cake</li></ul>	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ <b>NO SCHOOL ☺</b> <b>Independence Day</b> ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Beef Ragu W/ Tagliatelle Pasta & Fruit
Feb 23 - 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Chicken Benachin Vegetables with Bissap Sauce &amp; Cake</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Tagliatelle With Truffle Mushroom Sauce &amp; Fruit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Fish Fingers With Roasted Potatoes &amp; Veggies &amp; Fruit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><i>Tick to order</i></b> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad &amp; Ice Cream</li></ul>

