

August 28, 2026 2026-27 Issue 1

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Welcome back!!! And to our new families, welcome to BAIS! I hope all of you are as excited to start the new school year as all of us here at BAIS are! We have several new students, and we look forward to welcoming them into our family as we start school **Tuesday, September 1.**

Students should arrive between 7:45 and 8:00 Tuesday morning. Students should not arrive before then, as teachers are not yet on supervision duty.

At 8:00, students will assemble on the music patio with their respective classes and teachers, then will move to their classrooms.

As you may be aware, we had major storm damage to the canopy over the basketball court. We are in the process of getting that repaired, but until then, students are to stay off the basketball court.

On **Thursday, September 17**, we will have **Open House** from 6:00 to 7:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to come and meet your children's teachers.

Please review the part of the parent student handbook (found on the website) that relate to student health. Any student who has those symptoms of an illness...fever, vomiting, etc...should be kept at home.

I want to thank Ms. Leah John and all of our maintenance and custodial staff who have worked so hard to get our campus ready for opening day.

Finally, Happy Birthday today to Ms. Amal!

Have a great weekend! Looking forward to seeing everyone Tuesday!

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Fri. Sept. 11

Celebration of Learning

Sat. Sept. 13

Saturday soccer begins

Thurs. Sept. 17

6:00-7:30 Open House

Tues & Thurs Sept. 22 & 24

Writing Diagnostic

Wed. Sept. 30

Professional Development Day
12:00 dismissal

Thurs & Fri Oct. 1 & 2

BAIS Holiday

Mon. Oct. 5

After School Activities Begin

Mon.-Fri., Oct. 12-16

Map Testing K-5

Mon.-Fri., Oct. 19-23

Map Testing 6-8



Morning Dropoff Procedures

Please 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.

Student/Parent Handbook

The Student & Parent Handbook is available on the school website by following this link: <https://www.baisgambia.org/fees-forms-and-calendars/> will be sent home to families. All of our policies and procedures which parents and students should be aware of about a variety of topics such as attendance, dress code, technology, and other important topics are found in the handbook. Please remind students especially about our policy regarding phones. **As in the past, only HS students are allowed to bring phones to school.** Those students who bring phones must either leave them with their homeroom teacher during the day or keep them silent and in their school bag. Using a phone without a teacher's permission in class is not acceptable. **Students younger than high school who have a phone at school, and high school students who have their phone out during class without permission, will have the phone confiscated until the end of the school day.**

Middle School/High School Swimming

Our middle school and Grade 9-10 P.E. classes will begin the year with swimming instruction by the Aquafit Swimming club, at the Fajara Club. We will begin with the first day of school. Grade 9-10 will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and middle school will be on Mondays and Wednesdays. This unit will continue for four weeks. Grade 9-10 students should come prepared for swimming on Tuesday.

BAIS Teachers to attend ECIS Conference

From September 30 to October 3, many of our teachers will have the opportunity to attend a conference hosted by the Educational Collaborative for International Schools (ECIS) in Lisbon, Portugal. The topic of this conference will be “The Human Edge Summit – Preparing School Communities for an AI Age”. In addition to other presenters, our teachers will have the opportunity to hear Newberry award winning and best selling children’s author [Renee Watson](#). They will also have the opportunity to network with other teachers from American/international schools. This will be the first time in many years that several of our teachers have had the opportunity to attend a conference, and I’m sure they will be eager to share their experiences when they return.

From Dr. Kim:



Welcome Back to School!



We are excited to welcome everyone back for a new school year! This year, we are expanding our i-Ready program through Middle School, so students in K–8 will be using i-Ready to support learning and growth in reading and math. Our first i-Ready Diagnostic window will begin on Monday, September 14 through Friday, September 25. The results will help teachers see where students are starting the year and plan instruction and personalized learning to meet their needs. We're looking forward to a great year of learning and growth!

Tribute to Dolly Parton



Most of you are probably aware of the passing this week of American music legend Dolly Parton at the age of 80. What many may not be aware of are the enormous contributions Dolly made to children and education worldwide, and it is fitting that we recognize that. Perhaps her most noteworthy contribution has been the creation in 1995 of the Imagination Library project, which to this date has distributed over 330 million free books to children around the world, including over seven million books in the United Kingdom. In addition, in 1991, to help increase high school graduation rates in her home of Sevier County, Tennessee, she made a commitment to every student in grade 8 that if they would choose a buddy, hold each other accountable, and graduate together from high school, she would give each

buddy \$500...a very large sum of money back then. The project worked; high school dropout rates in the county dropped from 35% to only 6%. In addition, she gave millions of dollars to hospitals, especially children's hospitals, HIV/AIDS research, disaster relief, and numerous other causes. Born in a one room mountain cabin to an impoverished family of twelve children, she overcame tremendous obstacles to become not just an iconic entertainer, but a successful entrepreneur and philanthropist. In recognition of her life of service and philanthropy, the White House proclaimed that U.S. flags be lowered to half mast through September 1. You can read more about Dolly's philanthropy here: [Imagination Library](#), and here: [Imagination library UK](#)



Child Protection Policy at BAIS

A Summary

Child abuse and neglect are of growing concern in schools throughout the world and can lead to serious short- and long-term psychological, physical, and emotional consequences for those affected. Child abuse and neglect are violations of a child's human rights and are obstacles to the child's education as well as their physical, emotional, and spiritual development. The Banjul American International School endorses and adheres to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), of which our host country, The Gambia, is a signatory.

International schools must safeguard the welfare of students and children using facilities or sponsored programs. They must provide a safe environment for healthy growth. Educators, staff, and administration have a unique opportunity to identify signs of child abuse or neglect. They have a moral, ethical, and professional obligation to provide help and protection to the child in need.

The Child Protection Policy at BAIS aims to ensure that all members of the Banjul American International School (BAIS) community help to keep children safe by:

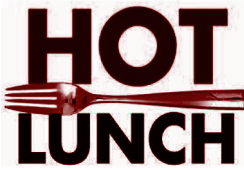
- Fully understanding and being aware of the issues surrounding child abuse and neglect
- Fully upholding the Child Protection Policy set forth by BAIS
- Assuming the irrelative responsibilities as contributing members to the safety of BAIS students, as well as visiting children
- Being empowered and knowledgeable to enact said policy if a student has been identified as at risk or having been a victim of child abuse or neglect
- Communicating the commitment to safeguarding the wellbeing of children at BAIS, within the community, and to the greater Gambian community

BAIS employees and contractors must report suspected child abuse or neglect incidents when they believe a child has suffered or is at risk. Reporting will follow administrative regulations and be handled with sensitivity, potentially reporting to local authorities or child protection agencies.

BAIS aims to provide a safe environment for students experiencing abuse or neglect, preventing or detecting abuse early. They train teachers, administration, and staff in recognizing signs, understanding school policies, reporting procedures, and assuming full reporting responsibilities, ensuring a proactive approach to child abuse and neglect prevention.

Any report of child abuse, including potential reports against a member of the BAIS staff will prompt a full investigation following a carefully designed course of due process, keeping the safety of the child at the highest priority.

To further protect against child abuse and neglect, BAIS will provide prevention, rights, and empowerment lessons to students, will distribute this policy annually to families, will provide adequate training for all employees, will make every effort to ensure the safety of children when hiring and training new staff, and will review the policy annually for compliance and effectiveness.



September 2026

STUDENT NAME _____

Class _____

PARENT CONTACT Name: _____ Phone _____

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose Portion Size:

☐ Small - 250 Dalasi

☐ Large - 300 Dalasi

2. Choose how you will order:

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

 Full Period : **19 lunches** (Total cost: **Small = D4,750 OR Large = D5,700**)

☐ ***Tick here to order lunches by the day.***

By the day:

1. Tick the days desired in the chart below

2. Multiply x D 250 (small) or D300 (large).

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

3. Get money and form to BAIS OFFICE

September 2026	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Sept 31 - 3	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL 😊 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Fingers With French Fries Salad & Fruit	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce & Fruit Salad	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Cutlets with veggies, Roasted potatoes
Sept 7 - 10	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Beef Ragu W/ Tagliatelle Pasta & Fruit	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Benachin Vegetables with Bissap Sauce	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Kebab with Potato salad & Fruit	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti Bolognese & Fruit Salad
Sept 14 - 17	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Creamy Mushroom Chicken Penne Pasta & Fruit	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce & Fruit Salad	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Fried Rice W/ Veggies & Fruit	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Beef Stir-Fried Noodles W/ Veggies & Fruit
Sept 21 - 24	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Tagine with Rice & Vegetables & Fruit	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Meatballs With Creamy Tomato Sauce W/ Pasta	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Creamy Peas and Pasta & Fruit	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Brochette with Potato Salad & Fruit
Sept- Oct 28-1	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Shepherd's Pie & Fruit Salad	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Crispy Chicken W/ Baked Veggies Salad & Fruit	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Beef Stew W/ Rice & Veggies & Fruit	☐ <i>Tick to order</i> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream

