

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Week 2 is behind us, and students of all ages have settled into their classes. Every day when I walk into classrooms, of all ages, I see happy students eager to learn.

Today at our CoL, we commemorated the 25th anniversary of the attacks of **September 11**. I want to commend Mr. Michael's class for another wonderful performance of the Star Spangled Banner, our middle school and high school classes for their presentations, and all of our students from pre-kinder up for displaying the reverence this occasion required. Great job, everyone! Thanks also to **Mr. Andrew Posner**, Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Embassy, for his thoughtful remarks. Thanks also to **Ms. Mary Jobe** for organizing the event.

Next week, I will travel to England to attend a required workshop for heads of schools applying to become authorized to offer the **International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme**. Our application is almost complete, and this is a required part of the application process to become a candidate school for authorization. I will keep you updated as the process moves forward. Because I will be away next week, we have moved **Open House** to **Thursday, September 24**, still from 6:00 to 7:30. Again, this is a wonderful opportunity to come and meet your children's teachers. Please remember that this is not a time to have a conference about your child's performance; please schedule a separate conference with the teacher if you would like to do that.

Finally, please see the important message inside the Buzz regarding our **Parent Teacher Organization**. The PTO plays such an important role in planning key events during the school year. Please get involved!

Have a great weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Sat. Sept. 12

Saturday Soccer begins

Tues & Thurs Sept. 22 & 24

Writing Diagnostic

Thurs. Sept. 24

6:00-7:30 Open House

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



Open House Thursday September 24

Our Back To School Open House will be Thursday, September 24, from 6:00 to 7:30. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend. In conjunction with this evening, **I would like to meet with all high school parents from 7:15 to 7:30** in the science lab. We have some special events related to high school that I want to share. Also, please remember that this is a time for you to come and meet your children's teachers and see their classrooms. If you want to have an in-depth discussion about your child's performance, the teacher will be happy to schedule a conference with you at another time.

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.

Saturday Soccer

Saturday Soccer will begin tomorrow, with younger players at 9:00 AM and older players at 10:15. Please remember that players are allowed to bring friends from other schools. All players should wear appropriate footwear, wear sunscreen, and bring a water bottle. See you then!

From the PTO

BAIS PTA – Get Involved!

At BAIS, we have a long tradition of parents volunteering their time, ideas and energy to make school life more fun and our community stronger. As a small school, we rely on every helping hand — and every contribution, big or small, makes a difference.

We're looking for parents to join our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and help with events such as our Halloween party, Fun Run, Christmas celebrations and Teacher Appreciation Week — as well as any new ideas you might have!

You don't need lots of time or previous experience. Come along, share your ideas and help make things happen.

 Want to get involved? Join the PTO WhatsApp group by contacting **+44 7823 767340** on WhatsApp to be added to the group.

Staff Spotlight...Ms. Hala Dbouk

Hello BAIS Community,

My name is Hala Dbouk and I am thrilled to be teaching our combined Kindergarten and First Grade class this year.

Entering my sixth year within our school community, I have had the privilege of teaching our youngest learners across Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 classrooms. Watching early learners build their foundational skills, discover new concepts, and gain confidence in their public speaking remains the most rewarding part of my teaching journey.



I hold a Master's degree in Physics from the Lebanese University in Beirut, which formed the foundation for my background in elementary science education. I taught elementary science in my home country Lebanon, alongside tutoring during my college years.

On a personal note, my husband, Hassan, and I are proud parents of 11-year-old twin boys, Ali and Abbas, who are navigating their middle school journey in Grade 6 here at BAIS. Outside of school, I enjoy cooking – especially baking. Our family loves spending time together playing outdoor sports and watching football games.

I feel deeply fortunate to continue partnering with our families and look forward to another wonderful year of curiosity, learning and growth.

Warm Regards,
Hala Dbouk

From Dr. Kim

i-Ready Diagnostic & Summer Learning Celebration

Our first i-Ready Diagnostic of the school year will take place Monday, September 14 through Friday, September 25. The Diagnostic helps us see each student's current strengths and areas for growth in Reading and Math and allows us to better personalize instruction and i-Ready lessons throughout the year.

We will also be having a special Summer i-Ready Celebration for students who completed i-Ready lessons over the summer! We are proud of the students who kept their learning going during the break and look forward to recognizing their hard work and commitment!



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.**

From the Business Office

Please remember that first semester tuition payments are now due and that the deadline is September 30. **Any outstanding first semester payments after September 30 will be assessed a 5% late fee.**

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 Newbery 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.

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 😊 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	• <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Fingers With French Fries Salad & Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce & Fruit Salad	Chicken Cutlets with veggies, Roasted potatoes & Fruit
Sept 7 - 10	• <u>Tick to order</u> Beef Ragu W/ Tagliatelle Pasta & Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Benachin Vegetables with Bissap Sauce & Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Kebab with Potato salad & Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti Bolognese & Fruit Salad
Sept 14 - 17	• <u>Tick to order</u> Creamy Mushroom Chicken Penne Pasta & Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Spaghetti with Tomato Sauce & Fruit Salad	• <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Fried Rice W/ Veggies & Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Beef Stir-Fried Noodles W/ Veggies & Fruit
Sept 21 - 24	• <u>Tick to order</u> Chicken Tagine with Rice & Vegetables & Fruit	Meatballs With Creamy Tomato Sauce W/ Pasta & Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Creamy Peas and Pasta & Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Fish Brochette with Potato Salad & Fruit
Sept- Oct 28-1	• <u>Tick to order</u> Shepherd's Pie & Fruit Salad	• <u>Tick to order</u> Crispy Chicken W/ Baked Veggies Salad & Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Beef Stew W/ Rice & Veggies & Fruit	• <u>Tick to order</u> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream

September 11 Remembrance





