

BAIS Buzz

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

The first week is in the books! We had a very successful start of the school year. It was wonderful to see our returning students and to welcome some new students.

Again, please remember that 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. **Please also remember that students should be dropped off at the back gate.** This is for the safety of those who walk or bike to school, and also to prevent traffic issues on Atlantic Blvd.

During the week of November 16-20, we will host a visiting team from **The Altamont School** in Birmingham, Alabama, one of the elite college preparatory schools in the Southeast, and my alma mater. This is the beginning of what we expect to be an incredible partnership that will benefit both schools. I will share more detailed information next week.

Remember that 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 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, **Happy Birthday on Monday to Ms. Leah!**

Have a great weekend!

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Fri. Sept. 11

Celebration of Learning

Sat. Sept. 12

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



Open House Thursday September 17

Our Back To School Open House will be Thursday, September 17, 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.** We have some special events related to high school that I want to share, including a possible university trip to the U.K. and Scotland later in the spring. 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.

Staff Spotlight...Ms. Elin Jacobson



My name is Elin Jacobson, and I'm originally from Sweden. I came to The Gambia with my parents for holiday as a six year old in 1989. We returned every winter throughout my childhood, and over time I fell in love with this beautiful country and its wonderful people. What began as a childhood adventure eventually became home — I've now lived in The Gambia permanently for over 16 years.

I'm happily married and have a teenage daughter, here at BAIS.

From a young age, I knew I wanted to work with children. I volunteered as a Sunday

school teacher in Sweden. After high school, I spent six months volunteering at Glory Baptist Primary School in The Gambia before returning to Sweden for studies. I earned a Master's Degree in Education from Örebro University, and also had the opportunity to study in the United States, Finland, and Kenya — experiences that gave me a rich global perspective on teaching and learning.

Over the past 19 years, I have taught students from Pre-K through Grade 6 in both Sweden and The Gambia. Before joining BAIS, I ran a community library in Bijilo, where I taught both children and adults how to read.

This is my tenth year at BAIS, and I truly love my work in Pre-K. Every day with our youngest learners is filled with curiosity, laughter, and discovery. Watching them grow, explore, and develop a love of learning is an incredible privilege.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, reading and listening to books, traveling, and taking long walks with my dogs through the neighborhood.

Teaching is not just my profession — it's my passion. I believe every child deserves to feel seen, valued, and capable, and I'm grateful every day to be part of a school community that shares that vision.

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.**

Middle School/High School Swimming

Swimming in our middle school and Grade 9-10 P.E. classes is off to a good start and will continue for three more weeks. The team at Aquafit are doing a wonderful job. Grade 9-10 swims Tuesdays and Thursdays, and middle school swims on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Please remember to inform us if you want to pick up your child at the Fajara Club or if you want them to walk home from there.

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.

Thank You, Mr. Zoker!

A special thanks this week to our art teacher, **Mr. Zina Zoker**, for refreshing the mural in our pre-kinder space. We are so fortunate to have such a talented artist here at BAIS! He is already making plans for our Art Show. Last year was such a successful event, and he has even more plans for building on last year's success. More news to follow!





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	Chicken Cutlets with veggies, Roasted potatoes & Fruit
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 & Fruit	• <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	Meatballs With Creamy Tomato Sauce W/ Pasta & Fruit	• <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	• <u><i>Tick to order</i></u> Shepherd's Pie & Fruit Salad	• <u><i>Tick to order</i></u> Crispy Chicken W/ Baked Veggies Salad & Fruit	• <u><i>Tick to order</i></u> Beef Stew W/ Rice & Veggies & Fruit	• <u><i>Tick to order</i></u> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream
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