

August 30, 2024 2024-25, Issue 2

BAIS BUZZ

Message from the Director

Dear BAIS Families,

Week #1 is in the books! It was so exciting to welcome all of our returning students as well as our new students on Tuesday! If you have had the opportunity to visit campus, you may have noticed improvements. Our new building which will house our music classroom and our learning support office is progressing. Improvements have been made to the MS/HS restrooms, and sidewalks have been refreshed. Mr. George has been working hard to get our football pitch and volleyball court ready, as well as the rest of the playground. Our entire support staff has put in long hours to have campus ready for our students, and I appreciate them so much.

Our first Celebration of Learning will be Friday, September 13, beginning at 11:30 and ending promptly at 12:10.

Among the many features of our campus life that impressed me during my March visit was the hot lunch program at BAIS. Our meals are healthy, balanced, and delicious. The menu for the first few weeks is in this newsletter.

Robert Harper, Director

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Upcoming Events

Wed., Sept. 11

Faculty Professional Development...12:00 dismissal

Thurs., Sept. 12

Parent/Student Back To School Night, 6:00-7:00

Mon., Sept. 16

Prophet's Birthday Holiday

Fri, Sep 13, 11:30 am-12:10 pm

Celebration of Learning.

Fri. Sept. 30

MAP Testing begins

October 1

Book Month begins!



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Parent/Student Back To School Evening

On Thursday, September 12, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM we will host Back To School Evening for all parents and students. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to come and meet their children's teachers and visit their classrooms. Please plan to join us on the 12th

Technology Update

Middle School Chromebook Usage at BAIS and at Home

It sounds like a great initiative to provide middle school students with Chromebooks! To support this effort, I can remind students of the importance of caring for their devices during their classes and at home. Here are a few steps I can take:

1. Emphasize Responsibility: I'll discuss the importance of taking care of the Chromebooks, highlighting how to handle them properly, such as keeping them in their padded computer bags carried from one place to another, opening and closing the device gently, avoid pressing on the screen –in short-handle them with great care.

2. Daily Reminders: I'll remind students each day to fully charge their Chromebooks the night before coming to school the next day and to bring their chargers with the Chromebooks to school.

3. Usage Guidelines: I'll reinforce that Chromebooks are for school work only, explaining the potential consequences of misuse or damage.

4. Digital Citizenship: I'll incorporate lessons on digital responsibility, teaching students to appreciate and use their devices appropriately.

If there are any specific guidelines or rules you'd like me to stress, please let me know!

Ms. Amal

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College Counseling Corner

Welcome back to BAIS and I hope everyone is having a great start to the school year! I'm very excited to share that I'll be serving as College Counselor, supporting students in their post-high school journeys. As a brief introduction, I'm currently finishing my PhD in African Art History at Yale University and have been coming back and forth to West Africa since 2017. Over the last 4 years, I've worked with Yale Young African Scholars to support high achieving students from the continent apply to schools around the world. In that role, I've worked with admissions counselors from all over and helped students earn admittance (and full rides) to schools including Yale, MIT, Oxford, Trinity College, UPenn, UC Berkeley, Dartmouth, Princeton, Cambridge, and many others. I also worked for Yale's Fellowship Office, where I've served on committees in charge of allocating funds and selecting winners for a variety of scholarships. Previously, I interned at the Amherst College admissions office and saw the ins-and-outs of the admissions process.

Over the next few weeks, I will be meeting with all of the high school students to set up college plans. I'll be particularly focusing on working with seniors, but also want to speak with the other years as well to get a sense of their interests. We will also be hosting a college night this Fall, where I will share information to demystify the application process, share key information about schools internationally, and answer any questions parents and students may have. Keep an eye out for that date! In the meantime, please feel free to email me if you have any questions about college counseling. It's never too early to think about college!

Ms. Angie

Parent/Student Handbook

Student & Parent Handbooks will be sent home to families. The handbook can also be seen on the school website by following this link:

<https://www.baisgambia.org/images/reports/1811611023559318f2f8ce7379e7aee587cd23081a.pdf>

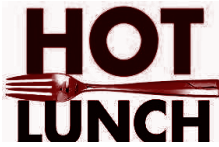
All of our policies and procedures which parents and students should be aware of about a variety of topics such as attendance, dress code, technology, and other important topics are found in our parent student handbook. Please remind students especially about our policy regarding phones. As in the past, elementary students are not allowed to bring phones to school. MS and HS students who bring phones must either leave them with their homeroom teacher during the day or keep it silent in their school bag. Using a phone without a teacher's permission in class or at a school gathering is not acceptable.

PTO

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) plays an important role in our community. We always want to encourage parents to become part of the PTO. If you would like to be involved, please send me an email at director@baisgambia.org, or just stop in and visit with me at school. We will schedule a first meeting very soon.

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August & September 2024

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: 17 lunches (Total cost: Small = D3,400 OR Large = D4,250)

- 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

Aug/Sept 2024	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Aug 27-30	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Summer Break ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> <i>order</i> Fish in Batter, French Fries, Salad & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Croquette French Fries, Salad & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Beef Benachin, vegetables & fruit
Sept 02-05	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Beef Bourguignon Mashed Potatoes & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Crispy Chicken with Avocado & Tomato salad (& fruit)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Potato, bell pepper and cheese wraps & fruit
Sept 09-12	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken curry with rice Chocolate Cake	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Grilled Fish in creamy sauce Vegetables Mashed Potatoes (& fruit)	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Faculty PD Noon Dismissal ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Spaghetti Bolognese (& fruit)
Sept 16-19	☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ NO SCHOOL ☺ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Curry Couscous & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fried Noodles w/ Beef, Vegetables (& fruit)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Chicken Wrap, Plantain & fruit
Sept 23-26	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Fish Benachin Vegetables & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Grilled Chicken, French Fries, Salad & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Meatballs with mashed potatoes & fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tick to order</i> Margarita Pizza Mixed Salad & Ice Cream

Please contact Ms. Leah for any Hot Lunch inquiries and allergy information (7744477)

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New Staff Spotlight

Mr. Sang Jain

“My Second Round”



I practiced teaching for over forty years, sixteen of which have been at BALS. In the course of my career, I have served as Head of Science Department at Senior Secondary Schools, Principal in an international school, Senior Lecturer at Gambia College, and Training Coordinator and the Supervisor of the Teaching and Learning at SOS Training and Production Centre. Also served as Examinations Administrator at the West African Examinations Council for fourteen years.

As a science teacher, I try to make science content more personal by linking it to students' lives, which helps them to identify with science. In addition, I encourage hands-on activities, research work, modeling, developing and using models, and finally constructing explanations and designing solutions. This helps the students improve their observational and manipulative skills and enhances a greater understanding of what has been learned.

In 2016, I attended a Training Programme at the University of Cambridge, England, on teaching at International Schools. This year, I went to Washington DC, USA, to attend the AERO Conference. The goal of the conference is to deepen relationships and foster competencies within a standards-based framework, with the aim to improve instructional coherence. It provided a guide that enhances an insight into how these strategies can be woven into everyday teaching to facilitate instructional effectiveness.

With this knowledge and the dedication and passion for teaching, I have facilitated my 'Coming Back' to BAIS as a Science teacher, after eight years of break.

Finally, in conclusion, I am married with four children (3 boys & 1 girl) and two grandsons.

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Scenes from Opening Day



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