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Headline News

SABIS® Students Earn Awards for Outstanding Results

SABIS® believes that education can change the world, and to help prepare students to do just that, SABIS® schools provide a solid academic foundation that includes thorough preparation for external examinations. As a result, every year SABIS® students around the network earn recognition for their external exam performance. Here are just a few of the latest awards from results earned from the spring 2017 examination session.

At the International School of Choueifat – Erbil (ISC-Erbil), a SABIS® school in Kurdistan, 11th grader Nuran Baktyar recently received the “Top in the World” award from Cambridge Assessment International Education to acknowledge her outstanding performance on the June 2017 International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) Mathematics without Coursework exam. Nuran has been a student at ISC-Erbil since she was in the 5th grade. She plans to study medicine after graduating in June 2018.



Nuran Baktyar, ISC-Erbil, Top in the World on IGCSE Mathematics without Coursework

At ISF International School Frankfurt Rhein-Main in Frankfurt, Germany, 11th grader Anna Schwarzenbach earned the “Highest Mark in Germany” award on the Cambridge IGCSE Literature (English) examination. Anna has been a student at ISF for two years and is passionate about biochemistry. She has not applied to any universities yet as she is still in the 11th grade, but she expects to pursue application to top universities in the U.K. including Oxbridge and Imperial College London when the time comes.



Anna Schwarzenbach (right), ISF, proudly receives her certificate from Dr. Gunther Ludwig (left), ISF Acting Director

At the International School of Choueifat – Amman (ISC-Amman) in Jordan, three students received the Queen Rania Outstanding U.K. Learner Awards for their performance on external exams in June 2017. Samir Shamieh received an award for **Top in Jordan** in IGCSE Math. Samir has been a student at ISC-Amman since 2006 and is currently in the 10th grade. Rakan Al Majali, who has attended ISC-Amman since KG2, received an award for **Top in Jordan** in Advanced Supplementary (AS) Chemistry, **Top in Jordan** in AS Biology, and **First Place in Jordan** in a category entitled “Best Across three AS,” which is calculated based on the total marks of three AS exams results. Rounding out the group, Dana Qatawne received an award for **High Achievement** in A Level Biology. She was also ranked 1st in the Middle East and 2nd in the World in A Level Chemistry. Dana graduated in 2017. She is now pursuing her studies at the University of Jordan and plans to be a medical doctor one day.



Left to right: Rakan Al Majali, Dana Qatawne, and Samir Shamieh pose for a photo at the Queen Rania Outstanding U.K. Learner Awards Ceremony

SABIS® would like to congratulate Nuran Baktyar, Anna Schwarzenbach, Samir Shamieh, Rakan Al Majali, and Dana Qatawne for their outstanding achievements! Well done!

To learn more about the exams mentioned in this article, visit cambridgeinternational.org. To learn more about how SABIS® prepares students for success on external exams, visit sabis.net.

Classes of 2017 Accepted at Top Universities

SABIS® schools around the world – in the U.S., Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East – give their students an education that helps them develop a solid foundation of knowledge and skills in preparation for the next phase of their education. With such strong, competitive skills, it is no surprise

that graduates from the Class of 2017 were accepted to many of the world’s top colleges and universities.

In the early summer of 2017, SABIS® Network schools graduated over 1,700 students from close to 30 network schools. These students earned acceptances to 551 different colleges and universities in 47 countries around the world. Even more impressive is that 110 of the world’s top 200 universities as identified by the *U.K. Times Educational Supplement* accepted 2017 SABIS® graduates. These top-tier universities include McGill University and The University of British Columbia in Canada; Boston University, Cornell University, Harvard University, and Johns Hopkins University in the U.S.; University of St. Andrews, University of Cambridge, and University College London in the U.K.; Heidelberg University and Technische Universität München in Germany; Maastricht University in The Netherlands; University of Otago in New Zealand; The University of Sydney in Australia; and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in Korea.



Class of 2017 graduates from SIS-Adma ready for the next chapter in their lives

Having gained acceptance to well-reputed universities and colleges, SABIS® 2017 alumni can actively expand on the foundation they built in school and position themselves to achieve future success. We wish our graduates all the best and are proud that they are part of the SABIS® family.

If you would like to read more about our successful alumni, read the Alumni in the Spotlight article in this issue. To download the full list of SABIS® 2017 university offers and acceptances, visit <http://sabis.net/TJQI2B>.

55%
of the world’s top
200 universities
accepted SABIS®
2017 graduates.

Network Expansion Brings SABIS® Education to More Students

Committed to changing the world through education, SABIS® continues to venture into new places and bring the outstanding SABIS® education to a growing number of students. The latest expansion plans include a premium international school in Nairobi, Kenya, and a mid-market school in Duhok, Kurdistan.

In Kenya, the SABIS® International School – Runda is set to open its doors in September 2018. SABIS® Runda will offer a premium international school experience in state-of-the-art campus facilities that include modern, technology-enabled classrooms and laboratories; a philharmonic-rated theater seating 450 people; semi-Olympic pool; sports complex; and extensive outdoor sports facilities.

The school will welcome students from both the local and international communities. This diverse and multicultural student body will be reflected in equally diverse members of staff who are passionate about teaching, have subject expertise, and are firm believers in the SABIS® Educational System™. Additionally, several key positions within the school will be filled by individuals with previous SABIS® experience to give the school an especially strong start.

“As East Africa’s largest economy, Kenya is an exciting new opportunity for us... Coupled with the tremendous value that Kenyan parents place on educating their children, it was clear that we could make a real difference in this community.”

– Ayham Ayche, SABIS® Director of Business Development

In its first year of operation, SABIS® Runda will welcome students in Kindergarten through Grade 5. As the school grows, it will add a further grade level each year until reaching a full, K-12 offering. Additional information about the school is available on the SABIS® Runda website sabisrunda.sabis.net. You can also follow the school on facebook.com/sabis_international_school_runda.



SABIS® International School
Runda, Kenya

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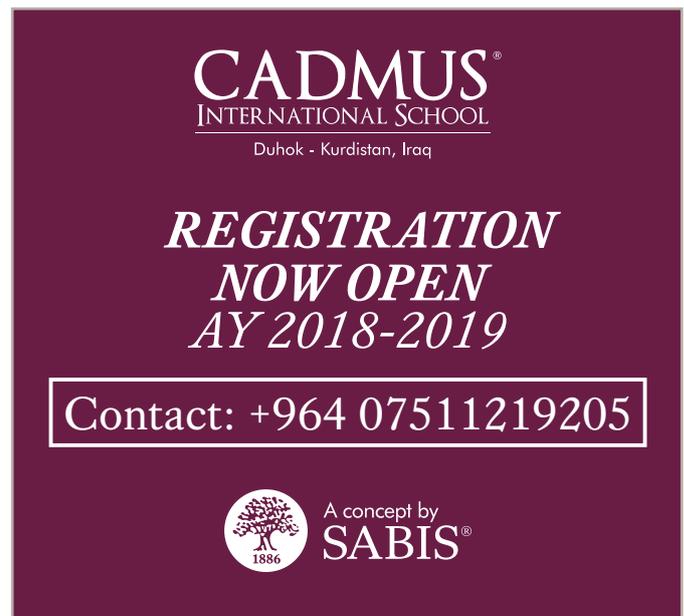
sabisrunda.sabis.net

Elsewhere, the Cadmus International School – Duhok is also set to open its doors in September 2018 in Kurdistan. Cadmus International School – Duhok is the first Cadmus school to open and officially launches a new concept of schools by SABIS®.

Cadmus schools are designed to serve middle-class parents who are value-conscious, while at the same time as not willing to compromise on quality in the education of their children. Cadmus schools implement the same, proven SABIS® Educational System™ offered at SABIS® premium international schools, but do so at a lower cost due to more modest campus facilities.

“We are very excited to bring our Cadmus model to Kurdistan,” said SABIS® President Carl Bistany. *“We have been active in the region since opening our first school in Erbil, Kurdistan, in 2006, and are looking forward to giving all students in Kurdistan, regardless of their socio-economic background, access to an education that will prepare them to achieve success in a changing world.”*

In its first year of operation, Cadmus International School – Duhok will welcome students in Kindergarten through Grade 4, with plans to open an additional grade each year until reaching a full, K-12 offering. To learn more about Cadmus International School – Duhok, visit cadmusduhok.sabis.net. To learn more about Cadmus International Schools by SABIS®, visit sabis.net/our-operational-models.



CADMUS®
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Duhok - Kurdistan, Iraq

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A concept by **SABIS®**

SABIS® Participates in Education Conferences

As a leader in the education industry, SABIS® is a perennial presence at conferences around the world. In 2017, SABIS® participated in two high-profile education conferences in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The first event, EdEx MENA, took place from November 19 to 22, 2017, in Dubai, U.A.E. EdEx MENA is the region’s largest platform dedicated to creating investment and partnership opportunities for education businesses. The conference brings together regulators, ministries, educators, investors, financiers, entrepreneurs, and solution providers to seek out new investment, development, and expansion partners from across the region and around the world. SABIS® Director of Business Development

Ayham Ayche and Mark DeSario, Chief Executive Officer of Investbridge Capital, SABIS®'s partner in a joint venture in Africa, both attended the event. Mark DeSario, a speaker at the event, discussed the reasons they chose SABIS® as a partner in Africa, citing SABIS®'s rich history in offering a top-quality education around the world.

The second event, **Global Hotspots: Emerging Markets in the Middle East & North Africa** conference, took place in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., on November 22, 2017. The focus of this year's conference was on exploring sector growth in the Middle East, Africa, and beyond, with in-depth insights into thriving sub-sectors. The full-day event included a special focus on international schools, higher education, and vocational and professional training and brought together international universities, policymakers, investors, independent experts, consultants, and providers.



SABIS® Business Development Director Ayham Ayche (2nd from left) joins fellow panelists at Global Hotspots: Emerging Markets in the Middle East & North Africa

Representing SABIS® at the conference was Business Development Director Ayham Ayche, who participated on a panel discussing how to create sustainable and scalable education businesses in the Middle East. In the session, a seasoned panel of operators and advisors shared their experiences and lessons learned.

Through participation in regional, high-profile educational conferences, SABIS® continues to share its vision of empowering students through a top-quality education. By sharing experiences and meeting key players in the education industry, SABIS® engages in meaningful discussions that aim to improve the standards of education in both the private and public sectors.

If you would like to learn more about SABIS®'s commitment to changing the world through education, visit sabis.net.

Academics

New: Digital Questions Challenge Student Learning

Frequent assessment is an essential component of the SABIS® Educational System™. It is used in all SABIS® schools to gauge students' understanding of specific subjects, evaluate the degree to which students have learned these subjects, and measure individual learning progress. Computerized assessments including both multiple-choice and short answer questions are generated from an extensive database that is expanded each year.

Joining the database of typical questions are a new series of digital, dynamic, computer-correctable questions that ensure that students' answers are a genuine reflection of a deep understanding, rather

than guesses. New question formats include drag-and-drop, matching items, interactive pictures, labelling, and fill in the blank, among others.

The new digital questions were integrated into SABIS® E-books, Integrated Testing and Learning (ITL®), and other assessments at the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year in Lebanon and the U.S. as a pilot phase. They will be introduced in other schools in the network in the future so that all students, especially those sitting for external exams that contain these new types of computer-based questions, can benefit from the dynamic questions in all subjects.

If you would like to watch a video about the new digital questions, visit our online newsletter at newsletter.sabis.net.

The SABIS® Academic Development Division is always pushing the envelope to find new ways to improve students' learning experience. Through the new digital questions, SABIS® ensures that students have fully understood the concepts taught in class and are ready to build upon their foundation of knowledge. In becoming familiar with these new questions, SABIS® students will benefit from improved preparation for external exams.

To learn more about SABIS®, visit sabis.net or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Coming Soon: New Coding Courses

At SABIS®, our approach to education targets the development of a set of skills that will give students the ability to succeed and adapt in a rapidly evolving and increasingly technology-based environment. New SABIS® coding courses, which will be launched soon, have been developed with this objective in mind.

"Our new coding courses are aimed at introducing students to the latest, cutting-edge technology and preparing them for a world of global competitiveness," explained Mr. Ghassan Kansou, VP-SABIS® Academic Development Division. *"Robotics, application and web design, artificial intelligence, and machine learning are the wave of the future we are preparing students for."*



New coding courses coming soon!

The new courses, which will be piloted in the SABIS® International School – Adma from Term 3 of the current academic year, will give middle school and high school students an opportunity to learn about the latest technology trends in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. Following the pilot phase, the courses will be rolled out throughout the network. Stay tuned for updates!

SABIS® IT Department Set-Up Ensures Efficiency, Quality, and Security

SABIS® continuously sets industry standards in the use of information technology. Its cutting-edge approach to and proficiency in IT helps ensure that the organization achieves its objectives of using technology to enhance the learning process, ensure utmost efficiency, and foster a positive environment. A team of 100+ IT professionals develop and deploy innovative software tools and applications, keeping SABIS® at the forefront of the industry.

In order to streamline the development and deployment process and ensure the highest quality in terms of IT solutions and operations, the SABIS® IT Department is divided into three specialized departments: Software Development, IT Operations, and IT Infrastructure.

The Software Development Department is in charge of developing all the solutions used at the SABIS® corporate offices and in schools. The department has two main objectives: improving the academic standards of students and increasing the efficiency and productivity of school operations. Having earned the highly regarded CMMI Level 3 and ISO 9001 certifications, the department follows the latest Agile methodologies to develop high-quality software in a shorter period of time. The latest initiative by the department is the SABIS® Digital Platform, which will act as the platform for some exciting new systems.

The IT Operations Department ensures that the process of delivering IT tools and applications to SABIS® schools around the world is done efficiently and in compliance with SABIS® and global standards, ultimately contributing to the successful implementation of developed solutions. The department handles all operation requests, issues, and problems faced by the schools by offering effective, timely IT support, guidance, and training.

The IT Infrastructure Department is responsible for maintaining and securing the SABIS® data centers worldwide. Through the data replication technique implemented by the department, the data resulting from all school operations is automatically transmitted to data centers in real time, allowing for a swift performance and secure, accurate results. In addition to auditing all school and Regional Center IT processes, the department also supports SABIS® corporate operations by handling all IT issues, creating awareness of new security concerns, and protecting the network's data from security challenges.

As a global education network with schools operating in 20 countries on five continents, SABIS® relies on its IT Department set-up to ensure efficiency, quality, and security across the network. By adopting a specialized and practical division of work, the SABIS® IT Department is able to tackle all IT needs at all levels of the organization, as well as continue to develop new IT tools that help prepare students for the future.

SLO®

SLO® Job Fairs Introduce Students to the SLO®

The SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) is an integral part of the SABIS® Educational System™ and plays an important role in contributing to a positive educational experience for all students.

Every year, SLO® prefects organize job fairs to introduce students to the organization's eight departments – Academic, Discipline, Management, Sports & Health, Activities, Outreach, Lower School, Social Responsibility – and encourage them to apply for a position.



Students at SABIS® International Charter School signing up for SLO® clubs

This academic year, SLO® job fairs were popular throughout the SABIS® Network. SLO® prefects began planning for these fairs by gathering supplies to create promotional material for display in booths representing each department. At the job fairs, prefects at each booth explained the specific role of the department and its importance in the day-to-day running of the school. In addition to giving interested students the chance to learn more about each department, the job fairs also give students the opportunity to sign up for positions of interest.

Watch a video that The International School of Choueifat – Choueifat shared with us from their SLO® Job Fair by visiting our online newsletter at newsletter.sabis.net.

Being a member of the SLO® allows students to develop academic, managerial, organizational, and leadership skills in addition to forming circles of lasting friendships. Through SLO®, students acquire and refine skills that give them an edge in college and throughout life and assist them in becoming active, conscientious, and community-minded members.

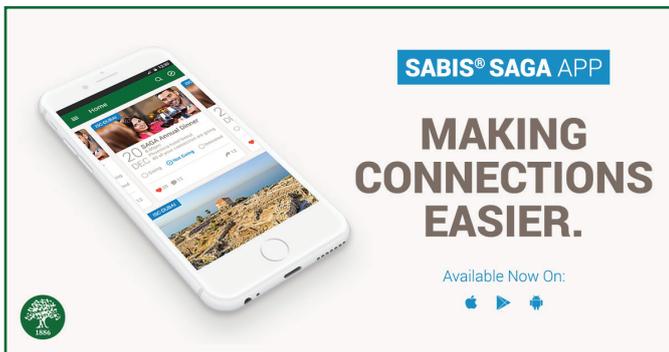
To learn more about the enriching programs, events, and opportunities that are available to students through SLO®, visit sabis.net. If you would like to find out more about SLO® in SABIS® schools in the U.S., Latin America, and Europe, follow us on facebook.com/SabisEducationalSystems/. For schools in MENA and Asia, follow facebook.com/SabisEducationalServices/.

SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA)

The SABIS® SAGA App: An Up-to-Date Alumni Relations Platform

The SABIS® Global Alumni Association (SAGA) is an association that connects SABIS® graduates from around the world and offers opportunities for socializing, networking, and career growth. SAGA objectives include providing graduates a platform to maintain ties to their respective schools and building new ties to SABIS® graduates from other schools.

In its most recent efforts to create a dynamic, global forum that provides opportunities to connect with one another, SAGA has designed a new mobile app. The new app, which can be downloaded through both Apple and Android app stores, includes a variety of features for alumni to enjoy on the go.



SABIS® SAGA APP

MAKING CONNECTIONS EASIER.

Available Now On:

The new SABIS® SAGA App available for download now!

By downloading the SABIS® SAGA App, SABIS® alumni are able to get the latest news and event updates, connect with other members, join groups with shared interests, participate in group chats, and share pictures, as well as locate other SAGA members nearby! The SABIS® SAGA app connects all users in the same way other social media platforms do. Each user has their own profile and is able to search for other users, connect through a messaging system, and invite friends to join interest groups and events.

To date, SAGA has close to 12,000 registered members worldwide and is growing rapidly. By creating this new, modern, and effective space for members, SAGA is taking alumni relations to the next level.

To learn more about SAGA, go to saga.sabis.net or follow SAGA on Facebook at facebook.com/SABISalumni.

SABIS® alumni can download the **app** here:



SPDI

State-of-the-Art Studio Ensures Exceptional Online Learning Experience

The SABIS® Professional Development Institute (SPDI) is dedicated to the promotion of teaching techniques and competencies and to ensuring that all SABIS® students receive the same, top-quality education across the network. To facilitate this, SPDI has established a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) video studio in Adma, Lebanon.

The VLE video studio is fully equipped with state-of-the-art video and audio equipment that will allow SPDI to create high-quality training videos to be uploaded onto the VLE. The studio will be used to create classroom simulation training videos for new and returning teachers on SABIS® classroom management techniques, how to teach using the SABIS® Educational System™, and how to teach specific learning points in the classroom. Projects that are currently underway include teacher training and classroom simulation videos. The studio is specifically

designed to look like a typical SABIS® classroom. It is equipped with desks, chairs, bulletin boards, an interactive whiteboard, and a teacher's desk and chair.

Looking ahead, SPDI is planning to develop a pop-up studio that can be transported from school to school and used to supply schools in the Gulf and U.S. regions with their own video content. This will allow SABIS® teachers throughout the network to share their knowledge and skills.



Editing team ensures that all classroom simulations are top-quality before being posted on the VLE

SPDI is committed to providing uniform training materials to ensure schools in the SABIS® network stay up-to-date and consistent in the quality of education provided across borders. The training videos produced in the studio will strengthen the SABIS® Network and enable schools to provide an outstanding education that helps prepare students for a changing world.

If you are teacher in a SABIS® Network school and would like to access the SABIS® Virtual Learning Environment, visit spdi-vle.sabis.net.

Feature School

SABIS® International Charter School



SABIS® International Charter School Campus

SABIS® International Charter School (SICS), located in Springfield, Massachusetts, has been changing the lives of students since it opened in 1995. The school, which was the first public charter school managed and operated by SABIS® in the U.S., made the world-renowned SABIS® private educational system accessible to

public school students in the U.S. and changed students' lives from the moment it opened.

The story behind SICS is steeped in the kind of lore that surrounds most legends. Previously the Glickman Elementary School and ranked as the second-worst performing school in the Springfield school district, the school's future hung in the balance. It was being considered for takeover by SABIS®, an Education Management Organization (EMO) that would operate the school as a public charter school, but the takeover option was being hotly contested by charter school opponents and critics. In a final showdown fit for television movies, with a group of 200 local parents rallying in favor of SABIS® opening and a jam-packed city hall, SABIS® was awarded the charter and everything changed.

The SABIS® International Charter School opened under SABIS® management and quickly rose from the bottom of the district rankings to become one of the top high schools in the U.S. Today, 23 years later, the school serves over 1,500 students in Kindergarten through Grade 12, has a waiting list of more than 2,000, has graduated over 1,300 students, and has a 100% success rate of getting graduating seniors accepted to college or university.

"I'm excited that my eldest daughter has been accepted to Dean College with the Presidential Scholarship! She will attend in fall 2018. Very proud Mom!!!"

– Judy Scott, SICS Parent

Academic Performance & Achievements

As a member of the global SABIS® Network, SICS implements the proven SABIS® Educational System™. The comprehensive program includes a rigorous curriculum aligned to state and national standards, targeted instructional materials that support the learning process and foster the development of higher order thinking skills, and ongoing assessments that give everyone involved in the learning process a 360-degree view of progress. The system challenges students, supports their individual growth, provides student leadership opportunities, and creates a culture of high achievement for all.



Group of SICS graduates at the 2017 commencement ceremony

The school's achievements are both indisputable and inspiring, with many graduates going on to become the first member of their family ever to attend college. SICS students' preparation for college starts early and is buoyed by a mission to qualify every student for admission to college. Along the way, students build a solid academic foundation and draw upon it when taking annual state exams in grades 3 through 10. In fact, SICS students consistently outperform the entire Springfield district on state

exams in English and mathematics, reinforcing the quality choice the school represents for parents in the city, and by the 10th grade, SICS students perform better than the state in English and mathematics.

Consistently strong academic performance by SICS students has earned the school a long-standing place among the best high schools in the U.S. In 2017 for the eighth year in a row, the school was one of only 6,041 public high schools out of over 22,000 in 50 states and the District of Columbia chosen to represent the best in the country. SICS received its eighth silver medal from *U.S. News & World Report* and further solidified its legendary status.

Equipped with a solid academic foundation and top results on their Grade 10 state exams, SICS students go on to complete high school and gain admission to college or university. In fact, **100% of SICS graduates from 2001**, the first year the school had a Grade 12, **have been accepted to college**. Helping them realize the dream of attending college are millions of dollars in scholarships earned by SICS graduates each year. Between 2011 and 2017, SICS graduating seniors earned over \$72.8 million in college scholarships.

"SICS does a very good job at preparing the students here at SICS for college and beyond."

– Genesis Pieczarka, Grade 10



In addition to impressive and inspiring academic achievements, SICS students also excel in developing and pursuing their talents and interests. In sports, the school has had several of its teams and individual athletes recognized as champions in basketball, soccer, cheerleading, and wrestling. In intellectual competitions, the school is a perennial powerhouse at the American International College (AIC) Model Congress event. In the most recent Model Congress event, SICS students earned five of the 11 possible awards including Best Delegation; 2nd place and a 50% scholarship to AIC; 3rd place and a 25% scholarship to AIC; and two honorable mentions.



SICS Model Congress team pose for group photo

The school has also built a strong reputation in the Academic Decathlon, a competition in which they will field a team at the state level at Harvard in March 2018. In keeping with the school's tradition of debate and intellectual excellence, one SICS student recently won the Alpha Phi Alpha 2017 Annual Senator Edward R. Brooke III Oratorical Contest. The student delivered a motivational speech at the Mass Mutual Center for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration in front of an audience of over 2,000 people.

The SABIS Student Life Organization®

In addition to receiving a top-quality education, SICS students learn to become compassionate, upstanding members of their communities. They learn the importance of being active members of society and understand that they have an important role to play in making their communities and the world around them a better place. SICS students learn all this through their involvement in the SABIS Student Life Organization®, or SLO®, which is an integral part of life at SICS. This year, SLO® made a huge impact, both in school and in the community at large.

So far in the 2017-18 school year, SLO® has focused its efforts on promoting togetherness and unity throughout the school, encouraging all students from all grades to accept challenges they might not have taken on before. One example is Unity and Kindness Week. Throughout the week, prefects from the SLO® Lower School and Outreach departments pooled their efforts and read *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* to students in the SICS Lower School. Lower School teachers then documented every time a student did something kind, and it was then announced to the entire Lower School. In the Middle School and High School, students were all given sticky notes and encouraged to write something kind about someone else. The notes were then placed on the school's Unity and Kindness Board in the main lobby.

“The Student Life Organization® provides an opportunity for everyone to take a leadership role inside of our great community. It teaches us skills such as leadership, organization, and accountability that we will use later on in life.”

– Antonio Rivera, Grade 10

Students at SICS are taking their kindness well beyond the confines of their school premises and organizing numerous events and activities designed to make a difference in their community. This academic year, the students collected over 2,000 lbs. of canned goods and then donated them to a local food pantry. During the holiday season, students also organized a toy drive, collecting over 3,000 toys, which they then donated to a local children's hospital. In January, SICS held its annual blood drive, collecting 32 pints of blood that will help save close to 90 lives!

SICS DONATIONS IN NUMBERS



2,000 lbs
of Canned Goods

Donated to a local food pantry



3,000 toys

Donated to a local children's hospital



32 pints
of Blood

That will save close to 90 lives



Students collected toys for children's hospital in Springfield

Life after SICS

With such a solid foundation of knowledge and skills, it's no wonder that the over 1,300 graduates from SICS have gone on to do great things. They have become doctors, lawyers, engineers, politicians, teachers, advocates, role models, leaders, and dreamers. They can be found in Springfield, across the country, and around the world giving back to their communities and proudly demonstrating how they are using their SABIS® education to change the world.

Consider Shadae Thomas Harris, who graduated from SICS in 2001. After graduating, she attended Smith College and then completed a master's degree at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She then went on to fulfill her dream of teaching before coming full circle to become an administrator at Balliet Elementary School in Springfield. She is currently the John E. Stevens Trust Fellow as she pursues her doctorate in education leadership at Harvard. She is passionate about playing an active role in educating students who are underserved in the public education system and plans to continue her career in education after finishing her doctorate.

Consider Tara Laflamme Brignoli. Tara graduated from SICS in 2003 and went on to get her bachelor's degree in English from Framingham State University in 2007. She was returned to SICS as a teacher from 2009 through 2014 and also completed a master's degree in special education during this time. She left SICS to teach in a few different school districts, but discovered that she wanted to "come home to SICS," where she is "very happy as a teacher and feels very fortunate to be home at SICS."

Consider Alexandra (Alex) Williams, who graduated in the SICS Class of 2011. Alex received a full scholarship to Smith College, where she got her bachelor's degree in engineering, specializing in manufacturing engineering. She is currently living happily in Manhattan in New York City and is excited to be working as a software engineer for a startup title insurance company. Her job and living in New York are not the only things that Alex is excited about. She is also excited that her nephew recently started at SICS in Kindergarten.

And the list of successful SICS graduate goes on and on and on.

The story of the SABIS® International Charter School is the stuff of legends. From the moment it opened its doors 23 years ago, the SABIS® International Charter School has been changing students' lives. Its impact has been felt by a generation of students who have received an education that challenges them, encourages the pursuit of interests, involves them in leadership opportunities and the development of a culture of high achievement, and positions them for a future filled with possibilities.

To find out more about SICS, visit sics.scbis.net.

Alumni in the Spotlight

Faisal Yousef Odeh, Ruwais Private School



Faisal Yousef Odeh

When Faisal Yousef Odeh was a student at Ruwais Private School, a SABIS® Network school in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., one of his teachers told him that one day he would “reach the moon.” He had just finished a 6-hour physics exam in less than 90 minutes. Those words of encouragement from his teacher still ring in his ears today, nearly eight years after graduating from high school, and are one of the things that push him to continue learning and achieving.

Faisal started as a SABIS® student as a 4th grader when the Ruwais Private School opened its doors in 2001. The school quickly became like a home to him, a place where he spent nine hours/day engaged in learning, pursuing his interests, and developing friendships. While in school, he got involved in SLO® as a prefect. He volunteered to tutor other students and attributes the deepening of his own understanding to this role. “It was in teaching someone else that I fully understood the topic,” he remarked.

In thinking about his time at RPS, Faisal characterizes one of his most enduring memories from RPS as “the love, empathy, and recognition” he experienced in his daily life at school. The environment, he says, gave him “the sense of belonging and motivation to continue doing well.” The diverse environment also helped him realize “how similarly different” people are, and this realization has helped him become a clear communicator who can adapt and contribute to different communities.

While at RPS, Faisal challenged himself and sought to earn the respect of others in the community. He was a strong student, earning top results throughout high school including top scores on all the external exams he took including AP®, IGCSE, GCSE, and AS Level. He also took the opportunity to explore his academic interests, enrolling in almost all subjects the school offered from science-based courses to economics and business to find out what he enjoyed most. That turned out to be physics. “It was the introduction to atomic structures and nuclear physics in the Grade 10 physics class where I got hooked,” he says.

Physics formed the nucleus of his university studies. Upon graduating from RPS in June 2010, Faisal considered the half dozen or so universities he’d been accepted to and opted to attend Purdue University in the U.S., where he completed a bachelor’s

degree with distinction in nuclear engineering in May 2014 and a master’s degree in the same field in 2016.

Equipped with everything he learned at RPS and beyond, Faisal is building an impressive career. He currently works as a nuclear engineer at Niowave, Inc., a Michigan-based company that is building superconducting electron accelerators and utilizing transformative science and technology to advance nuclear power to meet the nation’s energy, environmental, and security needs. Faisal contributes to three main programs at Niowave: radiopharmaceuticals, a field in which he has developed, designed, manufactured, and licensed a low-enriched uranium subcritical assembly which is currently operating by nuclear fission to produce life-saving medical radioisotopes; U.S. national security, an area in which he works with the Department of Homeland Security to develop a complete system capable of detecting hidden special nuclear material, mainly uranium and plutonium, at the ports of entry to the United States; and nuclear energy, a program he established that partners with the Department of Energy, national laboratories, and academic universities to support the nation’s energy needs by developing and demonstrating advanced nuclear technologies.

“This gift from SABIS® provided me with exactly what I needed to step into the world and begin to shape the future.”

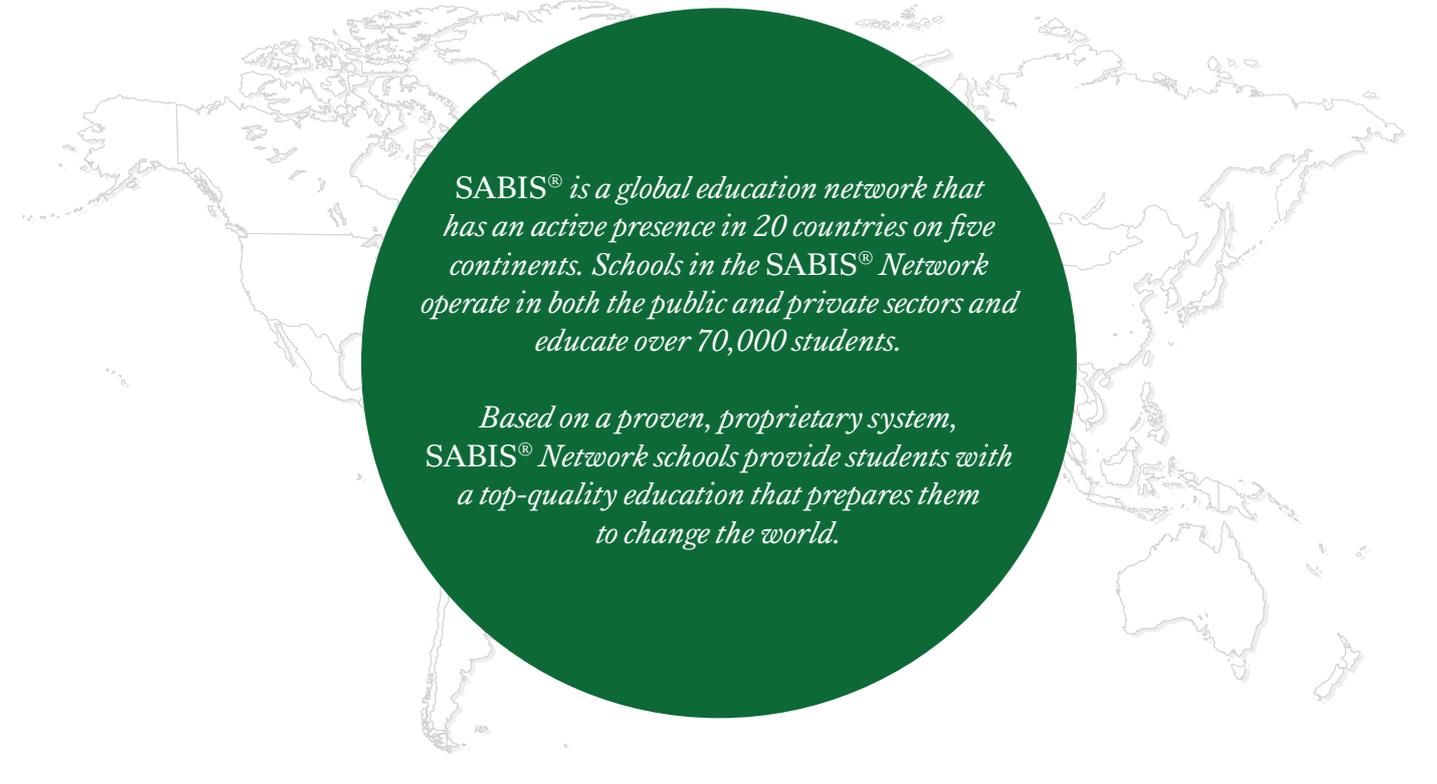
– Faisal Yousef Odeh

Today, from his perspective as a successful professional, Faisal is clear about what his time at Ruwais Private School gave him: “The 10 years of what I thought back then was ultimate torture was in fact teaching me the self-discipline needed to achieve success. This gift from SABIS® provided me with exactly what I needed to step into the world and begin to shape the future.” As a final comment, he remarked, “I thank my parents, who are truly the pillars of my life and success.”

We wish Faisal all the best in his future endeavors and look forward to watching him “reach the moon.”

If you would like to learn more about Ruwais Private School, visit ruwaisprivateschool.sabis.net. If you are a graduate of a SABIS® Network school and would like to connect with Faisal or find fellow graduates near you, log on to saga.sabis.net or download the SABIS® SAGA App today!





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