



March 2013 – issue number 049

IN THIS ISSUE



Highlights of the Issue

Study Abroad Program Welcomes Students to the UK P.1

SABIS® Continues to Expand in the U.S. P.2

Academics

New Science Program Implemented in Member Schools P.4

SABIS® Provides Comprehensive Content for Interactive Whiteboards P.4

SABIS® Students Recognized for External Exam Performance P.5

IT News

SABIS® IT Department Introduces Teacher App P.6

SABIS Student Life Organization®

On-Demand Tutoring Coming Soon to a Screen Near You! P.7

Committed to Making a Difference

New SABIS® School Gives Hope for the Future P.8

HR News

SABIS® Offers Employees Career Advancement Opportunities P.9

Feature School

International School of Choueifat in Dubai Investment Park P.10

SAGA

SAGA Membership Continues to Grow P.11

Graduates in the Spotlight

ISC-Erbil Class of 2013 P.13

Highlights of the Issue



Study Abroad Program Welcomes Students to the UK



Students participating in the Study Abroad Program in Bath, England

The Study Abroad Program is a new and exciting opportunity that offers SABIS® students in Levels I, J, and K (Grades 7, 8, and 9) the chance to spend one to two terms studying at the SABIS International School-UK (SIS-UK) in England. Located on the stunning Ashwicke Estate just outside the World Heritage City of Bath, SIS-UK provides an idyllic setting for a life changing experience. The Study Abroad Program offers a rare opportunity for SABIS® students to experience a new culture and acquire new skills and responsibilities as well as experience the joys of “boarding life” in the heart of the British countryside.

“The Study Abroad Program is a resounding success,” said Mr. David Bryson, SIS-UK School Director. *“We currently have 93 students of 30 different nationalities from 22 different SABIS® member schools across the globe taking part in the program. This is living proof of what a truly international organization SABIS® is!”*



During their stay in the UK, students follow the same academic program that they would in their SABIS® school at home. *“One of the beauties of SABIS® is that our students can take advantage of an exchange program like this one and still maintain their academic progress in a common system,”* said Mr. Salah Ayche, SABIS® Executive Regional Director in charge of overseeing SIS-UK. *“They can spend a term overseas and return to their school without missing a beat.”*

The Study Abroad Program for Term 2 wraps up on March 22, 2013. The school’s staff and faculty will then get the campus ready for students who have enrolled in the Term 3 program, which is set to run from April 8 through June 21, 2013.

“Interest in the Term 3 program has been high,” stated David Bryson. *“We have had upwards of 230 firm inquiries and have a few spaces for boys left.”* He continued, *“The nice thing about the Term 3 program is that at the same time as students can enjoy the beauty of spring in Bath, they will also be prepared for and sit their end-of-year finals as part of the program.”*

Following the completion of the Term 3 Study Abroad Program, the campus will shift gears and prepare for the SABIS® Educational Summer Camp. The camp will offer students a unique combination of academic courses including SAT preparation courses, mathematics, and world languages and a wide range of sports, cultural excursions, and fun.

The SABIS® International School-UK is planning to open its doors on August 31, 2013, to students enrolling in the full year boarding program at the school. For more information on the full year program, the Study Abroad Program, or the SABIS® Educational Summer Camp, visit www.sisuk-sabis.net or speak to your SABIS® school administration.

SABIS® Continues to Expand in the U.S.

The SABIS® School Network is comprised of schools located in 15 countries on four continents and currently serves more than 62,000 students. Divided into two regions – North America & Europe and North Africa, the Middle East, & Asia – SABIS® works to ensure the best possible education for students enrolled in member schools. Efforts in these regions are also focused on bringing the high-quality SABIS® education to an increasing number of students. Recent success in doing just that comes care of the SABIS® U.S. Business Development Department. The department spearheaded the opening of two new U.S. charter schools in the fall of 2012 and is preparing for the opening of several more schools in the near future.

Bringing the number of SABIS® member schools in the U.S. to fifteen, BelovED Community Charter School in Jersey City, New Jersey, opened its doors in the fall of 2012 with 360 students enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 2. The school, which licenses the SABIS® Educational System, plans to add a grade level each year until it offers a full

K-12 program. Joining BelovED in the U.S. network was the International Preparatory Academy (IPA) in Detroit, Michigan. IPA opened with 550 students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 and plans to add a high school next year. IPA, which is fully-managed by SABIS®, is currently in the process of locating a facility to accommodate the high school.

A number of additional charter schools are in the works to join the SABIS® U.S. network in the 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years. These schools will be located in Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, and New Jersey. Among the new schools will be the Lowell Collegiate Charter School, which will open grades K-5, the International Academy of Detroit, the International Academy of Lansing, and the International Academy of Livonia, all opening K-4, and the International Academy of Camden, which will open grades K-3. These prospective schools are at differing stages in the start-up process. To follow their progress, visit their respective websites: Lowell Community Charter School www.lccs.sabis.net, International Academy of Detroit www.iad.sabis.net, International Academy of Livonia www.ial.sabis.net, and the International Academy of Camden www.iac.sabis.net. For information on the International Academy of Lansing or other new U.S. expansion projects, send an E-mail to info@sabis.net.

“Our Business Development Department’s mission is to expand the number of SABIS® schools in underserved communities in the U.S. by developing new schools, taking over operations of failing schools, and licensing the proven SABIS® program to qualified independent operators,” said Jose Afonso, the department’s director. *“SABIS® is well-positioned to significantly expand its U.S. charter school operations in the next 2 to 5 years.”*



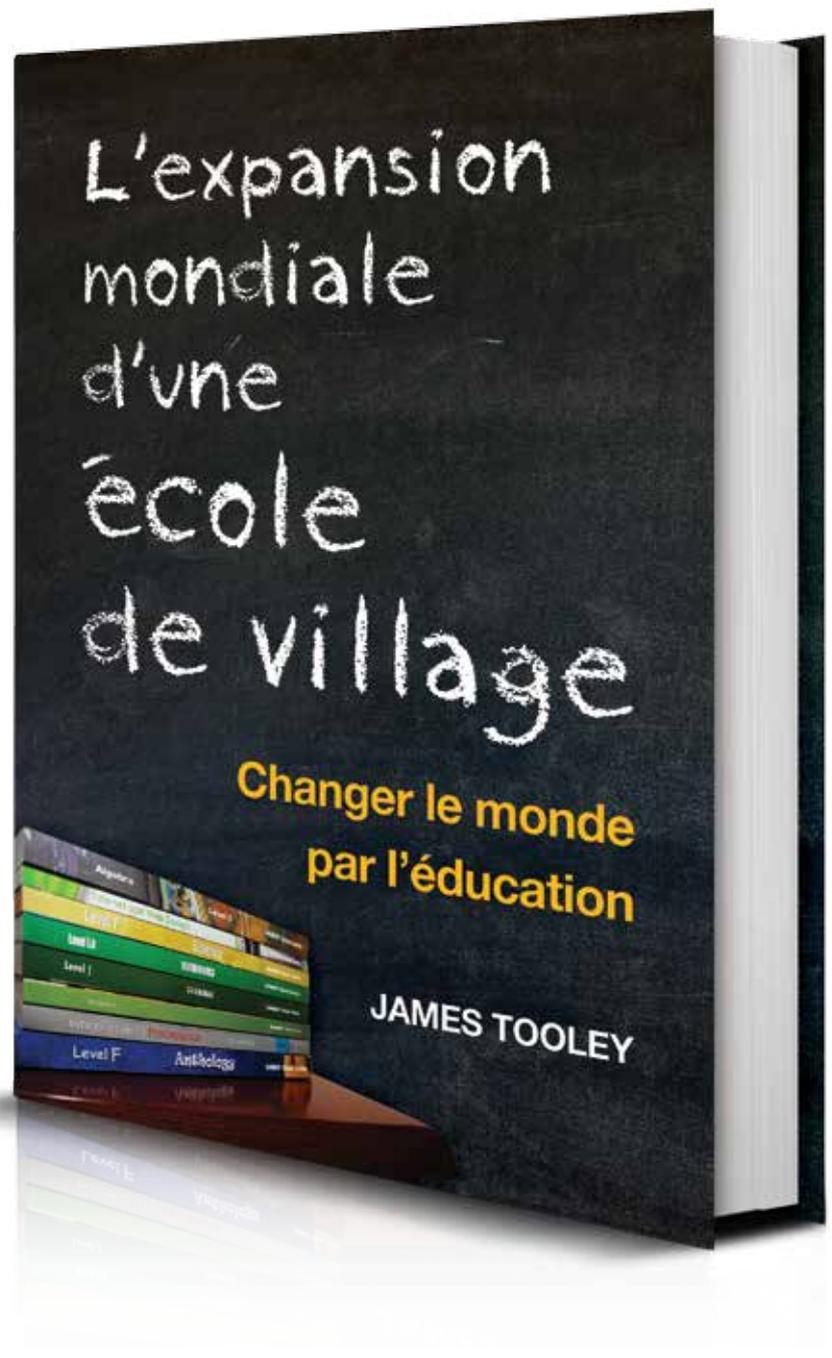
 SABIS® students happily lining up to go to class

COMING SOON!

Professor James
Tooley's book entitled

***From Village School to
Global Brand: Changing
the World through
Education***

in *French, Spanish, and
Arabic* language editions



Watch for publication updates on www.theSABISstory.com.

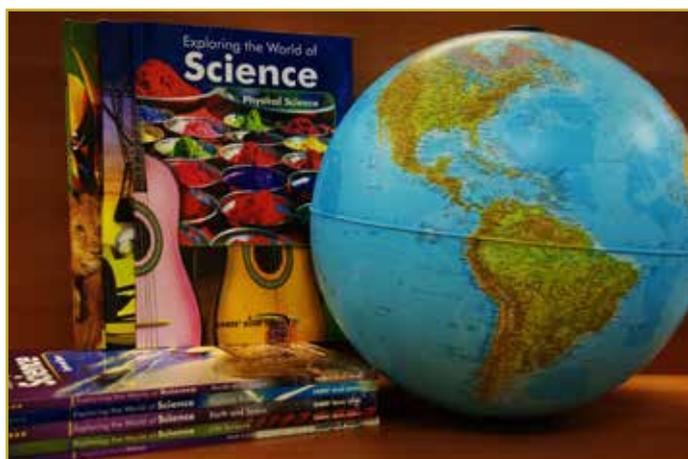


New Science Program Implemented in SABIS® Member Schools

Equipped with a commitment to continual improvement, the SABIS® Academic Development Department released a new science program to member schools in the fall of 2012. The new series, which is being used in Levels B to H (equivalent to KG2 through Grade 6) is comprised of three parts: physical science, earth and space, and life science, all of which reflect the SABIS® approach to curriculum development.

“Each section of a chapter is divided into several learning points that are taught individually through the SABIS Point System® of instruction. The learning points are reinforced with exercises found at the end of the section, in the chapter review, and in the workbook,” stated Mr. Samer Awar, SABIS® Associate Director - Science.

Serving the needs of SABIS® member schools located in 15 countries on four continents, the new program was also designed to provide comprehensive coverage of the relevant academic standards in the U.S. as well as national standards elsewhere around the world.



 A selection of science books for the new science program

“While developing the curriculum for the U.S., we kept an eye on the other parts of the world,” commented Mr. Awar. *“The content and structure of the program at the primary level forms an effective foundation for further knowledge acquisition in any program at later stages.”*

The global approach to the series’ design at the primary level is also currently being implemented in the development of the series from Level I and above so that the program can cater for the needs, requirements, and qualifications that may be specific to any region.

“A wise choice of modules (content) together with some fine tuning in the implementation of the program will pave the way for our students in different regions to sit for the exams they need—state, national, or international,” explained Mr. Awar. *“The program can, for example, align with the American (state, national, or Common Core), British, IB, or any hybrid.”*

Feedback on the series has been overwhelmingly positive from SABIS® member schools. A parent from a SABIS® member school in Egypt stated: *“I want to thank you for the beautiful science books that were handed this year to the Grade 6 students. They are really impressive. I felt that SABIS® was really working hard to modify the curriculum in order to comply with the changes the world is undergoing today.”*

A positive response to the program has also been expressed by SABIS® teachers. SABIS® Executive Regional Director, Mr. Salah Ayche, commented that *“the feedback from teachers about the new science program has been great - WITHOUT EXCEPTION.”*

The SABIS® Academic Development Department will continue working to extend the series through the high school. Books for Levels I and above are on the way and slated for introduction in the 2013-14 academic year.

SABIS® Provides Comprehensive Content for Interactive Whiteboards

The SABIS® Educational System is a comprehensive system that uses proven instructional methods designed to keep students engaged and foster efficient learning. Drawing on a commitment to continually seek to improve, the SABIS® model provides teachers and students with cutting-edge educational tools that enhance the learning experience and facilitate lesson delivery.

One such tool is the interactive whiteboard (IWB). Unlike traditional whiteboards or blackboards, which require teachers to manually write out content during a lesson, their modern counterparts, IWBs, allow teachers to present pre-prepared, interactive lessons that can integrate a variety of technological teaching tools.

“IWBs are a relatively new technology,” stated SABIS® Vice President - Academic Development, Mr. Ghassan Kansou. *“They became popular about 5 years ago,”* he added. *“But SABIS® didn’t just run out and install IWBs in schools; we took the time to study the value added that an IWB could bring to SABIS® member schools.”*



 A Shadow Teacher® using an interactive whiteboard in a SABIS® classroom

The SABIS® Interactive Whiteboard program implemented in several member schools today resulted from an 18-month pilot project that involved targeted lesson development, supervised implementation, and teacher feedback. The program provides SABIS® teachers with specially-designed material for use in IWB lessons. Each lesson's content has been carefully developed by the SABIS® Academic Development Department, ensuring that delivery can occur efficiently and maximize a teacher's time and talents.



 **The Interactive Whiteboard being used in a SABIS® classroom**

"This is an exciting project and has been a work in progress for a couple of years now," commented Mr. Kansou. "To date, we have practically completed the development of content for English, math, and science for levels C to N (generally equivalent to grades 1 through 12). Every year we plan to introduce new content until we have covered all subjects for all levels. We have been pleased with the positive feedback received from teachers and students around the network and are looking forward to having more schools on board," he added.

With the goal of reaping the full benefit of interactive whiteboard technology, the SABIS® IWB Program brings many advantages to the SABIS® classroom. From a teaching perspective, lesson delivery is improved as material is pre-prepared, thus minimizing the teacher's need to write things out on the board in real-time. With a simple click of the button, teachers can access all the material they will be teaching – book content, examples for additional explanation, activities for students to work on, and answers – at the click of a button.

From a learning perspective, students across the network are also feeling the advantages of interactive whiteboard lessons. The large number of additional resources that are used throughout the lesson, including videos, images, demonstrations, and laboratory simulations in addition to audio and graphics features, all come together to enhance the already engaging SABIS Point System® of instruction.

"IWB lessons are usually very colorful and interesting, especially when there are additional images, diagrams, and short informational videos," said a student at SIS-Adma.

Currently, interactive whiteboards are being used in several SABIS® member schools in Lebanon, Egypt, Kurdistan, Germany, England, and the U.S. The plan is for broader implementation throughout the network in the near future.

SABIS® Students Recognized for External Exam Performance

In the spring of 2012, students in SABIS® member schools around the world took external exams as a culmination of programs of study that ranged from one to two years in length. These programs included, among others, the American Advanced Placement (AP®) and the British-based International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE). SABIS® network-wide results, as reported in the November 2012 SABIS® Newsletter, showed performance levels that exceeded global averages. In line with this stellar performance, several students have subsequently earned special recognition for their results.

Fifteen (15) students from SABIS® member schools earned Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards from the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), reputed to be the world's largest provider of international qualifications for 14-19 year olds. The Outstanding Learner Awards recognize students whose performance on IGCSE exams is the best in a specific country or the best in the world. SABIS® students distinguished by the award came from member schools located in Frankfurt, Germany; Al-Ain, Dubai, and Ruwais in the U.A.E.; Doha, Qatar; and Amman, Jordan. Students' performance was recognized as best in the country for Arabic, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computer Studies, English as a Second Language, First Language Korean, Foreign Language French, Mathematics without Coursework, Physical Education, and Physics.



 **A group of AP® Scholars from the International School of Minnesota**

Joining the SABIS® students who were recognized by CIE are 301 additional students who received recognition as one of three categories of AP® Scholar for their performance on the Advanced Placement exams from the spring of 2012. AP® Scholar categories include AP® Scholar, AP® Scholar with Honor, and AP® Scholar with Distinction. Qualification for each category of award is determined based on the number of AP exams taken and the respective results. To qualify for an AP® Scholar with Distinction Award, a student must take a minimum of 5 AP exams and earn an average score of at least 3.5. Thirty-one (31) percent of SABIS® students who were recognized by the AP® earned AP® Scholar with Distinction awards.

Qualification for AP® Scholar with Honor and AP® Scholar awards vary in comparison to the AP® Scholar with Distinction award based on the minimum number of AP® exams taken. Twenty-seven (27) percent of SABIS® students earned the AP® Scholar with Honor award and 42 percent earned the AP® Scholar award.

Students who earned AP® Scholar awards come from a wide geographic scope of SABIS® member schools in countries including Bahrain, Egypt, Germany, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, the U.A.E., and the U.S. This is testimony to the consistency of the SABIS® Educational System and its rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum that consistently delivers results across continents.

IT News

SABIS® IT Department Introduces Teacher App

Technology is central to the SABIS® Educational System and is used strategically in the organization to optimize learning, improve academic results, enhance teacher efficiency, and reinforce communication at all levels. In order to ensure that the SABIS® system remains on the cutting-edge, the SABIS® IT team engages in continuous research and development of real-time solutions to enhance the educational experience for both students and teachers.

The SABIS® Teacher App is one of the latest technological tools under development and is specifically designed to improve teacher efficiency in the classroom. Equipped with tablets, teachers can access student data such as academic performance, attendance, and behavior. For each class in a teacher's timetable, thumbnail photos of students enrolled appear. With a single tap, the teacher can get an overview of a student's academic progress, among other things.

In addition to improving teacher efficiency, the new SABIS® Teacher App also enhances communication within the school. Information, such as student attendance or discipline infractions, is sent directly to the SABIS® School Management System (SSMS) so that the school can act on real-time data and reduce the time needed for data entry.

Feedback on the application has been extremely positive in schools which are piloting the new tool across the SABIS® School Network. *"I was one of the first teachers to try out the new Teacher App and I immediately realized what a great tool it was,"* remarked Daniel Everest, Head of the IT Department - Grades 2-9, at ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main in Germany. *"The student images help me familiarize myself with my pupils. Also, being able to view each student's course and Periodic Exam averages has meant that I can target students who need extra support. This additional information allows me to pair stronger and weaker students more quickly and efficiently,"* he added.

Testimonials

“ I’m not convinced that you are high school students. You must be from a university. These are the best questions I’ve had in the last five years of speaking at schools. ”

U.S. Consul General of Düsseldorf, Stephen Hubler speaking to a group of students from ISR International Schule am Rhein in Neuss



The SABIS® Teacher App is currently being trialed on tablets and touch screens at ISF International Schule Frankfurt in Germany and in five schools in the U.S., namely Holyoke Community Charter School, International Academy of Flint, International Preparatory Academy, Mt. Auburn International Academy, and SABIS® International Charter School. Plans for the application include its deployment in Egypt and other schools within the next academic year.



Teacher at ISF demonstrates SABIS® Teacher App

Testimonials

“ We have implemented the SABIS® Teacher App at five schools in the U.S. Across the board, the process was seamless and successful in terms of quick implementation and ease of use. It has already saved our schools a great amount of time and money by reducing the amount of paper and time required to take attendance and document discipline infractions. Teacher feedback has been great and they have all expressed their delight with the new technology. ”

Mark Blaubach - IT Manager of U.S. Operations



On-Demand Tutoring Coming Soon to a Screen Near You!

The SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) is an integral part of the day-to-day experience in any SABIS® member school. Students across the SABIS® School Network are strongly encouraged to join SLO® and play an active role in all aspects of school life through peer tutoring, activity planning, engagement in community service projects, and much more.

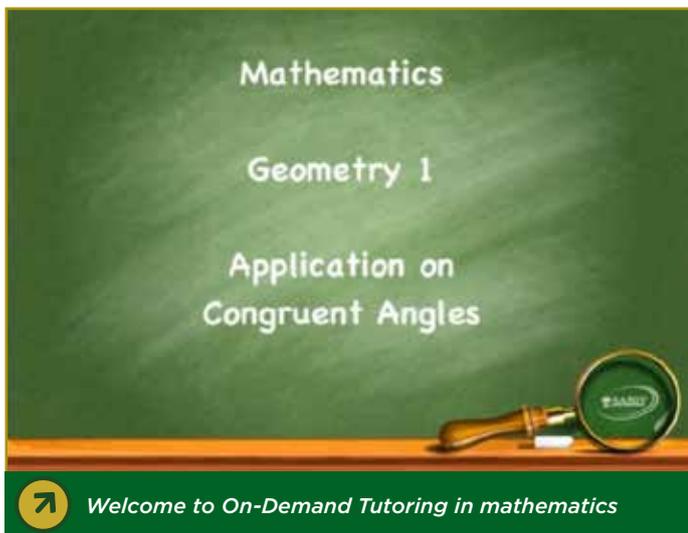
In addition to providing many opportunities for personal, social, and moral growth, SLO® also plays a critical role in raising academic standards of the school. The SLO® Academics Department provides an opportunity for students who are very strong in a particular subject matter to coach and support fellow students as a means of filling in any academic gaps. This practice, called peer tutoring, is used in all SABIS® schools with amazing results.

With the intention of taking peer tutoring one step further, SABIS® is currently working on the development of an on-demand tutoring program. With on-demand tutoring, SABIS® students prepare and upload tutorial videos of concepts in all subjects taught in SABIS® schools, including math, physics, chemistry, biology, social studies, and English, to name a few. Students who have not fully understood a concept in class, were absent, or would like to review some topics before an exam can visit the SABIS® On-Demand Tutoring website to watch video explanations pre-recorded by their peers.

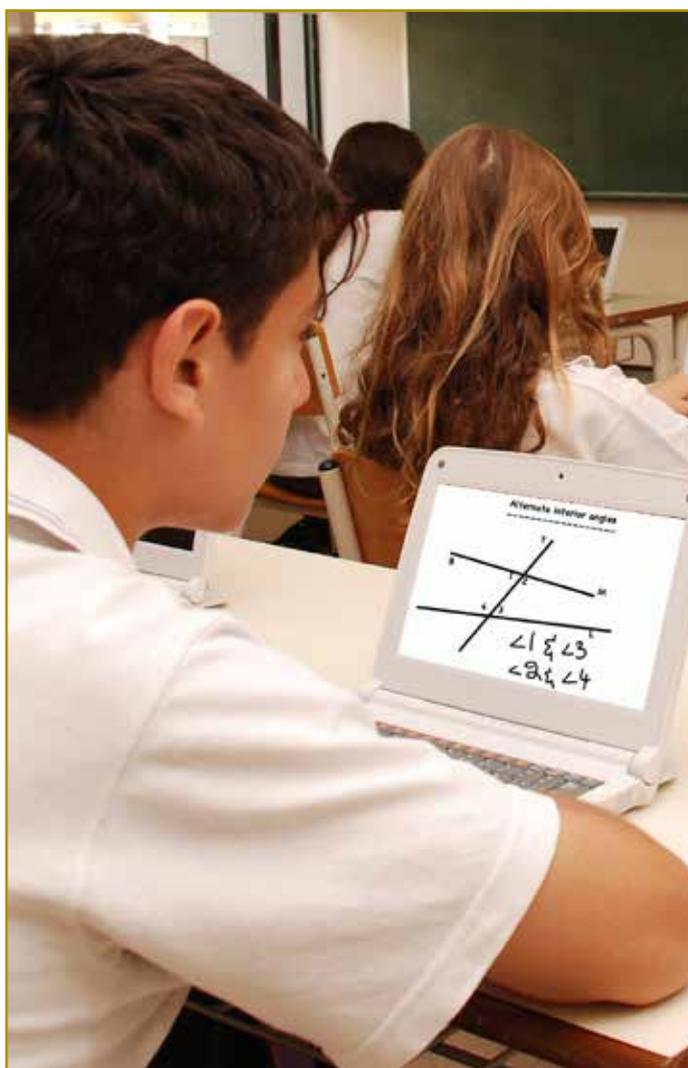
“This is a very exciting project for SLO® and an excellent demonstration of how peer learning works in SABIS® schools,” said Mr. Roger Soweid, Corporate Director - SABIS® Student Life and Student Management. *“Ultimately it is a win-win situation. Students are engaged and actively involved in investing in their school and the teachers have more time to deliver material.”*

The SABIS® On-Demand Tutoring Project is currently in a pilot phase. Students attending SABIS® member schools in Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan are in the process of creating tutorial videos for Grade 9 Mathematics. These videos will be more broadly available on WebSchool in Term 3 of the 2012-13 academic year. The project will be gradually expanded and will eventually cover every instructional concept in all subjects in all grades and will include videos covering multi-concept exercises and external exam practice. The ultimate objective is to compile a WebSchool library comprised of as many as 20,000 videos.

Watch future SABIS® Newsletters for future On-Demand Tutoring developments.



Welcome to On-Demand Tutoring in mathematics



A sample tutoring session on alternate interior angles



New SABIS® School Gives Hope for the Future



 Young students learning English at SABIS®-Metn

When SABIS®-Metn opened on October 17, 2012, a world of opportunities for its students opened as well. Some of the 20 students who started at the school had never been to school before; others had missed some schooling due to a lack of funds. All the students had one thing in common: they had hope for a better future.

SABIS®-Metn is one of the first tuition-free private schools for low-income families in Lebanon. The school is fully funded by SABIS® Foundation and serves the children of financially-disadvantaged families.

Since the school opened in October, enrollment has grown to close to 50 students enrolled in Kindergarten 1 through Grade 5. Only children from families with extremely limited financial means are considered for admission. Those who are eligible, many of whom do not speak any English, take a diagnostic test and are placed in classes where the majority of students need remedial/catch up lessons to join their grade level. Once a student has been accepted, the SABIS® Foundation covers all education-related expenses including books, school supplies, etc. For their part, parents are responsible for the cleanliness of their children and are expected to provide them with lunch and snacks for two breaks during the school day.

SABIS®-Metn is currently located in a beautifully-renovated rented building that previously served as a hotel. The school has well-equipped classrooms, SABIS Integrated Testing and Learning® rooms, and a large theater, among other facilities.

Like all schools that are members of the SABIS® School Network, students at SABIS®-Metn follow the SABIS® Educational System. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard and lessons are provided by

SABIS®. And like other SABIS® member schools, students at SABIS®-Metn are responsible for maintaining high standards of cleanliness and tidiness of their school and are encouraged to contribute to raising their academic standards through peer tutoring.

"The students love the school," explained Ms. Zakieh Naimy, "to the extent that they repeatedly express their displeasure whenever the weekend comes or whenever there is a day off." She continued, "They say that they feel safe, happy, respected, and valued. They love the way they are taught, and they are proud of their progress in all subjects – especially in English."

In the short time that SABIS®-Metn has been open, the school has already had a positive impact on the community. Students have begun sharing the things they have learned in school with their families. One mother said, *"My 5-year old son is teaching me English!"* The school has also opened students' eyes to a world of possibilities that can be achieved through education. Ms. Naimy relates, *"At SABIS®-Metn, you can witness every day how SABIS® is making a difference not only on an academic level, but also on personal, social, and psychological levels, too. There is nothing more valuable than the look of happiness and satisfaction on a girl's face when she realizes that she does indeed have the chance to become a doctor one day."*

SABIS®-Metn is a reflection of the SABIS® commitment to give back; it also shows the high standards that can be achieved through the involvement of the private sector in education. In its current location, the school can grow to accommodate 250 students. Plans are underway to build and move to a purpose-built campus.



SABIS® Offers Employees Career Advancement Opportunities

Forward-looking organizations all over the world invest in retaining and developing their talented employees, and with the shortage of teachers reaching crisis levels, educational institutions are no exception. With a commitment to the development and retention of individuals employed by SABIS® and in SABIS® member schools, SABIS® offers individuals not only ongoing professional development opportunities but also exciting career advancement opportunities.

Mr. Will Henry, Director of SABIS® International School in Phoenix, Arizona (SIS-Phoenix), began his career with SABIS® in 2002 as a 7th and 8th grade English and social studies teacher. At the time, Mr. Henry also coached the girls' volleyball team, boys' and girls' track and field, and was a mentor teacher. Mr. Henry was very quickly identified as a talented teacher and was singled out for promotion within the organization. By 2006 Mr. Henry was promoted to Lower School Academic Quality Controller (AQC) at SIS-Phoenix before being promoted once again in May 2009 to the position of Director.

"It has been a privilege to serve my school in the capacity of teacher, Lower School AQC and now, Director. I have been with SABIS® for over 10 years now and I look forward to coming to work each and every day and working with my students, their parents, and my colleagues," said Mr. Henry. Despite the demands of his position as Director, Mr. Henry continues to find time to do what he loves most – coach the school's boys' and girls' track and field team.



7 Will Henry with students at SIS-Phoenix

Mr. Wissam Malaeb also has a similar story to tell. Mr. Malaeb began his career in 2001 as a computer science and mathematics teacher in ISC-Sharjah. Mr. Malaeb quickly came to the attention of the HR team. In 2004 he was promoted to Grade Coordinator and in 2009 he was promoted once again to Student Life Coordinator. After proving himself at his job, Mr. Malaeb was transferred to ISC-Dubai as an AQC. Today, Mr. Malaeb is the Deputy Director of ISC-Dubai, the largest school in the SABIS® School Network. *"I am a strong believer in the SABIS® Educational System. I love how SABIS® strives for strong academics and focuses as well on student character development,"* said Mr. Malaeb. *"I am very proud to be part of an organization that recognizes, develops, and promotes its employees so they too can reach their full potential."*



7 Wissam Malaeb with students at ISC-Dubai

These are just two of many stories of career advancement within the SABIS® School Network. Around the world, SABIS® Human Resources Departments draw on a range of tools to ensure that talented individuals in the network are recognized. Central to this process are the Talent Development Program and the new SABISTalent.

The Talent Development Program (TDP) is a career advancement tool that was first developed and implemented to respond to the need for teachers in the U.A.E. *"We were faced with a demand to fill a large number of new positions in a very short period of time. The Talent Development Program was a tool that we rolled out in the region in order to efficiently identify candidates in our network who had the potential to grow and take on more challenging roles,"* explained Ms. Mira Abu Rustum, Senior HR Officer at SABIS®.

Today, the objective of the TDP is to train and promote SABIS® staff in the various regions across the network. Based on the recommendation of the School Director and with the approval of the regional and corporate management, identified employees are trained to be ready to assume higher positions within the network as soon as a vacancy becomes available.

Although highly effective, the Talent Development Program has some limitations as a manual process with a fixed geographic scope. To address the TDP limitations and develop a more comprehensive, organizational approach to career advancement within the network, SABIS® has invested in a group-wide talent management system, SABISTalent.

Offering an explanation of SABISTalent and its benefits, Ms. Maha Khani, Employee Relations Officer at SES said, *"SABISTalent is an advanced talent management system that will provide corporate and school management and staff with online access to up-to-date employee information and help manage the career development of employees throughout the global network. I am very excited about using this new tool which will bring our HR processes, performance management, and career development plans under one umbrella."*

Once implemented in full, SABISTalent will replace the Talent Development Program process as a more global, unified, and harmonious approach to talent development across the network. This will come as good news to Will Henry, Wissam Malaeb, and the thousands of individuals who are employed in SABIS® member schools and looking for exciting new professional adventures.



International School of Choueifat in Dubai Investment Park

The International School of Choueifat - Dubai Investment Park (ISC-DIP) is the newest addition to the global SABIS® School Network. ISC-DIP opened its doors in the 2012-2013 academic year, serves students from Kindergarten 1 to Grade 3, and is set to grow by an additional grade each year until it reaches a full K-12 offering.

Located in Dubai Investment Park, a new, up-and-coming residential area located 40 kilometers from central Dubai, ISC-DIP is the second SABIS®-operated school in Dubai. The decision to expand and open a second school in Dubai was in response to demand and a long waiting list of students eager to enroll in ISC-Dubai. Within the first weeks of the opening of enrollment for ISC-DIP, a staggering 695 students, the school's full capacity for its first phase of development and the largest number of any new school within the SABIS® School Network, were registered.



 **The International School of Choueifat in Dubai Investment Park**

Once construction has been completed, ISC-DIP will accommodate up to 3,500 students. The newly built, state-of-the-art school buildings will lie on a sprawling 60,000 m² plot of land. The Kindergarten section of the school alone will be comprised of two classroom buildings, an administration building, and a purpose-built infant swimming pool. Classrooms will be built around a large, covered indoor play area that will protect the young children from extreme weather conditions. The outdoor play areas will be fully shaded, have rubberized surfaces, and be equipped with purpose-built play areas.



 **ISC-DIP students in class**

An Excellent Start

Like all schools in the global SABIS® School Network, ISC-DIP follows the SABIS® Educational System, a comprehensive and rigorous academic program that has been refined over 127 years. With a balance of academics, self-development, and life preparation that begins in Kindergarten, the SABIS® Educational System prepares students for success at all school levels, fosters a lifelong interest in learning, and develops responsible world-class citizens.

In its short history, ISC-DIP has already demonstrated the strength of the SABIS® Educational System. Students who enrolled brought various academic backgrounds and academic gaps which were identified upon analysis of the initial diagnostic tests. Through accurate placement in classes comprised of students with a similar knowledge base, by the end of the first term, the majority of the students had been brought up to speed with their peers on grade level. A further measure of the excellent start ISC-DIP has had comes from a comparative analysis of Term 1 performance. The analysis shows that ISC-DIP Term 1 results are consistent with results obtained by students in other longer established SABIS® schools in the region.

“The ISC-DIP Term 1 results show that the SABIS® system really works,” said Mr. Neil Smooker, Deputy Regional Director and Acting Director of ISC-DIP. *“We have built a strong sense of community which is evidenced by the positive feedback from all members of the school community and the positive team spirit. It is this aspect, along with dynamic curriculum, which has resulted in the outstanding start of the new school.”*

SLO®

All students across the global SABIS® School Network are strongly encouraged to join the SABIS Student Life Organization® and play an active role in their school community. Students at ISC-DIP are no exception.

Despite their young age, for indeed ISC-DIP students currently range from 3 to 8 years of age, they have embraced Student Life and eagerly volunteer for a wide variety of roles within SLO®. This enthusiasm has impressed many individuals within the school. *“To see the effectiveness of the KG1 Shadow Teachers® and the Grade 3 Discipline Prefects in action is a living example of the SABIS® ethos of involving and empowering students in their school community,”* said Mr. Smooker.

A further measure of the students’ active engagement in school life was visible for the U.A.E. National Day celebration. Emirati students in the school wore their national dress and other students joined in by wearing scarves and hats in the national colors. Students in all classes also made U.A.E. flags out of their handprints in national colors.



The positive culture fostered by Student Life has become visible throughout the school in a short amount of time. Smooker commented, *“When our G1-3 students were upstairs at the start of the year, there was a scramble up and down at break times. Now, under the supervision of students, transitions are orderly and safe. Giving students responsibility has created a calm and caring atmosphere in the school.”*

Enrollments for the 2013-14 academic year are currently being accepted for students in KG1-G9 at ISC-DIP.

For more information, visit www.iscdip-sabis.net.

ISC-DIP students during a P.E. class

SAGA



SAGA Membership Continues to Grow

The SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) is a rapidly growing network of SABIS® alumni. In 2012 alone the global SABIS® School Network graduated over 1,200 students, bringing the number of SABIS® alumni to over 22,000. The SAGA website currently counts an impressive 3,500 registered members and has received over 6,500 hits since its launch in 2011. With a network of schools that spans 15 countries on four continents, SAGA is a growing forum that connects people and brings a myriad of benefits to its members.

“When we started reaching out to our alumni, we were overwhelmed by the response that we received from our graduates,” explained Mr. Johnny Harb, Corporate Operations Director. *“Across the globe, alumni are eager to stay in touch with old friends and look forward to attending the events that we organize. This appeal is also what prompted us to offer and facilitate the process of setting up new alumni chapters as a means to maintain ties among our graduates.”*



ISC alumni organized an event for Bath graduates

With a commitment to reaching out to SABIS® graduates worldwide, the SAGA team works consistently on introducing new features and benefits as the network grows and develops. The team is currently working on developing a new careers website that will advertise vacancies and international internship opportunities and will soon be offering members information about access to state-of-the-art SABIS® school facilities as well as exclusive SAGA group travel plans and packages. In addition, SAGA is encouraging graduates to create new chapters for fellow alumni who live in the same geographical area.

Many schools have already established their own chapters including the mother school, ISC-Choueifat www.iscalumni.com, ISC-Pakistan www.isclahore-sabis.net/alumni, and most recently, ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main in Germany www.isf-net.de/our_school/alumni/. SAGA is also set to launch new alumni chapters in the U.S., Canada, the U.A.E, Egypt, and Kurdistan.

For more information about SAGA or to find out how to set up a new chapter, visit the SAGA website www.saga.sabis.net.



 Old friends reunite for a Bath reunion



 ISF alumni reception brings past graduates together



 ISF graduates pose for a picture with a former teacher at the ISF alumni event

Testimonials

“ I had not seen some of my classmates for over 30 years! In the past, we didn't have each other's contact details; we didn't have a database or E-mails and many of us moved to new countries. Through SAGA, we can now keep in touch. It is about real bonding. ”

Mrs. Leila Kanso, ISC-Choueifat, Class of 1968



 *The first graduating class at ISC-Erbil*

ISC-Erbil Class of 2013

ISC-Erbil came to be as a result of a vision of the Kurdish Prime Minister, Nechirvan Barzani, who saw education as the gateway to developing better individuals, to promoting a healthy, vibrant economy, and most importantly to creating a brighter future. With his vision as a guide, the Prime Minister set out to find the right education organization to help make his vision a reality. Enter SABIS®, equipped with an understanding of the power and potential of a good education and the track record and determination to deliver it. Today, 7 years after opening the school, an important milestone in the school's development is on the horizon – its first class of graduating students. As the school prepares for the graduation ceremony at the beginning of June, they look back at their progress and look ahead to what the future holds.

"This is a bitter-sweet moment for us," Dr. Humaira Bokhari, Director of ISC-Erbil. *"I have known most of these students for most of their adolescent life; I have seen them grow into the young adults that they are today and I am very sad to see them leave. But I am also very excited about what lies ahead for them. I am confident that, as educators, we have provided them with all the tools they require to succeed in university and beyond."*

The entire graduating class – 44 students in total – is equally excited about the future. The students have applied to universities in the U.S. and the U.K., in addition to top universities in the region including SABIS® University in Erbil. They plan to pursue their education in fields including medicine, engineering, architecture, journalism, and business, to name a few.

"What is most impressive is that, no matter what field they have chosen to pursue, each and every student has expressed his/her wish to come back to Kurdistan and serve the community. This is commendable!" exclaimed Dr. Bokhari.

The desire to serve the community and make a difference in the world are concepts at the very core of the SABIS® Educational System and are instilled in students at a very young age. Through the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®), students experience real-life responsibilities, develop their leadership and communication skills, gain self-confidence, and learn how to give back to their community. *"From the very start, I was impressed by the dedication, loyalty, commitment and hard work of this class. Each and every day I saw them in action as Shadow*

Teachers, peer tutors, event planners and individuals willing to serve their community both at school and outside school," said Ms. Rawiya Mahmoud, ISC-Erbil Infants' Coordinator and former Student Life Coordinator. *"They are true ambassadors of the school,"* she added.

The members of the ISC-Erbil Class of 2013 are quick to identify the impact of SLO® on their lives.

"ISC-Erbil has changed my view of the world and the SLO® has taught me that I can make a difference in the lives of the people around me."

"The SLO® at ISC-Erbil gave me the unimaginable opportunity to demonstrate my leadership skills and develop lifelong character traits. Through SLO® I was the shadow teacher, peer tutor, sports head and even had the opportunity to visit the SLO® camp in Cairo!"

"I did so much during my years at ISC- Erbil! I was a head prefect, shadow teacher, and peer tutor. I also arranged several community service projects which helped me find the real me."

As a group, they are also reflective of their time at ISC-Erbil and its contribution to shaping their future.

"ISC-Erbil has helped me give concrete shape to my dreams and guided me to realize my goals in life and helped me become a better person."

"It has been a memorable experience for me and has taught me to respect myself and people."

"ISC-Erbil has allowed me to reach my full potential. It has been a very rewarding experience."

"At ISC-Erbil I have meet some incredible people from so many different nationalities!"

"I have made friends for life here."

As ISC-Erbil readies for the big day in June, SABIS® extends best wishes for a successful remainder of the year to the seniors, their teachers, and the entire ISC-Erbil community.

For more information about ISC-Erbil, visit www.iscerbil-sabis.net.



SABIS® is a global education management organization that manages Pre-K and K-12 schools worldwide. The network is comprised of schools in 15 countries on four continents. Since the first school was founded in 1886, SABIS® has graduated thousands of students who have joined top universities around the world.

MEMBERS OF THE SABIS® SCHOOL NETWORK

MIDDLE EAST REGION: The International School of Choueifat - Sharjah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Al Ain, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Ras Al Khaimah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Umm Al Quwain, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Doha, Qatar | The International School of Choueifat - Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat - Muscat, Oman | The International School of Choueifat - Manama, Bahrain | The International School of Choueifat - Abu Dhabi Khalifa City "A", U.A.E. | Abdul Aziz International School - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | The International School of Choueifat - Choueifat, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Koura, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Amman, Jordan | The International School of Choueifat - Damascus, Syria | SABIS® International School - Adma, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Suleimaniah, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Dream City, Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat - Dubai Investments Park - Dubai, U.A.E. **PPP Schools:** Military High School - Al Ain, U.A.E. | 7 Schools - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq **EGYPT:** The International School of Choueifat - Cairo, Egypt | The International School of Choueifat - City of 6 October, Egypt **PAKISTAN:** The International School of Choueifat - Lahore, Pakistan **NORTH AMERICA:** The International School of Minnesota - Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A. | SABIS® International Charter School - Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | International Academy of Flint - Flint, Michigan, U.S.A. | SABIS® International School - Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. | Milestone SABIS® Academy of New Orleans - New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A. | Holyoke Community Charter School - Holyoke, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | International Academy of Saginaw - Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. | Mt. Auburn International Academy - Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. | Linwood Public Charter School - Shreveport, Louisiana, U.S.A. | International Preparatory Academy - Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. | Brooklyn Ascend Charter School - Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School) | Brownsville Ascend Charter School - Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School) | Bushwick Ascend Charter School - Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School) | BelovED Community Charter School - Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. (Licensed Member School) **UNITED KINGDOM:** SABIS International School U.K. - Bath, England **GERMANY:** ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main - Frankfurt, Germany | ISR Internationale Schule am Rhein in Neuss - Neuss, Germany **ROMANIA:** Cambridge School of Bucharest - Bucharest, Romania **UNIVERSITY:** SABIS® University - Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq

Disclaimer: As SABIS® is a global organization operating in several countries, English usage in the SABIS® newsletter may vary depending on the style used (U.S./ U.K.) in the region represented.