



# SABIS®

## *Success Story*



*Yazen Taka*

As a global education network, SABIS® operates Pre-K and K-12 schools in 16 countries on four continents. SABIS® Network schools, which provide a high-quality education for all students, are found in both the private and public arenas and currently serve over 70,000 students worldwide.

**The International School of ChouEIFat – Dream City** (ISC-Dream City) in Erbil, Kurdistan, is a member of the SABIS® Network. The school first opened its doors in September 2012 and currently educates students in Kindergarten through Grade 4.

**This is a story of a student whose approach to overcoming a challenge is a lesson for others – and the student is only in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade!**

Yazen Taka joined ISC-Dream City in August 2015 as a Grade 4 student. His family had just moved to Erbil after fleeing their home in Mosul, Iraq, and sought refuge in Kurdistan following the ISIS occupation of their home town.

When Yazen joined ISC-Dream City, he spoke almost no English, having previously attended a school in which Arabic was the language of instruction. He struggled to understand what was going on around him, and making friends was difficult.

From his very first day at the school, Yazen was placed in an English booster class in addition to the regular English course. He would sit attentively in class listening to every word his teacher said. He was always the first in his class to take notes, and he always followed instructions. At the end of the first term, Yazen's English average was 59, but he had an 80% in reading and an 87% in grammar. He continued to work hard, studying after school with the support of his mother. By the end of the second term, his average was 78, and he didn't hesitate telling his teachers that his goal was to have an average of 90 by the end of the year!

Slowly, as Yazen's English improved, he started to make friends, mostly because he allowed himself some time away from studying. He volunteered as a peer tutor in math, and as he helped others understand math concepts, they helped him improve his English. As we write this story, only ten months after starting to learn English, Yazen is conversing freely in the language and his average stands at 89%!

At such a young age, Yazen has shown that hard work, focus, and determination pay off. He set his mind on success, and with the support of the school and his family, he is getting there faster than many would have imagined.

ISC-Dream City

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