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Headline News

SABIS® Schools Celebrate Major Milestones

SABIS® Network schools are often long-standing fixtures in their communities, playing an important role in serving the education needs of generations of families. Throughout the 2017-18 academic year, a number of SABIS® Network schools celebrated milestone anniversaries, each one organizing celebrations in harmony with their school and community culture.

In Lahore, Pakistan, the International School of Choueifat – Lahore marked **25 Years of Building Futures**. The school celebrated its 25th anniversary by holding a number of events throughout the academic year. In fact, almost every co-curricular and extra-curricular activity during the year revolved around Building Futures or was inspired by it one way or another. The anniversary year culminated in the graduation ceremony of the Class of 2018, where SABIS® President Carl Bistany was the commencement speaker. Joining him as a speaker at the ceremony was the Honorable Mrs. Zakia Shahnawaz Khan, former Minister for Environment Protection and member of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab. In her keynote address, she stressed the importance of education and congratulated ISC-Lahore on the quality education it provides Pakistani youth, who are well-equipped to excel in all fields both at home and abroad. ISC-Lahore also held a 25th Anniversary Gala and Years of Service Award Ceremony on June 3, 2018, in which long-term staff members were recognized for their dedication and commitment. His Excellency the Governor of Punjab, Mr. Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana, attended the dinner as guest of honor.



ISC-Lahore students perform a traditional dance at the 25th anniversary gala dinner

In Amman, Jordan, the International School of Choueifat – Amman marked its 20th anniversary with a gala event held for staff at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in May 2018. The event recognized staff for their loyalty and commitment to providing a high-quality education that prepares students for the future. In association with the anniversary year, the school also released a video celebrating 20 Years of Achievement.

In Cairo, Egypt, the International School of Choueifat – City of 6 October (ISC-6 October) marked its 15th anniversary with a full day of celebrations for the entire ISC-6 October community. The day started off with the seniors walking with Kindergarten students as a sign of the generations currently served in the school. As the day unfolded, the entire school community enjoyed a number of student performances, a speech from the School Director, and a performance by Egyptian singer and actor Mahmoud El-Essily.



ISC-6 October students celebrate the school's 15th anniversary

We wish these SABIS® Network schools continued success in educating students and contributing to the communities that host them.

For more information about ISC-Lahore, visit isclahore.sabis.net. To learn more about ISC-Amman or ISC-6 October, visit iscamman.sabis.net or isc6october.sabis.net, respectively.

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SABIS® Runda Participates in Local Events in Kenya

SABIS® International School – Runda in Kenya is the newest school to join the network and will open its doors in September 2018 to students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 during its first year in operation. In anticipation of the opening, the entire SABIS® Runda staff along with senior members of the SABIS® team participated in local events to raise awareness about the school and introduce the school and the SABIS® Educational System™ to interested parents and students.

On April 27-29, 2018, SABIS® Runda participated in the “International Schools Fair,” which was held in the Village Market in Kenya. The SABIS® Runda team set up a booth at the fair, where they talked to interested parents and introduced them to the SABIS® curriculum and the school’s new, state-of-the-art campus.



The SABIS® Runda Team at the International Schools Fair

On May 26-27, 2018, SABIS® Runda took part in the “International Schools and Education Fair” (ISEF), another popular fair that takes place in Nairobi and attracts a large number of participants. SABIS® Runda and ten other international schools in Kenya were invited to send representatives to the fair to interact with prospective parents and distribute information about the school.

In addition to participating in international fairs, SABIS® Runda sponsored a local sports competition called the “Swim Africa Skills Gala,” which took place on June 9, 2018, at the Montessori Learning Centre in Kenya. Participating children and their parents picked up SABIS® Runda brochures, engaged with the team, and many signed up for tours of the school.

Prior to the school’s opening in September, SABIS® Runda will be organizing many other events and activities on the school campus, so stay tuned! To learn more about SABIS® Runda, visit sabisrunda.sabis.net or follow them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sabisrunda).

SABIS® Yas Island Hosts Prestigious Almaty Symphony Orchestra

On March 8, 2018, SABIS® International School – Yas Island (SABIS® Yas Island) hosted the prestigious Republic of Kazakhstan Almaty Symphony Orchestra in its school auditorium. The Almaty Symphony Orchestra was accompanied by the NCPA Special Music Training Programme Orchestra, a

program that offers advanced musical instrument tuition to talented young children in India.

The event was attended by SABIS® Yas Island students, parents, and community members. Addressing the audience during her welcome speech, SABIS® Yas Island teacher, Ms. Kelly Owens, said: "At SABIS® Yas Island, we believe in educating well-rounded individuals who have a strong academic foundation, an acute sense of social responsibility, and a deep appreciation of music and the arts. We are grateful to the musicians who are here with us tonight. The beauty of your work will surely expand the hearts and minds of every single person in the audience, including our very own students."

The Almaty Symphony Orchestra was created in 2012 by world-famous, virtuoso violinist, Marat Bisengaliev, and general producer, Kairat Kulbayev. The orchestra gathered talented musicians of Kazakhstan, the winners of republican and international contests. The orchestra performed concerts at Carnegie Hall (New York), the Palais des Festivals (Cannes), in the Kremlin (Moscow), and in many other famous halls around the world.



The Almaty Symphony Orchestra during their performance at SABIS® Yas Island

To learn more about the enriching programs and events that are held by SABIS® schools around the world, follow us on social media. If you are interested in SABIS® schools in the U.S., Latin America, and Europe follow us on [facebook.com/SabisEducationalSystems/](https://www.facebook.com/SabisEducationalSystems/). For schools in MENA and Asia, follow [facebook.com/SabisEducationalServices/](https://www.facebook.com/SabisEducationalServices/).

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Academics

Regional Academic Center Conferences Conclude on a High Note

Every year, the SABIS® Academic Development Division organizes academic conferences for the SABIS® Regional Centers. Located in the U.S., the Gulf, Egypt, and the Levant¹ region, the responsibilities of these centers are to provide academic and operational support to their respective schools within the growing SABIS® Network. The objective of these multi-day conferences is to update the regional centers on SABIS® academic and curriculum developments as well as on the latest SABIS® products and services. In addition, these conferences also provide a forum to discuss any feedback, operational changes, and challenges faced with the implementation of the SABIS® Educational System™ during the current academic year.

"In addition to equipping our centers with the latest tools and developments happening within the SABIS® Research and Development Center, these workshops focus on important academic and operational topics, while connecting the different teams together," commented Roy Bistany, Manager – Academic Operations. "And this has proven to be extremely beneficial in both improving on the products and services provided by SABIS® and the building of relationships."

The first regional conference to have taken place during the academic year was for the Levant region and was held at SABIS® Educational Services in Adma, Lebanon, on April 13, 2018. The conference brought together 50 members from the Levant Regional Center as well as academic staff from three SABIS® schools in Lebanon (SABIS® International School – Adma, The International School of Choueifat – Choueifat, and The International School of Choueifat – Koura).



Levant Regional Conference participants pose for a group photo

The Cairo Regional Conference was hosted by the International School of Choueifat – Cairo during the third week of April 2018. The conference brought together 57 participants from the Cairo Regional Center and the academic leadership teams from the two SABIS® schools in Egypt, the International School of Choueifat – Cairo and the International School of Choueifat – City of 6 October. The conference also included one full day of workshops to discuss specific academic and operational needs for the schools within the Kurdistan region, with particular focus on the SABIS® public-private partnership (PPP) schools.

The U.A.E. Regional Center's annual conference was hosted by the International School of Choueifat – Abu Dhabi during the first week of May 2018. The conference brought together

The Importance of Securing Our Data

Data at SABIS® is recognized as an important corporate asset that needs to be safeguarded, as data drives the organization and the learning process in SABIS® Network schools. The SABIS® IT Department has always been committed to protecting this data through multiple layers of IT security hardware and software to ensure that it is well protected at all times and that security solutions run 24/7.

At SABIS®, data security measures ensure that confidentiality, integrity, and availability are maintained throughout the data life cycle. An appropriate security level is assigned to data according to its state and classification. Data, including personal data, needs to be protected when at rest, in use, or in motion. It is classified into these main categories: public, internal, confidential, and sensitive.

Through user awareness programs and a security strategy developed by SABIS® to detect, analyze, and handle security incidents with diligence and promptness, the organization is able to protect against any security breaches and minimize their impact on the network and safeguard data. Also in place are other technical and operational security countermeasures such as:

- Enforcing the use of strong passwords to gain access to all SABIS® Network resources
- Controlling user access to the SABIS® data network and services by giving different access levels based on user roles
- Maintaining endpoint protection to detect and minimize malicious attacks
- Updating programs and systems regularly to ensure they are protected from any known vulnerabilities
- Securing laptops and mobile devices by installing encryption and password-protection software
- Performing regular backups to ensure business continuity
- Developing policies and procedures by following the requirements of the Information Security Management System ISO 27001 and enforcing its compliance
- Applying a Breach Management Program to minimize the impact of a potential breach and prevent recurrence
- Implementing a Vulnerability Management Program to identify, assess, and repair existing known vulnerabilities
- Sending regular penetration tests to evaluate the security weaknesses and the employment of defenses
- Monitoring and detecting malicious activities through a centralized event log analyzer

As the threat of security breaches continues to evolve and grow at a high rate, protecting data can be extremely challenging due to the complexity of system networks and the sheer amount of data. Through adopting proven data protection practices, SABIS® aims to minimize the risks associated with data loss and ensure complete data recovery if necessary, while keeping its security front solid and agile.

As a data-driven organization, data management and security have become increasingly crucial to SABIS®. In a time when data loss can occur for various reasons including hardware or system malfunctions, human error, software corruption, computer viruses and malware, and natural disasters, among others, the SABIS® IT Department is committed to continuing efforts to safeguard the network's data.

45 regional and school heads of departments and school administrators from six SABIS® schools across the U.A.E. for an agenda that included sessions on curriculum items, Exam Generation Systems and Exams Management, and E-learning tools. In addition, a full-day workshop was dedicated for the three Military High Schools (MHS) in the U.A.E. that are members of the global SABIS® Network. Fifteen (15) participants attended the special sessions and discussed the academic curriculum being implemented in the MHS with visibility on external exam requirements, newly developed books, and strategic methods to improve and streamline the communication and operations between SABIS® and MHS staff.

For the U.S., SABIS® organizes two regional academic conferences per academic year, the first in October and the second in March. The October conference this year was held at the Tower Square Hotel in Springfield, Massachusetts, while the March conference was held via teleconference in order to accommodate the participants' busy schedules. In addition to the objectives of the non-U.S. regional conferences, the U.S. conference also focuses on the latest curriculum adaptations based on policy changes within the states in which SABIS® operates.

As a global network with an active presence in 20 countries on five continents, SABIS® is committed to delivering a high-quality education to all students. Through annual regional academic conferences, the organization can help ensure success across borders and equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and life.

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

¹ The Levant is an approximate historical geographical term referring to a large area in the Eastern Mediterranean. Countries in the Levant are generally considered to include Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Turkey.

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SABIS® Commits to GDPR Compliance

SABIS® is a global education network that has an active presence in 20 countries on five continents and educates over 70,000 students. As some of the network's schools are located in the EU and several serve EU nationals, SABIS® recently took steps to ensure that it is in full compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a set of requirements to ensure data privacy protection, which is considered a "fundamental right" defensible by law, according to the EU Charter.

Effective from May 25, 2018, the GDPR aims to provide EU citizens with the necessary privacy and protection of their personal data, which is defined as "any data that can be used to personally identify an individual, either directly or indirectly." Such data include the name, birth date, phone number, home address, E-mail address, biometric details, social security number, medical history, IP address, device ID, and the like. In accordance with the GDPR, users are granted the right to be informed about information accuracy and consistency, transparency, consent, breach notification, data erasure, data portability, privacy by design, and storage limitation.

At SABIS®, appropriate technical and organizational security measures and controls have been put in place to protect personal data against accidental loss, destruction, alteration, unauthorized access, or disclosure. These measures include creating or updating all necessary documentation (including policies, consent forms, third-party contracts, etc.), developing a Data Breach Management Program to ensure that incidents are effectively managed, defining relevant roles and responsibilities, providing appropriate personnel training, and updating all applications to include the various privacy requirements (such as data anonymity, encryption, etc.).

"The enactment of the GDPR at SABIS® will help consolidate personal data, increase control over data flows, and minimize the impact of data privacy breaches," says Nada Ayoub, SABIS® Data Protection Officer.

Acknowledging the importance and impact of the GDPR, SABIS® is committed to full compliance with its requirements, sparing neither effort nor time nor resources for the purpose of ensuring complete privacy and protection of users' personal data.

SLO®

SABIS® STARS 2018: Mega Talent and Creativity Event

On April 20 and 21, 2018, SABIS® International School – Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., hosted the highly-anticipated 2018 edition of SABIS® SLO® Talent & Academic Regionals, or SABIS® STARS. The event welcomed students from **28 SABIS® schools** located in Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, Germany, Jordan, Kurdistan-Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, and the U.A.E. for a two-day event that showcased their knowledge, talent, and critical thinking skills.

SABIS® STARS is a biennial, regional contest in which students from SABIS® schools meet and compete in events that are designed to challenge them beyond academics and showcase their talent and creativity. This year, over **500 students** competed in 11 different categories including debate, photography, live

art performances, singing, public speaking, creative writing, spelling, science projects, world issues, and advertising. The competition was fierce and the judges, prominent individuals from the local communities, were impressed by the standards of participants' work, high spirits, and camaraderie.



SABIS® Stars 2018 participants pose for a group photo

The event culminated in a closing ceremony that announced the winners in the presence of SABIS® Board members, partners, directors, diplomats, media representatives, and VIPs. In his closing ceremony speech, SABIS® Vice President Victor Saad said, "SABIS® STARS is carefully designed to maximize potential and secure the most meaningful engagement with the world and its concerns. The carefully-selected topics are both varied and stimulating, enabling our students to practice and display the widest range of skills." He added: "In this melting pot of diversity, students can also exchange cultural viewpoints, learn new ideas, and, of course, make new friends."



Live art performance by SABIS® students at SABIS® STARS 2018

Dr. Ahmed Al Shoiabi, ISC-Abu Dhabi alumnus and Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Services at Khalifa University of Science and Technology, also spoke at the event and commented, "We all know that the school experience is a culmination of educational and social interaction. Employers are looking for skills such as public speaking, team building, creativity, and art inclination, which are qualities that SABIS® STARS celebrate [...]. Each of the competitions focused on a specific professional skill, which, let's face it, cannot always be taught inside a classroom."

Participating schools enjoyed their fair share of trophies, and students returned home with perhaps the best trophy of all: great memories of a fantastic event! And with the next SABIS® STARS set to take place in the spring of 2020, they will have enough time to prepare! For more information about SABIS® STARS 2018 visit their official Facebook page at [facebook.com/SABISSTARS](https://www.facebook.com/SABISSTARS). For more information about schools in the SABIS® Network, visit [sabis.net](https://www.sabis.net).

SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA)

Alumni Organize Purposeful Events

SABIS® schools are known around the world for providing students with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills. They are also known for fostering lifelong friendships and helping students develop an appreciation of the value of giving back to their communities.

The events organized under the umbrella of the SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) over the past year demonstrate the strength and resonance of the SABIS® experience.

ISCAA Raises Funds for a Good Cause

On March 23, 2018, the International School of Choueifat Alumni Association (ISCAA) hosted a showing of the popular play "Ella Iza" by George Khabbaz at the Chateau Triano theater for ISC-Choueifat alumni, staff, and teachers. Proceeds from the sale of the tickets were allocated to the Alumni Scholarship Award fund that was founded by the association to help cover 40% of the tuition for three students.

Before the performance, alumni, staff, and teachers enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce with their teachers and schoolmates. Once settled in their seats, the play began... and so did the laughter. The audience enjoyed watching the journey of neighbors from different backgrounds struggle to agree on a solution to their biggest problem, the collapse of their residence building.

With guests leaving the theater wearing smiles amid a sense of camaraderie, the event was judged to be a huge success. Most importantly, the association was able to raise funds for their scholarship program.



A group of ISCAA alumni meet up for a good cause

Egypt Chapter-at-Large Hosts Annual Soccer Tournament

In Cairo, Egypt, the SAGA Egypt Chapter-at-Large held their 3rd Annual Soccer Tournament on May 31, 2018, on the International School of Choueifat – Cairo campus. The event welcomed 10 alumni teams and two staff teams from both the International School of Choueifat – Cairo and the International School of Choueifat – City of 6 October, to compete for the 2018 All Star Team title.

Approximately 150 alumni attended the event as players and as guests to watch and cheer on their schoolmates. The event proved to be a great way for the alumni to reconnect and have

some fun, just like they did in school. The winners, Team 2014, walked away as champions for the year.



ISC-6 October and ISC-Cairo alumni at the friendly soccer tournament

ISC-Dubai Alumni Association Holds Reunion Events

The International School of Choueifat – Dubai Alumni Association organized a reunion pep rally and football tournament between alumni and teachers on February 29, 2018. The event started with a tour of the school to spark memories and concluded on the football pitch, where the alumni were greeted by the School Director and spent some time reminiscing with schoolmates and teachers before proceeding to play a match of football, teachers vs alumni. After a close game, the alumni defeated the teachers in a penalty kick-off.

The ISC-Dubai Alumni Association also hosted an *Iftar* for students from the Class of 2008 on Tuesday, June 12, 2017, at "Sah El Nom" restaurant. At the gathering, students enjoyed a meal together, recalled memories from their school days, and reflected on their time at SABIS®.



ISC-Dubai alumni at their reunion gathering

ISC-Erbil Alumni Association Celebrates the Season of Giving Back

Throughout the holy month of Ramadan 2018, the International School of Choueifat – Erbil Alumni Association hosted a food distribution program to help the less privileged. Starting on May 15, 2018, and ending on June 14, 2018, ISC-Erbil students and alumni worked together to help collect, package, and distribute food in their community, a place where they didn't have to look far to find someone who needed a hand. The initiative proved to be successful on a community level, a group level, and individual level, with everyone realizing the change that can be made by working together for a cause.

In addition to their outreach efforts, the ISC-Erbil Alumni Association hosted an *Iftar* dinner for the alumni and new graduates. One hundred and fifty (150) guests were in attendance at the event, which included a motivational speech from the School Director, Mr. Stephan Kleynhans, and Astefanos Al Dalakta, Class of 2014, who talked about the value of being a SABIS® graduate.



ISC-Erbil alumni enjoying a meal together

Events like these are important to keep alumni connected and offer them the chance to rekindle their friendships with old classmates and teachers, as well as to provide them with a solid networking opportunity.

If you are a SABIS® graduate and would like to share your association's activities and events with the SABIS® community, please E-mail support@saga.sabis.net. If you would like to learn more about SAGA, visit saga.sabis.net or follow SAGA on Facebook at facebook.com/SABISalumni.

HR

Introducing the SABIS® HR Roundtable

The SABIS® core value of continually improving is prevalent in all SABIS® schools. Not only are there systems in place to help students do their best, there are also systems in place to achieve the same for faculty and staff. SABIS® Network schools engage in an annual performance evaluation process to evaluate the quality of employees' efforts and assess their effectiveness in contributing to the achievement of the school's mission.

More and more schools in the network are using the SABIS® HR Roundtable as the performance evaluation approach of choice. The HR Roundtable was introduced at the onset of the 2014-15 academic year and is designed to yield fair, objective, and thorough assessment of employees' performance. The HR Roundtable merges a pure data-based approach of performance assessment with results of classroom observations (in the case of teachers) with feedback from the school director and other individuals involved with the employee in a direct, supervisory role.

"Rather than relying on a single person's impression of an employee's job performance, we have developed a comprehensive set of objective, data-based performance assessment measures," says Ralph C. Bistany, SABIS® Regional HR Manager, *"and then we moderate the resulting numerical performance assessment based on feedback provided by relevant managers."*

The data used as part of each teacher's performance assessment includes a measure of value added for each student, a comparison of class averages against other sections of the same class taught by different teachers, and results from formal classroom observations. As the school year progresses, the data gathered for each teacher expands and is averaged and used as one component of the final assessment.

The HR Roundtable is held twice per academic year, once at the end of Term 1 and again at the end of Term 2. At the end of Term 1, the purpose of the HR Roundtable is to assess

individual performance, ensure that staff members are familiar with implementing the SABIS® Educational System™, and are meeting academic expectations. Following each roundtable session, any necessary adjustments are made to the employee's final performance evaluation before formal, written feedback is shared with the employee. This approach ensures a fair and comprehensive assessment across the board.

Based on the outcome of the evaluation at the end of Term 1, employees may be enrolled in a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP), if needed, to help them improve their effectiveness on the job. At the end of Term 2, the HR Roundtable functions as a means to follow-up on staff members who are on improvement plans as well as identifies employees who can be placed on a career development path based on potential.

"The value-added of conducting the HR Roundtable is that it contributes to the objective performance review of employees through the moderation of ratings assigned to employees with similar job descriptions," explains Bistany. *"It helps remove subjectivity from the review process and lets employees know how committed we are to a fair and effective review cycle."*

Feedback from the HR Roundtable has been very positive.

"Last year we had one teacher who struggled with implementing the SABIS® system. As a result of the HR Roundtable, she was placed on a Performance Improvement Plan. With all the guidance and follow up – not to mention the willingness from her side to improve – she has become one of our best teachers."

– Gerda Kleynhans, Middle School AQC at ISC-City of 6 October

"The HR Roundtable has given me the chance to listen to opinions of all the individuals involved in the evaluation process, so the teachers can be evaluated in a fair way. All the roundtable members can discuss the results and agree or disagree. As a result, I have clear feedback to give my teachers so that they know what to work on."

– Rim Al Khatib, Science Coordinator & Math/Science Teacher at the SABIS® Sun International School – Baku, Azerbaijan

"The HR Roundtable meeting that took place during this year was the first one I have attended as I had just been promoted to Middle School English Coordinator. It did not come as a surprise to me to find that during these meetings every teachers' academic and non-academic performance were assessed carefully according to set criteria that encompass every possible area of improvement or evaluation."

– Sermeane Kum Naksch, Grades 5-8 English Coordinator at ISC-City of 6 October.

"The importance of the SABIS® Roundtable lies in a fact that as an employee we do all our best to meet what is expected of us. With the help of the evaluation, I can find out my strength and weaknesses. I can also find out where I have a gap and need to work on. The evaluation criteria is very detailed ranging from attendance to how we have built relationship among colleagues and students, including all necessary fields of our job."

– Narmina Khalilova, Student Life Coordinator at the SABIS® Sun International School – Baku, Azerbaijan

To date, the SABIS® HR Roundtable is being implemented in SABIS® Network schools in Kurdistan, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Germany, Panama, Lebanon, and Jordan, with plans to implement the program more broadly around the network in the coming academic year.

Feature School

International School of Choueifat – Ajman



ISC-Ajman school campus

The International School of Choueifat – Ajman is located in the emirate of Ajman, the smallest of the seven U.A.E. emirates, just 2 km north of Dubai. ISC-Ajman opened its doors at the start of the 2016-17 academic year, welcoming students in Kindergarten through Grade 6. At the start of the 2017-18 academic year, the school opened grades 7 and 8 and plans to add an additional grade each year until it reaches a full K-12 offering. Today, in only its second year of operation, ISC-Ajman welcomes over 400 students from 38 nationalities.

A State-of-the-Art Campus

ISC-Ajman is located on a purpose-built campus of 70,000 square meters. It offers state-of-the-art facilities including spacious classrooms, science and computer laboratories, and a library, as well as a theater that can accommodate close to 500 guests and a cafeteria that serves nutritious hot and cold meals. The school also boasts extensive sports facilities including a semi-Olympic-sized swimming pool, an indoor multipurpose court, and an Olympic-sized soccer field surrounded by a running track.

“The staff and teachers are warm and friendly. The campus is awesome. My daughter is happy and learning, and that in my view makes this school special.”

– Michelle Cangas, ISC-Ajman mother

ISC-Ajman also caters to the specific needs of its younger students. The Kindergarten Department is an independent unit with its own cafeteria, indoor swimming pool, multipurpose indoor playrooms, and a special KG car track.



A warm and welcoming Kindergarten section

A Top-Quality, Trilingual Education

Like all SABIS® schools, ISC-Ajman implements the SABIS® Educational System™, a comprehensive and challenging academic program that helps students develop a solid foundation of knowledge and skills, a love of lifelong learning, and the ability to adapt to change. The SABIS® curriculum, coupled with SABIS® proprietary books in traditional and E-format, teacher support material, and effective school management systems, ensures that ISC-Ajman delivers the same high-quality program delivered by all other SABIS® schools in the region.

When ISC-Ajman first opened, it accepted students from non-SABIS® schools in the area as well as international students who had recently moved with their families to the U.A.E. The main challenge this posed was in integrating students with various degrees of language fluency. Through the SABIS® Accelerated English Program, the school was able to bring English language learners up to the required academic level in less than a year.



A group of young ISC-Ajman students listen intently during story time

While SABIS® schools around the world offer students a bilingual education – English is the language of instruction and the language of the host country is taught daily as a world language – ISC-Ajman is one of a handful of SABIS® schools that offer a trilingual education, teaching in English, French, and Arabic. The success of the trilingual program was evident at the end of the 2017-18 academic year when ISC-Ajman students in grades 5 and 6 wrote and put on a short, trilingual, original comedy!

An Active and Engaging Student Life

From a very young age, students at ISC-Ajman enjoy an active and engaging student life through the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®). Students are involved in helping to raise academic standards as well as in organizing several clubs and activities.

On an academic level, ISC-Ajman students are active as Shadow Teachers® and peer tutors. Students who volunteer or are selected by their teachers based on performance have the opportunity to become Shadow Teachers® and assist their teachers by taking the lead in presenting material in class after receiving training to do so. ISC-Ajman has Shadow Teachers® in every subject and grade level from Grade 1 through Grade 8. Additionally, Shadow Academic Quality Controllers (Shadow AQC's) record the time that each Shadow Teacher® spends in front of the classroom and award SLO® points based on their efforts. Students also volunteer as peer tutors to help others better understand subject matter in English, science, and math.



Peers can be the best teachers at every age

Beyond academics, SLO® has had a big impact on ensuring every student feels included and welcome. Student prefects contribute to creating a socially-responsible community of learners in which every individual can reach his or her full potential. This year, SLO® Prefects also organized "Health & Nutrition Week." Throughout the week, prefects gave advising sessions, organized healthy activities, and distributed fruit salads to all the students, teachers and admin staff.



A group of young KG students proves that you are never too young to be a Shadow AQC

"SLO® is all about helping each other. It makes the school a happy and caring place. It teaches us about respect for ourselves, each other, our teachers, and the school. It also keeps us safe and stops bullying."

– Yayha Inchassi, Grade 2



ISC-Ajman students deep in thought

"SLO® and its prefects always have a solution to any problem that we might face. Our team of prefects help resolve problems to do with academics, personal issues, and bullying as well as many other things."

– Aleena Kashif, Grade 6

Extra-Curricular Activities and Events

In addition to an active student life, ISC-Ajman students enjoy a wide range of extra-curricular activities including ballet, gymnastics, art club, photography, music, coding, and chess, among others.

This year, the school hosted a number of regional events. In April 2018, ISC-Ajman hosted the Inter-SABIS® Under 13 Girls' Basketball Competition, welcoming 50 players from four SABIS® Network schools in the U.A.E. The school also welcomed 250 little, budding ballerinas from nine SABIS® schools in the U.A.E. for the SABIS® Regional Ballet Competition.



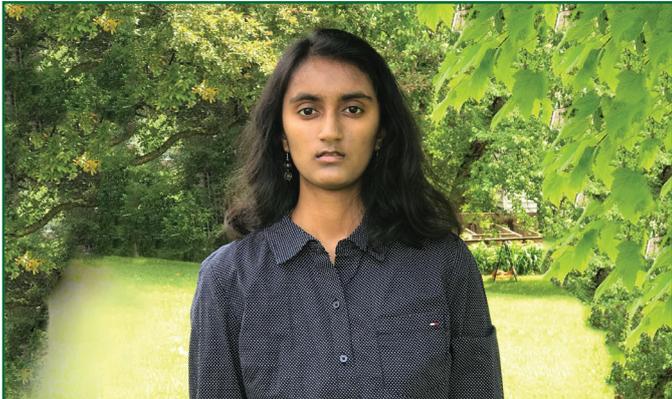
Budding ballerinas dancing at the SABIS® Regional Ballet Competition

At ISC-Ajman, the entire staff is dedicated to the well-being of each and every child, ensuring that both their academic and personal development needs are met. Students develop critical thinking and leadership skills, courage and strength of character, and a healthy engagement with their community. They are given every opportunity to grow and develop essential interpersonal and leadership skills and are ready to take on life equipped with a solid foundation of knowledge, a love of lifelong learning, and the ability to adapt to change.

If you would like to find out more about ISC-Ajman, visit iscajman.sabis.net or call the school (+971 6 742 1111) to book a tour.

Alumni in the Spotlight

Aparaajita Balaji, The International School of Minnesota, Class of 2014



Aparaajita Balaji

Aparaajita Balaji is a member of The International School of Minnesota's (ISM) Class of 2014. Hers is an inspiring story that celebrates young women who are closing the gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). With the latest studies indicating a disproportionately low proportion of bachelor degrees in computer sciences (18%), engineering (19%), and physics (19%) obtained by women, Aparaajita's story is breaking the stereotype.

Aparaajita is a SABIS® student through and through. She joined ISM, the only SABIS® private, day and boarding school in the U.S., as a Kindergartener in 2001. She even went to Pre-Kindergarten at the International School of Choueifat – Sharjah, a SABIS® school located in the U.A.E., before moving to the U.S. with her family. She remained at ISM until she graduated in 2014.

Around 9th grade, Aparaajita found her passion. *“ISM played an important role in fostering my interest in STEM. In fact, 9th grade biology was the most important factor in my decision to pursue genetics in college. We performed a blood test to determine our blood type, and the rest is history!”* But biology was not her only interest. Aparaajita was a member of ISM's robotic team “WE ROBOT” from 9th through 12th grade, participating in the Minnesota State Championship and placing 4th in the state with her team.

Like many successful and well-rounded SABIS® alumni, Aparaajita was actively involved in the SABIS Student Life Organization® throughout school. She was an SLO® prefect in a number of SLO® departments allowing her to participate in SLO® training camps, activities, and community service projects. *“SLO® taught me how to be actively involved in whatever community I was a part of,”* she commented.

Aparaajita boasts a long list of achievements. She is the recipient of a National Advanced Placement® (AP®) Scholar award, National Spanish Exam Gold Medalist, Grand Concours (French) Gold Medalist, High School Academic Quality Coordinator Award (awarded to student who took challenging high school courses and performed at consistently high levels), High School French Award, and High School Computer Award. She was one of the founders and president of ISM's National Honor Society Chapter and was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Academy STEM camp and the University of Minnesota Material Science camp. She also found the time to play basketball and loves to swim.

Upon graduation, Aparaajita attended the University of California – Berkeley and majored in Molecular and Cell Biology: Genetics. She completed her bachelor's degree **in only three years** at UC Berkley due to the number of college credits she had earned through her Advanced Placement® courses at ISM. This fall (2018), she will be starting a fully-funded PhD program in biological and biomedical sciences at Yale University.

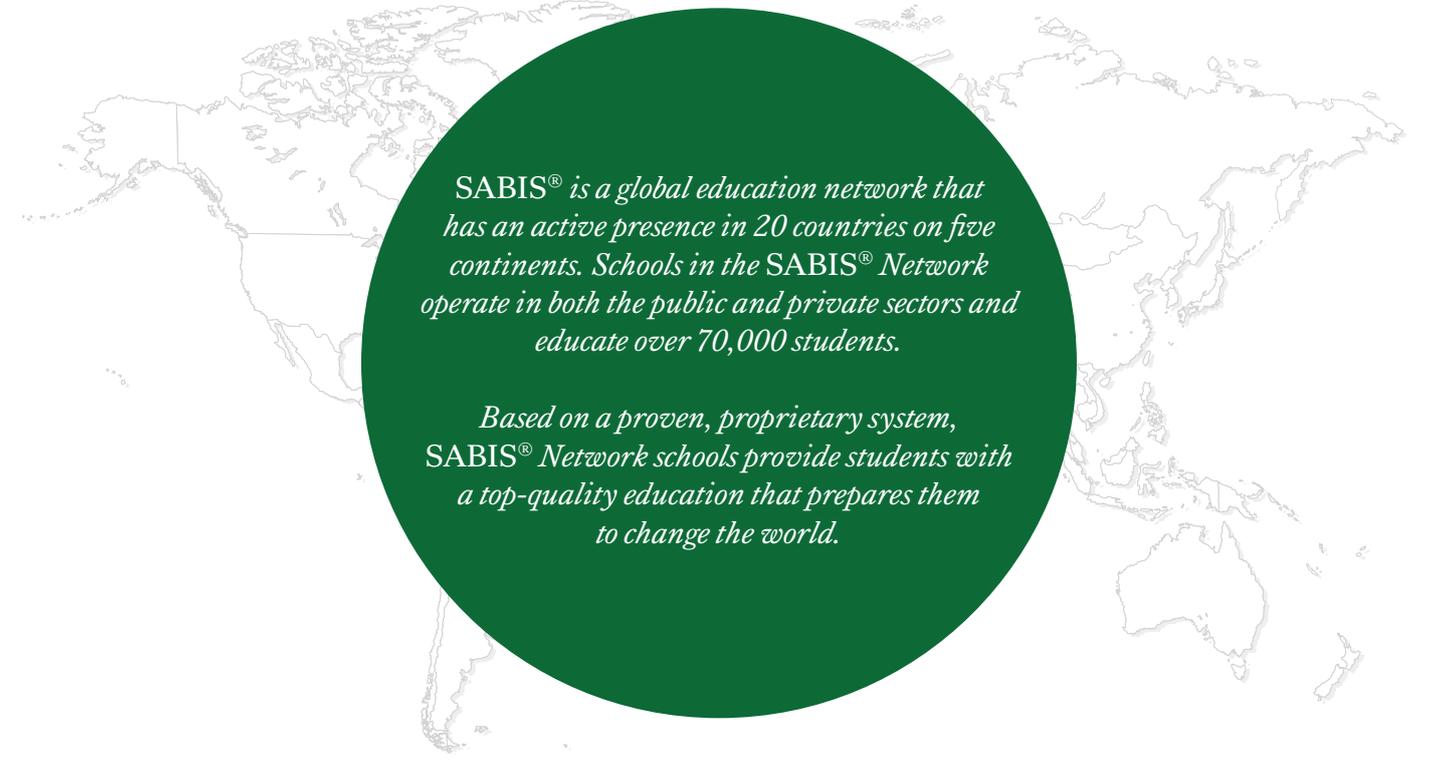
Reflecting on her time at ISM, Aparaajita believes that the skill she learned at ISM that has helped her most in life is *“persistence to make sure I complete the task undertaken.”*

We look forward to following Aparaajita's continued success and are confident that her many skills, including persistence, will allow her to achieve great heights and break many gender stereotypes along the way!

If you graduated from a SABIS® Network school, you can connect with Aparaajita and other successful SABIS® alumni through the SABIS® Alumni Global Association. Go to saga.sabis.net to register today!

“ISM played an important role in fostering my interest in STEM. In fact, 9th grade biology was the most important factor in my decision to pursue genetics in college. We performed a blood test to determine our blood type, and the rest is history!”

- Aparaajita Balaji



SABIS® is a global education network that has an active presence in 20 countries on five continents. Schools in the SABIS® Network operate in both the public and private sectors and educate over 70,000 students.

Based on a proven, proprietary system, SABIS® Network schools provide students with a top-quality education that prepares them to change the world.

Members of the SABIS® Network

AMERICAS PRIVATE SCHOOLS: The International School of Minnesota – Eden Prairie, Minnesota, U.S.A. | SABIS® International School – Costa Verde, Panama | **CHARTER SCHOOLS:** SABIS® International School – Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. | Holyoke Community Charter School – Holyoke, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | Collegiate Charter School of Lowell – Lowell, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | SABIS® International Charter School – Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | International Academy of Flint – Flint, Michigan, U.S.A. | Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy – Lansing, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Saginaw – Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Atlantic City Charter School – Pleasantville, New Jersey, U.S.A. | **EUROPE PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** Ashwicke Hall School – Bath, England | ISF International School Frankfurt Rhein-Main – Frankfurt, Germany | **LICENSED SCHOOLS:** International School on the Rhine – Neuss, Germany | Cambridge School of Bucharest – Bucharest, Romania | **AFRICA PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Choueifat – Cairo, Egypt | The International School of Choueifat – City of 6 October, Egypt | **ASIA PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** SABIS® SUN International School – Baku, Azerbaijan | The International School of Choueifat – Lahore, Pakistan | **MIDDLE EAST REGION PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Choueifat – Manama, Bahrain | The International School of Choueifat – Amman, Jordan | The International School of Choueifat – Dream City, Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat – Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat – Sulaimani, Kurdistan, Iraq | SABIS® International School – Adma, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat – Choueifat, Lebanon | Leila C. Saad SABIS® School El-Metn, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat – Koura, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat – Muscat, Oman | The International School of Choueifat – Doha, Qatar | Jeddah Private International School – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia | Abdulaziz International Schools – Al-Wadi, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | Abdulaziz International Schools – Al-Sulaimaniah, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | The International School of Choueifat – Damascus, Syria | The International School of Choueifat – Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Abu Dhabi Khalifa City, U.A.E. | SABIS® International School – Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Ajman, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Al Ain, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Dubai Investments Park, Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Ras Al Khaimah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Sharjah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Umm Al Quwain, U.A.E. | **PPP SCHOOLS:** 7 Schools – Kurdistan, Iraq | Military High School – Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Ruwais Private School – Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Military High School – Madinat Zayed, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Military High School – Al Dhaid, Sharjah, U.A.E.

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