



# SABIS®

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## Newsletter

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### Headline News

#### Staying Ahead at the 2018 SABIS® Directors' Meeting

Frankfurt, Germany – a global hub for commerce, culture, education, tourism, and transportation, as well as home to the European Central Bank – played host to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual SABIS® Directors' Meeting. From July 3-5, 2018, close to 100 school directors, senior SABIS® staff, and SABIS® board members met for three days of presentations, meetings, discussions, and breakout sessions under the theme "Staying Ahead."

Setting the tone for the meetings, SABIS® President Carl Bistany commented: "In a world that is constantly changing, working to stay ahead – of the competition, of innovation, of the known and the unknown – is a necessity [...]. This characterizes the world that we live and work in today, and it is also a reflection of the type of world that the students we educate will live and work in. It is our job to keep ourselves ahead and to make sure that our students have the knowledge and skills they need to stay ahead."

Throughout the three days, participants engaged in a rich and informative agenda that included topics such as "Staying Ahead in a Changing World," "The SABIS® System: A Step Ahead," and "The Critical Importance of Data Protection and Privacy."



Group photo taken at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Directors' Meeting held in Frankfurt, Germany

Panels were equally compelling and included discussions on "Ensuring That Schools Stay Ahead," and "Using Technology to Stay Ahead." The highlight of the meetings was an alumni panel entitled "Life After SABIS®." Panelists included three alumni of the ISF International School Frankfurt Rhein-Main, a SABIS® Network School located in Frankfurt, Germany. Dr.

For more information on employment or alumni news within the SABIS® Network, access our websites:

[sabis.net](http://sabis.net) | [careers.sabis.net](http://careers.sabis.net) | [saga.sabis.net](http://saga.sabis.net)

Rainer Groh, PhD candidate Angus Lothian, and budding film director Renata Gheller discussed how they felt their SABIS® school had equipped them for life after graduation day and what they believe are key skills that graduates need to get ahead.



*"Life After SABIS" panelists (l. to r.) Renata Gheller, Angus Lothian, and Dr. Rainer Groh*

As a global education network that has an active presence in 20 countries on five continents, SABIS® strives to stay ahead by providing students with a consistently top-quality education that gives them the skills they need in an ever-changing world. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Directors' Meeting was a productive forum that brought together key members of staff to discuss ideas, exchange views, and prepare for the upcoming academic year.

## 2018 External Exam Results

Strong academic results are the hallmark of SABIS® schools and have long been so. External exam results qualify SABIS® students for admission to some of the world's best colleges and universities and are part of the solid foundation students use to build future learning.

In the spring of 2018, 3,615 students in 28 SABIS® schools took external exams in 56 different subjects. External exams included, among others, the British International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and Advanced/Advanced Supplementary Level (A/AS Level) as well as Advanced Placement® (AP®) exams overseen by The College Board in the U.S.

With scores tallied across the network, 2018 network-wide results revealed another year of outstanding performance. For example, 89% of students in SABIS® Network schools earned A\*-C on IGCSEs in comparison to 82% worldwide. On A Levels, 70% of SABIS® students earned A\*-C, compared to 65% globally. The 79% of SABIS® students who earned the highest scores of 3, 4, or 5 on AP® exams correlates to 64% who earned the same results on a global scale.

Compared to global averages, it is evident that SABIS® students are staying ahead of the competition. Outstanding external exam results coupled with strong overall academic performance and a record of community involvement and service, 2018 graduates from SABIS® schools gained admission to top colleges and leading universities around the world.

Stay tuned for future newsletters for more information about the achievements of SABIS® 2018 graduates.

### IGCSE:

#### Percent of Students Scoring A\*-C

SABIS® Average



Global Average



### A LEVEL:

#### Percent of Students Scoring A\*-C

SABIS® Average



Global Average



### AP®:

#### Percent of Students Scoring 5, 4, or 3

SABIS® Average



Global Average



## A Fresh Beginning for New Schools in the Network

The first day of school, regardless of a student's age, gender, or geographic location, is one filled with anticipation and, for many, the odd tear and snuffle. This feeling of anticipation is often compounded when it is an entirely new school.

Well aware of this, both the SABIS® International School – Runda in Kenya, which opened its doors for the first time on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Cadmus International School – Duhok, which opened on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, went to great lengths to make the first day of school a joyful and memorable experience for all.

In Nairobi, Kenya, SABIS® International School – Runda students were welcomed to their new school by the school director and then spent some time having their photos taken with their new friends and classmates. They also received a gift bag that included popcorn and other delicious treats before being guided to their classrooms by their teachers.

*"My first day of school was great. I made a lot of new friends and that's what I like about my new school."*

– SABIS® Runda Grade 6 student





*SABIS® Runda students ease into their first day of school with some fun photos*

In Duhok, Kurdistan, when the Cadmus International School – Duhok, a concept by SABIS®, opened its doors for the first time, staff were prepared to make students’ first day memorable and enjoyable. The students had fun taking pictures with their new friends, playing, participating in races, and making their handprints with paint.

*“On my first day of school, we played lots of games and made friends with the other students. I’m very excited to be at Cadmus International School, and I can’t wait for all of the amazing things we will do in the future.”*

– Cadmus Duhok Grade 4 student



*New students at Cadmus International School – Duhok, a concept by SABIS®, are welcomed to their new school*

Across the network, many schools, like SABIS® International School – Runda and Cadmus International School — Duhok, made sure that students’ first day would be a positive start to the 2018-19 academic year.

Check out our online newsletter ([newsletter.sabis.net](https://newsletter.sabis.net)) for a compilation of photos taken from different SABIS® schools around the world. We wish all our students a year filled with fun, achievement, and success!

## SABIS® Educational Summer Camp 2018

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual SABIS® Educational Summer Camp held at Ashwicke Hall School (AHS), a SABIS® school located in the U.K., continues to be a growing success. This year, the camp hosted over 200 students from 32 countries around the world.



*A group of campers pose for a photo in front of Ashwicke Hall*

The SABIS® Educational Summer Camp is a special camp that combines learning and cultural enrichment with enjoyable on- and off-campus activities in the heart of the beautiful and tranquil English countryside. The boarding camp opens its doors every summer and offers a two-week and a four-week session, both of which are tailored to add educational and cultural value to all who attend.



*A young group of campers enjoy canoeing during the summer camp at Ashwicke Hall School*

Days at the 2018 SABIS® Educational Summer Camp at AHS were filled with learning and fun. In the mornings, students benefitted from academic classes that included science, languages, and SAT preparatory courses. This year, students also enjoyed the opportunity to enroll in new courses including coding, film-making, public speaking, and a university orientation program.



*Budding scientists looking at the world through a microscope*



*“The university orientation program was a great experience. I saw two of the best universities in the U.K. while I was there and now I would really consider applying to the U.K.”*

– Aviral Alhotra, Ruwais Private School, U.A.E.



*Campers visit the University of Bath as part of the university orientation program*

Outside the classroom, the summer camp includes an array of activities and trips. On campus, the campers participated in an array of sports activities and clubs such as basketball, soccer, tennis, swimming, badminton, indoor hockey, music, and arts. Off-campus activities included day trips, hiking, and horseback riding. The campers did it all from giant swings, rafting, and paintball to trips to Stonehenge, Buckingham Palace, the Museum of Natural History in London, Hyde Park, the Roman Baths, and much more!



*We cannot think of a better way of getting around!*

*“It was the best adventure of my life. I visited the most beautiful historical places. It was amazing to meet other campers from different countries. I really wish I could do everything all over again!”*

– Emiliya Ismayilzada, ISC-Dubai, U.A.E.

For many students, the summer camp gave them their first experience living away from home and the chance to develop a sense of independence and responsibility. The campers enjoyed comfortable and safe accommodation throughout their stay. The girls and boys were hosted in separate, supervised dormitories in different buildings on campus and enjoyed healthy and well-balanced meals daily.

The combination of experiencing their first taste of independence, bonding with fellow campers, participating in new and exciting activities, and discovering a new culture was the perfect recipe for a memorable summer adventure that made a resounding impact on their lives.

*“Traveling alone to join the camp was easier than I expected it would be. I learned to do things myself and by meeting new students, I learned how to work in a team. I considered my time at the summer camp as a small glimpse of how the future could look like.”*

– Emmanuel Kamau Igathe, non-SABIS® student from Nairobi, Kenya

Every year, the SABIS® Educational Summer Camp offers students aged 10 to 18 a motivating, inspiring, and exciting opportunity to learn, grow, and shine. The camp accepts students from non-SABIS® schools as well, so if you would like to learn more, follow the SABIS® Educational Summer Camp on [Facebook](#) or visit [educationalsummercamp.sabis.net](http://educationalsummerncamp.sabis.net).

## SABIS® Expands Cadmus Brand

In August 2016, SABIS® announced the launch of a new, mid-market, private school brand – Cadmus International Schools, a concept by SABIS® – designed to give more students access to a SABIS® education. With lower tuition fees than the network’s premium international schools, Cadmus International Schools offer students the full SABIS® educational experience on more modest campuses.

Since the announcement, SABIS® opened Cadmus International School — Duhok in Kurdistan. Additionally, SABIS® recently announced that it will be opening two additional Cadmus International Schools in Egypt. Cadmus International School — Al Bourouj will open in September 2020 and Cadmus International School — Cairo New Capital will follow in September 2021.



*SABIS® signs agreement for new Cadmus International Schools in Egypt*

*“The launch of Cadmus International School – Duhok is another example of SABIS®’ commitment to our core values of making a difference by increasing students’ access to our top-quality education,”* commented Ayham Ayche, SABIS® Director of Business Development. *“With our first Cadmus International School already operational in Kurdistan, we are working hard on launching next in Egypt and are looking into new possibilities in Georgia and other places.”*

For more information about Cadmus International Schools, visit [cadmus.sabis.net](http://cadmus.sabis.net). To stay up to date on Cadmus International Schools coming to your area, stay tuned for updates.

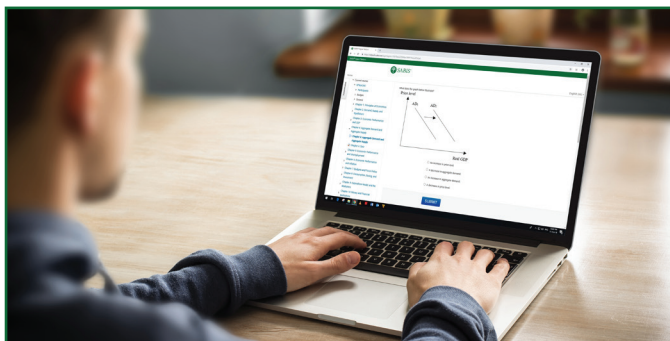


### SABIS® Launches New Student E-Learning Tools

SABIS® continuously strives to provide students with new and updated tools to support and improve their learning experience. In line with this commitment, the SABIS® Academic Development Division is working on developing new E-learning tools including web-enhanced and online courses that perfectly blend the latest in educational technology with SABIS® proprietary teaching methods.

Web-enhanced material is, by definition, study material that is supported by web-based (or online) technology. The material is designed and developed to complement the learning that takes place in class and includes, among other things, digital, dynamic, computer-correctable questions that give students instant feedback and help them confirm their understanding of concepts. Students can access web-enhanced material through the SABIS® Digital Platform and further develop their knowledge on concepts learned at school.

In addition to web-enhanced material, the SABIS® Academic Development Division is gradually releasing a range of online courses that will be made available to students via the SABIS® Digital Platform. Online courses are full, “self-study” courses that students can take online on their own, at school, or at home. Students can access the SABIS® online courses and study using material that has been developed by SABIS® and using the teaching methodology that they are familiar with.



*Students can access SABIS® E-learning tools from home and at their own convenience*

Some of the online courses that are available this academic year (2018-19) include IGCSE Business Studies, IGCSE Economics, AP® Microeconomics, AP® Arabic, Middle School Web Development and HTML, and JavaScript Programming, to name a few. A wider range of courses including AP® Environmental Science, AP® Psychology, AP® Human Geography, “Ace the SAT,” and American Poetry will be rolled out over the next several terms. These online courses will be available to students who wish to study on their own, take additional courses in areas and subjects they are interested in, or as an option to study in lieu of courses they may have opted out of in school.

“With the advancement in technology, we are continuously looking into new and innovative ways to make learning readily available and as modern as possible,” explained Elie Gemayel, Associate Director of Academic Development. “Both web-enhanced and online courses are the product of our ongoing research and development strategies that aim to make sure that students in SABIS® schools are getting an outstanding education that is supported and driven by technology.”

Watch for news about further developments in this area!

### Interactive Simulations and Virtual Reality Set to Change the Way Students Learn

In a rapidly-changing world driven mainly by new technologies, SABIS® is continuously adapting and never becoming complacent by integrating educational technological innovations into the learning cycle in an effort to raise students' interest and engagement. The use of interactive simulations and virtual reality at SABIS® is a reflection of how SABIS® is working to stay ahead and ensure that our students have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

In technical terms, interactive simulation is the integration of 2D and 3D digital information in real-time in response to a user's actions. Computer-generated enhancements are layered over static animations allowing students to interact with the simulation and ultimately make it more interesting and life-like.

Consider a lesson on economics and the flow of money within various economies. A regular animation, when played, may help students understand the circular flow in a closed, two-sector economy; how the GDP is calculated; and the difference between the factor market and the product market. Now, add an interactive layer to the animation! In an interactive simulation, students are able to engage with the animation and change economic inputs and variables to immediately see their effects. These interactive simulations allow students to interact, explore, and learn beyond what is possible in today's content delivery method.



*Interactive simulations take learning to a new level*

The use of interactive simulation in education is a very exciting area that SABIS® is exploring and gradually integrating into its dynamic educational tools. “Interactive simulation is bringing a new dimension to the learning experience,” explained Charbel Madi, PhD, Senior Research Analyst in the SABIS® Research & Development Department. “It allows students to control the virtual environment and analyze multiple outcomes. It creates an environment in which students are actively participating in their learning materials and are incentivized through simulation of real-life experiments.”

Virtual Reality (VR) is another new and exciting educational technology tool that is well recognized for its potential in education. VR is defined as a 3D artificial environment that is presented to the user in such a way that is real. Using a gear headset, graphical representations are presented in 3D and the system is designed to respond to head movements, allowing users to interact with the virtual world around them.

The possibilities for VR in the realm of education are endless. For example, VR laboratories for all types of STEAM topics allow students the opportunity to experience real-world laboratories and use machinery that may often be rare, dangerous, or prohibitively expensive for any school or university to offer! VR also allows students to explore international locations and can be used to simulate different time periods. Students can model abstract concepts from the human muscular system, visit ancient Rome, take a trip in the Amazon rain forest, cruise down the Nile in circa 2600 B.C., and even roam with the dinosaurs!


This year, participants were trained on goal-oriented mindsets and the SLTC encouraged them to set an action plan which they would implement at their school in order to improve SLO® at their school. Prefects from different schools gathered in groups to brainstorm ideas on how to increase efficiency and come up with novel ideas to ensure the success of the whole student body. The outcome was pretty impressive!

The Academic Department prefects decided to assign a day per week to train new Shadow Teachers® and organize academic inter-grade competitions for each class. They also agreed to have more academic activities and events on campus such as public speaking, poetry competitions, and much more.

The Discipline Department agreed to provide additional training and support to prefects to better equip them in handling any discipline issues at the school. Initiatives such as bullying-prevention week and listening to students' issues were some of the suggestions prefects came up with to make their schools even better places in the coming year.

The Management Department prefects also set new and attainable goals for the academic year. This department discussed the ways they could improve communication and overall school management in each of their respective schools. Prefects considered the potential for an online, monthly newsletter as a way to keep students up-to-date on all that was happening at school. They also decided to host mini-conferences for prefects as a way of further training them to be successful in their roles at the school.

For the Sports & Health Department, their action plan included activities aimed at encouraging students to stay healthy and fit. The prefects agreed on the importance of developing better eating habits, encouraging morning fitness routines and warm-ups, getting students active by promoting walking and running, hosting competitions like cycling, and much more.



**SABIS® ROBOTICS**  
A Modular STEAM Course

*Coming Soon*  
to your SABIS® School!

## SLO®

### Prefects Learn to Take their SLO® to New Heights at the SLTC

2018 marked the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the annual Student Life Training Conference (SLTC). The SLTC, which took place in Athens, Greece, brought together a total of 123 participants (including 97 prefects and 26 Student Life Coordinators) from around the world to share in this life-changing experience.



*Participants in the 2018 SLTC pose for a group photo*

From July 9-18, 2018, 97 prefects in grades 9-12 from 30 SABIS® schools took part in a program designed to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to improve the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) in their schools and positively impact the lives of others.



*Student prefects work together in a team building exercise at the SLTC in Athens*

The prefects in the Activities Department discussed and agreed to create more clubs for students to join. These clubs included music, debate, dance, and many more that would give students the opportunity to explore their interests and discover new hobbies or enjoy old ones.

The Outreach Department developed a plan to help make students and staff feel more welcome and appreciated this year. Prefects decided to host appreciation days, smile campaigns, senior marches, job fairs, and other activities which would spread positive vibes on campus.

The Lower School Department prefects were determined to help the younger generation acquire basic skills and enjoy their first few



years at school. These prefects suggested a number of activities including peer tutoring, movie nights, career day, school dances, and much more.

Last but not least, the Social Responsibility Department focused their meeting on identifying the many ways they could work with other students to improve the environment and others' quality of life. They set a plan to increase recycle bins in classrooms, plant one tree per month, provide senior citizens with assistance and entertainment, and other socially responsible initiatives.

Students attending the conference also enjoyed non-academic activities such as trips to historical and touristic sites including the Acropolis and the first Olympic stadium, in addition to going on a ferry cruise and a treasure hunt.



*SLTC participants make new friends at the conference*

***“The SLTC is an amazing opportunity that every student involved in SLO® should experience. You leave on the last day with so much more knowledge about student life, your department, and other departments. You also meet so many amazing people and make long-lasting friendships. It's truly a great way to spend 10 days of your summer and something that I believe everyone will remember.”***

– Michael Denson, student at SABIS® International Charter School in Massachusetts, U.S.A.

If you would like to learn more about the Student Life Training Conference and see more photos taken during the conference, visit [sltc.sabis.net](http://sltc.sabis.net).

## ISC-Cairo Prefects Organize Cancer Awareness Week

A SABIS® education focuses on developing well-rounded individuals with strong ethical values and a deep commitment to making the world a better place. For the casual critic, this may seem to be yet another snazzy slogan, but that casual critic has definitely not met students from the International School of Choueifat!

Last year from October 16-20, ISC-Cairo SLO® prefects held a Cancer Awareness Week to coincide with the worldwide Cancer Awareness Month. Their goal was to increase awareness about cancer, raise money for the *Baheya Foundation* – a breast cancer detection and treatment facility – and support a cause that is important in their community.

During Cancer Awareness Week, prefects delivered presentations about the different types of cancer, the risk factors associated with the illness, the importance of early detection, available treatment, and support that can be offered to patients. The presentations were very informative, and many students opened up about members in their family who are fighting or have fought and survived cancer.



*Prefects wearing pink on Pink Spirit Day*

Prefects also organized a variety of activities including a Pink Spirit Day where students were encouraged to come to school wearing pink shirts or ribbons to represent and show support to those who have fought and are still fighting breast cancer; a Cancer Trivia Day to test students on their knowledge of the disease; and a bake sale that raised US\$ 725, which was donated to the *Baheya Foundation*. The week culminated with a Picnic in the Park, where over 500 students and their families enjoyed a live band, student performances, food vendors, and a special show by the *Fabrica Theater* performers.

The campaign was a huge success and had a great impact on the school community. In fact, some were so moved by Cancer Awareness Week that they decided to have their hair cut and donated to make wigs for patients undergoing chemotherapy.



*The ISC-Cairo community came out in full support for a picnic in the park*

***“Cancer is a topic that hits close home. My grandfather struggled with cancer for some time. I was motivated after Cancer Awareness Week at school and I felt empathy toward all the cancer patients that lose their hair after chemotherapy, [...] so I decided to donate my hair to them, and I am proud that I have inspired other students to do so too.”***

– Nour Hosny, Senior at ISC-Cairo

Well done ISC-Cairo and thank you for all the amazing work you do to make a difference in your community! You are an inspiration and proof that it is possible to make the world a better place. If you would like to learn more about ISC-Cairo and all the amazing activities and events they hold, follow them on [Facebook](#).

## SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA)

### SAGA University Application Module: An Entryway to Alumni Benefits

The SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) is an association that unites graduates, preserves friendships, and facilitates professional networking. As members of SAGA, students become part of a community that shares a common SABIS® experience. Alumni have access to an important platform to help them maintain ties with respective SABIS® Network schools and learn from the experiences of over 28,000 alumni from around the world.

SABIS® students automatically become members of SAGA at the start of their senior year in high school and immediately benefit from its many features, among them the SAGA University Application module. The SAGA University Application module helps streamline the sometimes overwhelming university application process. Through the module, seniors can select from a list of top universities and complete their application directly on the SAGA website. The module links application deadlines and requirements for each school to each applicant. Using the module, students can also request both academic and non-academic transcripts as well as confidential letters of recommendation from their SABIS® school. Teachers and administrators upload the requested documents into the student's personal account, and once the file is complete, the application package is sent to one or more universities of choice.

Top-ranking international universities available on the module include:

- **Lebanon:** Beirut Arab University, Haigazian University, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Notre Dame University, the American University of Beirut (AUB), the Lebanese American University (LAU), and the University of Balamand
- **United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.):** Paris Sorbonne University in Abu Dhabi, the American University of Dubai, and the American University of Sharjah
- **Egypt:** The British University
- **Germany, Spain, and Switzerland:** Five campuses of the EU Business School.

The SAGA University Application module makes the process of applying to university seamless, reducing mistakes and delays.

Over 1,000 students have benefitted from using the module, contributing to their successful admission to the universities of their choice.

The SAGA University Application module is just one of SAGA's member benefits. Additional SAGA benefits include:

- Alumni Directory
- Networking opportunities with SABIS® graduates around the world

- Job search capabilities
- Online chat tools
- Notification of alumni news and events
- Online success stories

SAGA aims to honor and encourage the success of all graduates, facilitate the sharing of memories, and contribute to the ongoing development of personal and professional networks among alumni. The SAGA Application module is just the entryway into a world of benefits offered by SAGA.

For more information or to become a SAGA member, visit [saga.sabis.net](http://saga.sabis.net).

## HR

### SABIS® Supports Staff at New Schools through Comprehensive Training

SABIS® is committed to the delivery of a consistent, high-quality education to the over 70,000 students enrolled in schools throughout its global network. In order to ensure consistency, SABIS® offers comprehensive training to all school staff and teachers. This training is particularly critical for staff in new schools, such as SABIS® International School – Runda (SABIS® Runda).

SABIS® Runda opened its doors for the very first time in September 2018. Naturally, the majority of the administrative and teaching staff were new to the SABIS® Educational System™ and required intensive training, so from August 20 to August 31, 2018, they all participated in a comprehensive training program that was tailored-made by SABIS® to meet the specific needs of the school.

The program covered a wide range of topics including SABIS® Core Purpose and Values, the SABIS Point System® of teaching, the integral role of SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) and the importance of an active SLO® in every SABIS® school, the SABIS Academic Monitoring System®, and much more. In addition, staff enjoyed hands-on training on how to use a number of SABIS® proprietary tools such as Interactive Whiteboards and E-books, in the classroom.

Beyond technical skills, the two-week training period proved to be the perfect opportunity for teachers and staff to get acquainted before the start of the academic year, set up their classrooms, discover the new campus, and build the team spirit they would need to start the academic year on a high note.

***“The two-week training has been very essential to us as teachers. It has prepared us professionally and now we are ready to meet our students in class.”***

– Everlyne Were, Swahili Teacher at SABIS® Runda

As a leader in the field of education, SABIS® is fully committed to ensuring that every SABIS® school and member of staff understands and embraces the SABIS® Educational System™. By offering comprehensive training to teachers and staff at new schools, SABIS® ensures the delivery of a consistently high-quality education to all students.

To learn about SABIS® Runda, visit [sabisrunda.sabis.net](http://sabisrunda.sabis.net).





Collegiate Board of Trustees Chair Walter McGrail attributes the school's fighting spirit to those who worked so hard to support it. "There are two words that come to mind when I think about the early days of Collegiate – persistence and resilience," he says. "The board had this vision in mind. We had many stumbling blocks along the way but could always find people within the city to help. We are also very appreciative of everyone at SABIS® who shared our determination to turn this school we had dreamed about into reality. There were times we thought we must be crazy, but then you see the parents, kids, and teachers on opening day and it makes you believe you are doing the right thing."

*"Such an amazing school with such an amazing staff. It is not about having a beautiful building. What matters the most is that our children are getting the education they need so much. I love this school and I couldn't be any happier!"*

– Collegiate Parent

## Feature School

### Collegiate Charter School of Lowell



Collegiate Charter School of Lowell school campus

**This is the story of the Collegiate Charter School of Lowell (Collegiate), a SABIS® U.S. charter school that epitomizes perseverance, resilience, commitment, and cooperation.**

When the Collegiate Charter School of Lowell (Collegiate) first opened its doors in Lowell, Massachusetts, in September 2013, it had already overcome more obstacles than some schools encounter in decades of operation. This "little charter school that could" had dealt with facility challenges that had delayed its opening for a full year, and the facilities it was to operate in for the first four years of its existence were far from ideal. But Collegiate did not let anything stand in its way.

Collegiate opened to serve 272 students in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and was initially located in the basement of the Transfiguration Church. Later, as enrollment expanded and additional grade levels were added, the school was split between the first location and a second one, located in another local church facility. When most schools would have given up, Collegiate, supported by a determined and dedicated Board of Trustees and SABIS®, persisted, and today, after four years in temporary facilities, it is housed in a beautiful, purpose-built facility. The school currently serves 848 students, has another 150 students on the waiting list, and plans to expand by one grade level each year until it reaches a full K-12 offering.

### Academics

As a member of the global SABIS® Network, Collegiate implements the proprietary SABIS® Educational System™, a comprehensive Kindergarten to Grade 12 program that uses dynamic materials, proven methods, and the latest in technology to provide a solid foundation of knowledge that students can use as a springboard for learning in college and beyond.



Collegiate KG students enjoy the school day

At Collegiate, the features of the SABIS® Educational System™ help students work toward their full potential. Rigorous instruction fosters student growth at all levels, and cutting-edge IT systems designed and implemented by SABIS® help teachers stay informed of student weaknesses in real-time. This, coupled with ongoing analysis of student results, allows the school to pinpoint individual students' needs and offer targeted support in the areas they are struggling. Along with the support students receive at school, the immediate feedback parents receive from the school helps them assist their child's specific gaps and needs from home.

*"I have no doubt that if my children do not understand what is going on in the classroom, it will be identified and proper interventions taken to help bring them back into the fold. I know if my child does not truly understand and cannot do the work, there will be no social promotion. I am 100% behind this practice."*

– Collegiate Parent

Kate McCarthy, Vice-Chair of the Collegiate Board of Trustees, was struck by many aspects of the SABIS® Educational System™ from her very first exposure to it. *“What I personally like about SABIS® is the pillars,”* she says. *“If teachers need help in the classroom, there is an Academic Quality Controller (AQC) to help me. If I have a discipline problem, there is a team to help me, I don’t just send the student to the office for the principal to take care of. There are so many teams that are helpful in this organization – it’s defined to the nth degree who takes care of what and you feel that a teacher can manage better because of the system in place.”*

Parents are drawn to Collegiate because of the focus on fundamental subjects like math, science, and English. They also appreciate the structured curriculum. One parent shared, *“The focus on the building blocks provides a solid foundation for the communication skills necessary for success as our children mature and need to have meaningful interactions with their peers, employers, and family.”*

The access to a good quality education, like that at Collegiate, plays a major role in helping parents decide on which school to enroll their children.

***“This school promotes diversity. This culture is cultivated in our children to prepare them for the world where they will be in in contact with people who may be different.”***

– Gabriel M. Collegiate Parent

#### SLO® at Collegiate

One of the pillars of the SABIS® Educational System™ is the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®), a student-led society that empowers students and fosters their academic and personal development through real-life experiences. SLO® is an extremely active organization at Collegiate. All departments work hard to promote a positive culture at the school and in the community by focusing on educational and socially responsible projects and events.

As a welcome to the new academic year, the Outreach Department of the SLO® worked throughout the summer to call new students and invite them for tours of the building. The same department also wrote notes to all new students and put bracelets in every student’s locker for the first day of school. Going the extra mile, the prefects in this department have been delivering post cards to students and teachers three times a week, recognizing them and thanking them for the great job they have been doing at Collegiate and in the community.



*Back to school is a happy event for Collegiate students*

SLO®, especially the Activities Department, also hosts a variety of events that are open to the community including Jump Rope for Heart, Color Run, school fairs, and more. This year, the Activities Department has been busy working on and planning exciting and engaging events for each month. So far, they have organized Grandparents’ Day and Family Fitness Day, where students’ families were invited to participate in activities with their kids. The department is also working on hosting the first ever International Fair at the school.

Always looking to make a difference in the community, SLO® at Collegiate partners with different agencies on community-based initiatives such as toiletry drives, food drives, and toy drives. The biggest drive they have had so far was the backpack fundraiser organized by the SLO® Head Prefect and Social Responsibility Department. The project collected over 130 backpacks full of supplies that were donated to the Kaheti Primary School in Kenya. The initiative involved lots of time collecting, sorting, and packing bags and then preparing them to ship to Kenya. Students, prefects, Collegiate staff, and community members all contributed. This project set the tone for SLO® to continue brainstorming community projects that make a difference, and they are already planning for an upcoming food drive.



*A young Collegiate student with her grandmother on Grandparents' Day*

***“SLO® is the icing on the cake! Since she joined SLO® as a head prefect in the discipline team, I have seen my daughter in a new light. She has all of a sudden taken on a 'take charge' mentality where anything is and will be possible. She has developed a new sense of responsibility, has become more focused and more organized. SLO® is a critical part of being a student at Collegiate and brings life skills into the fold of academics.”***

– Collegiate Parent

#### Extracurricular Activities

Collegiate students benefit from all types of extracurricular activities that range from competitive athletics to after school clubs. The Collegiate athletic program is in its third year and has increased in offerings and participation each year. Today, Collegiate offers thirteen competitive sports that include boys’ and girls’ basketball, boys’ and girls’ soccer, boys’ and girls’ cross country, co-ed volleyball, cheerleading, boys’ and girls’ track, and archery. Student athletes at Collegiate also compete within the Ecumenical Athletic Association in Lowell, MA.



Students are also able to participate in activities such as chorus, strings, step, dance, typing, gaming, yoga, Girl Scouts, art, coding, open gym, Dungeons and Dragons, walk and talk, STEM, and more. Collegiate also recently joined the First Lego League.

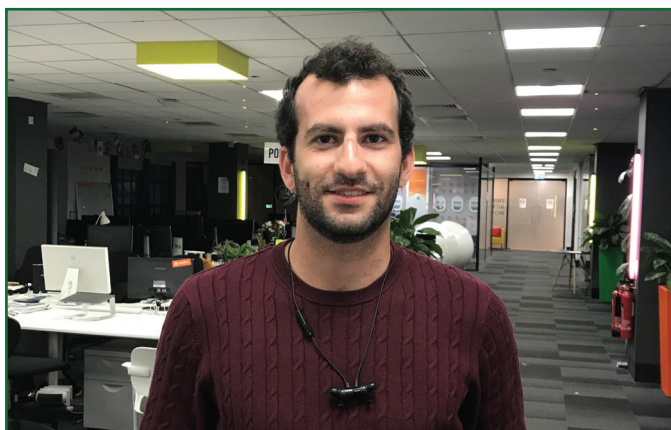
Collegiate students' efforts through SLO® and extracurricular activities give the school the opportunity to become a valuable member of the community, something that is important for the school's board. *"The school wants to become a good neighbor,"* says Walter McGrail. *"We are growing and learning what some of the needs of the community are and coming forward with the use of the school. We worked with a local food bank over the summer to use our school to help prepare meals, and we are also looking at the possibility of becoming a future voting site."*

In its five short years in operation, Collegiate has gone from being the "little charter school that could" – could overcome challenges, could persist, could persevere – to the "charter school that does" – does deliver a quality education, does give back to the community, does help students achieve their full potential. With the support and commitment of the school's Board of Trustees, parents, students, and SABIS®, Collegiate will continue to provide a top-quality education for all students by delivering a solid foundation that prepares them for any challenges that lie ahead.

If you would like to know more about the Collegiate Charter School of Lowell, visit [lowell.sabis.net](http://lowell.sabis.net).

## Alumni in the Spotlight

### Rami Kalai, SABIS® Adma, Class of 2013



Rami Kalai, SABIS® Adma, Class of 2013

**Read on about how SABIS® alumnus Rami Kalai is making a name for himself in the highly competitive field of financial technology with his FinTech startup QuanteriumTech!**

Rami Kalai was a student at the International School of Choueifat – Damascus, a SABIS® school located in Syria, until 2012 when he had to flee the war-torn country with his family. Like many of the school's displaced families, Rami's parents wanted him

to continue his education in a SABIS® school, so they eventually settled in Lebanon and enrolled Rami at the SABIS® International School in Adma as an 11<sup>th</sup> grader in the middle of the 2011-2012 academic year.

Despite the unforeseen move and disruption, Rami made a seamless transition to SABIS® Adma and distinguished himself as a strong student. He excelled on his external exams, receiving high scores on his SAT I exam and scoring 780/800 on his SAT II Math test, 790/800 on his SAT II Physics test, and a perfect score on his SAT II Chemistry test. His AP® results were also very impressive. He earned 5/5 on Calculus BC, Physics C Electricity and Magnetism, Physics C Mechanics, Chemistry, and a 4/5 on English Language and Composition.

***"Moving from Syria to Lebanon was difficult and potentially disruptive to my education. However, the uniformity of the curriculum helped make the transition easier."***

Rami acknowledges the role SABIS® played in his life as a student in preparing him for university and beyond. He gives credit to the practice of frequent assessment in SABIS® schools, which taught him how to manage his time and stay up-to-date on his studies.

The time Rami spent enrolled in SABIS® schools also helped him build additional skills that would serve him well in the future. Throughout his school years, Rami was an active participant in SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®). At ISC-Damascus, he was the head of the SLO® Sports and Health Department in Grade 10, was a peer tutor, and participated on the school's track and field team.

***"My involvement in SLO® helped me build my managerial skills."***

After graduating from SABIS® Adma, Rami was awarded a full scholarship to the American University of Beirut where he studied for a year. He then attended Imperial College London where he pursued a joint bachelor's and master's degree in electrical and electronic engineering with management. In his third year, he worked at JP Morgan for six months before returning to Imperial to complete his degree.

In 2018, Rami co-founded Quanterium Technologies [@QuanteriumTech](https://twitter.com/QuanteriumTech) along with two former colleagues from JP Morgan. Quanterium Technologies is a London based FinTech start-up that aims to revolutionize the world of finance by building a fully regulated trading platform that incorporates elements of blockchain technology to help hedge funds, family businesses, and venture capital funds access the digital assets market more easily. *"Quanterium aims to provide institutional clients easy access to the digital assets market through a hybrid trading platform, which blends centralized and decentralized technology,"* explained Rami.

We wish Rami the best of luck! If you would like to connect with SABIS® alumni, such as Rami, who are living and working around the world, log on to [saga.sabis.net](http://saga.sabis.net) today and get connected.



*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.*

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