

SAIS Stay Connected Newsletter

October 2021

Dear SAIS Shj Community,

The School Leadership Team would like to take this opportunity to welcome you again to the new academic year. We are very excited to welcome back so many of our students who followed Distance Learning last academic year. It has been great meeting students in person for the first time and seeing the smiles across each section. I would like to thank all parents, students and staff who participated in the latest cycle of reaccreditation that our school has gone through. Your contributions have surely helped the school continue its improvement journey.



New Administrator

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Shatha al-Dbaisi, as the Career Guidance Counselor and HS Boys' Coordinator. Ms. Shatha has been working in education since 2013, and we are sure that she will provide guidance and support to our students on par with the good level of service that you are accustomed to at SAIS.

Full Return of Students – October 31, 2021

As you all are aware by now, all students must physically return to school no later than October 31. This amazing news comes on the heels of the announcement of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan that the UAE has overcome the COVID-19 crisis. As of October 31, students may not join classes as hybrid or online learners. Every student must join their classes in the school. Students who belong to the exempted categories may continue to join their classes online. However, the parents of those students must provide the school with attested doctors' letters explaining that they belong to one of the exempted groups.

To facilitate the rejoining of all the students gradually, we have already informed the parents of KG through Grade 4 students that their children may rejoin as of Sunday, October 17th. Students in the other grades are encouraged to join the school before October 31st. Students of Grades 5-8 may rejoin any time this week. Students of Grades 9-12 may rejoin as of Monday, October 25th.

PCR Requirements

Students who are 12 years of age or older and who have not yet joined the school (were online since the beginning of the school year) need to provide the school with a negative PCR test result on the first day that they enter the school physically. The PCR result should be printed and not on a mobile phone. Your classes are ready to welcome you.

School Calendar

Use the link below to access the school calendar. Please be mindful that the dates of Islamic occasions may change according to the announcement of the local authorities. All the other dates mentioned in the calendar are accurate.

Together, we are SAIS SHJ. With sincere thanks,

Saleh Jadayel
School Principal

[2021 – 2022 School Calendar](#)



Important Dates:

- **Thursday, October 21st** is a public holiday, **al-Mawlid al-Nabawi**. We wish all SAIS families a happy time on this special occasion. The school will be closed on this day.
- **Sunday, October 24th** is **Teachers' Workday**. The school is **closed to students** on this day.
- **Fall MAP Testing Window November 1-14.**
- **CAT4 Testing Grade 5** will be on **Tuesday October 26th from 8:00-10:30**
- **CAT4 Testing Grade 9** will be on **Wednesday October 27th from 8:00-10:30**
- **PIRLS test for Grade 5A** will be on **Thursday, October 28, 2021**
- **PIRLS test for Grade 5B** will be on **Sunday, October 31, 2021**
- **Fire Safety Week** - October 25th - 27th Students in KG-Grade 4 should dress as firefighters for this day.
- **Progress Notes** – will be shared to parents on November 3rd
- **HS President & Vice President Election:** November 15
- **The last day of Term 1 for K - 12 is December 9th** WINTER BREAK for Students: **December 12 - January 1.**
- WINTER BREAK for Teachers / HODs / Admin: December 19th - January 1.
- **First Day of Term 2 for Students January 2**

Please click the Calendar icon above to access the full calendar with other important school dates and events.

REGISTRATION is OPEN - KG1 & KG2!

Changes to age requirements at private schools*

For schools that start the academic year in September

Children starting school in...	Must be...
Pre-KG or Foundation Stage 1	3 years old by Aug 31
KG1 or Foundation Stage 2	4 years old by Aug 31
KG2 or Year 1	5 years old by Aug 31
Grade 1 or Year 2	6 years old by Aug 31

*According to UAE Ministry of Education Resolution no (24).
Applicable from September 2021.

We are pleased to announce that registration for the 2021-2022 academic year is still open for KG1 & KG2.

Now that students will be back in classes at full capacity, we have been approved to increase the class size on KG by an additional 5 students per class. Please use the link below to complete the online application for each student you wish to register.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-r9eSSobnEyqxNYrxz4GwB60_PY8cWZPI_56mBhakUIUQTRSRjM4WldVNUQyS0UwVjJQVEI5RFFCVi4u

The registration office is open Sunday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about your application, please contact Ms. Reem at EXT. 124 or by email at registrar@saisharjah.com.

Thank You,

SAIS Registrar

Student Support as Schools Reopen

As schools re-open, several challenges had to be addressed. Failure to address these challenges may have had a negative impact, not only on students' current education and development but also on their future careers.

Offering different learning modes such as F2F learning and online learning (for exempted groups only) will continue to help students catch up on lost learning during the previous pandemic period.

Supporting students' socio-emotional wellbeing has specific relevance and can help to ensure that students return to school, catch up on lost learning, and adapt to new circumstances.

It is essential to support students' ability to regulate their emotions and to help them cope with unexpected and difficult situations. Similarly, supporting students' self-efficacy may help boost their confidence in their ability to catch up on lost learning, which may help them re-engage with learning. This support should be given by teachers and, where possible, parents to help a smooth total return of students back to school after October 31st as required by SPEA.

The partnership between home and school is vital for students' progress and wellbeing, so we encourage more parent involvement in their children's education. Please check all school communications for information regarding the weekly plan, assignments and assessments, projects, and school events for parents and for the students.

The primary modes of communication for our school are Class Dojo for school-wide communications and KG/ES Grades 1-4. The MS and HS sections also have Grade level What's App Groups. In addition to these ways to communicate, scheduled parent meetings, student progress notes, MS Teams posts, telephone calls, and emails are ways to stay connected to SAIS Shj. We are readily available to support you and your children.



The KG & Elementary Students Are Happy to Be Back in the School



Sharjah International Film Festival at SAIS



SAIS was invited to participate in the annual Sharjah International Film Festival for Children and Youth 2021, which was held online from October 10-15, 2021.



The festival is dedicated to enhancing children and youth's media literacy, fostering their creativity, and showcasing the very best in filmmaking for, by, and about children and young people. The festival plays an essential role in bringing international films and new media content for youth and children in the region. In addition, it exposes them to world cultures and promotes peace, tolerance, and a global understanding of how people from different cultures, religions, and backgrounds live together in this world.

This year was the 8th edition of SIFF. Sharjah American International School participated in this cultural event, which allowed four hundred students from KG-12 to watch films at the school from different countries around the world.





Celebrating World Teacher's Day




شكراً لعطائكم المثمر
Thank you for all the efforts

 <p>الأستاذة نعيمة سلامة Naima Salama 21 عاماً من العطء المثمر 21 Years in SAIS</p>	 <p>الأستاذة حنان حبة Hanan Y. M. Habeh 20 عاماً من العطء المثمر 20 Years in SAIS</p>	 <p>الأستاذ عبدالكريم علي متولي علي Abdelkarim Ali Mitwalli Ali 20 عاماً من العطء المثمر 20 Years in SAIS</p>
 <p>الأستاذة سهاد أحمد رباح Souhad Ahmad Rabah 22 عاماً من العطء المثمر 22 Years in SAIS</p>	 <p>الأستاذ صالح جدائل Saleh Jadayel 22 عاماً من العطء المثمر 22 Years in SAIS</p>	 <p>الأستاذة سونيا صافريان Sonia Seferlan 21 عاماً من العطء المثمر 21 Years in SAIS</p>






Certificates of appreciation were issued for all teachers. In addition, souvenirs were provided for all SAIS teachers.

Appreciation messages from students to their teachers were shared by the students, and Grade 5 students performed "In This Moment" to the admiration of middle and high school teachers in an assembly.

Special displays were placed in different areas of the school to honor all educators who worked for twenty or more years at SAIS. This long partnership within the Ramaqia community is what makes Sharjah American International School a unique educational institution in Sharjah. We would like to thank the members of the SAIS Shj PTA for this kind gesture.

Assessment Corner

To Parents & Students RE: EMSAT

To guarantee that you and your child receive full support in this very important time of transition from high school to university, please use the link below to access some useful points and FAQs regarding the EMSAT.

EMSAT FAQs

CAT 4: CAT 4 testing will take place on October 26th for Grade 5 and October 27th for Grade 9.

CAT 4 is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning.

The following link is useful for the practice of CAT 4: <https://www.testprep-online.com/cat4-level-e-free-sample>

PIRLS test, an international assessment administered every five years that measures trends in reading comprehension at the fourth grade, but this year will be done for fifth grade.

PIRLS focuses on three aspects of reading literacy:

- purposes of reading
- processes of comprehension; and
- reading behaviors and attitudes

MAP: MAP testing will take place from November 1- 14 for all Grade 3-9 classes. We will share the schedule and pertinent information very soon.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is MAP?

MAP stands for Measures of Academic Progress. MAP is an online assessment that is aligned to the Common Core standards.

What is different about MAP?

These computerized tests are adaptive and offered in Reading, Language Usage, Science, and Mathematics. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all of the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

How long does it take to complete a test?

Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each MAP test. MAP for Primary Grades tests take from 20 to 30 minutes to complete.

How often will my child be tested?

Students will be ideally test in Fall, Winter, and Spring.

What are MAP tests used for?

MAP assessments are used to measure each student's progress or growth in school. Parents may have a chart in their home that marks their child's height at certain times, such as on his or her birthday. This is a growth chart. It shows how much he or she has grown from one year to the next. MAP assessments do the same sort of thing, except they measure each child's growth in

mathematics, reading, and language usage. The scale used to measure each child's progress is called a RIT scale (Rasch unit), which is an equal interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart each child's academic growth from year to year.

How will the school use the test scores?

MAP tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. The test scores let teachers know where a student's strengths are OR if help might be needed in any specific areas. Teachers use this information to help guide individual and group instruction in the classroom.

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Managing your time and setting goals are the keys to a successful future. One way you can help yourself do this is remembering to set goals for six key areas that matter most, all starting with the letter 'F.'

- **Friendships:** Keep in touch with your friends by joining clubs & organizations that you might enjoy.
- **Family:** Spend time with your family and cherish the moments. **Finances:** Make sure to budget your money and set financial goals for the future.
- **Fitness:** Become stronger not only physically but mentally and emotionally. Keep learning. Read for pleasure. Keep your comfort zone expanding.
- **Faith:** Have faith in pursuing your dreams and make sure to evaluate your progress every now and then.
- **Fun:** Enjoy the moments in your life.

The Seniors' Space

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all parents of our Senior Students; and to our new parents that have joined SAIS family this year. And to start by congratulating the Class of 2022 as they prepare to move on to top class universities all over the world including, The Senior Students have made a wonderful start to the academic year, and I am very impressed by how our students are continuing to adhere to rules and regulations. Senior year has been a very interesting experience so far, as we got to transition back to in-person school for the first time in over a year.



As senior season approaches us, so does our excitement to finally become adults; to branch out and start a new chapter in our lives as cliché as it may sound. My childhood has flashed by, and I tend to recall childhood memories and think back fondly to the times where I would stress over my career choices. Although it has been quite hectic, I now understand why there's so much beauty in a "senior year". It is the last time you will see the people you grew up with and the teachers you looked up to as role models. It is also quite daunting to know that I will be applying to University of Sharjah's Fine Arts College in less than two months! It's an exhilarating experience to finally feel in control of your life once again.

Shaima Ashraf Shawky, Class of 2022

The thought of graduating in less than 7 months keeps me going through it all and helps motivate me to work harder. In the future I'm hoping to be able to pursue my major in psychology and become a clinical psychologist, so I can be able to help people with their struggles.

Amalia Boghossian, Senior 2022





Senior year was always something that seemed like it would never actually happen especially after the last year and all the stress from having to be in front of a screen all day, the feeling of being back at school and being able to call myself a senior is odd to say the least. However, I am here now, and it has been great so far. In my near future I hope to go into a computer-related field like computer science, so I can be a part of the development of the new technological generation.

Anastasia Zaikina, Senior 2022

We are Juniors!



We honestly do not know how time flew by so fast. The most talked about topic of this year so far for all the juniors has been the Junior Jackets. The amount of time we spent designing, collecting information from our classmates, going back and forth, and collecting money has been fun as well as challenging. We have learned a lot through this process.

Creativity: A key asset for further education & beyond!

Congratulations to our outstanding students for their accomplishments as they participated in the 8th Inter-School Young Business Talent Hunt 2021 hosted by SKYLINE University College.



8TH INTER-SCHOOL
YOUNG BUSINESS TALENT HUNT 2021
GROUP B – RESULT - 12 OCTOBER 2021



ADVERTISEMENT DESIGN

NEW BUSINESS

MOBILE APPLICATION

INNOVATION

Nine groups participated in this event:

1. one group from Grade 11 Girls,
2. one from Grade 11 Boys,
3. four groups from Grade 12 Boys, and
4. three groups from Grade 12 Girls.

All of the students rose to the challenge as they worked on their selected categories to produce innovative and outstanding ideas. Six groups were shortlisted for the finals, and three groups came back with prizes.

Grade 11 Boys won 1st runner up in the category of General Business.

Participants: Talal Albadareen, Ahmed Almarzooqi, Abdulla Alhammadi

Grade 12 Girls won 1st runner up in the category of Mobile Application.

Participants: Amalia Bogossian, Reema Shubair, Anastasia Zaikina, Shaima Ashraf

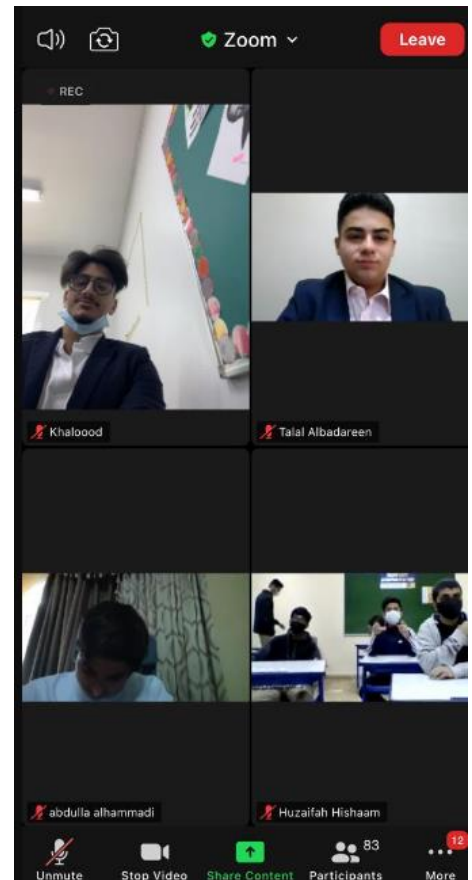
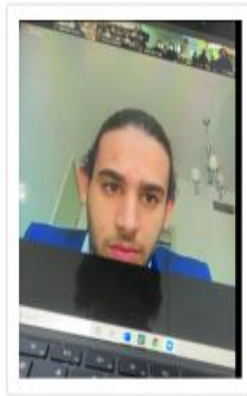
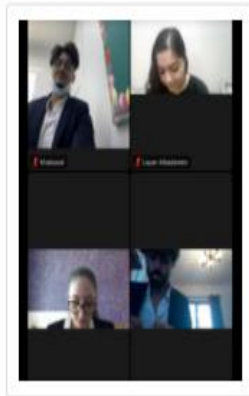
Grade 11 Girls were the Champions, awarded First Place in the category of Advertisement Design.

Participants: Zainab Kashwani, Fatima Alameeri, Aysha Almatrooshi, Amna Alzarooni



Well done everyone and we are PROUD of you!

A special THANK YOU to Ms. Nanor Boghossian and Mr. Nadim Taha who guided and inspired the students.



We Value SAIS Alumni

On May 30, 2021, the SAIS Alumni Committee released its first SAIS Alumni Newsletter, "WE ARE SAIS | S'more Newsletters". WE ARE SAIS is the first step in our Alumni plan to bring all SAIS Alumni together.

In the last few months, we have been able to connect with former SAIS students who were proud to share their stories with us. We are in the process of planning our first alumni meeting soon! We hope to see many alumni and hear some more stories of SAIS!

Kindly fill in your information using the following link to keep you updated about our events.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10_EJ_40pGMVEMySpN8sSbCQC7Xsg96BoUpVrpbM3J2Y/edit

Tell Us Your Story

Wherever life takes you, be sure to let us know where you are and what you are up to. Stay connected with your fellow classmates, growing your career network, and helping others. Got a story? Won an award? Wedding bells? New baby? Job promotion? We would like to hear what is happening with you in your life. If you would like to share your story with us for your next newsletter, please email us at alumni@saisharjah.com.

Parent & Student Support Contact Information


Communication between SAIS and our parents is vital. We are constantly monitoring the most effective ways to communicate with our parents. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey (only one per household) regarding communication practices by the school. If you have an interest in volunteering or conducting a workshop or activity with our staff and students, inform us in the form as well. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Parent Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/BB5zeoF93a1jsgxr6>

Follow Us on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sais.sharjah/>

School Website: <http://www.saisharjah.com/>

Stay Connected



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Stay Connected

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Scan for SAIS Shj Class Dojo School-wide Updates