

2020-2022

Saint George Schools COE





This is Saint George Schools second sustainability report. After all what we have passed through upon the invasion of the pandemic and the Lebanese economic crisis, we are glad that we are here, again, highlighting our school's sustainability culture. We will try in this report to highlight how we have prioritized wellbeing as an important aspect at school for the success of the learning methodology. We will spotlight the main programs that we have applied during the adversity until today, as well as all the competitions and achievements that we were able to harvest from December 2020 till December 2022.

We hope this report would inspire other educational institutions on this platform.



St. Georges Schools

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H.E. Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that *Saint George Schools - Hadath* supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to support the Global Compact advancing these principles, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

We also pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact in the following way(s):
Propose and implement local partnerships on corporate sustainability, continue to engage with other stakeholders, and engage in any way we can with the Global Compact Network Lebanon.

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact. We support public accountability and transparency, and therefore commit to report on progress within two years of joining the Global Compact and every two years thereafter according to the Global Compact COE policy.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Ragheb Alama





We've always been facing challenges in our domain, especially when talking about updating curricula or developing teaching and learning skills in order to be in pace with the continuous change in the world. However, today the challenges are more advanced when talking about living in the era of a pandemic that has invaded the planet and has put all educational institutions facing an extraordinary situation. And when talking about our beloved country, in addition to the pandemic, Lebanon is facing the most devastating economic crisis and is affected drastically after the port explosion in the heart of our beloved Beirut. However, we, at Saint George did not give up on what we do!

We have always believed that our educational program should stress on skills rather than content, this is why we have adopted global citizenship in order to prepare our students not only to be active national citizens but also global citizens who show empathy towards global issues. And today, as we are all talking about the "new normal", we at Saint George believe that teachers, students and parents are essential elements of success of the overall system.

We have tried so hard to make it through all the crises in order to reach our students not only academic-wise, but also in leadership programs, and all online. We had to be "creative in solving the problem"! As online learning started to be the trend of the new normal, we had to become experts in order to succeed in the learning methodology. Actually, we are today one of the few schools in our country that have succeeded in this experience despite all the challenges we are facing.



*Dr. Ahmad Alameh
The General Manager*



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1- The School Context

Our school is a private school that has three branches in Beirut city with more than 225 employees. It has all scholar levels, starting from pre-school years (KG's) reaching secondary academy. The school culture generally refers to the beliefs, perceptions, relationships, attitudes and rules that shape and influence every aspect of how Saint George schools function. It encompasses more concrete issues; such as, the physical and emotional safety of students, the orderliness of classrooms and public spaces, and the degree to which a school embraces and celebrates all cultural occasions and students' continuous success. The positive school culture is conducive to professional satisfaction, morale and effectiveness, as well as to students learning, fulfilment and well-being.

We have both English and French sections in all scholar levels, not to forget having a special centre for special education (SKILD Centre).

Vision:

We empower learners to acquire, demonstrate and appreciate knowledge. We promote an environment to encourage personal inquiry, social responsibility and academic excellence.

Mission: Our mission at Saint George is to:

- Provide high quality education in a safe, respectful, motivational and a positive school environment.
- Implement a curriculum using a variety of teaching and learning styles in a stimulating learning environment.
- Promote a cooperative learning environment as well as acknowledging the uniqueness of learners by planning differentiated work to foster their skills and creativity.
- Allow learners to take responsibilities for their actions through reflecting on their work and behavior.
- Address student's social, emotional, intellectual, physical, and psychological needs to achieve optimum benefits from the educational program.
- Prepare learners to demonstrate 21st century skills by showing independence, critical thinking, logical problem solving skills and decision-making.
- Provide enriching and engaging learning resources.



2- Leadership and Legacy

A. **Leadership Simulation Programs, organized by the Lebanese American University**, are programs that empower students and provide them with information about the United Nations, Arab League, European Union and many other organizations that seek sustainable development. Their importance is reflected in growing up citizens of the world through the various programs during which different issues are discussed and many resolutions are suggested, and this is an important factor of fostering peace.

We've been taking part in these programs for more than 13 years by now, and this has led us to represent our school not only locally, but also internationally. We have mentioned a detailed explanation of these programs in our last report.



During the Pandemic, The Lebanese American University has shifted all these programs into online programs. Our students have represented the school in two online conferences at the end of two programs: **The Model United Nations program (MUN)**, **The Model Arab League (MAL)**, and **The Model Governance Program (MGG)**, and our delegates were able to achieve awards in both conferences:

- The Diplomacy Award, MUN high school conference, March 2021
- The Diplomacy Award, MGG high school conference, March 2021

This year, the programs are back to being in-person. We at Saint George are represented in MUN and MEU (The Model





European Union) that end by final conferences on February 2023 (MEU) and March 2023 (MUN).

Not only teachers are advisors in these programs, but from our belief that the legacy of leadership should continue, students who were delegates in these programs can also join the school leadership committee and become advisors who train new delegates on the program in an after-school leadership club.

B. Global Classrooms International Model United Nations:

Global Classrooms (GC) Model UN is a program organized by LAU and takes place in New York City. While having been operated by the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA), the year 2016 ushered in a new era as LAU, a partner of the UNA-USA, took over the management of the GC International conferences in New York. We've participated in this program since 2016, and our students have achieved several awards until 2019. LAU has suspended the program for two years due to the pandemic.

This year, LAU is relaunching its mega-international Model United Nations conference, Global Classrooms International (GCI), that takes place in New York City this Spring 2023. Scheduled conference dates: April 27-28-29, 2023. This conference hosts thousands of high school and middle school students coming from all around the world to discuss salient topics and practice role-play by stepping into the shoes of real-world ambassadors.



C. Leaders for Lebanon- Getting Ready for Life Challenges, a leadership training program organized by Haigazian University. The program consists of four workshops (from 29th January 2022 till 19th February 2022) about Positive Verbal Communication, Emotional Intelligence, Problem Solving Techniques, and Skills Needed at the Workplace. Several students in grade 12 has attended this program and has completed all the workshops given at that time.



3- UNESCO Programs

A. ASP-UNESCO:

Since are a member in UNESCO schools, and in the Associated Schools Project of UNESCO, our twinning programs with Julesminde School-Denmark is still active through exchanging experiences.

B. Life-Link Friendship Schools:

We have also been part in Life-Link Friendship Schools Annual Conference which usually takes place in Sigtuna-Sweden since 2016. Life-Link Friendship Schools association is a non-profit organization based in Sigtuna-Sweden, which promotes cooperation between schools for the purpose of sustainable development education of students from all over the world. Life-Link's philosophy is based on the 3Cs: Care for Yourself, Care for Others and Care for Nature, using insights from natural and social sciences.



Life-Link program supports students undertaking actions for peace and sustainability for their school and/or for their community, while sharing their actions with schools all over the world. A Life-Link action aims to:

- Help the school or the community to become more sustainable and to promote peace
- Give students a sense of higher purpose and direction in life
- Help foster intercultural and international relations

Our students did a great job in presenting their environmental project under the title of "The Green Cycle" in the online conference which was on June 2021.



C. The First International Model of UNESCO Conference:

Highlighting sustainable development, the Kazakhstan Federation of Clubs for UNESCO is implementing important and necessary state and global initiatives aimed at developing the younger generation and youth, creating platforms for realizing their potential, acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge for the life in the 21st century, as well as promoting the ideas of UNESCO, most importantly peace and tolerance, a sense of responsibility for the dissemination of the ideas of peace.

For this reason, Kazakhstan Federation of Clubs for UNESCO has organized the first **Model UNESCO** that is an educational online event in which participants play the role of representatives of UNESCO Member States, simulating meetings that take place within the organization.

The theme of this event was “Inclusive and Equitable Education for All”. Students participating in this simulation are introduced to the work and purposes of UNESCO. They gain insight into international issues and how international politics work. The aim is to seek through negotiation, discussion, and debate solutions to various world problems: for example, human rights, economic development, environmental protection, disarmament, as well as more important issues such as war and peace.

We were so proud to be the only school representing Lebanon and having our delegate win “The Best Speaker Award” in the online conference that took place on 29-30 April 2022.



D. The Importance of Water Against COVID19, an online training for teachers that took place during August and September 2021, organized by the UNESCO Regional Office for Sciences in the Arab Countries, Cairo, within the framework of implementing the International Hydrological Program in the Arab Region and strengthening the fight against (COVID-19) by defining the value and role of water in that fight.



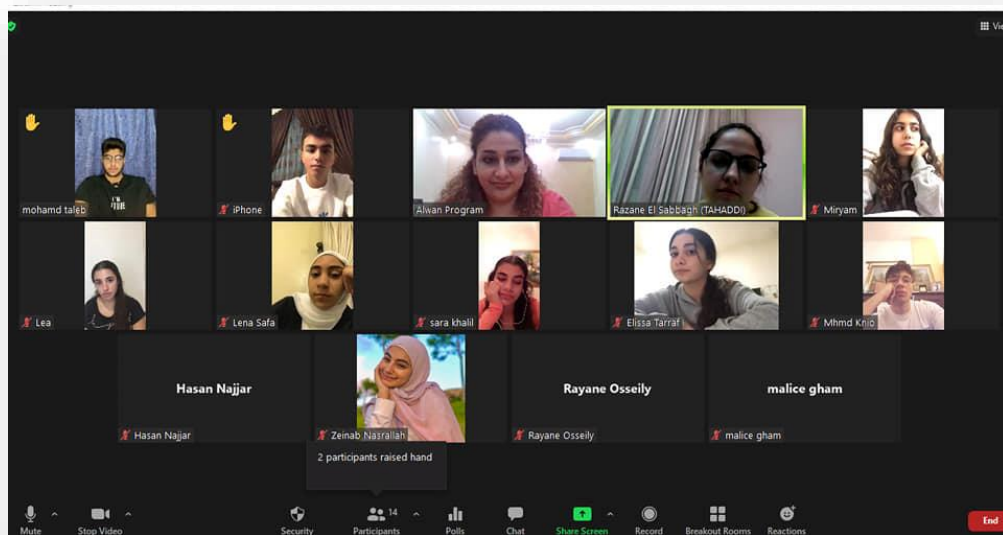
4- Teach Coexistence

A- ALWAN Program

Alwan is an extracurricular non-formal educational program aiming at the promotion of living together through active and inclusive citizenship by adopting a positive approach and discovering the richness of diversity, which is presented as a central component of the Lebanese society. It also aims at raising awareness amongst youth for them to commit together to a social cause that would strengthen their sense of national belonging.

Adyan, in partnership with public and private schools, is implementing this program of education on living together by focusing on its three main pillars: *religious diversity, partnership and community service*.

The program includes the establishment of school clubs for 10th and 11th grade students as well as training and capacity building sessions for educators so they are able to facilitate clubs and train students. Adyan seeks through this educational program to contribute to raising a new Lebanese generation that believes in Lebanon as a country of diversity and living together, a generation that is ready to serve and address community issues in a cross-sectarian and cross regional manner based on openness towards difference, partnership and strengthening social cohesion away from all forms of fanaticism, extremism and sectarianism.





Program's objectives

- To enhance the role of the school in education on living together in the framework of active and inclusive citizenship, throughout the implementation of community service projects in the context of cross-regional and inter-communal partnership.
- To develop the resilience of youth to face extremism and sectarianism through acknowledgement of the richness of cultural and religious diversity and enhancing their role in consolidating social cohesion and building peace.
- To raise awareness, especially among young people, on the importance of participation and commitment in public life in order to protect human dignity and achieve sustainable development without any form of discrimination

The past two years were marked with many challenges; however, we have succeeded in training students and prepare them to the community service project online, guided by Alwan program manager and the school advisor. “Together We Succeed” was our community service project in partnership with Moghaïzel Public Highschool for Girls- Ashrafieh





After graduating from the Alwan program, Adyan offers club members the opportunity to continue volunteering and being a living example of the program's values through the Adyan Youth network.

B- ALWAN Junior

Our school also has implemented Alwan Junior for education on religious diversity in the elementary classes. Alwan junior program's lessons axe around: The world's religions, nonviolent communication, solidarity and valuing diversity, aiming at:

- Enhancing skills to address differences positively between religions and beliefs by creating an intellectual space that allows students to discover objectively different religions as well as sectarian and cultural diversity within each religion.
- Acquiring skills that strengthen social cohesion by exploring similarities between religions through shared values especially public life values.
- Creating a shared space for students especially in mixed schools to discuss religious issues in order to overcome sectarianism and stereotypes about the other as well as to break the fear and feeling of disdain towards the other.



5- Red Cross Collaboration

The Lebanese Red Cross Youth Center has organized a long-term activity at Saint George schools aiming to raise awareness among youth on health issues. It has targeted students aged 15 to 16 years in Grades 10 and 11, both English and French sections. The members carried out awareness sessions that covered several issues related to the Youth and Health program during nine sessions. The students got introduced to the program and its topics along the way where they gained knowledge on self-esteem enhancement, effective communication, healthy relationships, and media and cyber bullying.

The sessions were very successful and fruitful. It was a one-of-a-kind experience where different ideas and opinions were shared between the volunteers and students in a very interactive way.



6- The World Education Week

For the second time, we are proud that our school was selected among 100 schools worldwide to showcase how we were able to overcome adversity during the pandemic in the World Education Week, organized by T4 Education and was held from 3rd -8th October 2021. “Nothing is Impossible” spotlights how we at Saint George were creative in solving problems that face us.

