



MAR QARDAKH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

MQIS- Where Students Get a World Class Education!

Parent Newsletter

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His Excellency Archbishop

BASHAR WARDA

Governor of the School

*An International Baccalaureate
School in the Heart of Ankawa-
Erbil, Kurdistan-IRAQ*

Volume 1

Dr. Frano Ivejaz, Editor & MYP Coordinator

Issue 1

Governor's Corner- Dear parents. As a result of three surveys we administered last academic year, we are taking measures to address the areas of concern: curriculum, more direct communication with parents, teachers and administration and hire international staff with good experience in helping us turn the school around. Be advised more homework will be assigned. In addition, in the next six months we will be addressing the following: improve reading and writing, address the needs of SEN students, provide a world class education according to IB standards and as a result with your assistance increase student enrollment at our school. In this first issue of the Parent Newsletter, you will meet the new international staff and your involvement during this process of transition is highly encouraged. As research shows, when parents, teachers and school administration work together, academic success is guaranteed for your child (ren). I encourage you to work with the staff. They are there to serve the educational needs of your most precious prize on this earth, your child (ren).

MYP Coordinator Corner- My name is Dr. Frano Ivejaz. I am an Albanian-American who grew up, went to school, and worked for many years in the education field with Chaldean-Americans in Michigan, particularly in the city of Detroit. I worked for 33 years as teacher, assistant principal, principal and two years prior to my retirement as assistant superintendent for Detroit Public Schools, where I oversaw 20 public schools and created the Department of Multilingual-Multicultural Education. Following my retirement in 2015, I worked in Malaysia to train school leaders to transform the public schools for to 21st Century Teaching and Learning. After this experience, I worked as a principal for one year at a Swedish School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For the past two years, I was the principal of a non-governmental school here in Kurdistan where during my tenure the school was ranked number one among 30 non-governmental schools, and was accredited by an American Accreditation Association enabling the school to establish a dual system-American and British. Considering my mission was accomplished at this school, I undertook the challenge of assisting Ms. Hala to turn MQIS around and make it a high achieving school as I write my book on my contribution to international education. I am passionate about education of the future of the world but it takes all of us working together to ensure a quality education for all students.



Introducing Fr. Milan Kakone who was ordained as a Catholic priest on January 9, 2021 by his excellency Archbishop Bashar Warda will continue to teach religion at MQIS starting in February. He received his BA in Philosophy and Theology from Babel College. His goal is to share the love of Jesus with students. Through teaching he has learned students have a hungry desire

for the Christian faith. Father Milan has participated in many courses including courses in English, safeguarding children, catechism and participated in conferences on human development.



Due to Covid 19-MQIS was closed until January 17th. The school was suppose to open on Sunday January 10th but the KMofE- Kurdistan Ministry of Education decided to keep schools closed. This did not prevent the the committed staff from meeting and preparing so we would be ready and prepared when the school opens. During the week of January 10th, teachers prepared their syllabuses, lesson plans, held in-service training and developed the teaching schedule either for face to face, online



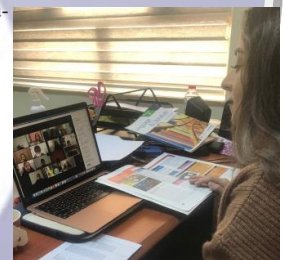
or hybrid. Consistent with KMofE, on January the 17th MYP students only were allowed to come to school for summative assessment preparation. Teachers and students were all happy to see each other. Students were excited to meet the new MYP Coordinator and several international teachers. On this issue you will meet all the new staff at MQIS. According to KMofE, students in PYP will continue receiving their education online until March 1, 2021. We are all waiting for KMofE to come out with an announcement to open schools before then! Hope to God soon our PYP students will be able to attend school and receive education face to face or hybrid. Young students need to be in school and this pandemic has become a burden on their parents who are required to supervise them during distance learning. We appreciate parents and students for adhering to safety guidelines when visiting the school and meeting with the teachers. *Parents, teachers and school administrators must work together to ensure student academic success.*

Principal's Corner- Greetings parents.

Happy, Healthy, Safe and Prosperous New Year. With passion I undertook the responsibility of running the school to make a difference for your children. I have an open door policy and I encourage you to meet with me at your convenience, call, email or text me at the number provided. I am here for your children. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, I am excited of working with you and the staff so your children receive a world class education either face to face, online or hybrid (some days at the school others at home via online). I have been at MQIS for the past four months and have been working diligently to get to know the school community. I am from San Diego, California. I am a Chaldean-American who emigrated to USA in 2014 and attended Franciscan University in the state of Ohio. I was summoned to come and run the school by his excellency Archbishop Bashar Warda. I took the challenge with a passion to make a difference for your children. We have a lot to accomplish but we could do it together. May God help us to accompany our children, so they grow in Grace and Wisdom.



Ms. Maryam Teaching her MYP1A class online bright and early on Thursday January 21st at 8:00am. Of 18 students, only two students did not participate. Following her lesson, Ms. Maryam contacted the family and learned one student had some internet issues and the other joined in but left early. Students receive their assignments through Managebac program which all students have access to it.



COVID 19- Mr. Najib & Mr. Abuziad checking student temperature upon arrival. All who enter MQIS compound, including students, parents and staff are required to wear masks, keep the distance, temperature checked, maintain a social distance and wash/disinfect hands regularly. Any student or staff member who has any symptoms are required to stay at home. Hopefully PYP students will be able to attend school soon either face to face or hybrid.

