



**Mission Statement**

**The Banjul American Embassy School is an international community providing a high quality, accredited American-Style education for students. In partnership with our community, we empower students to become enthusiastic, creative, lifelong learners who value integrity, cultural diversity and global responsibility.**

**Accreditation Visit:** The team arrives beginning Saturday am on Royal Air Moroc. I hope that many of you will be able to attend one or all of the times listed below to meet the team. Let's all welcome our visitors to the "Smiling Coast". If you have not checked out the BAES self-study please go to our website: "About BAES" and scroll to the section on accreditation. It is the self-study 2016.

At this time I would like to give a high five and positive postcard to all the teachers, support staff, board members, students and parents who have worked so hard to insure BAES is ready for this important visit. We began our work when I arrived last September in the middle of putting up the new primary wing and sent off the self-study the first of March. Since than we have been busy collating all our evidence to support what we said in our self-study. The team will now come in to see if we are, who we say we are. We are ready and looking forward to their arrival.

Once again I encourage you to help us welcome our visiting team from Middle States Association of School and Colleges. Help us show them what an amazing "Community of Learners" BAES is.

Date	Time	Reason
April 24 <sup>h</sup> ( Sunday) School Grounds	4:00-6:00	To meet the BAES BOARD, PARENTS, FACULTY. This is the team's first introduction to BAES. They will have a chance to tour the campus, be welcomed by the US Ambassador and have the opportunity to meet everyone for the first time.
April 26 <sup>th</sup> ( Wednesday) Library	10:00	PTO, Parents and Community Members. The team will be asking questions and learning more about the BAES Community of Learners.
April 28 <sup>th</sup> Library	3:30	The Team will give an overview of their report.

**The following is taken directly from the MSA website:**

**Involvement in an ongoing accreditation protocol recognizes achievement and fosters and facilitates ongoing school improvement.**

**Accreditation:**

- Provides a systematic process that requires a school to justify its existence, establish a vision of its future, and determine specific objectives to realize that vision.
- Reveals information that serves as a sound basis for school or district improvement, strategic planning, restructuring, and staff development.
- Takes a holistic approach, examining the entire school-philosophy and goals, its community, programs and services, facilities and financial stability.
- Provides the means to manage change through regular assessment, planning, implementation, and reassessment.
- Helps schools/districts establish priorities for improvement by using comprehensive, research-based needs assessments, rather than faddish approaches to improvement.
- Requires the establishment and implementation of a multi-year improvement plan based upon the school's vision of the future.
- Provides an excellent growth experience for staff, who participate on volunteer visiting teams to evaluate other schools.

**Accreditation provides a means for public accountability by:**

- Validating the integrity of a school's program and student transcripts.
- Assuring that the school's purposes are appropriate and accomplished through a viable educational program.
- Justifying the faith and resources others place in the school.

**Accreditation fosters stakeholder involvement and commitment by providing opportunities for greater involvement in charting the direction and future of the school. Accreditation offers a mechanism to involve constituent groups in creating a vision of the future, not just allowing it to happen.**

**Accreditation builds positive community and stakeholder relations by:**

- Providing opportunities to emphasize the positive and demonstrate the strength and effectiveness of the school.
- Broadening the staff view of community expectations and fostering closer school and community collaboration.
- Articulating and communicating opportunities between school levels and among stakeholder groups.

**AGM: The Date for the AGM is May 31<sup>st</sup>. We will have three openings for Board members not two. Please get your bios into me today ( April 22<sup>nd</sup>) so I can put them in the BUZZ on the 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**Protests in The Gambia:** From now until the election we may have protests and other issues. It is very important for BAES parents to know that I am in contact with the American Embassy, EU and other organizations when these situations arise. The school has protocols in place and we practice drills regularly to insure we all know what to do. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents:

- We will call you if there is a need to pick up your children. We do this based on the best information we can obtain.
- Should something erupt unexpectedly outside the school, or in front of the EU for example we will lock down. If the school locks down, we will call you and let you know we are locked down. Please do not come to school. When we lock down we do not open the gates for anyone until we have an "all clear". If we lock down it is not safe for you to be on the road. Please do not call the school, as we need to have all lines clear. We will contact you as soon as we know it is safe for you to pick up your children.
- I take my responsibility to keep students, teachers and anyone on the BAES campus safe very seriously. We will always put your child's/ren safety first.
- With our security upgrades last year we are now one of the more secure places in The Gambia. Once again I thank the US Embassy for ensuring BAES is a safe place "To Grow and Learn."

**PD Day: Please remember there is a PD Day May 3<sup>rd</sup>. School ends at noon not 12:15.**

**Writing Prompts:** The Final set of writing prompts will be given May9th-12<sup>th</sup>.

**MAP:** Map testing for students K-9 will begin May 16<sup>th</sup> and end May 24<sup>th</sup>. How can you help your child get ready for MAP. Please make sure your child has a good breakfast, gets plenty of sleep the night before and has a chance to get out and exercise when he/she gets home in the evening. MAP tests cannot be studied for. To find out more about these assessments that we give twice each year, please visit the parents' toolkit  
at:[https://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2014/07/ParentToolkit\\_0.pdf](https://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2014/07/ParentToolkit_0.pdf). P

**MS Jen:** Ms. Jen and her husband are expecting a baby. She will be leaving us on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in wishing her all the very best. We truly thank her for her service to BAES for the past two years.

## ❖ **What's happening at BAES next?**

❖ **April 23-30<sup>th</sup> , 2016** - MSA Visiting Team is here for the Team Visit

Have a great weekend, see you Sunday!

*Sharon*



**Lots Happening at BAES- Please put these dates on your calendar. Please note that a few days such as French Assembly and Math/Science day have changed since the original was made.**

### **Important Dates**

<b>April</b>	<b>What is happening at BAES?</b>
April 23-April 30 <sup>th</sup>	MSA Visiting Team is here for the Team Visit
<b>May</b>	<b>What is Happening at BAES?</b>
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	PD noon dismissal
May 1-20	MAP Testing
May 16 <sup>th</sup> —20 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	PE Assembly
May 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	Long Weekend May 25 <sup>th</sup> is Africa Liberation Day
May 30-June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Writing Prompts
<b>June</b>	<b>What is Happening at BAES?</b>
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Moving Up Day Grade 5
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Moving Up Project Presentations Grade 5
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Student-Led Conference Students come only when they have their conference with their parents/guardians
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Board meeting 2:00pm
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Field Day
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Graduation and Leaving Ceremony. <b>School Finishes for the year directly after the ceremony</b>
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>After Graduation and Leaving Ceremony Summer Holidays begin.</b>