

Virginia International Private School

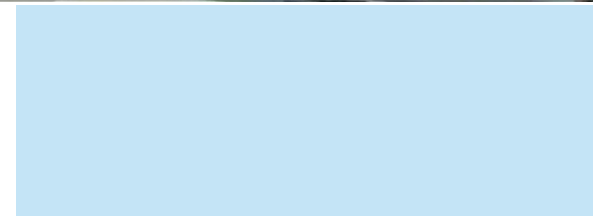
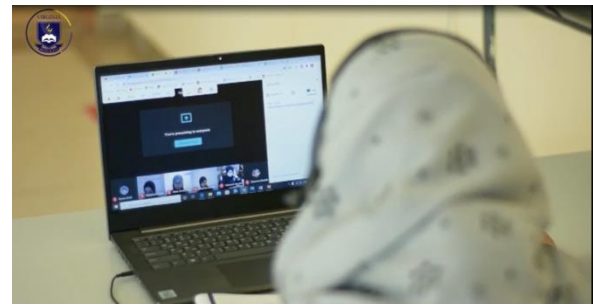


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Newsletter

Virision3 (May 2021)

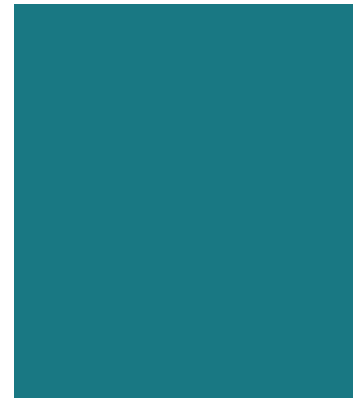


Eid Mubarak

May this Eid Al Fitr bring you and your loved ones peace, health, goodness, love and blessings from Allah.

We look forward to continuous happiness and success as we journey together.

Mr. Daniel Bokelman – Executive Principal



As students return to the third semester, we have adapted our academic schedule and timings in line with the holy month to give students and teachers the opportunity to live a spiritual and fragrant atmosphere, in line with the educational process plan.

Our students (FTF / DL) showed their enthusiasm and joy in entering the holy month and exchanged congratulations and blessings. The students also expressed their satisfaction with studying in the holy month.

New Building Opening

The opening of our Secondary Girls Building was another important milestone in the VIPS' school improvement journey

Offering 21st century teaching and learning spaces, the new building includes spacious classrooms, science and ICT labs, as well as Art and Design and Learning Hub spaces. The multipurpose gymnasium and indoor swimming pool will further provide high quality physical education opportunities for all of our learning community.

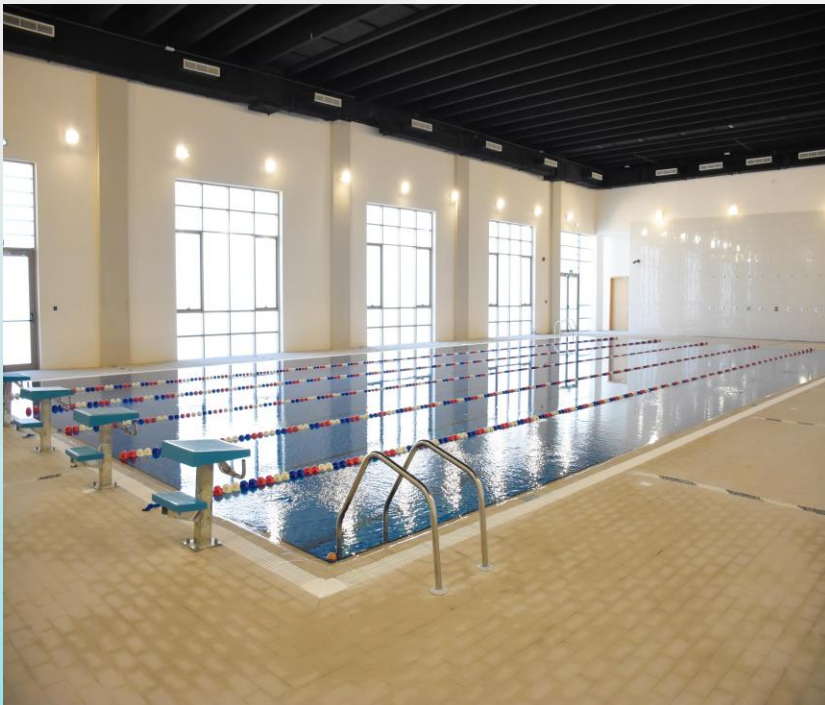
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New Building Opening

The opening of our Secondary Girls Building was another important milestone in the VIPS' school improvement journey



In addition to the full size playing court (volleyball, basketball, etc...) our multipurpose gym includes a fully equipped stage that will further enable VIPS to host student and community events to showcase our achievements.

The return to Face to Face (FTF) learning for the Secondary Girls in term 2 allowed us to share these state of the art facilities with our student body for the first time, and we are looking forward to a further return to FTF learning, whereby we will see the building used to its full potential

Mr. Ryan Sargeant – vice principal



Secondary Students Return to FTF Learning

We confess - we have missed you at our school premises !

Term 2 this year started with a glimmer of hope - the joy of having our Secondary students back in the classrooms in a face to face learning interaction.

The highest standards of health and safety, professional staff that takes care of everyone's wellbeing, and the luxury of our spacious, regularly sanitized classrooms, offers our students the experience of learning face to face, again.

We are excited, and the students joining the FTF learning groups share that enthusiasm with us:

" I love being at school, it just feels more natural, and I can focus better. At home I tend to get lazy and there are too many distractions" , Amr Abusin, Grade 9B1 student, admitted with a smile, in one of our English class discussions.

Well, we will keep you focused and joyfully engaged - with pleasure. Because our job is our mission, and we are devoted to completing our mission, successfully. While keeping you well and safe, and happy - because you are at school, with your teachers and peers, again.

For all details and necessary procedures to register for FTF learning, please contact us directly, and we will be happy to walk you through all the steps required. Welcome !

Ms.Jelena

Term 1 Honor Roll

Consistently celebrating students' achievement and success is of utmost importance for us, as we believe that rewarding students for their hard work, showing appreciation for what they do, motivates them further and challenges them to do even better.



We would like to thank our parents who participated in our virtual assemblies where we celebrated our students' Term 1 achievements.

In Kg, from a total number of 149 students, 49 were High honors and 77 were honors.

From grades 1 to 5, from a total number of 402 students, 185 were High honors and 83 were honors.

From grades 6 to 11, from a total number of 466 students, 96 High Honors and 135 Honors.

Ms.Reema Maher / Ms.Gloria D'Souza

Rize University Preparation and Career Guidance Program (UPCG)



Ms.Reema Maher

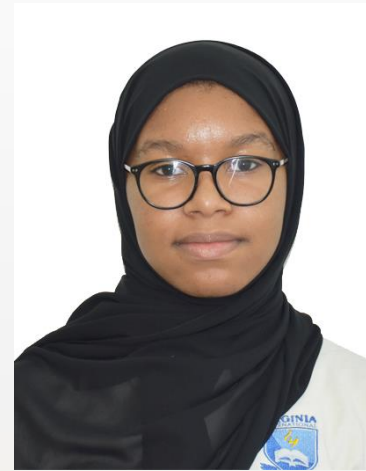
Grade 11 students had the opportunity to enroll into the Rize University Preparation and Career Guidance Program (UPCG) and the Rize Honors Program at the start of the year.

Both programs were set to help students enhance their academic skills needed for higher education and to explore their career and post-secondary Pathways. The program focuses on helping prepare students to apply to study locally at Abu Dhabi's top educational institutions as well as at international universities, in addition to developing a pipe-line of talent to pursue ADEK's study abroad scholarship opportunities. The programs help to create intelligent, conscientious, and thoughtful individuals eager to contribute to campus life, integrate into the university community, and return to the UAE as future leaders of the country.

Rize University Preparation and Career Guidance Program (UPCG)



A total of 3 students were able to engage in the UPCG Program successfully. These are: Mezna Almansoori ,Zayed Alkhoori ,Zayed Al Daheri.



UPCG Program -
Mezna Almansoori

Whereas, a total of 3 students were able to get into the Rize Honors Program and have started their online Program.

These are:

Mohamed Adel Al Hemeiri,

Aljazy Al Mahri,

Salama Al Humaidi



UPCG Program -
Zayed Alkhoori

Standardized Tests High Achievers - IBT and MAP



Ms.Reema / Ms.Gloria

At Virginia International School, our teachers hold quality assessments to measure students' progress. In addition, we continue to measure students' academic growth through the standardized tests, amidst the many challenges faced due to the pandemic.

Hearty congratulations to all our students for achieving great results.

Their hard work indeed paid off. We are extremely proud of our teachers' dedication and commitment in ensuring every student made notable progress.




Standardized Tests High Achievers - IBT and MAP



 80th Percentile  High Distinction Award

Language

Score: 230 880h percentile	Score: 228 80th percentile	Score: 228 80th percentile
		
Lubna Siddiqui Grade 9	Enea Bejleri Grade 8	Hisham Al Hamad Grade 8

Students from grades 3 to 9 had completed their MAP (Reading, Language, Math & Science) both remotely and from home for the Fall session.

Students from grades 5 to 9 had also completed their IBT (Arabic Language test) in Term 2 remotely from home.



The table shows the percentage of gifted students in IBT (Grades 5 to 9), MAP (Grade 3 to 9).

Total number	Grade	IBT	MAP
111	Grade 3	N/A	12.61%
87	Grade 4	N/A	3.45%
68	Grade 5	60%	6%
70	Grade 6	26%	7%
68	Grade 7	24%	4%
88	Grade 8	24%	8%
71	Grade 9	15%	3%
75	Grade 10	21%	N/A

Grade 11 Visual Arts Initiative Newsletter

This initiative will unleash your inner artist and make it visible to the world. As Barbara Januszkiewicz stated, “Be drawn to the visual arts for it can expand your imagination.”

Visual Arts is an elective class offered for secondary students. This initiative started in term 2 last year. We received spectacular work from our students which was then professionally framed and shared in our VIPS drive.

Overview: The Visual Arts elective is offered to students in 11th grade. After given a survey, I had 10 of the most talented students participate.

Our initial aim is to encourage our students to determine their own paths through the experience of directing their own learning. We aim to reach that by allowing our students to choose their own topics, materials, and ideas. Also, students should be in charge of monitoring their own classes the way they see fit, most likely focusing on how to unleash their capability of expressing themselves through art. In return, students revealing their artistic potential should feel good about themselves during this initiative as they will be leaving their own finger print on the work they present.

After declaring our visual art initiative, we were very impressed with their effort and talent. How does this initiative work?



Grade 11 Visual Arts Initiative Newsletter

Subject teachers motivate students by forming videos of different types of art. Art can vary from fine arts, sculpture, drawing, painting, photography, and printmaking. The students can pick from any type of art mentioned, depending on their desired preference.

One of my students, Salama Al Mazrouei (11G1) not only enjoys painting and drawing, but really enjoys writing as well. In her portfolio, she wrote the following: “This phase in my life was about me trying to express myself and let out all my thoughts and let them flourish as flowers. Therefore, helping me grow as a person and as a human being.” She is one the ten students which I’m really proud of.

Another student of mine, Hannah Serene (11G1) is a female version of Michael Angelo. Her drawings on a piece of paper really amused me. She draws using perfect body lines and shades, which you can clearly see in her sketches.

A part from being authentic in an old fashion way, I really admire the way one of my students, Abdulla Al Hammadi (11B1) uses technology to demonstrate and express art. He uses his camera or device to create art programs by photo shooting and playing with different color tones and shapes in a way that can really blow your mind.



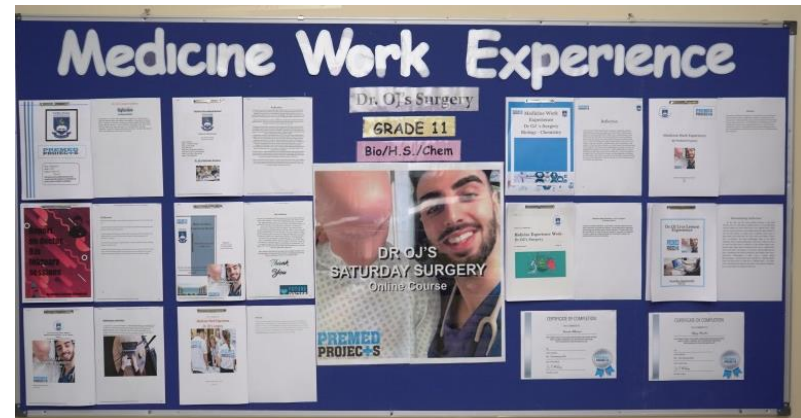
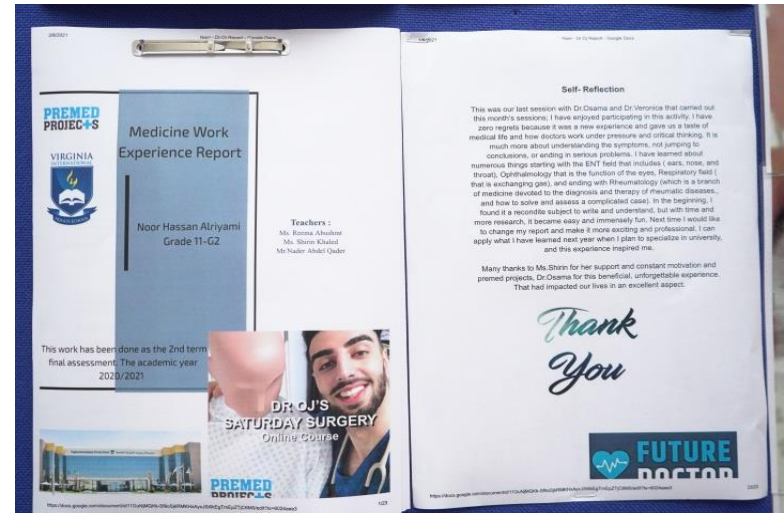
Ms.Farah / Ms.Heba

Dr. OJ's Initiative

VIPS gave the chance of Grade 11 Biology, Health Science & Chemistry students interested in work experience and considering careers in medicine and healthcare to participate in a work experience and learning course as their term two Innovation & Enterprise Project option for the subjects.

Students joined Dr. OJ's live, online session every Saturday in February as NHS Doctors guided our students through real-life patient cases from symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment - noon GMT (4:00 pm UAE time). They wrote reports describing their experiences during the four weeks and a reflection (written or video), explaining the program's importance and personal experience.

Our expert Biology, Health Science, and Chemistry teachers guided the participants throughout the process. NHS sent a fully personalized certificate to students who attended all of the sessions at the end of the course, detailing the work experience they achieved, certified for 10 hours of work experience, and signed by a practicing NHS doctor.



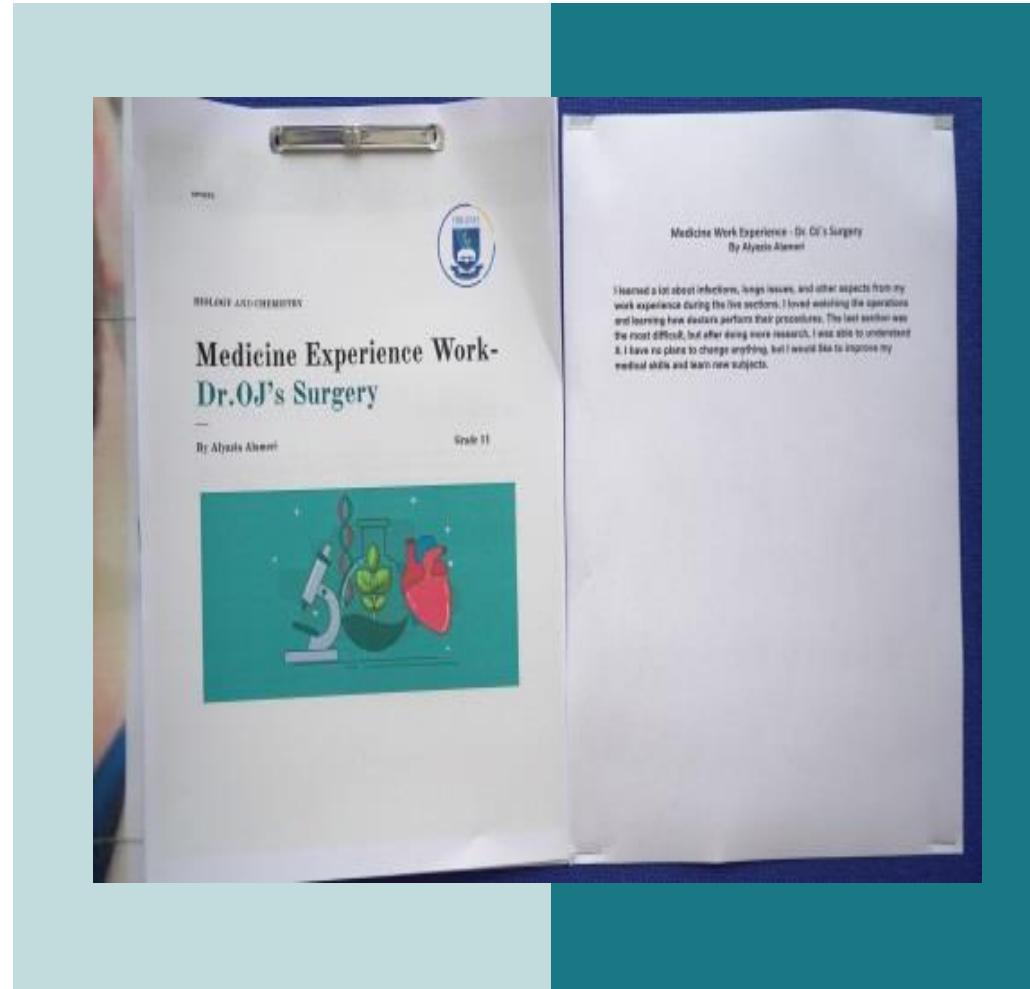
Dr. OJ's Initiative

Course (Live Sessions):

6th February 2021 - Ears, Nose, and Throat (ENT): ENT is one of the most intricate surgical specialties. In this case, students delved into the world of microscopic surgery and got some insight into an ENT life's surgeon.

13th February 2021 - Ophthalmology: Students` looked into the visual system's workings and how to diagnose and treat disorders of the eyes. They learned how Ophthalmology is a mixed specialty combining both medicine and surgery. They explored how a quick 30-minute operation can restore someone's vision.

20th February 2021 - Rheumatology: A patient complains of a strange rash and pain in her joints. Students learned how diseases could affect multiple organ systems and dive into the mysterious world of autoimmune conditions.



Dr. OJ's Initiative

27th February 2021 - Respiratory: A usually healthy patient arrives at the clinic with a persistent cough. They find out that he had recently been abroad. Students` followed the patient`s journey to investigate the symptoms further and determine the cause.

During the course, our students were excited to join the live sessions, engage in real-life experience, and be exposed to an international environment, looking at doctors` real work from inside a hospital. They received their certificates for their high commitment throughout the course.

Ms.Shireen

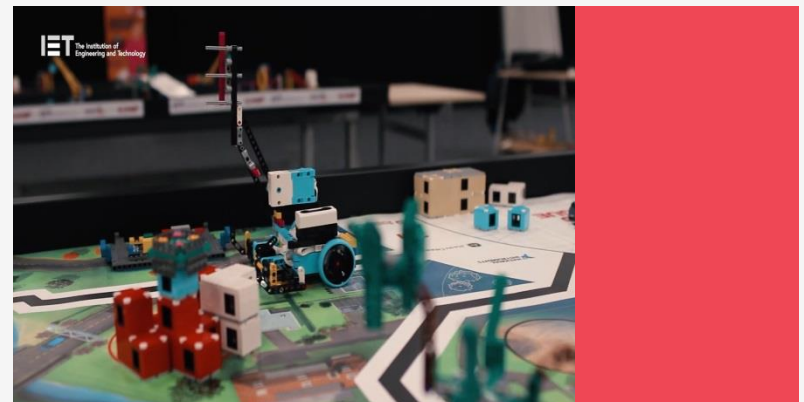
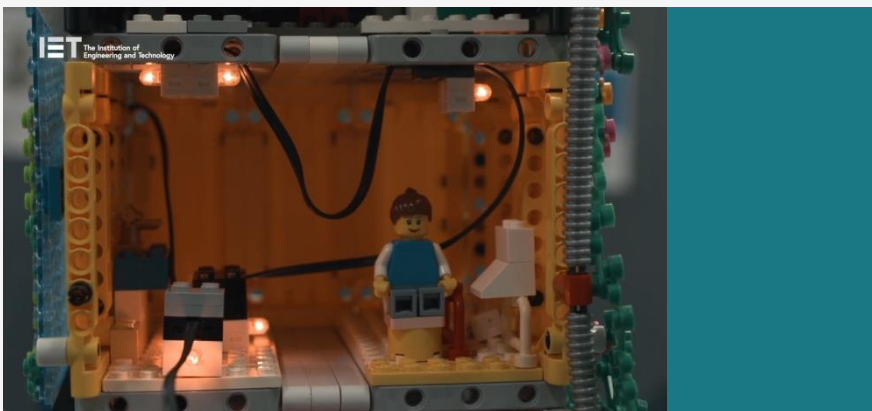


Lego Challenge

When creativity and playfulness come together with a dash of digital skills, what more excitement can students of age group from 4 to 16 ask for? That's just what *FIRST@LEGO®* League Challenge has in store.

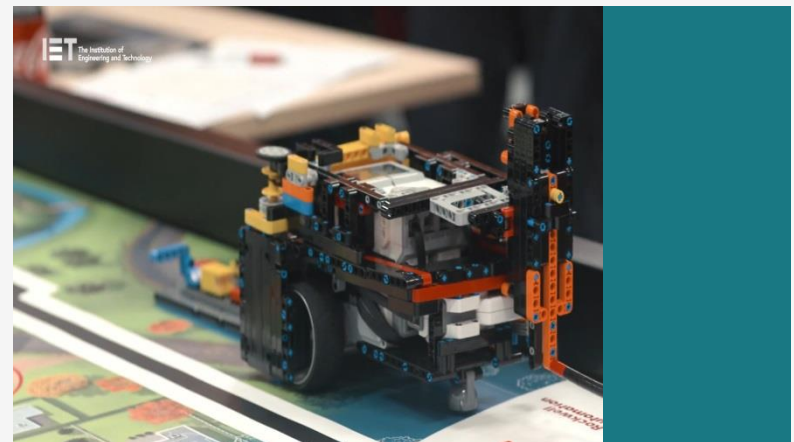
With the feasibility of such a global program being held in a class or even remote, there couldn't have been anything more practical even during these new normal times of the pandemic.

In Phase 1, *FIRST@LEGO®* League Challenge had an Innovation Project where students could work in groups of ten, putting their brains together to research on a real-world issue and come up with a solution and compile and present a 5 minute video.



Lego Challenge

The second phase of the Challenge is to create a Robot game where excitement and intellect takes a higher pitch. Students actually are expected to design, build and if that's not all, write programs too for an autonomous robot. And imagine this, all of this using a Lego kit. The *FIRST®LEGO®* League Team requests parents to motivate their children to participate in this. The team will support and guide the students all throughout the challenge and therefore, requests students to register for this amazing opportunity of creating a robot and making a 5 minute tell-tale video showcasing what their robot is actually capable of doing. Students will follow the Scientific inquiry & the Design process for completing their challenges.



ADNOC Stem Challenge

VIPS was proud to introduce ADNOC STEM Challenges for our future scientists, from grade 5-9, as a part of the school endeavors to nurture our students' curiosity and direct them to be continuous learners with the new norms; nowadays.



Challenges from quasars in outer space to the chemical reactions took place in the students' kitchens and so much more.

VIPS is proud of our students who received many certificates from ADNOC for their remarkable achievements.

Our students participated in the program that lining-up STEM Activities to keep them engaged during our Hybrid Learning Program. All challenges were completed at home with easily accessible materials, creating energy for curiosity that leads to innovation to shape the future!

The challenges had been guided and supported by a STEM professional educators team, allowing youth to be involved in STEM and ask powerful questions.





College Board Test Center

Virginia International Private School now an official SAT Testing Center!

VIPS is pleased to announce its affiliation with College Board, serving as a testing center for students wishing to complete SAT tests as part of the university entrance requirement (for US school). This achievement serves as further evidence of VIPS' commitment to high quality education and continued school improvement!

Please visit our website to watch the our first cohort of students completing the SAT test on 13 March, 2021

For student interested in completing the SAT Test in the future, please review the current testing schedule below:

- 28 August 2021
- 2 October 2021
- 4 December 2021

Students can register through the [College Board website](#). Please note that VIPS is registered as SAT Testing Center 52893, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Please contact [Ms.Reema Abushmt](#) (Assistant Head of Secondary) for more information.

Email: reema.abushmt@virginiaschool.ae

Phone: 02 555 4383 (ext. 131)

Professional Development - Google Level 1 etc.



Further demonstrating its commitment to providing high quality education in a 21st century setting, Virginia International Private School is proud to announce the successful completion of the Google Educator Level 1 certification for 100% of its teaching staff. Completed in both a collaborative and independent setting, VIPS teachers (K through 11) were able to demonstrate their levels of proficiency in using G-Suite for Education to affect, while also demonstrating high levels of understanding in relation to various aspects of digital education. As evidenced in both the Face to Face (FTF) and Distance Learning (DL) teaching and learning environments, VIPS teachers continue to develop and employ techniques and strategies to better support and drive meaningful student learning! Congratulations to VIPS teachers on a job well done! Thank you for further demonstrating your commitment to your profession and to the VIPS learning community.



NEASC - International School Accreditation



We are very proud to have welcomed NEASC evaluators to carry out the last stage of our accreditation process, an external review, last month (7-11 March 2021). NASEC is recognized globally, and in the UAE, as the standard of excellence for US curricular schools. NEASC Accreditation attests to a school's high quality and integrity. The NEASC accreditation process encourages school improvement through a process of continuous Self-Reflection and peer review. The award of NEASC accredited status indicates that the member school has achieved high standards of professional performance and is committed to continuing growth and development. We are very grateful and appreciative of our students, parents, staff and Board of Trustees who participated in this process - whether indirectly via your continuous feedback or directly in interviews.

Literacy Month

The 1st of March marked the beginning of Literacy Month in VIPS. Week one began with Reading Week. There was an air of excitement around the school as the students embarked on our first Reading Week in covid times. The week involved many days filled with fun, child-based learning activities centred around some of our favorite authors. The students got involved and dressed up as different characters or inline with different themes. The week ended with Sleep Day which we all know was enjoyed equally by staff and students as any PJ day is a good day!

As Literacy Month progressed, we had many other events running such as our Read Aloud sessions. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to read to the classes via video link. This was a real treat for the student to have their parents participate in their lessons. Not only were the students treated to having parents read aloud to them but also they also were delighted to have members of our Senior Leadership Team pop by their classroom, whether that be digital or physical, and read aloud to them. The sense of community around the school was at a high!



Literacy Month



Our Spelling Bee and our Be an Author contest went down a storm! It was so wonderful to see how hard all the students worked on learning off all the words for the spelling bee and on writing their stories for the contest. The corridors of our school are now adorned with all the students' amazing writing!

Personally, I feel our biggest success during Literacy Month was our Read-A-Thon. The elementary students read for 73,010 minutes over the course of the month! That's a whopping 1,217 hours! We more than doubled our time spent reading! What an achievement!



Thank you to all the students, parents, teachers and SLT who worked so hard over Literacy Month to make it a success! I am sure we are all already looking forward to next year!

Science investigations and experiments in the Elementary

Developing Scientific skills through investigations and experiments in Elementary:

Ms. Gloria

Our Grade 1 students are currently learning about Force, Motion and Energy. It has been amazing to see them experiment on these concepts using different objects. They are discovering if things roll, slide or bounce when they apply force.



Our Grade 3 students recently made volcanos using baking soda and vinegar to cause a reaction. The students were learning about extreme weather conditions and natural disasters.

Science investigations and experiments in the Elementary



‘Displacement and Density’ has been such an interesting topic for our Grade 4 students when they continue to learn about Force and Motion. Students now know that the objects which are dense have tightly packed microscopic particles and objects that are less dense have loosely packed particles.

Our Grade 5 students have observed and learnt about ‘chemical reactions’ when they worked in the Science Lab in the past weeks.



During the Arabic lessons some of our Elementary students have shown their ‘fashion designing’ skills using resources and things available around them. Our teachers are extremely proud of their creativity and innovation.

Character Days

Every year VIPS celebrates reading month in March. Different activities are set, since our initial aim is to encourage our students to read.

Book character day was one of the most awaited events. Everybody in the school was super excited. This year Students and staff were encouraged to dress up as their favorite book character. It was a wonderful opportunity to show their costume and favorite stories.

Ms.Rania

Each student took the chance to speak about their character. It was a blast! There was so much creativity and love of reading. Celebrating Character Book Day makes a huge difference to the students as it has the power to make them excited to read.

Thank you to all the students, parents, teachers and SLT who worked so hard over to make that day a great success.



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Shakhbout City_Abu Dhabi

Newsletter

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