

# NEWSLETTER

## SAGESSE HIGH SCHOOL



ISSUE NO 1 | 2019-2020AY



### SHS RECTOR FR. JOE DACCACHE, ED.D.

Fr. Doctor Joe Daccache has been appointed as Sagesse High School's new Rector, following Father Gabriel Tabet's 12-year tenure at SHS.

Fr. Daccache finished his studies in theology and psychology in Lebanon before moving to California - USA to complete his master's degree in Catholic School Leadership and Administration, and his doctorate in Educational Leadership for Social Justice at

Loyola Marymount University.

His dissertation is titled: Examining the Relationship between Educational Technology and Morality: A Case Study of an American Catholic Middle School.

During his stay in Simi Valley, Fr. Daccache served as Administrator of Saints Peter and Paul Maronite Church at the Maronite Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles.

### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

All articles included in this newsletter are available in details on our website [www.sagessehs.edu.lb](http://www.sagessehs.edu.lb) and our social media accounts.

### SHS STUDY CENTER

SHS proudly announces the opening of its afterschool study center, SSC, which caters for the needs of students starting grade 4 till secondary 3. For more info, please contact [ssc@sagessehs.edu.lb](mailto:ssc@sagessehs.edu.lb).

Seek Success Continuously!

### MORNING MASS

A Holy Mass is celebrated on Monday and Wednesday of every week, at 6:45 am, at the new "Mary Mother of Wisdom" Chapel (Block A).

## IN-SERVICE DAYS

The annual SHS in-service days were held on September 9 and 11, 2019. Faculty and staff members were offered the opportunity to discuss and share their input on the school policies and guides.

In his first speech addressed to the members of faculty and staff as Rector, Fr. Daccache revealed that his "mission is to be a Catholic leader before everything else." He renewed the commitment to providing a holistic education to every student as well as the aspiration in building the future of our Eparchy, the Archdiocese of Beirut, and our country Lebanon.

Fr. Daccache also discussed the importance of social justice in our Lebanese community in general, and our school community in particular, as it is important for our young students to believe that social justice values can be implemented in our daily lives.

Moreover, Fr. Daccache explained the meaning of leadership for him as servant leadership. He compared himself to "Simon of Cyrene who offered to help carry Jesus's cross during Passion and Jesus who does not need help accepted Simon's offer. I humbly offer to be your [SHS Community] Simon of Cyrene as I see Jesus in each and every one of you. I would like to be Simon with you when you are holding your cross during this year."



## SHS IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@Sagesse High School



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sagessehs

THEME OF THE YEAR

Announcing our theme for the 2019-2020 academic year: I ♥ Lebanon

This year, our Catholic Schools are celebrating the centenary of "Greater Lebanon," a state which asserted its position and identity on the international scene back in 1920 thanks to the efforts of the Venerable Patriarch Elias El Hoyek.

Our call this year is to grow together in Lebanon and its values and culture, build a society through education, develop a bond between generations, and embark on a journey towards peace in liberty, human fraternity, and humanistic solidarity.



PATRIOTISM REFLECTED IN ART

The Art Department allowed students from all divisions to celebrate pride in Lebanon by creating beautiful patriotic artworks.

In fact, students were given the chance to express themselves following the styles of "independent public art, post-graffiti, and neo-graffiti."

SECONDARY STUDENTS EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS

SHS has always respected the right of its students to express their views, all while balancing students' rights with the school's responsibility to ensure that children have a safe learning environment.

This morning, our secondary students chose to unite with students across Lebanon in pursuing a better future for our beloved country. Rector, Father Joe Daccache, members of the Parents' Association, and faculty members joined the students. The protest started with the Lebanese national anthem and ended with a prayer for Lebanon. Students expressed their fears, dreams, and hopes for a better tomorrow. Directions were given afterwards from the Rector along with some parents on how a true change can be achieved. Discussion circles were then formed and students shared their thoughts and points of view with others, before they were kindly invited to join their regular classes.



## INDEPENDENCE DAY 2019

Sagesse High School celebrated Lebanon's 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, the centennial declaration of The State of Greater Lebanon, as well as the declaration of Patriarch Elias Peter el Hoayek, the Father of Greater Lebanon, as Venerable.

### Preschool Division

Our young preschoolers enjoyed a fun and busy day as they celebrated Lebanon's 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. Nursery students created the Lebanese flag from labneh, tomatoes, and cucumber, KG1 students rolled out the dough and made delicious man'oushi, while KG2 students decorated crunchy cookies and enjoyed a sajj breakfast.

The young students also participated in an army training camp during which they completed a fun yet challenging obstacle course.

In addition to the traditional Lebanese lunch, our preschoolers performed rhythmic dances, designed their own flags, sang the national anthem, and ended their day with a prayer for Lebanon.



### Lower and Upper Elementary Divisions

Our Elementary students attended school on November 21, 2019, wearing the colors of the Lebanese flag as well as the traditional Lebanese costume.

During assemblies held for each grade, the students sang the Lebanese Anthem as well as patriotic songs. Also, different activities were organized such as making short presentations about Lebanon, and answering general information questions related to Lebanese history, geography, facts, etc.

## Intermediate and Secondary Divisions

The Intermediate and Secondary Divisions celebrated Independence Day at Msgr. Paul Matar Square.

### Exerpts from the Speech of Rector Father Joe Daccache

"[...] Patriarch Elias El Hoayek fought ardently for the independence of Lebanon. He played a key role, back in 1920, in the declaration of the state of Greater Lebanon, successfully breaking the shackles of the totalitarian rule of the Ottoman empire and breathing in the life-giving air of liberty. He was known as the man of sincerity, truthfulness, courage, perseverance, and patriotism. [...]"

These same virtues, which also characterized back in 1943 the men of independence, are much needed nowadays, seventy-six years after the independence of our beloved country, to bring forth an even "greater" Lebanon, free of corruption, poverty, intolerance, and ignorance. Those values are the ones that our SHS has pledged itself to; those are the values that have built our school community and those same values will make all of you leaders in building the new face of Lebanon. After all, the real heart of Lebanon depends upon the heart of its people. It is from that source that we must look for a genuine reform.

As I look at you today, I can assure you that I can see through your courage and bravery the past that led us to the independence, and through your faith and perseverance the future that will bring our best hopes and aspirations to fruition. Between the past and the future, our present requires from each of us a heart full of wisdom, respect and love, a heart that is truly sagessien, which exclaims with each beat : "I lebanon", "Je suis Liban", "أنا لبنان..."

نعم "أنا لبنان" هو شعارنا لهذه السنة. اخترناه عنواناً لمسيرتنا التربوية في هذا العام، إيماناً منا بأنّ التربية الحقيقية تتبع من وطنية ومواطنة فعليّتين. كما اخترنا هذا اليوم بالذات، الذي نحتفل فيه بذكرى استقلال لبنان، لنطلق هذا الشعار الذي يجعل كلا منا يتماهى مع وطنه فيدرك حق الإدراك معنى للاستقلال وصلته بالهوية الفردية والانتماء الجماعي؛

فمتى قلتُ أنا لبنان عنيثُ أن هويتي هي قبل كل شيء لبنانية وأنّ استقلال لبنان مرتبطٌ باستقلاليتي الشخصية عن كل تبعية سياسية أو أيولوجية .

ومتى قال كلُّ واحد منا أنا لبنان، نكون قد أكدنا انتماءنا لوطننا وأنا كلنا لبنان وللبنان ولكل لبنان. [...]

### Speech of Mr. Dany Soueidi, Head of Secondary Division L.P. and President of the Teachers' Association

منذ البَدْء أثبتَّ التاريخُ أنّ الإرادة اللبنانيّة التي تنبُع من الأرض والسما، وتُشعُّ من الحجر والشجر والماء، هي قوّة الأحرار، قلبانُ كانَ وما زالَ بلداً للحرية والاستقلال يرفضُ الخضوع وبلداً للتّقدم والانفتاح على العالم.

خلال العهد الفينيقيّ تميّز لبنانُ بنظامٍ ديمقراطيٍّ واستمر حتّى يومنا هذا على الرغم من الظروف القاسية التي عصفتْ به منذ العهد العثمانيّ والإنتداب الفرنسيّ والتي تجلّت بالنضال البطوليّ قبّات الموت من أجل لبنانٍ أيقونة في قلوب الرجال الرجال يتقدّمهم كبيرُ البطارقة المكرّم الياس الحويك الذي وقف بوجه جمال باشا وناضل لكي يكون لبنانُ كبيراً ليس بمساحته فحسب بل جامعاً شاملاً وحاضناً أبناءه تحت لواء الأرزة بخوراً على مذابح القديسين.

أيها الأحباء يا طلاب الحكمة، عليكم أن تفخروا بفخرٍ واعتزازٍ لأنّ مدرسة الحكمة أنجبت القادة والمفكرين أمسيحيين كانوا مسلمين منهم من كان شهيداً لإعادة الكرامة والشرف والعنفوان للإنسان، فأصبحت الحكمة منبعاً للرجال والنساء ومدرسة للحرية والمواطنة.

في الختام علينا أن نجدّد سوياً القسم تحت هذا العلم العظيم، إنّنا كلبنانيين واحتراماً لتاريخنا وجذورنا وأجدادنا ومبادئنا وقيمنا وإيماننا أن يكون شعارنا فقط لا غير:

كلنا للوطن للعلى للعلم.

عشتم أحراراً عاشت الحكمة أبيّة عاش لبنان نوراً لا يخبو والسلام.



**IN MEMORIAM**

Sagesse High School has lost two dear members of its family; Mrs. Aphrodite Rady Saliba, a beloved mentor and a passionate writer who passed away this October after a long battle with cancer, and Mr. Jean Pierre Assaf, a beautiful soul and a beloved colleague who will always be alive in our hearts and minds.

A good heart has stopped beating and a good soul rose to heaven, closer to God. We continue to pray for them.



**Sagesse High School – Mary Mother of Wisdom**

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