



TASOK TALK - OCTOBER 2022

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Message from the Director -A Big Thanks!

September was a month jam packed with opportunities to make new friends, showcase learning, sing-along on Friday's, and celebrate our community together.

A **BIG** thank you to all those that helped to make the 'PTC Welcome Picnic' and 4th Annual Dodgeball Tournament a huge success. What a wonderful way to start the year off together with food and friendly competition. Students played a big role this year, helping to organize games for our younger kids, face painting, and selling food and TASOK gear for the Student Store. This is an important part of the IB Diploma CAS component (Creativity, Activity, and Service), allowing our students to take ownership in creating and leading events for others in our community.

We are looking forward to all that October brings (Night Run, Congo Week, MSA visit, and the Fall play to name a few!) For a complete list of all upcoming and updated events & activities, please check out the TASOK Events Calendar on the website.



Yours in Education,

Dan Mullen - TASOK Director



Our Mission for Excellence: The American School of Kinshasa provides dynamic and individualized educational challenges and opportunities that promote diversity and empower each of its students to develop into independent global community leaders.

MEET OUR TASOK TEAM!

We dedicate this space to celebrating all the amazing people at TASOK, supporting the school and TASOK Mission, making TASOK a great place to live, work, and learn! Each month we will share information about our team, some of whom work behind the scenes. Make sure to say 'hi' next time you see them on campus, and a quick 'thanks' for all they do for our community!

Interview with: Henri Ndebani



TASOK Atelier Team



Interview with: Philo Diasonama



Teaching Assistant -Grade 5



What do you do at TASOK?
I am the Lead Gardener here at TASOK.

What do you do at TASOK? I am a grade 5 teaching assistant.

How long have you worked at TASOK? I started at TASOK in November 2009 which will be 13 years in November this year.

How long have you worked at TASOK?

I started at TASOK in 2016. I worked in grade three for seven school years, so even many of the secondary school students know me. The students from my first class are now in grade 10.

What province are you from/which Kinshasa commune do you live in?

I am originally from Kongo Central. I now live in the Ngaliema Commune, in Malueka suburb, avenue Budjala No 38. I married my wife, Bernadette in 1998. We have 6 children, 2 girls and 4 boys. What province are you from/which Kinshasa commune do you live in?

I am from Kongo Central. I now live in Kinshasa Limeté.

What do you appreciate about TASOK?

I appreciate the TASOK natural environment with all the trees and flowers and birds. I enjoy the refreshing smell of the soil and the forest.

What do you appreciate about TASOK?

I appreciate the community and diversity. I like how all members of the school community engage together to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the students.

What job accomplishment are you most proud of during your time at TASOK?

I am proud of being part of the 50 year anniversary celebration of TASOK where I worked together with Inge Sthreshley who was a former parent and board member at TASOK. We cleaned out the Upper Botanical Garden which had a lot of vines and the invasive air potatoes and replanted trees and various plants to make it a beautiful environment for students to experience and learn about nature. This included planting 50 trees on the TASOK campus. It was a community project involving past and present students, teachers, board members and the US Ambassador at the time.

What job accomplishment are you most proud of during your time at TASOK?

I am proud of all of the goals that students and teachers have achieved over the years with my support. For example, I assisted a student very closely and helped him with assigned work and tasks. I am proud that he not only advanced academically, but he also developed self-management skills.

What are you most proud of in the DRC?

I am proud of the culture. As Congolese, we have different cultures in different provinces. There are many different types of foods and musical traditions. We are one country with a lot of diversity.

What are you most proud of in the DRC?

I am proud of the diverse culture, mineral and natural wealth in the DRC including the mighty Congo River.

What do you do as a hobby?

My hobby is maybe a bit different as I enjoy spending time in the villages on the outskirts of Kinshasa observing the plants and trees with their many different flowers and colors. So even though my work here at TASOK is gardening, it's also my hobby when I am on vacation. This inspires me to be the gardening artist at TASOK.

What do you do as a hobby?

During my free time, I swim. I like swimming. I also do aerobic workouts and crossfit.

What do you appreciate in your current position?

I really enjoy being a creative artist using all the flowers and trees. This can be planting new flower beds and replacing trees to make flower arrangements for the TASOK Gala, TASOK graduation and Congo Week as well as the flower arrangements welcoming the new staff to their homes at TASOK.

What do you appreciate in your current position?

I appreciate working with different educators and learning more from them. Since I've been here, we have had three different principals, and each one brought different perspectives. Each year, I am learning more.

An IB Education: building a better world

Sarah Clover -Secondary Principal

I'm often asked why I choose to work in IB Schools. There are other programs that also provide challenging academics and solid university preparation. However, I believe that the real difference lies in a dedication to a much bigger picture, toward the development of young people who will make our world better. MYP Service as Action (SA) and DP Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) challenge students to become real change makers. With the support of Ms. Rachel Eells (CAS Coordinator) and Ms. Sanny Kerssemeeckers (SA Coordinator) TASOK students are making a difference. This month G11 students met with the director of Lycee Tobongisa to find out what needs they have. The students raised over 500 USD by making and selling baked goods in the Secondary School. They purchased school supplies and delivered them last Saturday morning. In reflecting on this, the students' main thoughts were, "we need to do more." Next month, the G10 students will be embarking on a similar project to support a local orphanage. We look forward to a year of students empowered to take action in our wider community.



Contact:





Email:















Transdisciplinary learning in the PYP

Vitna Bailey - PYP coordinator

We had our first ES parent workshop regarding transdisciplinary learning in the PYP on Sept. 23. We'd like to thank all the parents who joined us and for the amazing participation. Parents were able to experience and understand what it means to learn through the PYP transdisciplinary programme. Please keep your calendar open for the next parent workshop on Nov. 11. We look forward to having another fantastic parent workshop.









Save the Date!

November 11, 2022 8:00-8:45 am (Right after Music Friday) ES Parent Session: French in the PYP at TASOK









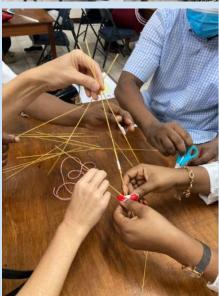
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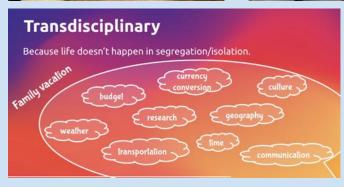












Change Math Numbers Pattern & Function Measurement Data Handling Shapes Language Pilots Character development Perspective Persuasion Character Description Desc

ATLs

Approaches to Learning

- Thinking skills
- Communication skills
- Social skills
- Research skills
- Self-Management skills

PYP

Transdisciplinary

Key elements are:

- Knowledge
- Conceptual understanding
- Skills
- Dispositions (Learner Profile)
- Action

66

The most important aspect of education is not the imparting of specific knowledge, but rather the learning of how to find knowledge when it is needed, how to assimilate that knowledge, how to integrate that knowledge, and how to synthesize new ideas and solve problems.

Ertas (2000)

MYP Coordinator Update

Kelley Marchant - MYP Coordinator

We can't believe it's already October and almost halfway through the first semester! This is the time we want to encourage students to make sure they're staying organized and keeping up on their work. Please support us by encouraging your student to use their MYP Planner to stay organized and keep up with what's due and when.

We've had some questions asked about **Get It Done**, our club that meets in the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays to help support students keeping up with their classwork and homework. Here are a few facts that might help you as a parent support your student:

GET IT DONE CLUB

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:25-4:25 Where: TASOK Secondary School Library

Who: * Students are assigned to GID by a teacher when they have not turned work in or turned in incomplete assignments

Who: *Students not assigned may also choose to attend if they are looking for a quiet & focused place to work on their homework

How: If your student is assigned by a teacher, parents will receive a "Behavior Note" through ManageBac notifying them of the Late/Missed classwork and the day your student is assigned.

How: If a student gets the work turned in to the assigning teacher early in the day they are assigned to GID, the teacher can excuse them. This does not apply











Website:

Contact:

if the work is turned in at the last minute or without time for the teacher to look it over and excuse them from GID. If this does not happen, they are expected to attend and work on other homework.

Why: In an MYP/DP Programme we work on Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills. This includes Self-Management and also Communication skills relevant to students being able to organize themselves to get work completed and communicating with teachers when they have late or missing work. GID helps students to build these skills in a supportive environment.

If you missed our August or September Parent Workshops: *Introduction to the MYP (Middle Years Program) & Assessment in the MYP/ManageBac for Parents*, please contact me at kmarchant@tasok.net and I'd be happy to pass along the information!

Diploma Programme Coordinator Update

Garrett Austin - DP Coordinator

May 2023 Examination Session Update

After two years of disruptions due to COVID, the IB plans for students completing the DP in May 2023 to undertake the full suite of assessments. That means a return to the published model for all subjects and components. However, the IB recognizes that students have been affected by the disruption of the pandemic, and this will be taken into account when determining grades for students.

A new feature of the DP exams in May 2023 will be the creation of three different exam zones for scheduling exams, with a common start and finish time for all schools in each zone. This is to ensure the academic integrity of the examinations and to preserve the recognition of IB qualifications. The IB is committed to ensure that students receive valid, recognized and meaningful results from the DP, and so is TASOK.

Our DP team is already in the thick of things preparing our students to complete the program next May. Extended essays are almost done, and most subjects are in the middle of working on their internal assessments. I've been working with students to begin the process of registering for their exams. It's an exciting, and stressful, time to be a grade 12 DP student, and we're all doing our best to finish strong.

To help support our students, the following schedules and calendars are available with details on the deadlines for assessment components and exam dates:

DP Assessment Schedule May 2023
DP Calendar at a Glance 2022-2023

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to email me (gaustin@tasok.net)

Sincerely, Garrett Austin DP Coordinator TASOK

TASOK ELEMENTARY STUDENT COUNCIL (ES StuCo)

Mike Bailey- Elementary Principal



ES is represented!

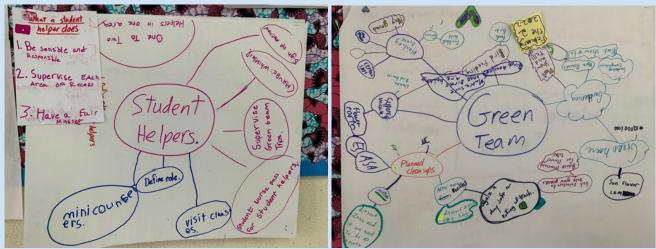
All of the classes, G1-5 have elected 3 members to serve from now until December. We started off our StuCo by identifying what is important to the students and what are the ways we can help our community.

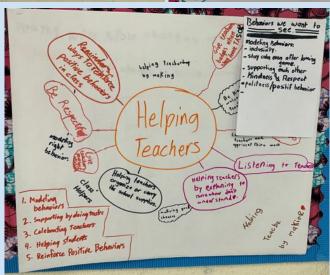




@TASOKinshasa

After some brainstorming and discussion, we decided that the whole StuCo will work together on celebrations and then we have two action groups focused on supporting our community members and one focusing on our school environment.





Collaboration with Secondary StuCo-

A priority our students identified this year is to have more interactions with our secondary friends. We are creating buddy grades for our elementary classes to have partners in secondary and Yannick from the SS StuCo came to our meeting to facilitate our collaboration for the upcoming Congo week (Oct. 17-21). Look forward to some great activities celebrating our host country after the break.

Secondary Student Council

Kelley Marchant - Advisor

Our 2022-23 TASOK Secondary Student Council

President: Aaniya Dhrolia

Vice Presidents: Joyce Kalamba & Aya Yahfoufi

Student Council is off to a great start this year and very busy planning events and activities for Congo Week (October 17-21) and the Halloween Festival, Friday, October 28th!

Congratulations to all the students who are representing each class and choosing to serve the TASOK Secondary Community this year!



Celebration of Learning: How We Express Ourselves

Blair Cochran - Gr. 4 Homeroom

Grade 4 students capped off six weeks of inquiry into culture and media by teaching parents and students about their research into different digital platforms and issues in the media. Student teams chose topics as varied as responsible use of Google docs and email (this is their first year with TASOK email access!); different perspectives on Roblox, Tiktok and Instagram; and sexism and ableism in the media. Ms. Kezia, Ms. Abigail, Ms. Hall, Ms. TaShawndra and Ms. Meritaton made deep connections between their areas of expertise and our unit, and we were able to share work from art, music, and French classes too!





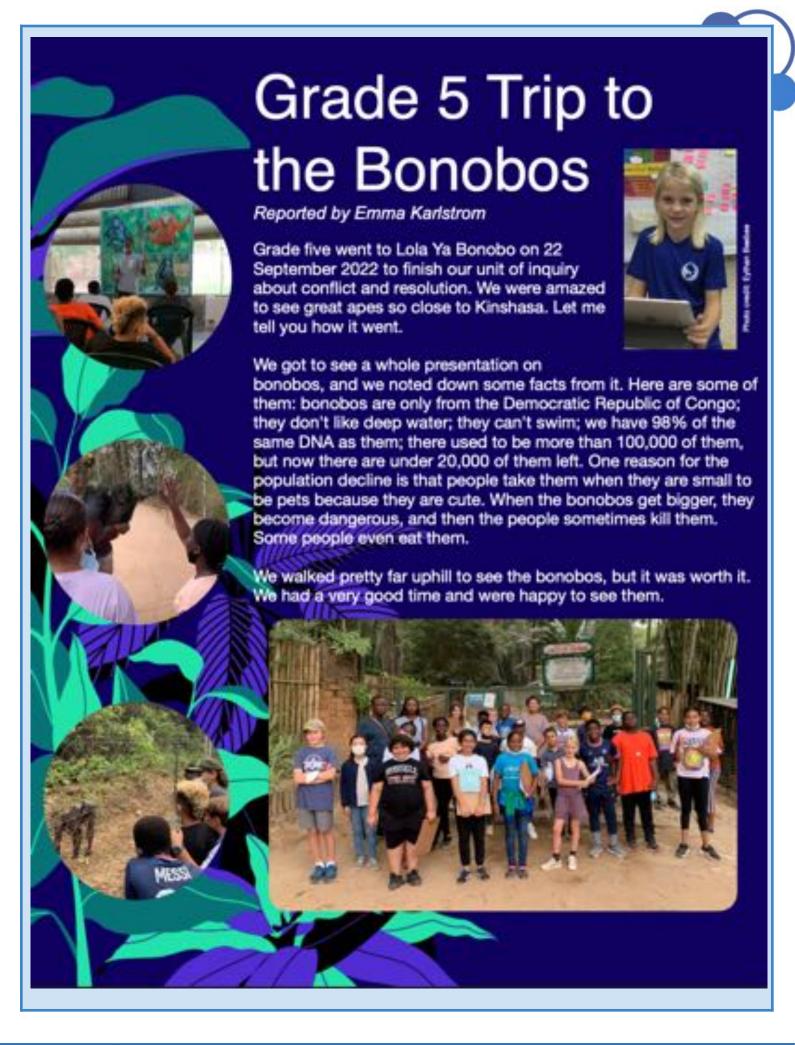


















+243 818 846 619

Website:

The TASOK Green Team Needs Your Help!

Phil Marchant - IB Biology



Please join the **Green Team** in assisting to keep

TASOK beautiful & free of trash!

Last year, the students of the **Green Team** ASA collected over 60 kg of trash on TASOK's amazing campus! That's way too much! We need everyone to do their part and be responsible. Thank you!

Our ASA started **September 19th** This year we look forward to taking our passion outside the TASOK Walls!

Thanks Green Team!!!



For your questions, any suggestions, solutions, interested in volunteering, or concerns . . . please contact Phil Marchant, Green Team ASA Supervisor – pmarchant@tasok.net

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2022-2023

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (K - Gr. 12):

Gilbert Kaburu & Stefan Bergh

Elementary ASA

The Elementary School ASAs have gotten off to a great start. We have over 110 students taking part in dance, board games, vocal pop music, football, basketball, jewelry, ultimate frisbee, science experiments, ceramics and photography, among others. The turnout has been fantastic, and the enthusiasm among leaders and students has been excellent.



We encourage our students to follow the safety guidelines and our parents to ensure that the pick up is done on time. Please be sure to provide your children with an afterschool snack and a big water bottle.







Secondary ASA

Secondary students have been excited to return to a full schedule of activities as is evident by the number of students participating in ASAs. With such an array of activities and clubs on offer (chess club, soccer/football, weight training, art studio, green team ...), students have been able to find things that interest them and meet other like-minded students. It is great to see so many students at 3:20, rushing off to their acitivity or club with such excitement and enthusiasm.

PLEASE REMEMBER THERE ARE NO ASAs THE WEEK RETURNING FROM OCTOBER BREAK (Oct. 17-21)

ATHLETICS (Gr. 6-12):

Stefan Bergh

The Fall sports season has started off well with a record number of students coming out for all the teams. Student-athletes have been showing their commitment and dedication as they are practicing hard and

getting ready for their upcoming competitions. The Boys and Girls Volleyball teams are looking forward to some friendly games before their end-of-season tournament and the Cross-Country team will have stiff competition at our Cross-Country race as it is a highlight event with many local schools participating.

Come out and cheer-on the Condors:

Girls vs. College Don Bosco - Monday, October 3

Boys vs. C.S. Okapi - Tuesday, October 4

Girls vs. C.S. Okapi - Monday, October 24

Boys vs. College Don Bosco - Tuesday, October 25

Volleyball Tournament - Saturday, October 29

Cross-Country Race - Friday, November 11

GO CONDORS GO!!

PLAY PRODUCTIONS (Gr. 6-12):

Kelley Marchant

Join us for our Fall Play Production: An incomprehensible event: every person in the audience of a high school play falls unconscious--every person but one. Using interviews with witnesses, loved ones, first responders, and the investigators pursuing the case, a theatre ensemble brings the story of the strange event to life, documentary-style. Tickets will be \$10 in advance (on sale October 17th through the cashier's office) and \$15 at the door.

For tickets in Advance: <u>Don't Tell The Secret Ticket Order</u>

<u>Form</u>



















Website:

Dodgeball Tournament 2022-2023

Stefan Bergh

The beloved Dodgeball tournament held its 4th edition on Saturday, September 24 in collaboration with the PTC picnic. As usual, many TASOK students and parents participated in the annual event. With divisions of K-Gr. 2, Gr. 3-5, Gr. 6-8, and Gr. 9- parents, lines were drawn in the sand and reputations were on the line to see who would be the respective champions of 2022-2023. Although the teams were competitive, an atmosphere of fun and festivity surrounded the event, as everyone enjoyed themselves and left with a smile. Congratulations to the winners and participants, the event was a great way to start the year!







YEARBOOKS COVER ART CONTEST!

Announcing the TASOK YEARBOOK COVER ART CONTEST 2022-2023

THE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE INVITES ALL STUDENTS TO SUBMIT ARTWORK FOR THE FRONT AND BACK COVER OF OUR 2022-2023 YEARBOOK!

Contest Rules:

- Digital or PDF versions be submitted by EMAIL by Friday, December 30th at Midnight
- --- Must be emailed to BOTH Mrs. Dago AND Ms. Hall
- -Mrs. Dago: adago@tasok.net
- -Ms. Hall: khall@tasok.net
- Non-Digital versions (Handdrawn, Painted, etc.) must be submitted by Wednesday, December 14th at Noon.
- —Bring Secondary artwork to Mrs. Dago in MS6 or Elementary artwork to Ms. Hall in HS8.
- 3. Artwork must be the size of A4 paper
- --A4 = 8 1/2 X 11 3/4 INCHES, or 210 X 297 mm, or 21.0 X 29.7 cm
- 5. Must include both a FRONT cover art and BACK cover art
- Must not include plagariazed or stolen images from the internet. All images must be purchased legally from a site like Canva, OR you may use royalty-free images from websites such as Pixabay or Unsplash.

Need some inspiration as you create your design? Ask yourself:

- -What do you love about TASOK?
- -What TASOK Core Value do you like best? (EXCELLENCE - INTEGRITY - INCLUSION)
- -What represents us as a community?
- -What makes TASOK unique?
- -What will you always remember about TASOK?

Keep in mind that it should reflect TASOK's culture, heritage, and people!

LET YOUR IMAGINATION SOAR!

If you want more information or have any questions, please contact Mrs. Dago or Ms. Hall



Get last year's 21/22 '**Special Edition**' in the Cashier's Office - now only \$30

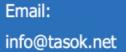
You can also purchase the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 editions for \$20 each!













Website:

COLLEGE CORNER – Preparing our Class of 2023!

Julie Mullen – College Counselor

The 2022-2023 International SAT Dates are HERE!

TASOK is the only SAT (*Scholastic Aptitude Test*) center for students in the DRC. As such, we see students from all over Kinshasa (and sometimes other parts of Africa), join us for the SAT. This optional test is typically taken by students that may be looking for university options in

the United States.

For more information about dates, how to register, and requirements prior to the test, please visit the College Board website at:

COLLEGE BOARD SAT REGISTRATION LINK

What's Next?

The grade 12's are starting to plan life after TASOK!

2022-23 School Year Test Dates

SAT Test Date*	Deadline for Registration Changes, and Regular Cancellation
Aug 27, 2022 Oct 1, 2022	Jul 29, 2022 Sep 2 2022
Mar 11, 2023 (<u>Digital</u>)** May 6, 2023 (<u>Digital</u>)**	Feb 24, 2023 Apr 21, 2023

*Your registration options will be limited if you aren't <u>taking the SAT for one of its main</u> purposes.

**Students taking the digital SAT who need to borrow a device from College Board will need to register and request their device earlier than the registration deadline, to allow time for international shipping.

Grade 11's & 12's:

Please continue to have great discussions with your parents and share information about your Bridge-U planning and resources with your parents. The summer months are a great time to narrow down some criteria that will play a role in your decisions next year.

INTERNATIONAL NOV 23 SSOS YAC

LET'S MAKE THIS ONE THE BEST ONE YET!!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking within our diverse community for cultural-based performances for the Grand Finale!

Interested?? Contact

Ms. Hall

(khall@tasok.net)

AND

Mr. MA

(mjones@tasok.net)







Contact:

+243 818 846 619







October 28th Night Run Family Event

NIGHT RUN REGISTRATION FORM



TASOK Canteen Services 2022/23!

EkonzoFoods

Off to a great start with our cafeteria services in both elementary & secondary! We have an average of 80-90 students and staff using new canteen services each day, using EkonzoFood's online ordering system.



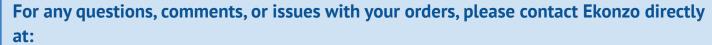
- **REGISTRATION** on the website www.ekonzomiz.com
- **LOGIN** to your family space:
- **ADD** your child(ren) to the Canteen:
- **ADD MONEY** to your E-Wallet with the available payment gateways (VISA, MasterCard, Mpesa, Orange Money, Airtel Money). No cash payment is allowed.
- PLACE your weekly order for each member of your family registered in the canteen



DAY-TO-DAY ORDER. Orders are placed at least the day before no later than 1:59 p.m. for the following day. From 2:00 p.m. the following day becomes unavailable for orders.







orders@ekonzomiz.com or +243 851 315 465







The PTC Place

A Big Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the PTC Welcome Picnic on September 24 a success! We had a great turn out and our volunteer parents and students sold all the generously-donated and delicious baked goods. The ice cream and TASOK Canteen were also very popular! This event helped the PTC generate funds in order to support future activities.

What's Next?

The PTC will be decorating for the Halloween/Costume Parade at the end of October and will be soliciting candy donations to hand out to the students. They love wearing their costumes to school and walking around to look at the decorations. Please consider volunteering to help us make this day "Spooktacular"!

Please Join Us!

The PTC has two positions that are still vacant for this school year. Please consider joining us as our Vice Chair or Treasurer. No experience required, just enthusiasm! Email us at ptctasok@gmail.com if you are interested.

If we work together our TASOK community can soar! Go Condors!

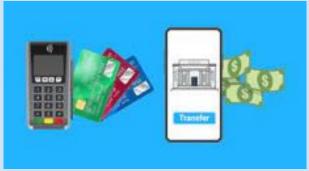
Business Office Info

Kareen Laplanche - Finance & Operations Manager

Take advantage of our multiple Payment Options

TASOK offers families and companies the convenience of making tuition payments as we miscellaneous purchases/bill settlements online.

We partner with Diamond Mind/Community Brands, an independent school payment service provider. All payment information is completely secure using the highest security standards in the industry.



WEBSITE OPTION

Go to the school website's "Payment Portal" link, or enter it directly clicking here: PAYMENT PORTAL

- Sign-up to set up an online account;
- Enter student first name, last name and ID with payment information; the student ID # is on the invoice;

- Submit payment. Payment acceptance methods and any fees associated with an electronic payment are outlined in the payment portal.
- You can find common answers to online tuition payment questions at http://diamondmindinc.com/parentFAO/.

MOBILE OPTION

You can also pay using our mobile payment app: MvSchoolWallet©

Signing into the MySchoolWallet App for the first time?

- Go to the App Store on your phone.
- Search for MySchoolWallet and install.
- Complete your profile and select The American School of Kinshasa as your school and hit
- You will see various events and departments, listed as payment types. Select one of the payment types and follow the onscreen directions. Be sure to complete the student's name and fill out the NOTE with what the payment is for (for example, Tuition or Student Store, **Student Play**, **Night Run**, etc...)
- Please check the box "I would like to absorb processing costs so that the school receives my whole payment." Each transaction incurs a processing cost from the bank.
- Once your transaction has gone through, you will receive an email confirmation and receipt.

Note that payments can be made via credit card (worldwide), debit card or echeck (for US accounts only). For online payments, receipts are automatically generated after each transaction.

Note TASOK systems do not accept payments for the canteen orders. All <u>must</u> use the EKONZOFOOD platform to replenish their account and order lunch. See the details posted on our website.

BANKING OPTION

- Direct deposits (cash or check) at bank counters into TASOK's account are accepted.
- Wire or ACH transfers are accepted.
- Online banking from your bank DRC or US bank to ours is possible. Check with your institution for options available to you.
- Most US transfer options work: wire, ACH, e-check, BillPay, Zelle, etc... These options are only available for US transactions, not international.
- Once the transaction is complete, send the confirmation to us.

ON CAMPUS OPTION

- TASOK Cashier Office accepts cash up to 1,000 USD.
- TASOK Cashier Office accepts debit and credit cards for payments via POS. Both ATM & POS accept VISA ® & Mastercard ®.
- TASOK Cashier Office accepts paper checks issued to The American School of Kinshasa. Checks from a local DRC or US bank are accepted.











Contact:

Email: info@tasok.net



Help is available at the office to help you navigate the TASOK website and experiment with the tuition portal or the mobile app! If you need copies of invoices/agreements or would like a receipt for your payment(s), please email accounts@tasok.net.



Stay informed

Visit the Business Office page <u>link</u> for details on Tuition Rates, Payment Plans and Educational Loans at Local Banks.

For questions/comments, contact us at business@tasok.net | +(243) 81-880-1330 |

The TASOK Board Corner

Thank you to the Association for your active participation in the Fall AGM Board election.

Please join us in welcoming Claude Chofi, newly elected TASOK Board Secretary.



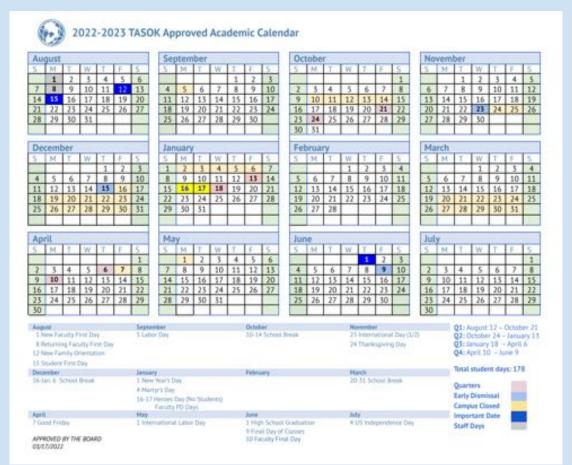
Nurse's Station Cell +243 817 252 011

Nathalie Katalayi – TASOK Nurse: <u>nurse@tasok.net</u>
At TASOK, we continue to reinforce healthy practices.

Make sure to let the nurse know as your child has an allergy or a chronic medical condition that required to take medicine daily at school.

Should you child be sick or absent for any reason, please share the information via: attendance@tasok.net

The 2022/23 Academic Calendar is Here! Also found on our TASOK website <u>LINK!</u>



TASOK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS ALSO FOUND AT:

https://tasok.net/events-calendar/

Upcoming Events:

- Oct. 1 AGM
- Oct. 5 Grade 12 Mock VA Exhibit
- Oct. 10-14 School Break
- Oct. 17-21 Congo Week

- Oct. 24-28 MSA Visit
- Oct. 28 Halloween Carnival & Night Run
- Oct. 29 Volleyball Tournament
- Oct. 31 Nov. 4 School Photos

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela



