



The American School of Kinshasa TASOK TALK – SEPTEMBER 2023

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Student Store - TASOK Gear!

FIRST MUSIC FRIDAY FOR 2023!



Message from the Director - *Community Building*

The start of the 2023/24 school year brings great opportunities to make new friends, new relationships, and come together as a true 'TASOK Community'. Our TASOK staff are energized and excited to share wonderful learning experiences with our new and returning families and we will continue to look for these opportunities to engage the entire TASOK Family this year!

Thank you to all the new and returning families that joined us for 'New Family Orientation', 'Meet The Principals Coffee/Tea', 'First Friday Music of 2023', and the last two nights for 'ES Back-2-School Night' and 'SS Back-2-School Night'.

With an action-packed year full of planned activities, sports, parent sessions, and community events, please check the 'TASOK Events Calendar' regularly up to date info. Thank you for your partnership in making 2023/2024 a fabulous year!

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: **Kevine KATENDA**
TASOK Receptionist



Interview with: **Maxime Libya**
Elementary French Teacher



What do you do at TASOK?
I am a receptionist

What do you do at TASOK?
I am an Elementary French teacher.

How long have you worked at TASOK?
I have been working for like One week and 3 days

How long have you worked at TASOK?
I have been working at Tasok for two weeks.

What province are you from/which Kinshasa commune do you live in?
I am from Kinshasa, and I live in Lemba currently

What province are you from/which Kinshasa commune do you live in?
I am from Kinshasa, and I live in Mont-Ngafula.

What do you appreciate about TASOK?
The things I appreciate about Tasok are : the way things are well organized in the School management, the good work atmosphere with coworkers, and the appropriate workspace for each employee.

What do you appreciate about TASOK?
The thing I appreciate about Tasok is the international mindedness of teachers as well as their hard working attitude.

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

- I am proud of receiving calls, mails from third party (Parents) and providing right informations to them at the right time or redirect them the right person
- I am proud of receiving documents (Invoices, letters...) and redirect them to the person in charge (Most often to The Finance Manager)
- I am proud of assisting parents when their drivers delay to pick their kids up from the School
- I am proud of giving access to the people authorized to enter the campus

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

- I am most proud of working hand in hand with my coworkers.
- I am most proud of using technology in my teaching.
- I am most proud of collaborating positively with my superiors.

What are you most proud of in the DRC?
I am most proud of its natural resources

What are you most proud of in the DRC?
I am most proud of the hospitality of its people.

What do you do as a hobby?
In my spare time, I like Reading books, listening to music

What do you do as a hobby?
I like to read books and listen to music.

or exercising

What do you appreciate in your current position?
What I really appreciate about my current position is the right collaboration between coworkers (Business office members, teachers, principals, and security guards), they provide me with the right information when needed.

What do you appreciate in your current position?
What I really appreciate about my current position is the opportunity of working as a team and having professional developments for my professional growth.

New Beginnings

Sarah Clover - Secondary Principal

This year we are fortunate to welcome over 40 new students and 9 new teachers into TASOK Secondary. This brings exciting new beginnings for both new and returning members of our community. We have renewed our dedication to Social Emotional Learning through our Advisory Program. During the first week, much of the focus was on getting to know each other through games, activities and play. This helps to build the strong connections needed to support the growth of every student in their academics, service and personal development. We plan to build on this through the year taking time to make connections, work together and celebrate each other. Here were students in their first 40 minute Advisory sessions.





TASOK PERFORMING ARTS 2023-24

Kelley Marchant, Director

We have a CAST for our Fall Production! The cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* met for the first time on Monday, August 28th. We have a talented group of **30** very excited 4th-12th grade cast members who will be working hard over the next two months to put the show together. **SAVE THE DATE (November 2,3,4 - 7:00pm)** and watch for more information in the October TASOK Talk!



Kicking Off the DP!

Chris Clover, DP Coordinator, TOK, IBDP History

DP students and teachers spent a day together, welcoming our eight new 11th-grade students, building relationships, sharing experiences, and asking questions. Students learned about the programme, what the DP student experience is like, and how to start the year running with tips and strategies for success. We all had a great time, and our grade 11 and 12 students are excited to be back at TASOK learning together. Many thanks to Rachel Eells, Andreas Tabu Muntu, our grade 12 students and everyone that supported us.

Website:

www.tasok.net



Contact:

+243 818 846 619



Email:

info@tasok.net



Twitter

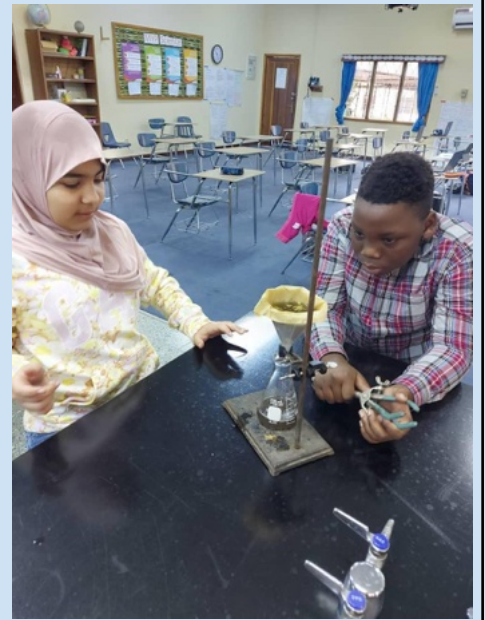
@TASOKinshasa



Chemistry at TASOK

Things are heating up in the lab. We are pleased to have a return of DP Chemistry at TASOK for G11 students this year. This week we saw students engaged in Chemistry labs in both the Year 1 DP class and with Grade 6 & 8 MYP Science.





Secondary Student Council

Kelley Marchant, Advisor

We are excited about the 28 members of our 2023-24 Secondary Student Council. This year our Council will be led by an Executive Council made up of six leaders from our 9th & 10th grade classes. Our first meeting was Thursday, August 31st and we began brainstorming ways to serve TASOK in the upcoming year and started preliminary plans for Congo Week coming at the end of September!



**This year's Secondary Student Council will be led by our
Executive Council:**



From left to right: Janice Quarshie, Furaha Mwamba, Elise Wisch, Lina Dieng, Evie Clover, Lea Tarhini, Alisha Leaity





**SAVE
THE
DATE
TASOK**

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 9
10AM-2PM**



**WELCOME
PICNIC**

Come and enjoy jumping castles - pony rides
shawarma stand - icecream and lots of goodies and activities.

Please purchase your coupons on arrival

Elementary Student Council-

Mike Bailey- ES Principal

This year, ES StuCo will be led by Ms. Abigail, Mr. Davon, and Mr. Mike. We will continue to have 3 student action groups over the course of the school year. Each term, we will have three students join us from each grade for Grades 1-5. They will decide which issues are important to them at school and then make action plans to create change. We are looking forward to seeing what actions they come up with.

Our Student Council terms this year will be...

September 9 - November 17 (10 weeks)

December 1- March 1 (10 weeks)

March 8- May 31 (10 Weeks)



Picture of Last Year's ES StuCo

MYP CORNER

Kelley Marchant, MYP Coordinator

It's been exciting to welcome over 20 new students in Grades 6-10 for the 2023-24 school year! With so many new families, we will be offering another MYP Assessment Workshop (see below). We have a wide range of things happening in MYP as we start the year: from 6th grade getting used to the transition of Secondary School all the way up to our 10th grade students who are embarking on their Personal Projects, taking the PSAT and beginning to look forward to the DP Program! It's going to be a great year!

Upcoming Parent Workshop:

Understanding MYP Assessment/ManageBac

Tuesday, Sep 19, 2023 SS7

7:45 am -8:45 am

This workshop is open to all parents, not just our new families! We will hopefully give you the tools to understand how Assessment works in the Middle Years Program and how ManageBac is used by your child to access assignments and grades.

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ES Back-to-School Night

Vitna Bailey - PYP Coordinator

It was a fantastic night for ES parents and faculty. Teachers and teaching assistants shared the overview of their curriculum, class essential agreements, routines, and other important information with the parents. Thank you, parents for your time and support and so much positive feedback! If you weren't able to make it, please don't worry. Back-to-School Night slides shared in the homeroom and in the single subject/SST sessions will be sent out by homeroom teachers. The slides include how parents can contact teachers and other staff, so don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns or feedback.

Please note that we are conducting our first ES parent session on Sept. 15 after Music Friday. It will be an introduction to the PYP session. If you are new to the PYP school, we encourage you to join us for the session. If you are familiar with the PYP, we still would love to have you in the session getting to know each other better and share our understanding of the programme.

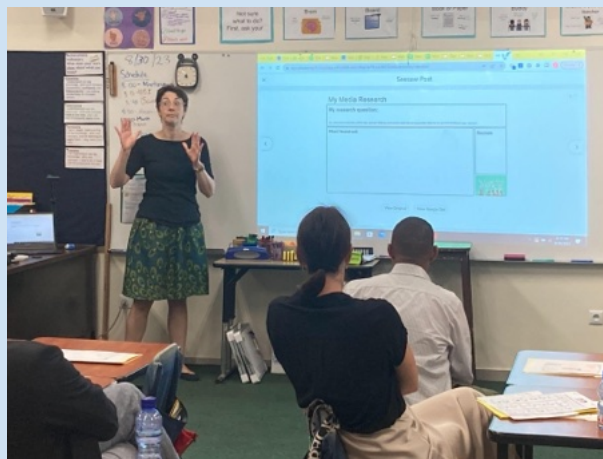
We are off to a great start and look forward to a wonderful partnership with all the parents.

Upcoming ES Parent Workshop:

Intro to the PYP

Friday, Sept. 15th ES3

8:00 - 8:45 AM





SS Back-to-School Night

Sarah Clover - Secondary Principal

Secondary teachers were excited on Thursday, August 31st for Back to School Night. They had a chance to meet with parents, share more about themselves personally and the MYP and DP courses they are teaching. Parents followed their child(ren) schedule to get a chance to meet each of the 8+ teachers their child learns from daily. We had a number of Secondary students helping parents navigate to get to each class on time !!! Before and after the event our MYP Coordinator, Ms. Marchant and our DP Coordinator, Mr. Clover held sessions to introduce parents to our MYP and DP Curriculums at TASOK. We will share those presentations through ManageBac for parents to view as well. We thank all the parents who came out for this special event.

Upcoming SS Parent Workshop:
Assessment in the IB & ManageBac
Tuesday, Sept. 19th TTC
 7:45-8:30 am





COLLEGE CORNER – Preparing our Class of 2024!

Julie Mullen – College Counselor

We just finished the first round of the digital SAT on August 26th with students coming from all across Kinshasa.

For up to date information about online registration, please click on the:

[COLLEGE BOARD WEBSITE LINK](#)



SAT TEST DATE**	Deadline for Registration Registration Changes, and Regular Cancellation
August 26, 2023	August 11, 2023
November 4, 2023	October 20, 2023
December 2, 2023	November 17, 2023
March 9, 2023	Coming Soon
May 4, 2023	Coming Soon
June 1, 2023	Coming Soon

We are already starting great conversations about where to go after TASOK for our grade 12's so stay tuned!



XTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2023-2024

Gilbert Kaburu & Timon Kitakani – Athletic Director & ASA Coordinators

We are very excited to be offering a full range of extracurricular activities. This year we will offer three distinct extracurricular programs: After School Activities, Play Productions and Athletics.

The purpose of TASOK's programs are to provide students with a range of opportunities to be involved in school-sponsored activities outside of the school day. Our talented teachers, teaching assistants, admin, Atelier and volunteers from the community have offered their time and energy to run different types of clubs and activities in hopes that students will find something that interests them.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:

After School Activities are offered at TASOK on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays after school from 3:20 – 4:30 PM. TASOK community members volunteer their time, and TASOK teachers are contracted to sponsor one club, activity, and/or varsity sport each year in hopes that all students will find something that interests them. Most activities are free, however on occasion an organization will run an ASA and may charge a fee to students.

ASAs are usually divided into grade levels in order to best suit student abilities and needs (ie: Gr. 6-8; Gr. 9-10; Gr. 11-12). Registration for Elementary School and Secondary School ASAs is currently ongoing online. You can click on the link to access the Activities list and description for [ES](#) and [SS](#).

ASA Schedule 2023 - 2024

ASA Trimester 1: September 5 - November 10 (9 weeks)

ASA Trimester 2: November 27 - February 16 (9 weeks)

ASA Trimester 3: March 4 - May 16 (9 weeks)

ATHLETICS:

The Athletics program is designed to provide an authentic sports experience for every athlete. Students will be able to join a team which will be well-equipped, well coached, and that challenges students to improve their skills in appropriate ways. TASOK believes that offering a wide range of competitive sports adds value to the educational experience of the participants. Emphasis is placed on participation, sportsmanship, and development of skills. Coaches are both role-models and teachers for athletes, fostering positive attitudes, teamwork, and respect for rules. Student-athletes have the opportunity to compete in both local and international tournaments and competitions.

Practices take place after school from 3:20 - 5:30 and on Saturday mornings. Teams will have at least two weekday practices and one Saturday practice in which all student-athletes must participate.

Sport Seasons 2023-2024

Season 1 (August 21 – November 10): Volleyball, Cross-Country, Swimming

Season 2 (November 13 – February 16): Basketball, Swimming

Season 3 (February 19 – May 24): Grades 6 - 9 and Varsity Soccer

Business Office Info

Kareen Laplanche - Finance & Operations Manager

Welcome New & Returning families!

This is a brief overview of the payment methods accepted at TASOK. TASOK offers families and companies the convenience of making tuition payments as well as miscellaneous purchases/bill settlements online. Traditional payment methods are still available.

The school partners with Diamond Mind/Community Brands, an independent school payment service provider. Other local services are also available. All payment information is completely secure using the highest security standards in the industry.

Payment Options

WEBSITE OPTION

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

You can find common answers to online tuition payment questions at [DM-FAQ](#).


MOBILE OPTION

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

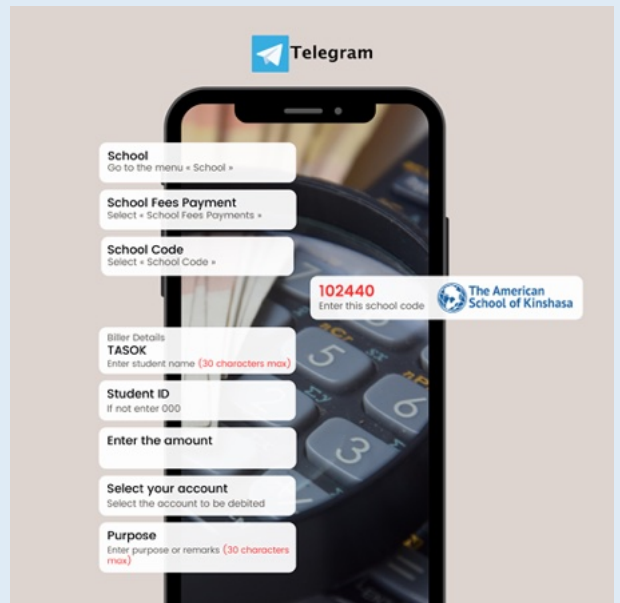


NEW MOBILE OPTION (for EQUITY BANK users only)

You can now make payments to TASOK with a click via the Equity mobile application. Follow the instructions below. See your Equity rep for more details.



1. Go to Telegram app
2. Search for the chatbot Eazzy Chat DRC (@EquityBankDRCBot) or scan the QR Code
3. Go to the menu « School »
4. Click on Payment of school fees
5. Type in TASOK's biller Code : 102440
6. Type in Student ID if you don't have one, type 000
7. Insert the Student Name : 30 characters maximum
8. Enter amount
9. Select account number
10. Reason for payment : 30 characters maximum
11. Confirm payment with your PIN
12. Insert the OTP received by SMS



Telegram

School
Go to the menu « School »

School Fees Payment
Select « School Fees Payments »

School Code
Select « School Code »

102440
Enter this school code

The American School of Kinshasa

Biller Details
TASOK
Enter student name (30 characters max)

Student ID
If not enter 000

Enter the amount

Select your account
Select the account to be debited

Purpose
Enter purpose or remarks (30 characters max)

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.

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.

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 [link](#) 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 |

Nurse's Station Cell +243 817 252 011

Nathalie Katalayi– TASOK Nurse: nurse@tasok.net

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 is required to take medicine daily at school or if your child has a temporary prescription to take during the school hours.

Send your child to the Nurse first thing in the morning after 2 days of sickness absence.

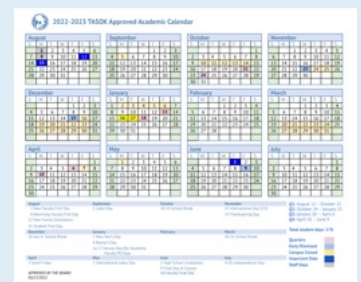
Should your child be sick or absent for any reason, please share the information via:
attendance@tasok.net

The 2023/24 Academic Calendar is Here!

Also found on our TASOK website [LINK!](#)

TASOK CALENDAR OF EVENTS ALSO FOUND AT:

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



The image shows a screenshot of the TASOK Academic Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year. It features a grid layout with columns for different months and rows for specific dates. The calendar includes various events, holidays, and school days, color-coded for clarity. A legend at the bottom explains the symbols used in the calendar, such as 'School Day', 'Holiday', and 'Event'. The title of the calendar is '2023-2024 TASOK Approved Academic Calendar'.

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sept. 4- Holiday- No School• Sept. 5- ASAs begin• Sept. 8 Music Friday• Sept. 9 PTC Picnic 11:00am -3:00pm• Sept. 11-15 Secondary MAP Testing• Sept. 12 Grade 4 Field Trip• Sept. 14 Grade 5 Field Trip | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sept. 15 ES Parent Session- Getting to know the PYP• Sept. 18-21 G3-5 MAPs Testing• Sept. 19 IB Assessment & ManageBac Workshop Secondary (7:45-8:30 am)• Sept. 22 Music Friday / G4 Celebration of Learning• Sept. 25-29 Congo Week• Oct. 6 Music Friday |
|---|--|

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

