



The American School of Kinshasa TASOK TALK – FEBRUARY 2024

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Reviewing
Classroom
Practice

Message from the Director: Richard Ngete



The TASOK Talk allows us to share some of the great things taking place at school involving our students and staff in and out of the classroom. Each month, we also showcase two members of our staff that you may not regularly interact with in the **'Meet Our TASOK Team!'** section below.



January was especially important as we celebrated the retirement of Richard Ngete, who has worked at TASOK for the past 16 years. You may have met Richard in his most recent role of keeping our students safe in the mornings with the Traffic Team. During his time at TASOK, Richard has contributed in a range of roles over the years supporting the success of TASOK and our students, and is very well respected by all.

At the retirement celebration colleagues shared that Richard will go back to running his plant nursery (which he did before coming to TASOK), and probably contributed to his knowledge of our campus greenery and why he was such a valuable member of the gardening team.

While it is sad to see Richard leave, he assured me that he will regularly come back to visit us!

Have a wonderful February,

Be safe, be well, be kind,

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:
Joe Mbumba Voumby
Elementary PE



Interview with:
Laetitia Buhendwa
Junior receptionist



What do you do at TASOK?

As a PHE teacher assistant in an elementary school, my task is to nurture young minds and bodies through physical education. I help guide preschoolers, kindergarteners, and up to grade five, fostering teamwork and sportsmanship while also helping them build healthy habits and confidence and create lasting memories.

What do you do at TASOK?

I am a Junior Receptionist who represents the beautiful image of TASOK, assists the nurse, communicates with parents, gives access to visitors, distributes the supplies to staff, takes pictures, and handles jobs for classrooms.

How long have you worked at TASOK?

This is my second year that I have been part of the TASOK community.

How long have you worked at TASOK?

I have been working here since the end of January.

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

I am from the province of Congo Central, originally known as Bas-Congo. I reside in the commune of Mont-Ngafula.

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

My parents are from Kivu and I was born and live in Kinshasa, in the commune of Ngaliema.

What do you appreciate about TASOK?

TASOK is a welcoming place, which I appreciate. The people are very welcoming, and the students are enjoyable. This has become a second home for me since I spend more than half of my day at TASOK.

What do you appreciate about TASOK?

I appreciate the TASOK energy and colleagues. My first day was very welcoming, and pleasant, and the workplace was comfortable and friendly.

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

I came to TASOK in a very unexpected circumstance, but I knew that I had to adjust my mindset to support student learning to the best of my ability. One of my most proud accomplishments was when I had to take the lead and work with one section of each class level during the swimming unit periods.

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

I am very excited about the contribution that I will give to TASOK. The professionalism and calmness will be on point when you will pass by the reception, I guarantee.

What are you most proud of in the DRC?

What do you do as a hobby?

I am Congolese, so I am always proud of my country, as it has given me a lot of life experience and opportunities. In Congo, we have a welcoming nature, which has allowed us to make lifelong connections despite the different struggles that we have encountered in our country. My main hobby is basketball since I have had the opportunity to play in the semi-professional division for a few years, but other than that, anything related to sports is my interest.

What are you most proud of in the DRC?

I am proud of the natural resources, fertile soil, and the ambiance of my people. We even had a good example of it on the 28th of January with the soccer play against Egypt for the CAN 2024. I wish outsiders could see how connected we (as Congolese) were feeling the emotions of the players as if we were there in Ivory Coast playing on that field.

What do you do as a hobby?

I enjoy theater writing and swimming. It is good to keep my brain active and do exercise that is beneficial to my health.

What do you appreciate in your current position?

Because I like sports, being the PHE assistant at TASOK allows me to share my experience with students while also learning how to become a better educator.

What do you appreciate in your current position?

I really appreciate the fact that every day has different tasks to the point where the excitement is still a part of the job task.

Wellness Week and ES Family Night- Feb. 16

Mr. Mike Bailey - ES Principal

Elementary Schedule

Wellness WEEK

FEB 12TH-16TH

- **Monday**
Morning Music
Let's groove with the musical tunes!
Dress: Dress like a STAR!
- **Tuesday**
Try it Tuesday
Healthy food for our body!
Dress: Crazy mismatch outfit
- **Wednesday**
Workout Wednesday
Moving your body keeps you going!
Dress: TASOK uniforms, colors or sports clothes.
- **Thursday**
Thankful Thursday
Saying Thank you brings us JOY!
Dress: Like your teacher!
- **Friday**
Fun Friday
Let's play and laugh together!
Dress: Pajama Day!

WELLNESS NIGHT

FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 16th @ 5:30pm

Wellness Week will take place February 12-16. This is a whole school event, but with some different activities in the Elementary and Secondary Divisions (Secondary students check your secondary announcements about your Spirit Days). Our goal is to promote wellness and learn about and practice different ways to help us stay healthy socially, emotionally, and physically.

Website:

www.tasok.net



Contact:

+243 818 846 619



Email:

info@tasok.net



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Elementary Family Fun Night

Date/Time: February 16, 5:30-7:30 PM

All ES Families are welcome to join us for this celebration and promotion of healthy habits at the ES classroom and shared spaces. Teachers and students will have activities set that support living a balanced and healthy life, socially, emotionally, and physically.

Schedule:

3:25-4:25 ASAs are taking place as scheduled.

3:25-5:30 Supervision available

5:30-7:30 ES Wellness Night in the ES classrooms and shared spaces

On the day of the event ASAs will take place as normal. We will have extra supervision for students who sign up to stay at school while they wait for their families to join them. This supervision is available from 3:25-5:30. We will either have a movie or have the opportunity for some of the students to watch the Under 18 Basketball games taking place.

Our PTC is arranging sales of food at the U18 basketball game and then will have some food options available during the ES event.

Please note:

*Parents must be present for students to attend! Siblings are welcome as well.

**Service and Action: Secondary students this is an opportunity for Service and Action projects- Contact Mr. Mike if you want to support the events (mbailey@tasok.net)

Secondary Student Council

Kelley Marchant - Advisor

The Secondary Student Council is currently in the midst of planning for Wellness Week and Valentine's Day coming up February 12-16th. The week will be busy with a special Music Monday, Spirit Dress Up Days with specific themes, Wellness Activities, a mid-week assembly and other activities to focus our students on the importance of Self-Care and taking care of those around you.

TASOK WELLNESS WEEK - February 12-16

- **Music Monday** - Dress Like a STAR!!!
- **Techless Tuesday** - Dress in the era of the '50s or '60's
- **One Love Wednesday** - Dress in your classes chosen color (Red, purple, pink or white!)
- **Thankful Thursday** - Dress up like someone you're thankful for!
- **Fitness Friday** - Dress up in TASOK colors, TASOK athletic uniforms or other sports!

Elementary Student Council

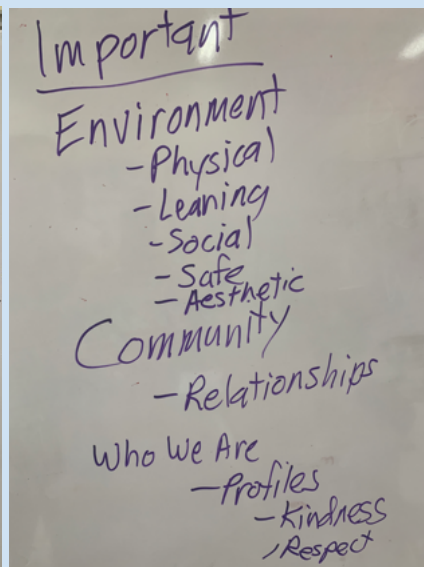
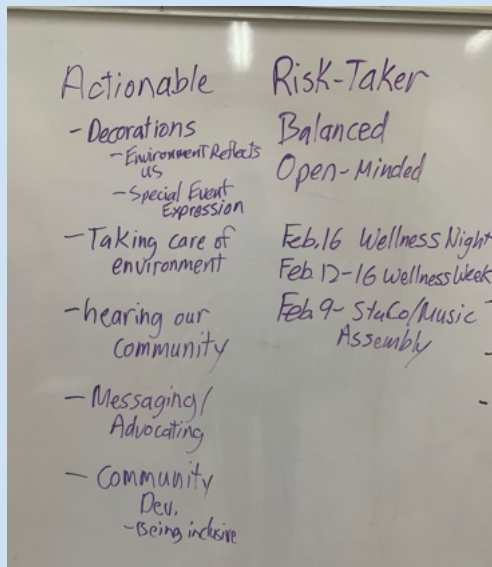
Mike Bailey- ES Principal

Our first term, ES StuCo came together one last time to celebrate. We had cookies and reflected on what our favorite actions were that we took as a student council. Students shared that they loved preparing for the night run, cleaning the trails, making signs and promoting participation in the elementary school. Another favorite was creating challenges and promoting student action around being caring, being principled and being communicators. Students enjoyed running an assembly on the profiles.

As we wrapped up, we reminded students that now that they have been part of the ES Student Council for the first term, they can choose to join the council with their new representatives from their classes for our new term.



Our second term ES Stuco met for the first time on Tuesday, Jan. 30. We had several students who returned to student council and many brand new members who are excited to make choices and find opportunities to develop and make changes in our community.



We started by brainstorming what is important to us and also looking at possible areas for development or change. Looking forward, we identified some immediate action items as well!

DP CORNER

Chris Clover - DP Coordinator

Grade 12 Mock Exams will run from March 4th to March 12th. There are a number of benefits to mock exams. They provide students with an opportunity to become familiar with the structure, format, and timing of the actual exams; this can help students refine exam strategies and can reduce anxiety. The exams are also a good time for content review, helping students focus their review time to fill in gaps in their learning. As assessments, the mocks benchmark progress, give students a chance for self-assessment and reflection, provide assessment data for teachers, and give an opportunity for feedback. Overall, mock exams are a great tool to help students prepare for the IB DP exams.

Extended Essay The Grade 11 all have a subject area and a supervisor to guide them along the way. The students are developing and refining their research questions, proceeding with their initial research, and writing their literature reviews. Over the next few weeks they will pitch their ideas to their peers and then a teacher approval panel will assess their proposals and give feedback. We are working towards a great start.

MYP CORNER

Kelley Marchant, MYP Coordinator

Personal Project Exhibition

Our Personal Project Exhibition will be

Thursday, February 8th from 8:00am - 3:00pm!

Please plan to visit TASOK during our Parent/Family Exhibition hour between 8:00am and 9:00am to see what our Grade 10/MYP 5 students have been working on for the last 10 months as they get ready to submit to IB and move up to the DP next year!!

Secondary Service

Rachel Eells - CAS Coordinator

Operation Smile Workshops

TASOK G12 students will be hosting a three day workshop in February as a continuation of the fundraising they did in previous months for Operation Smile. During the workshop, they will share more information about the organization and the needs of children being helped by Operation Smile. They will also use the funds raised during the dodgeball tournament and bake sales to create gift bags for children undergoing operations.

Here is a link to more information about this international organization: [Operation Smile](#)

THANK YOU TO STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS WHO CAME OUT IN SUPPORT !!!

School Visit Debrief and Next Steps

A group of G11 and G12 students who visited Lycée Kabambare earlier this school year will be meeting to discuss next steps. The students want to strengthen connections with students from other schools and think about how to build stronger networks for service through these connections.



DP to MYP Sharing

Some DP students did research on issues of concern to them over the asynchronous learning weeks. In February, the DP students will be sharing their learning with MYP students during advisory classes.

CAS Portfolio for DP Students

Throughout the DP Programme, students engage in self-directed forms of **creativity**, **physical activity**, and **service**. They reflect on their own growth and how they can foster each **creativity**, **activity**, and **service** in their lives beyond TASOK. The goal is to help them grow into balanced adults who know how to engage meaningfully in the communities. In March, G12 students will finalize portfolios of their engagement in each of the three strands and their personal plans for how they will continue to grow in **creativity**, **activity**, and **service** when they graduate.



INTRODUCING

THE WINNING DESIGN

FOR THE 2023-24 YEARBOOK



AS VOTED BY THE
GRADUATING
CLASS (G12)

THE WINNER IS...

LAZIN KHWAJA (G9)



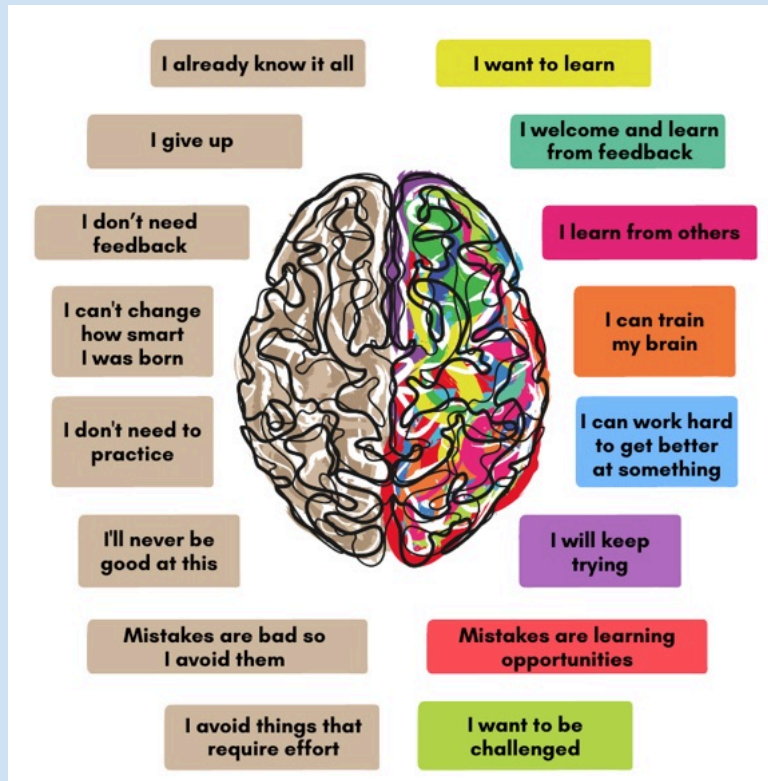
"I decided to enter the competition as I was motivated by my passion for graphic design. I just love the way I can play with different colors and shapes while also giving them a deeper meaning. My main focus was to demonstrate TASOK's strong community which is diverse and inclusive. It took me approximately two days to research ideas, brainstorm concepts and incorporate my own touch. My favorite part of the design was the abstract hands that were meant to depict TASOK's community: the parents, teachers, staff and students. It's really just amazing how interconnected we all are"

COMING SOON

Mindset in Mathematics: Growth Mindset vs Fixed Mindset

Vitna Bailey - PYP Coordinator

Which of the following do you think or say more often?



The statements in light brown boxes show a fixed mindset and those in colorful boxes show a growth mindset.

The term 'growth mindset' comes from Carol Dweck's work. It means you believe you can learn anything and that your intelligence can grow. People with a growth mindset don't give up easily and see mistakes as opportunities to learn.

Researchers found out that mindset is closely related to student performance in math.

Within the PYP framework, teachers create an environment where students perceive challenges as opportunities for growth.

Teachers encourage students to focus on the process of learning, utilize diverse

problem-solving approaches, and recognize the value of constructive feedback. They design mathematical tasks that promote perseverance and resilience, ultimately nurturing a culture of embracing challenges in the classroom.

Here are some of the ways parents can help nurture a growth mindset in mathematics at home.

1. Focus on effort and progress, not just results.

- Instead of praising your child for a grade, praise them for the hard work they put in.
- Talk about how their brain is growing stronger with each problem they solve, just like a muscle getting stronger with exercise.
- Celebrate mistakes as learning opportunities and encourage them to try different approaches.

2. Use positive language.

- Replace phrases like "I'm bad at math" with "Math is challenging, but I'm getting better at it."
- Encourage your child to say things like "I can't do this yet, but I'm going to keep trying" instead of "I give up."
- Focus on the process of learning rather than the outcome.

3. Make math fun and engaging.

- Play math games, do puzzles together, and cook recipes that involve measurements.



- Encourage your child to find math in the real world, like counting objects on a walk or calculating the cost of groceries.

4. Model a growth mindset yourself.

- Talk about your own challenges with math and how you overcame them.
- Share your love of learning and curiosity about new things.
- Show your child that it's okay to make mistakes and that you're always learning too.

Remember, developing a growth mindset takes time and effort. Be patient and consistent with your approach, and you'll see your child flourish in math and beyond!

ES Counselor's Corner

Mr. Davon- ES Counselor



As part of our commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment, we are excited to introduce our School-Wide Agreements that focus on the Learning Profiles of being Caring, Communicators, and Principled individuals. These agreements are designed to teach school expectations and procedures and guide our students in their daily interactions, both within the school community and beyond.

Caring:

At TASOK, we believe in the power of kindness and empathy. Our students are encouraged to demonstrate care and consideration for one another, creating a supportive community where everyone feels valued and respected. Whether it's helping a classmate in need or showing compassion to others, we strive to instill a sense of empathy that extends beyond the classroom.

Communicators:

Our students are encouraged to express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings openly and respectfully. Through various activities and projects, we aim to develop strong communicators who can articulate their thoughts and actively listen to others.

Principled:

At TASOK, we emphasize the importance of making ethical choices and taking responsibility for one's actions. Our students are guided to develop a strong sense of integrity, understanding the impact of their decisions on themselves and the wider community. Through principled actions, we aim to shape responsible global citizens.

We believe that these school-wide agreements will contribute to a positive and enriching educational experience for our students. We invite you to join us in reinforcing these values at home and engage in conversations with your child about the importance of being Caring, Communicators, and Principled.

Grade 5 Exhibition- Experts and Interviewees Needed!

Mr. Timothy- Grade 5 Teacher



The 2023-2024 PYP Exhibition is on the way! The exhibition is the culminating, collaborative experience in the final year of the IB Primary Years Programme. Students will explore, document, and share their understanding of an issue or opportunity of personal significance.

We'd like to invite you to be part of this wonderful and exciting learning experience! There are many ways you can support our students.

How could you support them?

You could serve as a skills or topic expert. Students could come to you to get support in specific areas. Some examples of areas in which they might need support include: technology, design, research, performing arts, visual arts, music, presentation, and connections with the local community.



An inquiry into the exploration of self as individuals and as a collective through:

- physical, emotional, social and spiritual health and well-being;
- beliefs, values, relationships and belonging;
- how we learn and grow.

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You could serve as an interviewee. You might have experience and/or knowledge that you could share with students, and students could interview you. Some of the areas/topics they might need to find out about include: physical, emotional, social and spiritual health and well-being; beliefs, values, relationships and belonging; and how we learn and grow.

How can I add my name to the registry of experts and interviewees?

It's easy! Simply complete [this brief Google Form](#) by the 7th February 2024.

This year's PYP Exhibition presentations will be on Thursday 25th April 2024. Mark your calendars, and we hope to see you there!!!

Thank you for your time and support for our Grade 5 students!

COLLEGE CORNER – Julie Mullen – College Counselor ***Congratulations to our Seniors for their acceptances so far!***

United States

Howard University
University of Delaware
University of North Carolina Greensboro
University of North Carolina Wilmington
North Carolina State University
East Carolina University
High Point University
Chapman University
University of San Francisco
University of Denver
Arizona State University
Lewis & Clark College
Carleton College
Pacific Lutheran University
Manhattanville College
Virginia Commonwealth University
University of North Carolina Asheville
University of Minnesota
William Peace University
Baylor University
University of North Texas

United Kingdom

Regent's University London
SOAS University of London
Anglia Ruskin University
Middlesex University
University of Westminster
University of Birmingham
Goldsmiths University of London

Canada

McGill
University of Alberta
Wilfrid Laurier University
York University
Concordia University
Toronto Met. University

Australia

Western Sydney University
Queensland University of Technology
University of Canberra

Europe

University of Groningen
Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences



UPCOMING SAT TEST DATES:

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
March 9, 2024	February 23, 2024
May 4, 2024	April 19, 2024
June 1, 2024	May 17, 2024

XTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2023-2024

Gilbert Kaburu & Timon Kitakani– Athletic Director & ASA Coordinators

ATHLETICS & AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

ASA and Sports Key Dates

Our Trimester 2 ASAs and Sports Season 2 started on a positive note. We have three more weeks until the end.

ASA Trimester 2: Activities: November 27 - December 8 & January 22 - February 23

ASA Trimester 3: February 26 - May 16 (10 weeks)

- Registration: February 26 - March 1 (1 weeks)
- Activities: March 4 - May 16 (9 weeks)

Season 2 (November 13 – December 8 & January 22 - February 23): Basketball & Swimming

Season 3 (February 26 – May 24): Soccer

- Tryouts: February 26 - March 1

We are working on the next trimester of ASAs. Our ASA program is powered by our talented staff, parent and student community who lead them. If you would like to lead an activity, please contact Timon (tkitakani@tasok.net) for Elementary School, or myself (gkaburu@tasok.net) for Secondary School.

Upcoming Athletics Events

Below are the upcoming Athletics events:

- Monday 5th Feb- MS Boys and Girls Basketball friendly matches against Spring of Life (3:30 - 5:30pm)
- Thursday 8th Feb- Varsity Boys and Girls friendly matches against Le Figuier and Raphael (3:30 - 5:30pm)
- Saturday 10th Feb- MS Basketball tournament from 8am - 5:30pm
- Friday 16th Feb- Varsity Basketball Tournament from 2 - 5:30pm (Day 1)
- Saturday 17th Feb- Varsity Basketball Tournament from 8am - 5:50pm (Day 2)
- Friday 23rd Feb- TASOK Swim Meet from 1 - 3pm (tentative).

Website:

www.tasok.net



Contact:

+243 818 846 619



Email:

info@tasok.net



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If you would like to volunteer in any of the events, please contact me on gkaburu@tasok.net. Come and cheer on the Condors.

Business Office Info

Kareen Laplanche - Finance & Operations Manager

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

We are reminding parents and companies that have not yet honored the **Semester 2 invoices** to remit as soon as possible to avoid penalties and other sanctions. Use any of the payment methods below to remit the balance.

To better serve the community, we've adjusted the **TASOK CASH OFFICE** schedule starting February 1!

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

- 7:30 - 12:00
- 1:40 - 3:30

Wednesday:

- 7:30 - 11:30
- 1:10 - 2:30

Payment Options (LINK HERE)

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

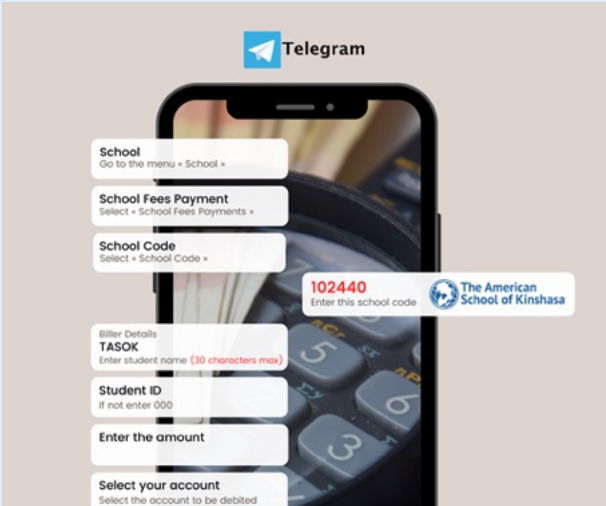

You can also pay using our mobile payment app: MySchoolWallet©

NEWMOBILE 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



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

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, etc... These options are only available for US transactions, not international.

If you need copies of invoices/agreements or would like a receipt for your payment(s), please email accounts@tasok.net before December 15.

Stay informed

Visit the Business Office page [link](#) for details on Tuition Rates, Payment Plans and [Educational Loans at RawBank](#).

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.

We had multiple cases of conjunctivitis (Pink eye) in students and staff recently.

Pink eyes can be very contagious, so please make sure to look for symptoms and keep your child home and let the nurse know at: nurse@tasok.net.

Fever: Your child needs to be fever/fever relief medicine free for at least 24 hours before coming back to school.

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 is the morning after 2 days of sickness absence.

Birthdays: Please send the list of ingredients to the nurse at least 24 hours before the class celebration.

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

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