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| NESA TEACHER REP MEETINGSchool ReportSeptember 13, 2013Holiday Inn – Al BarshaDubai, UAE |
| **SCHOOL** | **SCHOOL REP** | **NOTES** |
| NESA Follow-up Information during School Reports | * NESA started [Project AERO](http://www.nesacenter.org/page.cfm?p=768), created AERO Common Core Plus to address Common Core needs.
	+ Conferences in Washington, DC
	+ Adopt Common Core, but maintain identity as Int’l School.
	+ Available for ALL subjects
* Schools can benefit from using Moodle in case of school closures or interruptions
	+ Other virtual experiences are NESA Virtual School, iOlympiad and NESA Virtual Science Fair
* NESA: 41 member schools, 54 affiliate schools
	+ PDs are designed for member schools
	+ Member schools have a few privileges: priority registration, NESA rep, etc
* Standards based grading and reporting becoming more and more of a trend
* Charter for Compassion: Started by Karen Armstrong who won the TED prize. All religions have compassion in common and schools should be articulate about valuing compassion in their students
* Adaptive Schools Training: Spring Educators Conference (sign up soon!!!)
* Reading Workshop also at Spring Workshop (spaces go fast!)
* Conference locations need to be easily accessible (flights and VISA), affordable, stable and safe. 2015 Spring Conference will be in Istanbul at the Istanbul Hilton. Conferences also need to be attractive for presenters
	+ What if host schools budgeted for covering visa costs to make some locations more attractive?
	+ Probably not likely and teachers are always attracted to cost effective trainings due to limited PD funds
* NESA
	+ NESA Board (9 Heads of Schools)
	+ PDAC Professional Development Advisory Committee (9 Members): meets three times a year with David to determine speakers
	+ The Wider Circle: because the PDAC can only have 9 members, the curriculum specialists from member schools can join
* NESA is trying to better address Math, but it’s difficult since there is not an organization like TC for the subject. Erma Anderson is a great resource, but cannot do it all (she has a very full schedule). Math Solutions is much too expensive now that it’s been bought out.
	+ Question from Rep: Have you contacted Kathy Richardson from Math Perspectives?
* Send NESA your suggestions for workshops/speakers
* STEM vs. STEAM (STEM plus Arts)
* John Almarode from James Madison University looking at STEM
* NESA gives grants and money to schools that want to provide additional PD or specific trainings. See website for more details! Submit an article to the newsletter once event is done.
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| Al Bayan Bilingual School | Tahani Hashem | * New director this year
* Professional growth: Teachers must make three visits to other teachers each year and write observations and reflections
* Common Core implementation in math
	+ Math currently taught in Arabic K-3, trying to gain board approval for math instruction in English from grade 3 and up
* MAP testing twice a year
* Tech:
	+ Starboard in each class, KG-12
	+ Kg-4 iPads
	+ Grade 5 and up BYOD
	+ IT coach in each division
	+ Use of Google docs/sites
* Creating strategic alliances with schools/universities in Canada and US
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| ACS Abu Dhabi | Sarah Robison | * New admin team
* Changing advisory model: every Wednesday is an assembly, class meeting, or homeroom advisory
* Integrated math implemented in the high school
* 1:1 from 8-12th grade, 1:2 in 6-7th grade
* Using The Creative Curriculum in KG1
* Performing Arts curriculum in review this year
* Beginning to look at Arabic Language Instruction and teachers have access to ongoing PD and online modules
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| ACS Amman | Lisa Mancuso | * Immense growth to 700 students
* Accreditation visit last March. Now implementing what was developed in the plan
* Create tech rich environment with BYOD (6-12) program, tech integrators, and iPads in ES
* New pool, gym, theater coming
* Math cohort created for math coaches. Erma Anderson coming to train teachers.
* Using New Generation Science standards
* Using Data to inform instruction and decision making
* Ongoing changes to Arabic program, added third teacher in ES
* Adaptive school training coming up for 40 teachers
* Looking for new ES principal
* Official American Heart Association Training Center
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| ACS Beirut | Robert Iyer | * New head of school
* New building to be completed (Jan 2015) and ready to open the following September
* New curriculum coordinator (3rd in 3 years) so there may be some coming changes
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| American Embassy School | Charu Gulati | * 1500 Students
* New director, elementary principal, interim middle school principal
* Implement Common Core in ELA and math K-12
* Middle school adopting standard based grading and reporting (lots of PD on assignments and aligning assessment to standards).
* Technology
	+ 1:1 in MS two years ago
	+ 1:1 iPad (over 1300)
	+ 1:1 Mac Airs in HS
	+ Hosting iPad Summit in November 50$ discount
	+ Hosting Google Summit in January
	+ Digital Citizenship
* Visible Thinking training with Mark Church
* RTI training with Leanne Jung
* Problem Based Learning PD at beginning of year
* Move away from traditional teacher evaluations to a Performance Appraisal Plan that includes a continuous growth plan over three year cycles
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| AIS – Chennai | Jeremy Willette | * Gradual Increase to 1,000 Students
* Re-missioned school with Teresa Arpin
* Completed Self Study this year and evaluation team coming soon
* BYOD, grades 6-12
* Full co-teaching grades 1-12, no teacher teaches alone
* Readers and Writers workshop
* Adopted Common Core in ELA, Math
* Working towards standards based reporting
* New Theater and Theater Arts Program
* Campus expansion: center for inquiry and collaboration
* Adaptive Schools training in January
* Teaching and Learning Committee: implement and/or improve service learning, professional development, and curriculum review
* Participate in Int’l Dot Day, based on The Dot by Peter Reynolds.
	+ Encourages students to “Make your mark as an individual”
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| AIS – Dhaka | Michael Birdwell | * 780 students, very diverse population
* T3 (teachers teaching teachers): PD every Tuesday to share what’s been learned at conferences
* BYOD: Bring your own device. Some behavioral issues at implementation
* In the middle of an election year/experiences of building collapses, but the school has been stable and working toward its mission of educating students to be “just stewards” in the world
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| AIS – Jeddah | Denise Sullivan | * Maxed out enrollment at 1150, new MS building, and more expansion possible in future.
* New superintendent, HS principal, ES principal: new admin team
* Curriculum review for math and SS
* Completed curriculum mapping last year for all subjects
* Using Understanding by Design for unit plans
* Working on differentiation
* Standards based instruction and assessment: use Arrow standards
* Balanced Literacy. Use RWW in ES and MS
* MS 1:1 iPad
* Advisory every day, focusing on digital citizenship
* WWW program in 2nd year, hoping to bring to HS
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| AIS – Riyadh | Alexandra Schellenberger | * New Campus in June
* Finished accreditation cycle last year
* Increased PD money for new initiatives
* Teaching for Understanding framework, curriculum mapping in Atlas (transition 3 units to TfU this year). Teachers taking online PD.
* Tech
	+ BYOD in HS
	+ MS 1:1
	+ ES 5 iPads in every class
	+ Grade 5 1:1 iPads
* Dedicated days for Kagen Structures work
* Curriculum is reviewed every three years, so this year specialists are in the review cycle
* Added RWW in MS
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| AS Bombay | Karen Fish  | * Using data to inform instruction
* 21st Century Skills
* Opened second campus last year
* Tech integration: embed technology in student learning
	+ BYOD in HS
	+ Collecting data on apps and usage to inform decisions on technology
* HS: Stacked schedule to provide more collaboration time to work with other teachers and explore new initiatives
* PLCs: one afternoon a month for teachers to work in professional learning communities
* High school provides online electives (101 students taking courses)
* Online courses available for teachers
* Google Summit, Unplugged conferences coming soon
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| AS Doha | Mary Edward | * 2085 students, at capacity and looking at ways to expand
* Added Data Manager position and are looking at how to utilize that position
* 25th anniversary celebration
* Joint mini-NESA with Qatar Academy
* 21st Century Skills
* Standards based learning and reporting implemented for this year
* Refining Arabic standards with professor from Georgetown
* NESA collaborative art workshop: tell your art teachers picartdoha.blogspot.com FREE! 4-5 October. Based on Arrow standards
* 1:1 school, uses Moodle
* One Book, One Community: City of Ember of this year
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| AS Kuwait | Jaime Osborne | * Around 2,000 students/ 150 teachers
* ELA/Math focus
* History and social sciences use Arrow standards
* Implement NEXT standards in Science
* Implementing WW in Elem. school
* Tech
	+ SMART boards
	+ Moodle, tech PD,
	+ New tech coach
	+ Investigating 1:1 program
* Assessment is big PD push, differentiate between formative and summative
* 21st Century Skills in HS
* Transitioned away from block schedule to rotating schedule
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| Cairo American College | Carolyn Jeziorski | * Over 700 students (1/2 size over the past 6 years)
* $800,000 deficit leading to voluntary staff reduction (50 extra teachers)
* K-12 Vertical Alignment in preparation for accreditation
* Reading and Writing project extended through 8th grade
* Elem. starts student led conferences
* A student published a book!
* Teachers: Begin peer observations
* 1-1 program continuing to grow
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| Int’l College, Beirut | Nawal Haddad | * Refugees make up half of school’s population
* Continuing to use Moodle in case of interruptions
* New elementary school has opened, more plans for expansion
* Using Activeboard as truly interactive tools
* Continuing to work on differentiation and interdisciplinary connections
* Finalizing revised curriculums
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| Int’l Schools Group | Caroline Brackmann | * Two virtual school practice days each year in the event of an emergency
* New superintendent had recent admin retreat that went well
* Growing elementary school and IB/AP program in HS
* Adaptive Schools training and implementation
* Schafer Writing initiative in HS
* Elem. implemented GO Math (Common Core) last year
* New building for Pre-K and office
* British School has new building coming
* E/MS transitioning to Standard based reporting and grading
* Librarian created group for NESA Librarians
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| Lincoln School, Nepal | Allison O’Sullivan | * Also in Election year, but the area is not tense
* In the middle of curriculum development cycle with lots of time for PD
* Redesigning assessment policy
* Expanding Service Learning
* Building project broke ground today
* New Tech Coordinator and moving towards BYOD
* Board decided on annual teacher reviews, PD following for administrators and teachers
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| Qatar Academy | Walter Gammon Lee Wong  | * 1500 students
* New Technology Integration Facilitators
* 1:1 with laptops three years ago, working well
* Training staff using SUNY classes that result in MA
* Accredited last year
* Rewriting strategic plan this year
* Distinguishing schools as primary, middle, high school this year instead of lower/upper
* Going back to single sex classes for grades 6 and above
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| TAISM Muscat | Sharon McGowan | * School is almost at Capacity
* New HS Principal
* Arrow Common Core used for Math/ELA
* Participated in Adaptive Schools training
* Teacher’s College Training for RWW
* 1:1 in grades 6-10
* Increasing number of devices in Elementary School
* Hosts Festival of Choirs every year
* Hosting NESA Winter Training Institute
* Started Community Garden this year
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| Schutz American School, Egypt | Rory EubankJudy Beeles | * Under 300 students (usually around 330-340), lost consulate and business families
* Curriculum Core Team created by administration to evaluate professional development, assessment, and curriculum
* Looking at Atlas Rubicon to use for alignment and updating all curriculum maps
* Moving to Common Core in ELA and Math
* Completing final steps for accreditation (NEASC)
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| The Universal American School of Kuwait | Harish Sharma | * 1800 students, Very stable and peaceful ☺
* Currently in Self Study Review and the review team is coming at the end of the year
* Working on technology integration and curriculum
* Need more AP training!
* Data based instruction is focus of PD
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| Walworth Barbour AIS in Israel | Melissa Stanek | * Elem: Reading and Writing Workshop
* PGC: Evaluation and professional growth committee. Teachers set yearly goals and have at least three observations to obtain feedback from principals.
* Professional Development Committee has planned additional half days this year to discuss feedback, assessment, and collaboration
* Continuing 1:1 program and tech integration into the classrooms
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| AS Dubai  | Joe Jaureguy  | * Moved from small campus to large campus recently: 1600 students plus waiting list
* New Mission Statement
* Added communications director this year to help standardize communication across grades/schools
* Common Core standards for Math and ELA
* Everyday Math implemented last year
* Looking at Arabic and World Languages
* Social Studies and Science curricula are being reviewed
* Readjusted schedule to provide maximum contact time for teachers and students.
* Tech:
	+ 1:1 from 5th-12th grades this year
	+ 1:2 for lower grades
	+ Specialized IT coaches and staff.
	+ Tech co-teaching happening due to integration model
* Moving to standards based reporting and using data to inform instruction
* Has 5 year plan: includes PLCs, student learning profiles, attracting and keeping staff for 5 years
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| ACS Athens (not present at meeting – notes sent from Athens)  | Dave Nelson  | * **i2Flex** – the school is developing hybrid style courses comprised of face-to-face and non-face-to-face learning
* First International School to be considered for Top Level Accreditation Standard through Middle States- will utilize the "Sustaining Excellence Protocol"
* Strong, stable and maintaining a diverse student population, despite the Greek crisis
* Middle School and Academy have adopted an innovative rotating schedule to maximize student contact according to needs of the classes and curriculum
* The ACS Institute for Innovation and Creativity expands offerings for the school and community: [www.acs.gr](http://www.acs.gr/)
* ACS Learning Differences Conference, May 8-10, 2014.  This year’s focus:  Teaching for Transformation: Empowering All Learners.
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