

News letter

DEBAKEY Newsletter

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A New Record SAT Score for DeBakey Students

We pride ourselves on being a school of excellence and our students are on the path to success every day. A few students from class of 2021, have exceeded our expectations and set a new DeBakey record for highest SAT scores. With an impressive score of 1530 from one student and 1470 from another, you have made us and yourselves proud.

One of the students shared, “When I first saw the score, my first thought was relief, because obviously, I had been stressing out about the whole thing.” He later explained that it was his belief in himself and Allah’s will that helped him through the exam.

“I was nervous but also confident going into the exam. I wasn’t 100% sure I would do good but at the same time I felt that I might have gotten a good score out of it.”

We are very proud of you, class of 2021, and wish you all the best in your other exams!

Juniors and Seniors Race to Complete UniFrog Applications

Creating a competitive environment in a school motivates the students to continue excelling in their studies and progress. Creating one for them to apply to universities, provides them time to really look into some of their options and perhaps make adjustments early on, before it is too late.

Mr. Samir Chaeb has done just that. Our career guidance counselor has offered a prize to students who complete the most percentage of their UniFrog Applications. UniFrog is DeBakey’s official university application system allowing students and teachers to submit personal statements, university preferences, and recommendation letters.

The top students of September & October 2020 were:

- Menatalla Soliman (grade 12)
- Ubaida Al-Aani (grade 11)
- Zaid Hijazi (grade 12)
- Almeqdad Hasan (grade 12)

Mental Health Week Explored

If we ask you, “what makes you smile” what would your answer be? We might be bias but our answer will always be “you”.

In the effort of shedding light on mental health, we asked the students some questions about how they are feeling and how we can help others who might be feeling the same way.

Our students were generous and kind with their words and we managed to make a video of all the ways in which we can take care of our mental health. The video was viewed on the big screen in the assembly hall.

Heart Education Week Explored

In 2019, DeBakey hosted the first ever live broadcast of an open-heart surgery in a high school in Qatar. Medical and nursing students from Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar University Medical College, Calgary School for Nursing, and the College of North Atlantic shared the experience with our students at the school.

This year, due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements, we simply asked our students the best ways in which they can prevent heart disease and the top things to do to maintain a healthy and happy heart.

A video was also created for this occasion as well as a social media campaign that was viewed on the big screen at break time.

“Often a healing takes place in ourselves as we pray for the healing of others.”

- Michael E. DeBakey



15 Students Present “Business Etiquettes Around the World”

Did you know that in Japan it is customary to compliment someone on their business card before putting it away when you receive it? If you don't, it is considered a sign of disrespect in the business world. We learned this at the Practicum in Business class' second major presentation titled “Business Etiquettes Around the World” held on Wednesday, 14th October 2020.

Each of the 15 students zeroed in on a country and its business etiquettes to explain some of the ways in which the world conducts meetings and deals. Here is one interesting fact from each of the countries presented:

- Jamil Daoud: In Portugal, it is considered rude to not open a gift you received on the spot.
- Aseel Al Anqar: In China, business men will never put their business cards in their wallets, it is considered in poor taste.
- Alaa Makhoul: In France, the French businessmen like to be called by their last name and more likely to give you an air kiss once they are familiar with you.
- Abdullah Al-Suffar: In South Korea business comes first and you are regarded as building a full-time relationship with them.
- Sara Alhatou: Russian businessmen will make you wait before attending to you as a power play, but if you are late, it is gravely frowned upon.
- Jude Massad: In Germany, every business meeting and transaction is very formal and they don't take too kindly to deviating off topic.
- Ayoub Mchanna: Once Japanese businessmen become comfortable with you, they will add “san” to your name as a sign of respect. Writing in red ink is a sign of shortening someone's life and therefore not something you would want to do during a business meeting.
- Abdullah Nassar: In the United States, people really like their personal space, so it is very clear when one favors you. Also, it's considered absolutely rude to use your phone while in a meeting or when closing a deal.
- Omar Lubbad: Gift giving in Canada isn't part of the norm in business meetings but they are very appreciated after a business deal is done.
- Bader Abu Ajeeneh: In the United Kingdom, people tend to over apologize and they appreciate the use of “please” and “thank you.”
- Laila Lubbad: Most of the business meetings in Mexico will be over a meal and be very casual.
- Zaid Hijazi: When it comes to business, Australians are very casual and like to conduct business in open spaces.
- Ahmad Ahmad: In Brazil, giving gifts that appear too expensive might be considered a bribe.
- Ahmed Al Hassan: Being patient and understanding is something that Spanish businessmen value in a business deal. It is also imperative to not mock their accent.
- Al Maha Al Thani: In Morocco, green tea is always served as a sign of good hospitality.

“I really enjoyed watching the young businessmen and women present and was proud of their presentation skills. I feel like I actually learned some new things about business that I really didn't know and it was exciting to learn from our students,” said Ms. Nessrein Sbaitah, Chief Teaching and Learning Officer. “Thank you to Ms. Kathleen Nelson for the invitation and we hope to see more from your amazing students soon.”

