



## Newsletter



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### Distance Learning Adventure of the European School

Focused on meeting students' needs in unprecedented reality, the European School managed to build a strong Distance Learning Program in a very short period of time. The European School team managed to proactively mediate challenges, estimate possible difficulties ahead, to create clear plans and make correct decisions helped the transition process to run smoothly.

The European School teachers who use every opportunity to innovate and integrate new technological capacities in teaching, approached online teaching with the spirit of a learners and adventurers who are open to do things differently.

Although distance learning is different and takes time to master well, teachers' enthusiasm, continuous professional development sessions offered by the school and lesson observations focused on refining the online teaching made it possible to retain a sustainable high quality of teaching.

Teachers use multiple learning resources provided by IB organization, the CIS and other reputable educational organizations. They share resources, experience and practices with colleagues to make online learning even more engaging and interesting.

During the preparatory week, a vital first step was to define what our distance learning program will look like.

The ES team decided to hold synchronous classes that would mainly correspond to a normal school day. The school selected several highly effective software solutions to meet the needs of different academic programs. Microsoft learning platforms, Google Hangouts and other effective mechanisms were applied to host a real-time distance classes.

From the beginning, the ES determined the policies and procedures by which the school was planning to run its distance learning program.

The school put the emphasis on security risk management, developed security instruments and new tools of security management and mitigation which guarantee the availability of services and processes with higher quality.



To troubleshoot technical issues the ES formed Technical Support Team. The team of high professionals provides learners, teachers, and parents with instant technical support.

Their assistance allow us to learn and teach without any technical barriers. The other school services are also available online. The psychologists provide our students to promote well-being and needed support in these exceptional times.

They are having scheduled and unscheduled sessions with students and teachers to reduce stress and manage effectively difficulties associated with online learning; The ES library equips students with its online learning resources: JSTOR, Britannica, Learning A-Z and etc. Students who fall behind in learning are offered additional online classes provided by the Student Support Centre.

The ES started Innovation Days recently. Within the framework of the "Innovation Days", students attend the workshops of innovative startups; they are involved in exciting team activities, where they work on real challenges in the world. The school is planning to offer other interesting extracurricular activities to its students in the coming months.

As the Distance Learning Program is quite new, the school actively seeks feedback from stakeholders. The ES parents receive surveys and share their opinion and suggestions about online classes. They have an opportunity to attend parents meetings online, receive important information and give feedback.

The ES shares its resources and practices with the broader community. Very popular video-lessons in literacy and reading hours provided by our school are available for other learners as well.

The ES makes a great effort to make the Online Learning Program stronger and attractive for learners.

The ES makes a great effort to trigger the Online Learning Program stronger and attractive for the learners. In the nearest future, to improve the quality of distance learning and further develop online teaching methodology, it is planned to introduce several virtual classrooms, laboratories equipped with the latest technologies adjusted to online education.

The ES with its strategies, practices, classrooms and educational systems connected to online learning proved to be a leader in educational innovation and improvement.

Your School is at Your Service.

## „Georgia is the country having European aspirations and we wish to have stable and friendly relations with it”,-said the Ambassador of Austria Mr. Arad Benkő during his visit to the European School.

„Austria has excellent bilateral relations with Georgia, recognizes it as a friendly country, and supports it on the way to European integration. We collaborate in all spheres. I am happy to see portraits of Austrian writers, composers, and painters exhibited at the European School. You seem to be familiar with Austrian culture and history. The students have multiple interesting information about our country. Austria hopes, existing relations help Georgia to reach European standards and become a member of the European family,”-declared Mr. Arad Benkő during the visit.

During the visit, Mr. Arad Benkő was welcomed by the school administration and the students with the most popular Austrian names-Hannah and Moritz. Portraits of famous Austrian writers, composers and artists were exhibited in the Main Conference Hall together with translated Georgian versions of books by Sigmund Freud, Hermann Broch, and Stefan Zweig.

The aim of the event was to learn more about Austria and Austria-Georgia relations. Teachers and students presented various projects related to Austria. Mr. Arad Benkő addressed the ES students, talked about important activities of the Austrian Embassy in Georgia and answered students' questions. The event ended with students' musical performances.



## Jewish-Georgian Memorandum

„Israeli Center for Young Leaders“ and the European School signed a memorandum of understanding. Exchange programs planned for Israeli and Georgian students supports establishing stable and beneficial collaboration between the youth of two countries. Youth plays an important role in developing friendship, solidarity, and peace in the world. -“I am the European School student and I am a citizen of Israel. When I heard that students from Tel Aviv were planning to visit our school I got excited. We spent an interesting day together, shared information about our countries, engaged in different educational activities, and learned a lot about each other. I am sure, this day will remain as an unforgettable memory for Jewish students”,- said the European School student from 12th-grade Lieli Binyamin.

At the meeting, students presented both countries and performed Israeli and Georgian anthem.



## Honorable Guest from the European Parliament- Romain Strasser

In the frames of the Memorandum of Understanding for „European School“ Students Romain Strasser - Head of Department on Intercultural Dialogue, European Parliament; Secretary General of EU - Georgian Friendship Group at the European Parliament has visited Georgia.

Romain Strasser delivered a lecture on "How does the European Union Work in Practice? EU career opportunities for European School Students". He listened to students' speeches and gave them advice to succeed in the international arena.

Mr. Strasser, along with European School students and Young Diplomats of Georgia, discussed the goals and future plans during his visit in Georgia. The Secretary General of the EU-Georgia Friendship Group has announced new international programs to be held in Brussels for young diplomats under the auspices of the European Parliament. At the end of the meeting, the students of the European School conducted a tour of the building for Mr. Strasser and explained their teaching methods in detail.

The third visit of EU Parliamentarian - Romain Strasser to the „European School“ was organized by the NGOs „European Alliance for Georgia“ and „Young Diplomats of Georgia.“



## Read Aloud, Change the World!

World Read Aloud Day is a popular and special day of reading celebrated in over 100 countries. Read Aloud, Change the World -this is a motto of the ES event aiming to become part of this global literacy movement.

Writer Giorgi Kekelidze, during the meeting with the students, talked about the role of books: “ Books are the sum of humanity’s memory, the memory which we possess. Today, we have to unite around books, read aloud, and read everywhere. Books are our best friends. “

The ES students read aloud in Georgian and in English masterpieces of Children’s literature as well as their own poetry and prose works.



## Preserve and Love your Mother Tongue

It is estimated by UNESCO that half of the over 6,000 plus languages spoken today will disappear in the nearest future. On International Mother Language Day, February 21st, we arranged a special celebration event at the school. The primary school students came dressed in national costumes.

The Greek student Melina Savidu showed off in a pretty Greek costume. At the school hallways, the students exhibited beautifully written phrases, read poems praising the Georgian alphabet, and promised to preserve their cultural heritage. The students arranged a flash mob and participated in a diverse cultural program.

International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on 21st February. It was first proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999 to preserve and promote linguistic and cultural diversity. Since then it is being celebrated every year across the world by holding different events.



## Museum at the School

„Culture, statehood and history don't exist separately,“-stated the representative of Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts Eka Dughashvili at the meeting with the European School students.

The National Centre presented an educational project at the ES and exhibited collection items: manuscripts created in three writing systems used to write the Georgian language as well as Latin, Greek and Italian manuscripts. Among others, an exact copy of the Vani Gospels - the manuscript composed at the Queen Tamar of Georgia's request was exhibited. The guests showed 3D installation demonstrating a unique heritage of Georgian and foreign manuscripts.

Within the project, the Doctor of Philology Eka Dughashvili held a lecture about unique manuscripts.

In the digital age, less and less importance is placed on handwriting. Typing on the computer gradually replaces it. It is significant to encourage handwriting tradition and remind children about its value. Elene Bazierashvili-mother of Kato Choladze conducted a lesson about calligraphy for the third graders. The students asked questions about the art of beautiful writing and created their monograms.



## Georgian Program Middle and High School Students' Final Assembly

The Georgian Program high school students conducted a final assembly in a distance mode and presented interesting talks, researches, and conference papers created throughout the second semester.

The greatest interest was evoked by the exhibition of paintings of Giorgi Kurtanidze from grade 11. Giorgi became fond of painting during the pandemic and exhibited his works from this unprecedented time.

The students shared their vision of Grigol Robakidze's novel "Murdered Soul". Group work was created on the topic "History and Rhetoric". An interesting talk by M.Akhalaia assured that patterns and regularities found all around the world could be discovered by conducting research at the European School.

Middle school students held a literary contest and presented videos on the following themes: The World after Coronavirus, The World from my Window, Appreciation for Doctors, etc. Grade 9b student Anastasia Gobianidze prepared a paper about a tragedy of a man who lost a homeland based on M.Javakhishvili's short story "The Call of the Earth" and "The Man Without a Country" by Edward E. Hale. During the assembly, certificates of achievement were awarded to the winning teams of Geography quiz show about the Europe Day from grades 8a and 8b and the members of parliamentary commissions for active participation in various virtual events during school closure.

In the end, the European School students reflected on and evaluated their projects developed during online learning.



## How we express ourselves

Grade 3A and 3B PYP students of ES following the inquiry cycle of the current unit “How we express ourselves”, showed great initiative and took actions resulted in a series of events.

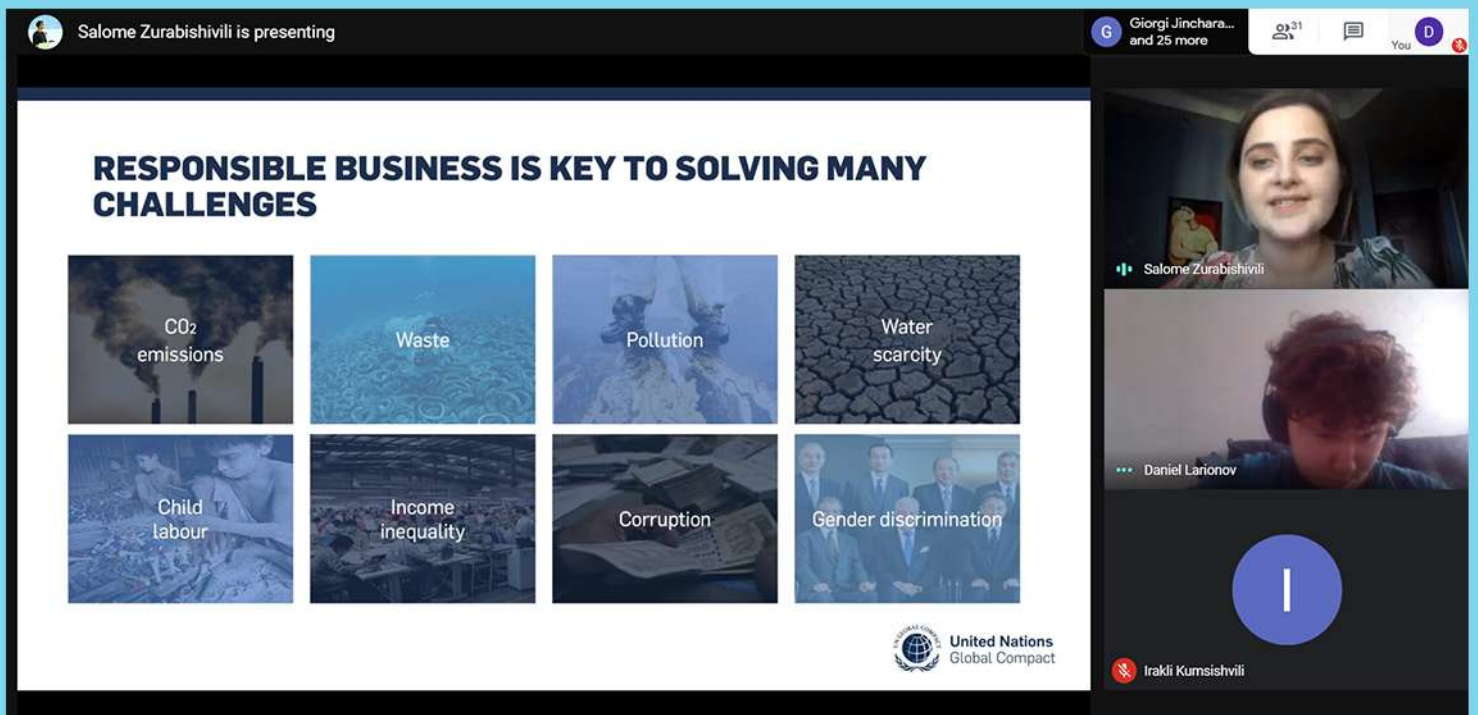
Being guided by their homeroom teachers and Georgian A teacher, students decided to host a bake sale for other PYP students and raise some money to purchase a very handy and needed knitting material for the nursing home “Katarzisi”. This was successfully implemented and students raised around 200 lari for the desired presents for elderly people. Being supported by one of the parents’, students took more initiative and helped making a traditional Georgian sweets “Pelamushi” by bringing the needed ingredients and cooking a delicious dessert at the school kitchen.

Together with the heartwarming letters and students’ smiles and hugs, all this was presented to elderly people during grade 3B visit to “Katarzisi”. In addition to the above, students of grade 3A initiated a visit to a kindergarten department where they met with the youngest students of ES school. By asking questions, answering some, reading stories, playing with the toy animals, building blocks, cars and puzzles, 3 grade students enjoyed their time very much as well as made our little kindergarteners day unique and very exciting!"



## The meeting with the CEO of UN Global Compact

Director of UN Global Compact Georgia and Civil Development Agency (CiDA) conducted an online meeting with ES IB DP students, under the CAS event on the 27th of May. Ms. Salome Zurabishvili shared the experience in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and discussed the importance of individual responsibilities towards society. Our guest introduced UN Sustainable Development Goals to our students, together with the ways of achieving them. European School continues to organize useful events for the students online as well.



## Online PYP Exhibition 2019 – 2020

Students celebrated the power of their learning on May 28. PYP exhibition for grade 5 was held online. This is a culmination of the IB Primary Years Programme. Grade 5 students were divided into 6 project-based work to cover the unit “Sharing the Planet”. The research topic was: Intolerance, Conflicts and Resolution, Languages, Pollution, Technological Innovations and Healthy Lifestyle. Students connected concepts to the lines of inquiry and wrote down key questions that they would try to answer during their research. After gathering all the necessary information and doing interviews, survey and action, students started working on their final presentation. They used Canva.com, Sway and Power Point Presentations to organize their findings. At the most important academic event of the PYP, the students showcased spectacular presentations.

Suhani: “The Pyp exhibition was amazing as I learnt a lot from it. For example, it helped us to work better with each other and helped us to become better friends. It also helped us to show our creativity and hidden talents. I learned to do work by collaborating with others in group. I showed my skills during this project which was very important. These skills are important because through them we find new ways of thinking and problem solving and helps us to understand the impact of our actions. I also got a chance to show myself as an IB learner”.

Vahid: “My experience for the exhibition is pretty good. I had fun times with the mentors. They were helping us a lot in the exhibition”.





## How students celebrate cultural diversity at ES

In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and in December 2002, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution 57/249, declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, acknowledging further the natural and cultural diversity of the world, and recognizing that cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development.

During this time of mass confinement, billions of people are turning to literature as a source of comfort, well-being and connection.

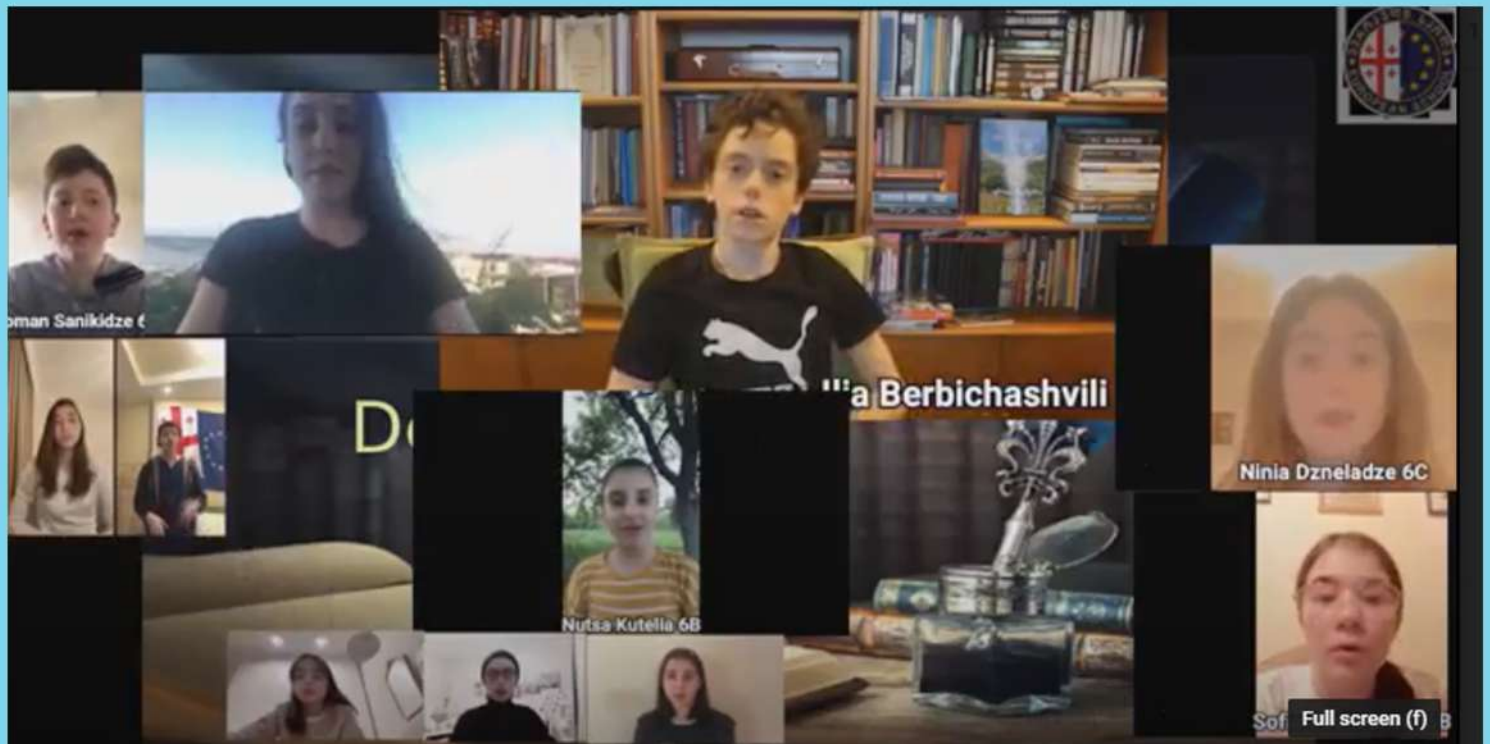
In relation with the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, on May 21, European School IB MYP students from the 9th and 6th prepared a video, in which they speak how literature helps bridging the gap between cultures.

Students speak about Georgian Literature, and show how acceptance and recognition of cultural diversity – in particular through innovative use of media and Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) – are conducive to dialogue among civilizations and cultures, respect and mutual understanding.

Georgian teacher, Ms. Ia commented on the project on its completion: I am so delighted. For me, it was such a surprise. I have been aware of the idea, but I have listened to the texts for the first time. The way they characterize Literature is the best reward for me.

Grade 9 student, Niaz Mahdavi comments on cultural diversity in the video: I am Iranian and it is so interesting that I can learn so much about my culture and traditions from Georgian literature.

This teaches me how important it is to respect other cultures and sustain diversity.



## Offline campaigns at European School

In 2020 we woke up in a new reality, cultural events cancelled, cultural institutions closed, community cultural practices suspended. The impact of COVID-19 was felt around the world.

European School IB MYP students decided to initiate a campaign called my offline hobby. Students realised that the lifestyle and the way they communicate to each other has changed eminently. Students started spending more time indoors and instead of complaining they decided to look around and utilize those precious hours of the day offline. Students showed how time spent without resorting to the internet will help you to relieve anxiety, raise your enthusiasm, relax your mind, eyes and tech neck, help you to focus on you, not on others.

Grade 6 student Mikho Overly shared his offline hobby with the community and he commented on the project: It is not late to join the campaign. I will share some ideas you can start as your offline hobby: Read a book. Just find a comfortable and quiet space to plunge yourself into the story; Identify flowers, trees, insects, birds or animals. Take on the role of naturalist and check how well you can recognize flowers, trees, other plants, insects, birds or animals; Do some gardening. If you are lucky enough to have a backyard, utilize it. Buy some seeds and see if you can grow something; Start writing. It doesn't matter if you're the author of a book or the extent of your writing is updating your Facebook status. Just pick up a pen and paper and start writing down whatever appears in your mind. It's a great way to relax and discover a hidden talent;

Start drawing. Find a nice place and start expressing yourself by using your imagination or by drawing surrounding objects or landscapes.



## Project “Students for seniors”

As you know, preparing for the Unified National Examinations in the face of a pandemic is a qualitatively/subjectively new challenge for the national education system. Undoubtedly, another challenge/difficulty for the national education system is the introduction of the teaching method with the involvement of peers (Peer Tutoring). In response to these two challenges and, above all, to help the seniors, the students of the American High School, with the encouragement of the history teacher Natia Pipia, created a programme for them. They write the very special video tutorials that explain in detail the way to solve a specific task or problem. The programme is prepared according to the questions included in the history tests of the Unified National Examinations. To do this, students use the tests used in the Unified National Examinations in previous years.



Eventually, the proper tests will be created and adapted to specifically for seniors, in which the entire programme will be collected. This method of teaching is interesting and fun for both students and seniors. In addition, this activity is very important for the American High School students for the enrollment at the desired university in the future. The video tutorials are uploaded by the American High School students in the open Facebook group "Students for Seniors". Anyone interested can join the group.

## Re-accreditation

Since 2015 The American High School has been accredited by AdvancED. AHS was one of the first schools in Georgia that received the accreditation. In February 2020, accreditation commission revisited the school to ensure that processes were operated according to their standards. During the visit, the commission mainly observed the way classes were taught. Additionally, they were interested if school administrative staff, teachers, parents and students were engaged sufficiently in the school management process. The performance of AHS teachers was measured by eleot tool, assessing student engagement in classrooms, the use of digital technology, the idea of global citizenship, etc.



On the 2nd of April 2020, AHS received a letter of accreditation and achievement congratulation. The commission conducting interviews with students, teachers, administrative staff and observed the actual learning process at classrooms. As a result, AHS was granted the accreditation for another 5 years with a very positive result of 345/400 points.

The American accreditation is a guarantee for our students that after graduating AHS, their diplomas will be recognized in all universities of the EU and the USA. Therefore, open doors to top education institutions will be awaiting for our graduates.



## What American High School taught me

### Giorgi Kancheli

In my opinion, the main aim of a teacher is to awaken the drive in their students to develop professionally and personally. For a teenager to achieve this, it is necessary to think independently and freely. European school and American high school places a great emphasis on critical thinking and possibilities which develop through communication and inquiry. Unique teaching style and relationship between teachers and students gives teenagers possibility to share their opinions and judgements with others. This process makes them each other's educators.

### Irakli Bezhuashvili

From traveling to hell with Dante and Virgil to vicariously living through the entangled intrigues of Hamlet, Literature has contributed in shaping my identity. I have always loved to tinker with different readings, connect them to each other and elaborate on them through my ideas. Literature classes gave me a platform to build my ideas on and create innovative perspectives. Through the help of our teacher, Natia Tevzadze we got to travel on this amazing encyclopedic journey and return back to Ithaca. My key takeaway is that sometimes literature might appear as too arduous, but if we keep our head inside this whirlwind of breadth of knowledge and intellectual vitality, we will understand so much more than a typical love story, power struggle, or an adventure novel.

### Elene Shamanadze

Once I stepped my foot into the American High School, I felt a different atmosphere. All the people were welcoming, up for questions and discussions and most importantly supportive. The school built my core values and principles of life, in regards to the academic side of the school it was very strong and innovative. Teachers helped me to develop my skills through various activities and deepened my knowledge in all kinds of fields. Our school offered the subjects that I was most interested in, such as Philosophy and Psychology, the fascinating teachers helped me to guide myself onto the right path and even choose my profession. In regards to the social aspect of the school, it offered a great, close community with a welcoming atmosphere. The teachers were always there for me, through hard and easy times and they taught me how to value life and how to grow as a person. I strongly recommend American High School.

### Liza Arveladze

The American sector of the European school has shaped me into an adult, taught me right from wrong, and turned me into an independent individual ready to take on college. I was always given the help and support from teachers, whether it was for educational purposes or moral support. Every teacher offered a helping hand for me when I needed it. Besides comfort, the school gave me everlasting memories with the students I spent every day with. The school planned lots of field trips, party's, activities, events that we all took place in together. Everyone had a great high school experience full of laughs, hugs, and much love.

Besides, all the memories made American high school taught me so much because of all the different classes and courses it offered, for example, philosophy, languages, various historical courses created for students to choose from and take part in. AP classes like psychology, economics, calculus, and many more helped prepare us for college set classes. Taught us how to prepare for college type exams and the amount of studying it requires. American high school also made students for reviews outside of the school's requirements. For example, the teachers helped prepare students for the SAT by scheduling weekend classes. All of these extra classes helped make it is better to take on life after we receive our diplomas.

High school was full of ups and downs. It is the time of the coming of age for all students, which makes everything even harder. But American high school made the experience much more comfortable and more pleasurable for everyone. I will forever remember and keep American high school in my heart.

### Lia Pipia

I spent the best years of my life at the European School. Throughout those past twelve years, I learned that no matter what happens, students and teachers are always there to help you. I remember each teacher I have ever had, and I'm proud to say all of them support me to this day. I have made many memories at this school, and all of them I will treasure for life.

European School gave me a lot. Moving to the American sector of our school helped me experience a real High School life. Throughout the years spent there, I mastered all the skills needed for my future and prepared for the more significant step of my life.

American High school taught me a lot. The education program selected is adjusted for its students to learn all the essential subjects and understand the vital parts to prepare them for universities.

Classes are chosen and taught in a way to give fundamental ideas to their students. Learning Classical Civilizations and Philosophy, understanding the importance of old classical culture and its ideology, helped us analyze many works of literature, the debate over the ideas, and overall gain valuable knowledge of the culture that lived before us and still lives on till this day. American High School offers its students Advanced Placement (AP) program, which offers college-level curricula and examinations to its students. AP Subjects allow us to try out courses close to our major of choice, understand how college courses operate and develop critical thinking and analytical skills.

Even though the past few months have been hard, our school made it as enjoyable and exciting as possible. I will forever be grateful for all I learned and every experience I gained during those years..

### Nia Zeikidze

I am a graduate of American High School of 2020. I want to thank teachers, deans, the director, students and every member of school faculty for teaching me and helping me grow into a person that I'm today. I have gained too many things from every subject. The school has given me many opportunities including: AP subjects, the clubs, extracurricular activities, projects, etc.

When I first came to AHS in 8th grade, I was very shy while doing the presentations, but since then I have changed, in a way that, I have gained more confidence while presenting. The presentations taught me to represent my best self and my ideas. Not only presentations, but during the English Literature and Arts class, I learned to analyze different topics and controversial issues.

Moreover, I want to thank my AP psychology teacher, Ana Chakhnashvili and Georgian Language and Literature teacher, Tekla beradze for always believing in me and for their hard work. I believe that every teacher and the member of the faculty will be appreciated and respected for their hard work. Thank you, European School for giving me the chance to have a successful future!

### Masho Khabazishvili

"American high school" has taught me a lot even though I have been a part of it for a short period of time. The people I got to know there taught me a lot about myself. I learned how to apply ideas that I learn in classroom in real life. I have learned how to reflect on my ideas and thoughts. I learned the sense of responsibility and all these things are going to help me through the amazing journey of college. I've understood that I have to work extremely hard in order to achieve my goals and regardless of whatever I do, my results may not be perfect. But what I think the most important part of it all has been is that I should never forget how to be myself.

## Presentations at the European kindergarten

At European Kindergarten we have presentations about the learnt topics, four times a year. At the end of January, we prepared a presentation: “How my body works”.

The kids happily presented their work to their parents. Showed them how they made the human skeleton, internal organs, blood cells from different materials.

They talked about the structure of a human body and the function and duties of our internal organs. Introduce guests to what they have learned new and interesting about this topic. Fun activities with songs and dances were organized. The little ones took some photos with their family members.



## „European School“ student lesson at the kindergarten

Datuna Siradze, 7th grade student of European School has presented our preschoolers the very interesting lesson about frogs. The theme of the week in kindergarten was “Amphibians”.

He talked about frog lifecycle, explained he catches tadpoles in spring, takes care of them and after they become frogs how he lets them go into the water again. Datuna was very kind to answer all the questions kids had. The children thanked him for this amazing and informative lesson.



## Online Kindergarten Program

On March 16th, European Kindergarten switched to remote learning. Within the Online Kindergarten Program, children have access to fun and interesting activities in Math, Science, Language Arts, Sports, and Arts.

Every day:

Teachers provide kids with their own videos, presentations and other useful learning resources.

Children share their works with teachers and groupmates online, with the help of parents.

From March 23rd, children from preschool groups additionally joined synchronous online meetings. Together with teachers and group mates, they have an opportunity to discuss interesting themes, conduct fun experiments, participate in various physical activities, read books, share ideas and complete tasks.



## Earth Day Goes Digital

April 22 is the Earth day! Our planet is one to be celebrated all year long, but we like to give it a little extra attention during the month of April.

Let's take good care of it, keep it healthy for us and for generations to come !

On April 22nd, we celebrate this special day. Within the online learning, the European kindergarten teachers made very interesting presentations for kids:

“How to Take Care of the Earth?”

“The Earth is Our Home.”

Teachers also offered kids interesting videos and handmade crafts to do from recycled materials. Later our little ones happily shared their work with us.

While Earth Day goes digital, the goal remains the same: to mobilize the world to take actions to make a difference.

