

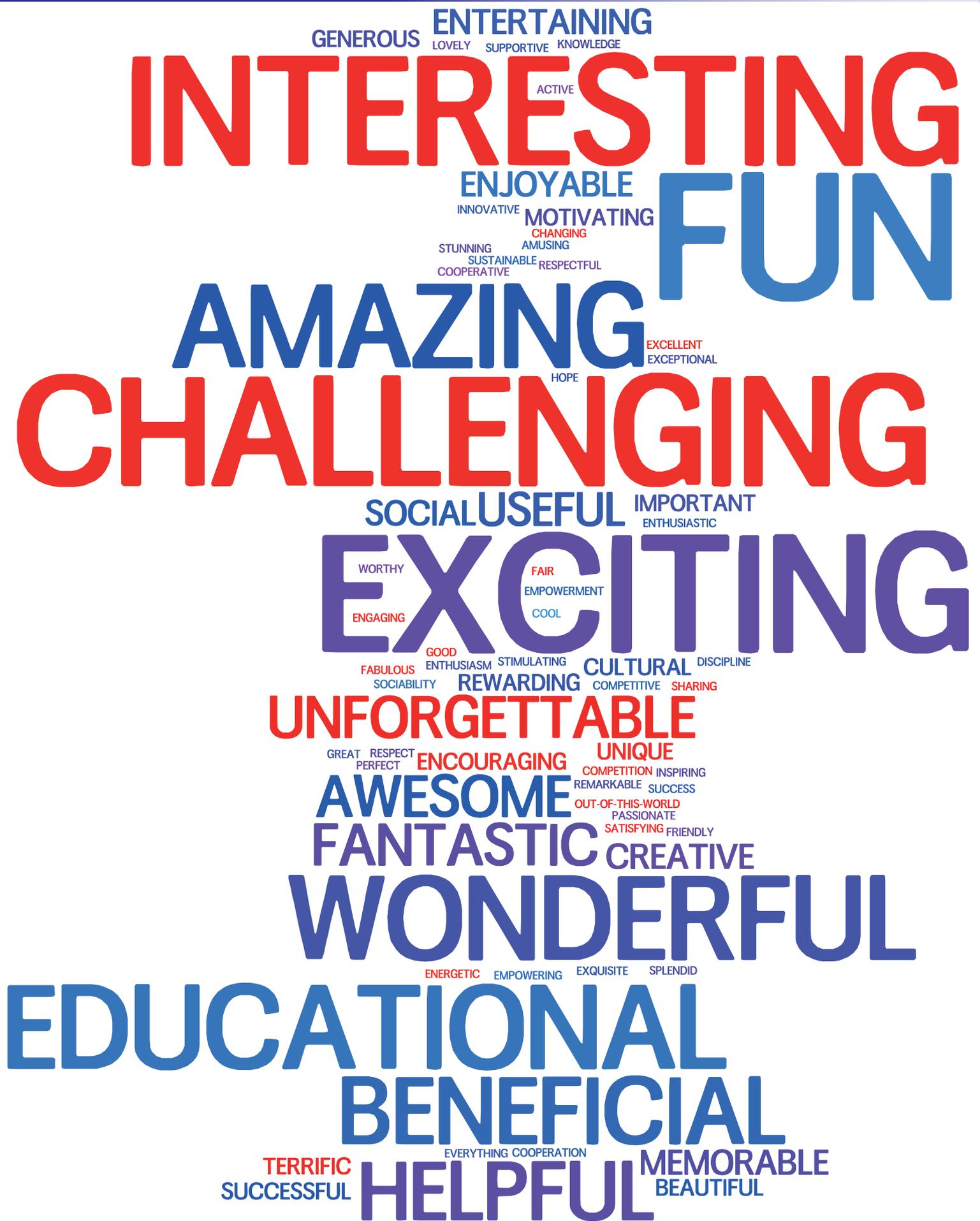


AMIDEAST
امد إيست

ACCESS IN ACTION



How do students describe Access?





U.S. AMBASSADOR'S LETTER



Embassy of the United States of America

Beirut, Lebanon
February 1, 2011

Dear Access 5 Graduates:

Congratulations on your successful completion of the English Access Microscholarship Program! I am confident that the past two years in Access have been a life-changing experience for you. Not only have your English skills dramatically improved, but you have developed a remarkable sense of service and commitment to the community. You have learned about American history, government, and culture. You have shared in the tradition of Thanksgiving, read about the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States, and participated in leadership training. You have learned about the importance of community service, and have given back to your schools and hometowns.

These important values and ideas are not just American – they are universal. I hope that you will carry them with you and continue to live out these values wherever you go. Your knowledge of English is a key to greater opportunities as you move on to university and beyond. You and your families should be very proud of all that you have achieved through Access.

I hope that the end of your Access experiences will not mean the end of your connection with the Embassy. As you go forward, please continue to consider yourselves part of the U.S. Embassy family.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors, and I look forward to following the many successes I know will be achieved by our Access alumni!



Sincerely,

Maura Connelly
Ambassador

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Letter from U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Maura Connelly

About Access

3 Program Information
4 Access Class Locations

Class Pages

6 Ain Baal
7 Aley
8 Bar Elias
9 Batroun
10 Bazourieh
11 Bednayeil
12 Beirut
13 Bint Jbeil
14 Bterram (Intermediate)
15 Fnaydek
16 Hisa
17 Jounieh
18 Kamed El Lowz (Intermediate)
19 Khreibit El Jundi (Intermediate)
20 Rashaya
21 Rashaeen
22 Saadnayeil
23 Tripoli (Fadel El Moukadem)
24 Tripoli (School for Girls)
25 Tripoli Mina
26 Tripoli Mina (Intermediate)
27 Zgharta
28 Zgharta (Intermediate)

Activities & Events

30 Certificate Ceremony
32 Discover Lebanon Day
33 Field Day
34 Halloween
36 Thanksgiving
37 Beirut International Film Festival (BIFF) and Chen Lo & the Liberation Family
38 Theater Productions: High School Musical 2 and Romeo & Juliet
39 Success Skills Workshops
40 Writing and Poetry Workshops
41 Drama Workshop
42 Community Service Day

More Access

43 Access Moments
44 Autographs

About AMIDEAST

PROGRAM INFORMATION

History of Access

The U.S. Department of State's English Access Microscholarship Program empowers deserving 14- to 18-year-old students in communities around the world to study English. Since its inception, U.S. embassies have selected English teaching schools, institutes, and organizations in 70 countries to enroll approximately 55,000 students in the English Access Microscholarship Program. In addition to English language learning, the program provides an American-style classroom experience using U.S. materials and emphasizing active learning.

Access in Lebanon

The U.S. Embassy in Lebanon established the English Access Microscholarship Program in 2004 under the administration of AMIDEAST. Since then, the program has reached 2,068 students from all Lebanese areas, including the most remote regions in North and South Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley.

The program provides 400 hours of English language training and American cultural experiences over a period of two years for students who are awarded the scholarships based on their school grades, personal essays, and economic need.

The program's aims are to:

- increase English language skills and capabilities within underserved communities of Lebanon;
- help with the students' personal development;
- empower the students through diverse workshops and activities; and
- strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between Americans and Lebanese.

Students from over 150 public schools in Lebanon have participated in the program with the support of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. In addition to improved English language skills, Internet usage among Access students has increased from 20% to 80%. Several Access students have gone on to win scholarships to study in the U.S. and most continue their studies at the university level.

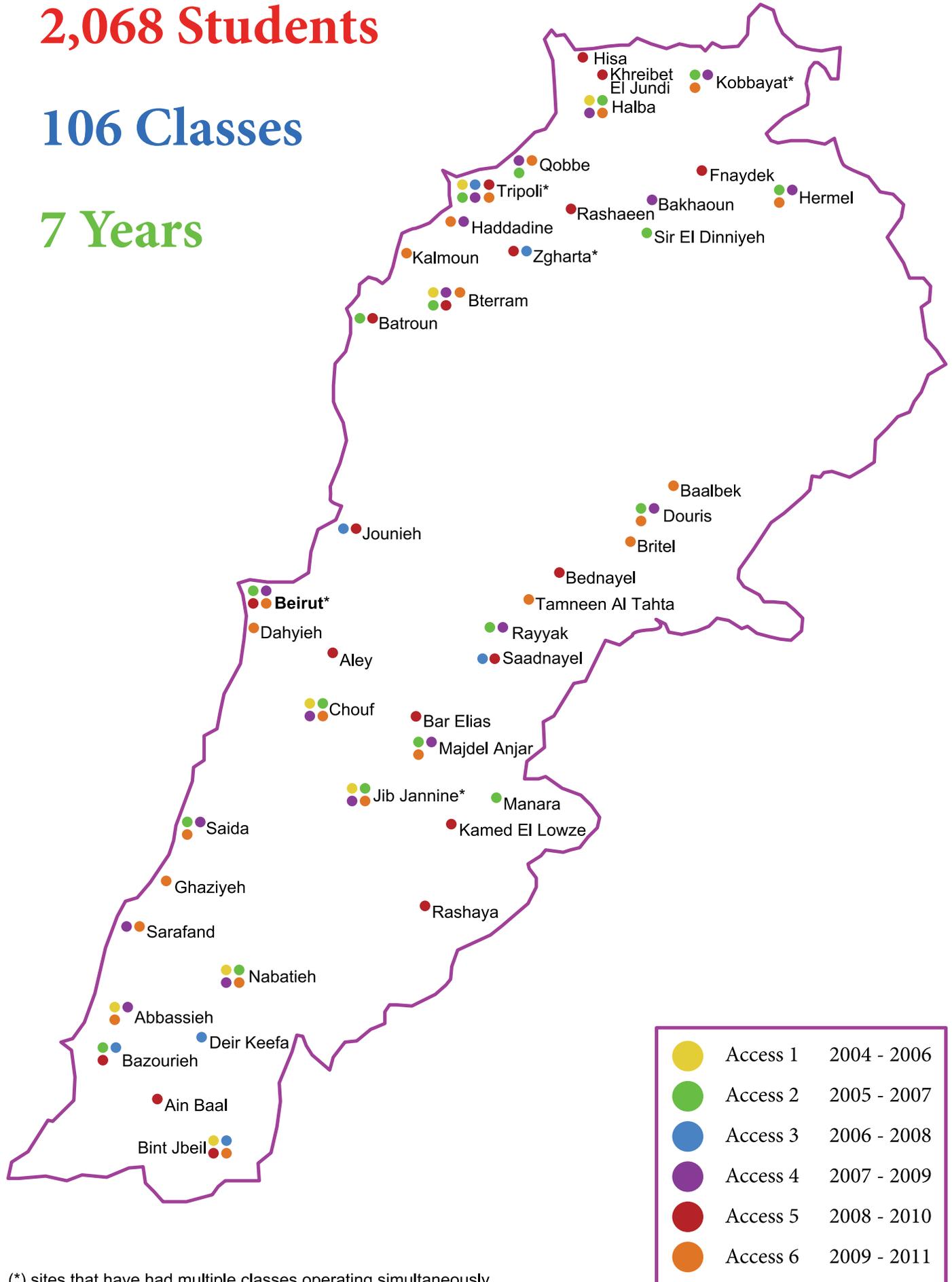


ACCESS CLASS LOCATIONS

2,068 Students

106 Classes

7 Years



(*) sites that have had multiple classes operating simultaneously

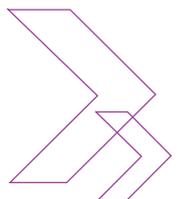
A Class Act



At the heart of the Access Program are its classes. Access 5 saw 23 classes mature and evolve throughout the two year program. Students entered the program – nervous, shy, eager, excited – and soon enough, found their place within it.

Each class had a unique set of experiences: students bonded, becoming brothers and sisters. Students from all parts of the country – from the highest mountain in the north to the low-lying valley to the east to the coastline hugging the west and all the way down south – were given an exceptional opportunity to get to know their fellow Lebanese. Many became friends, and when classes come together, a large extended family seems to be reuniting.

The opportunity of a lifetime, a life-changing experience, lessons learned for life... each class has a story to tell in its own way – their version of this exceptional time in their lives.





Community Service Project

To improve their school, the class took the initiative to ask the local municipality and UNIFIL for donations. Along with 10 benches donated from UNIFIL, the class planted nine trees, put in 12 trash bins, changed the soccer and basketball nets, and painted fresh lines for the basketball court! The class also painted murals on the playground walls.

A ceremony celebrated their achievement, with the school principal, the mayor, teachers, parents, and UNIFIL officers attending. The students were pleased that through initiative, their voices were heard by city and international leaders.

After two years of participating in the Access Program, I've learned that "Success has a simple formula: Do your best and people would like it." Moreover, I've also learned that "Actions speak louder than words." Abdul Latif Charara

With Access you can shoot for the moon. Even if you fail, you'll end up landing on the stars. Hasan Eskandar

After two years of participating in the Access Program, I learned that success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm. Hasan Basma

Access is a treasure... I attended it once ever and it made me clever. It was really a pleasure, so thanks for ever... Nisrine Al Fakih

The two years with Access were an exciting and unforgettable experience in my life. Meeting new friends, learning new skills, building my self-confidence, and improving my English language were very beneficial and interesting for me. Access Program took us to a new world full of skills, friends, and adventure. Hiba Hojeij

I didn't know I would have so much fun at Field Day. It was very exciting and I enjoyed meeting new students there from all over the country. In fact, all the workshops and activities done were amazing. Mohsen Mortada



Access is a beneficial program which improved my life, it changed me in different ways, socially it helped me gain more good friends. It also introduced me to different people from different cultures. Ali Al Jammal

Now I find it easier to have conversations and debates in English, I mean ideas just pop into my head in English and I don't have to translate them from Arabic to English anymore. Lara Maddah

Access really changed me where it let me know the value of cooperation, developed my self-confidence, and made me a social activist. I think that Access would give me an opportunity for higher education and more job chances. Samer Barake

For a person my age, I find it an achievement to spread awareness in my society concerning such a vital issue as our environment. I can honestly state that I found myself in community service and will continue to do so in the future. Hanan Imad

I learned how to communicate and how to tolerate, when to listen and when to talk. I learned a lot about the American life and culture, about American sports, politics, and democracy. I learned about American idioms, geography, and how important the interaction between cultures is. Rodaina Boushaheen

Community Service Project

As the Aley class believes youth are the country's future, they were inspired to hold a youth fair to teach them to respect and protect the environment. The students designed flyers and created 18 environmentally themed games.

The all-day event engaged the youth of Aley, delivering the green, peaceful message using fun and entertainment. An estimated 2,500 visitors attended, including head of the city council, Wajdi Murad. The people of Aley greatly enjoyed the fair, and learned about the environment's importance through a fun and interactive medium.



Community Service Project

The students implemented two projects. First, they raised 1,100,000 L.L. to buy toys for a local orphanage. Then they wrote and performed a play for the orphans about the environment and how to take care of it. Over 100 children attended the performance, and afterwards, the students gave them the toys. Second, the class established a club where teenagers would donate to the club 45% of the money earned through small jobs to have seed money for future community service projects.

Bar Elias truly cares about the community and believes that community service should mobilize and engage youth for long-term activities.

Thanksgiving dinner, an everlasting memory! Everything just looked perfect from every angle! The dinner was out of this world! Every one of us revealed his gratitude and thankfulness for the Lord. It was so cozy, we felt just like family. Rita Mosleh

My favorite activity was the Injaz workshop. We had a lot of benefits that day especially that they taught us about leadership and how to be a leader. And I think they were preparing us for the future. Mahmoud Shaaban

One of the benefits we got from being Access students was the community service project. It gave us the opportunity to improve our communities and to achieve something really important. Hiba Shehab

We can say that the aim of this program is to introduce us to the American culture successfully. I think that has happened to me. I'm now ready to stay with an American person for hours speaking and discussing many issues. Mustapha Hamad

Access taught me about tolerance, passion, and cooperation, but the unpredictable thing is that Access taught me about my community. I know that sounds weird, but I was able to look at my community in a whole new perspective. Asmaa Shebli



Beirut Film Festival was my favorite activity. We watched Tetro, it was an amazing film and we felt like famous people when we sat at the balcony in the UNESCO Palace. Michelle el Khoury

I preferred the Jeita Grotto field trip because it showed me how great and beautiful my country is. Anonymous

I met new friends, and more importantly, we improved our English language. Jessy Abi Karam

I am now a better person. Jack Lebbos

For our community service project, I felt like I was doing something important in my life, that I helped people. Cendrella El Hossry

I learned a lot of things about how the American people live and in every celebration we have felt that we are Americans. Mehssen Ayrtrouth

We learned about leadership, how to be a leader. Eliane Boutros

I was so happy because I worked as a team with my classmates to improve this elderly home. Mariam Berberi

Community Service Project

The Batroun class decided to combine environmental awareness and beautification along with compassion for the elderly.

The students went to an elderly home where the garden needed to be spruced up. They gave the garden fresh life by painting the walls and planting flowers and 20 fruit trees. Some of the elderly residents even joined them, using their experience and knowledge to guide the students.

The Access students were happy to have brought joy to the lives of the residents and were immensely touched by the interaction.



Community Service Project

The Bazourieh class sought to bring awareness about recycling and environmental issues to the town's citizens. To make an impact starting at home, they researched recycling, met with non-governmental organizations and the recycling center, asking how housewives can help.

After conducting their research, the students visited housewives in Bazourieh, explaining the methods and importance of recycling. They gave out 20 recycling bins to housewives who were excited about reducing and recycling their waste. The students also encouraged people to stop using plastic bags.

I liked many activities but the most were Halloween and Thanksgiving since they let us know what the days that Americans celebrate are and how they celebrate these days. Hanan Ayash

What I liked most was Halloween. That was my first one and hopefully not the last. I liked the costumes we wore and the games we played. Nour Berro

Before I started the project, I was totally afraid of the reaction of wives who haven't seen or heard of such a thing. But after this campaign, we really experienced the importance of serving the community especially in an environment issue. Actually repeating such a project would be a great pleasure to me, since it raised the soul of responsibility toward my community. Orsola Baydoun

Access made a difference in my life. It taught me how to communicate well in society and helped me to detect my future career. Also it made my personality stronger and taught me to express my ideas and beliefs in an organized way. Farah Jaber

Access taught us many things, such as: sharing, caring, soul of discovering, the soul of knowing. I think it helped change so much in my personality by teaching and showing me many new things and allowing me to share in different and new events. Alaa Aoun



Access made a great difference in my life, in the way we learned things inside the class and the social and educational activities we shared with other schools. These activities made me meet the students of other schools in different regions of Lebanon and important people, such as Ambassador Michele Sison.

Reina Takesh

Well, overall, all the Access activities were my favorite, all of them had spread the joyful spirit in us.

Zahraa Dirany

Access made me more self-confident by interacting with others.

Zahraa Mousawi

I would do community service again since the SOS children were very happy and excited, same as I was. And I think we made an impact since we had memories with them and we had a great day.

Sarah El Dirani

I learned many English words. I know how to speak with others without any fear. I learned sharing and work as a group. Many doors are open for me; I just have to take the chance to pass through them.

Mohammad Hellani

Access taught me many things that will help me in the future.

Hanan Hajj Sleiman

Community Service Project

Bednayel students decided to act together with children from the SOS Children's Villages of Ksarnaba in a play that took place in a restaurant in the nearby village of Chmestar. In addition to teaching the children of Chmestar about the importance of the environment, the play was also able to raise funds for their peers at SOS-Ksarnaba. The Bednayel class met with the director of the village and the SOS youngsters, talked to them about the environment and trained them for the play. It was an experience that the Access students won't forget.



Community Service Project

The Beirut class decided that the best way to tackle environmental problems was to take the school by storm: they researched about the importance of recycling for the environment, then designed an environmental awareness campaign for the school.

After buying boxes, they presented to their classmates how to sort garbage with visual aids, which were well received by the fascinated students, who supported the recycling ideas. The recycling initiative is now being applied at school, hopefully contributing to a cleaner, healthier, and more environmentally friendly Beirut.

My favorite Access activity was Halloween where we all gathered, played, sang, and learned more about the traditions of the U.S. It was an unforgettable experience! Sara Nawwar

Volunteering and participation are the bedrocks of my character and Access has given me the utensils to rehabilitate the “new and better me.” Ghinwa Haroun

Access has helped in building my self-confidence and gave me different opportunities for life. Lina Hammoud

I am sure I can face any difficulty in language and in the way I deal with people around me. And for the future, I guess that even if I don't get a scholarship, I've already achieved my goals. Abir Kaskas

Access gave us the chance to discover our country Lebanon. Rayan Moumnel

I have improved in English, learned more about American culture, self-confidence, solving problems and communicating with new people. Rasha Jaouni

I liked Field Day because we had to challenge many schools by cooperating with each other. Aya Baghdadi



I was given the opportunity to meet students from my age of different interests, backgrounds and belongings. Access has made me a more open-minded and flexible person, someone who is able to accept others with all their differences.
Kassem Saad

Halloween has been my favorite activity...we enjoyed carving our pumpkin and choosing our costumes; we enjoyed playing traditional Halloween games like bobbing for apples. Fatima Issa

Access has been a treasure, not of gold and money but of education and honey.
Hassan Khanafer

I feel that I am extremely well prepared for college, for my English has been improved, my social relationships have been enhanced, my leadership skills and self-confidence have been developed. These are the weapons I need to face life and ensure success. Rim Haidar

To ensure the sustainability of our project, we contacted the municipality which promised to collect the garbage on weekly basis. The municipality has kept its promise, and we've made a difference. Rola Mousa Herz

Community Service Project

The small forest in the town of Yaroun, outside of Bint Jbeil, faced a huge litter problem. Access students, volunteers, and residents worked to clean up Horsh Yaroun. They planted ten trees, collected litter, and placed garbage bins throughout the forest. They hung up signs encouraging visitors to use the garbage bins and keep the area clean. To make their project successful, the students involved the local municipality, which thanked the students and promised to send garbage trucks to pick up the garbage and take it to the recycling factory on a weekly basis.



Community Service Project

To thank the school they attend, the Bterram students divided their project in two parts. First, the students worked as waiters in restaurants on the weekends to earn extra money that they used to buy books for the school library.

Second, with the support of the principal and the parents, the students cleaned seven classrooms and the computer lab, as well as the hallways. Even four non-Access students joined in helping their classmates!

The class learned that volunteering is important. After the success of the project, they felt encouraged to continue to organize community service projects in the future.

It was a big challenge to me, in the past I really can't imagine myself talking English and expressing myself but now I feel better about myself. Now I can say I'm multi-lingual. Vanessa Tannous

Halloween was a lot of fun. We wore strange costumes, we also enjoyed the games and we took a lovely pumpkin with us. It was awesome. Melissa Naoum

In the beginning, I was freaking out because I don't like to work, but after this experience I feel different about myself. From now on, I will participate at every youth service and I will encourage my family and relatives to do it. Claudia Tannous

I would do community service again because I like to help my society in very good ways. Yostina Daoud

I learned a new language. I've met new friends from different regions of Lebanon. I had a great chance to meet Ambassador Michele Sison at the certificate ceremony. Joseph Tohme

It has made a difference in my academic life. It encourages me to study, and in my social life, it has made my personality more outgoing. Gizelle Bazi



Injaz has given me too much. The leader did his best to help us and he taught us two lessons: patience and perseverance will do wonders, and treat others as you would like to be treated. Sondos Haj

In the past, I didn't speak English. Now I can speak English and participate in society. After doing community service, I decided to aid my society because if I want to do a thing, I can and I can help and serve my community. Rakhima Zakuri

After the community service project, I feel that I can change my society. Ahmad Baariny

I learned English to continue my education, to pursue my studies, to express myself and to meet people from foreign countries Raida Al Mourad

I learned a new language which will help me in the university and encourages me to travel and also I can transfer our culture to the foreign countries easily. Oula Al Dayeh

I learned how to communicate with all people and especially with Americans, and how to express our opinion. Niamat Al Nassbi

Community Service Project

The Access students of Fnaydek wanted to beautify their town and the surrounding areas by adding more green life to it. They planted ten pine trees by the entrance of the town, next to the high school. Members of the Fnaydek municipality attended the planting and supported the students' efforts for a greener town.

The students were excited and pleased to see a more beautiful town as a result of their hard work. By planting the trees by the town's entrance, the class hoped the residents would appreciate nature and the environment as a result.



Community Service Project

The HISA students took a critical look at the entrance of their high school and decided that it was time to clean it up. The class painted the main gate and the walls white.

Then, guided by the school director, and guided by a local painter who volunteered to help with the painting, they drew on the walls and painted them. The painted walls and gate breathed fresh life into the school, creating a refreshed and pleasant atmosphere.

The students enjoyed the experience of painting on the walls, and felt proud for making a change in their community.

Jeita Grotto is unique. I was very amazed when I saw that Jeita is a natural fortune for Lebanon. Zein Hamad

At Jeita Grotto, I met a lot of new people, I gained a lot of friends from all the areas in Lebanon. Ali Al Ali

Two years were like a dream. Saraa Al Ali

Access gave me an opportunity to learn English. Reem Mehaz

Access helped me achieve my dreams and will help me succeed at university. Hanine Kanjou

We were so happy in the final result. I'll do community service in the future in my town because I learned to take responsibility and I felt the beauty of team work. Access made me take responsibility of my actions without the aid of my parents. Maggy Al Ali

Access helped me to become better in the society, it gave me confidence in myself. I learned to respect people in the society, and I gained a lot of information about American people. Dalida Mohammed



I loved all the Access activities but my favorites were Halloween and Thanksgiving and Field Day because I learned more about American culture and lifestyle.
Myriam Njeim

During our community service project, the people were passing by and thanking us for the work we were doing. Roula Abou Chabke

Before starting to work, I felt stupid, I had nothing to win but nothing to lose. So I decided to do the project, and in the end we made an impact locally.
Guy El Khoury

After we did our project, we felt like heroes. And I will participate in community service again because it helped me think about others and serve my society.
Simona Mikhael

We learned how important it is to work together like a team. Janot Semrani

Access has made a difference because it made me believe more in myself, trust myself, and helped me express myself. Theresia Lahoud

Access has made a difference in my life. It changed my personality and changed my social life. I am now a new person. Dona Sfeir

Community Service Project

The Jounieh class decided to send a green message to the community, and the class started its project in a poor, neglected neighborhood of Jounieh. They cleaned two long stairways and planted 20 rose bushes on both sides. Since there were no garbage bins, the class put some in. The class also cleaned their school playgrounds.

The class wanted to show that a place, a symbol of poverty and garbage, can change with a few simple steps, and that caring for the environment is essential.

KAMED EL LOWZ (INTERMEDIATE)



Community Service Project

The students of Kamed El Lowz wanted to give back to their school and decided that the best way to do it was to freshen up the library, a place where many students weren't spending any time. The class designed a concept, and in keeping with an environmental theme, they painted the walls with scenes of flowers, trees, and birds.

The result was a beautifully painted wall that the principal, teachers, and students all liked and enjoyed. The students liked the final result so much that now they prefer to study in the library, which has become the most used place in the school.

Jeita Grotto was the best trip we had been on. It should be one of the seven natural wonders of the world because of its wonderful scenes. Tourists come from other countries to visit Jeita so Lebanese should be proud about it.

Nada Khalil

Injaz finance workshops was my favorite project because it gives me power to be a leader. It also made my life a fruitful life.

Yasmeen Ghandour

Field Day is the most interesting and exciting activity... I learned many kinds of sports and I knew the American culture and traditions.

Yasmeen Shaba

Access gave me self-confidence in speaking English.

Mohamed Waked

It changed me positively because it made me better in English and the most awesome thing that it built in me a strong self-confidence and independence.

Abeer Abou Abbass

It was a great chance for me to develop my English language and made us feel proud to be Lebanese. I'm very grateful to Access.

Hiba el Hajj

I would do community service again because this project impacted me and challenged me to do another one.

Nariman Hasan



I had fun in the Injaz program because I worked with other people and we listened to each other. Roukaya Diab

I like English more than before. Mouhy Al Dine Nafeh

I'm now another person. I'm a better person. Maha Keraly

I have improved my English language, and I'm now more responsible. We are now more ambitious. I would like to be English teacher in the future. Dou'a Chahine

Access helped us academically and socially and improved our English language. Ghadir Al Hajj

I want to do community service again, because it is very beautiful to see a plant grow and makes the world beautiful. Jimane El Joundi

I learned in the past 2 years from being in Access and participating in the activities how to speak English with people and how to cooperate with my friends. Ghina al Hayek

We made the soccer field the most beautiful and we served our society. Elée Matar

Community Service Project

The students of Khreibit El Jundi decided to “green” the soccer field in their town by planting 21 trees, which is the number of students in the class. The idea of planting the trees was to decorate the area with natural beauty, but more importantly, to make the air healthier.

On the planned day, the students worked together to dig holes, plant the trees, and water them. To ensure that the students will take care of the trees, each student adopted a tree and considers it his or her own, thus encouraging the maintenance and growth of the tree.



Community Service Project

For their project, the Rashaya class wanted to give back to their school. After raising additional funds through student donations, they divided their project into two parts: first, they brightened up the garden by planting five fruit trees and painting the surrounding wall. Then, the class installed five curtains in the classrooms, allowing students to study more easily.

Students were surprised to see how different their school looked; in fact, they were so impressed that other students planted more trees in the garden! The Rashaya students were happy to see their positive impact on their school and their classmates.

My participation in the Access Program helped me a lot, it helped me to grow up socially, it helped me to communicate with other people. In addition to that it helped me to improve in English language. Salman Yousef Serhal

I think that Access has made me a different person, socially and academically. In fact Access is an important program and I advise everyone to be a member of Access, since Access makes you mature mentally and socially. Arkan Bassam Abd Al Khalek

Access has made me have lots of friends and be more open to other societies and their cultures. Eleen Fadel Faour

It changed my personality and my way of thinking. Shady Bassam Kasseb

I learned about a society that I thought was bad but after this, I detected that American society has a big number of good people and this experience excited me to visit America. Layth Rassin Naim

I feel that Access has made a difference in my life, since I was a person who loves only the Arab region because of some ideas that say that America is like an enemy, but that idea has gone from my mind. Kamal Abou Safa



The thing that I liked most about Field Day is that we didn't care about winning or losing, we just had fun. Celine Mourani

My favorite Access activity was Halloween, because this was new to us all, enjoying something new from our culture; it was the first time I went to a party like it, all Access students dancing and playing. Khalil Zaydan

Being an Access student was an honor. It changed my life because socially, I became so confident more than before. Sayde Terrazi

I got the chance to meet new people from all over Lebanon and this is something you don't experience every day. I think that in the future I will be indebted to this Access class that has given me lots of opportunities. Stephanie Akkary

I felt that I helped my society, and I wish if we can volunteer more and more to build the country that we all wanted and help the others. Reina Bustom

The Access program gave me a push and encouraged me to meet and communicate with people, even if they are from other religions. Dayane Saysouk

Community Service Project

The students of Rashaeen wanted to make their school a friendlier, more beautiful place to be. With the school principal's encouragement and supervision, they started the project of cleaning the playground and painting the walls. They also planted 16 trees along the walls of the playground, providing a more pleasant surrounding for the students. The class also raised funds for two benches to be installed on the playground. Everyone was amazed at the results, and the students felt that all their hard work paid off.



Community Service Project

As the Saadnayel students had been sitting on the grass, the students felt it was time to get benches. The class also wanted to put in a basketball hoop to encourage physical activity. For one month, the Access students pooled their transportation money. Other students in the school saw what they were doing and donated money, raising their total to \$300. With these funds, they bought three benches and painted them and bought a basketball hoop for the school. As a result of their work, the principal decided to add more benches to the school playground, showing the class that a small project can lead to bigger changes.

My favorite activity was Field Day... We forgot all about our problems and focused on our games, we felt the soul of the team and it was pretty good.

Alaa Shehimi

I liked Thanksgiving because I had fun and I knew new foods. Alaa Massry

I felt Access has made a difference in my life because now I know more English. Access will help me to at least find a job because nowadays English is more important than any other language. Zeinab Sawan

I will do community service again because it's a very good experience that helps building and developing a person's personality. Mona Sawan

After this project, I felt happy because I did something good for my school. I think I made an impact because I encouraged the others to do a project to improve their school. Marwa Sawan

Access class made me more open. Mohammed Abou Hamdan

Access made me more social. I learned how to communicate with other students in different countries. That will benefit me in the future. Mohammad Tarshishi

TRIPOLI (FADEL EL MOUKADEM)



At Field Day, we challenged each other, we cooperated all the time, we felt the team spirit, and we met new people. Jihan Takla.

Meeting new people, seeing new creative ideas, the fun we had while we were disguising, making a pumpkin with my classmates, new culture – definitely Halloween was my favorite activity. Mira Al Bittar

Access made a huge difference in my life. I've been taught how to be a leader and a real citizen in my country. Reem Awwad

Access changed me for the better, it made me learn more about American culture and American people. Access gave me the power and opened opportunities for me to improve in an international language, to communicate with different people from different regions and to make new friends. Sajida Sadek

I have learned from the Thanksgiving Day that we should thank God for everything that happens to us. And I thank God for every moment I spent in this extraordinary program. Thank you God! Thank you Access! Ranine Hassane

I thought it was impossible to do all these things for our community service project, but after it I discovered that nothing is impossible. It was an awesome experience. Hazar Boustany

Community Service Project

The Fadel el Moukadem students implemented their project in four ways: first, they taught young school children to plant, and encouraged them to be more environmentally friendly. Second, they encouraged all students to recycle by placing containers throughout the school. The municipality promised that trash would be collected weekly. Third, they placed a banner with their slogan, "Think Green and Help Us Clean" at the roundabout near the school, broadcasting their message to the town. Last, they painted recycling symbols on the school wall, inspiring the children to always keep the environment safe and sound.

TRIPOLI (SCHOOL FOR GIRLS)



Community Service Project

After intense thought, the Tripoli Girls decided on giving back to their school by fixing up their playground. The girls noticed there was a lot of garbage in the school yard and that the benches badly needed to be fixed. They picked up paint brushes and tools for the very first time in their lives, and they painted the walls and reconditioned 22 benches. The girls also cleaned up and planted 60 beautiful and colorful flower pots around the playground. The other students appreciated their hard work, so the girls felt happy with their accomplishment.

The certificate event in Barouk has been my favorite Access activity because we met the American Ambassador Michele Sison. Rawaa Sidawi

I learned how to connect with people and I made new friends. I learned how to cooperate with my team by giving them my opinions and listening to their opinions, and I realized how to make an effort to achieve my work and make it the best. Lozan Moukheiber

Halloween was the most wonderful activity ever... it was a brand new idea for me but I liked every part of it. The costumes were fabulous and creepy but also funny. Marwa Matar

I became more confident in myself and courageous. Layla Awwad

At first I felt the Access Program was very difficult, but now Access has made a big difference in my life. Wissal Diab

I learned many things like how I can be active in my society and my school. In the past, I didn't pay attention to what my country needs and the problems in my town. Now I pay attention to the details. I learned how I should help others. Rayan Issa



Access was an eye-opening experience: It made me meet a lot of friends from all over Lebanon which has absolutely affected me in every possible way; my personality got stronger; and I gained a lot of social and cultural skills by learning some American expressions and by meeting people from different parts of Lebanon. Wissal Shaaban

I liked Halloween the most because I had a lot of fun while wearing our costumes. We had fun with each other and after we met our friends from Batroun there. I liked dancing, cupcakes, decorations...everything. Ramez Issa

My favorite activity was Field Day. We played, we laughed, the day was full of constructive competitions. We were all in the same group; we were one hand. "All for one and one for all." Aline Mouchaham

I will do community service again to prove to the world that everyone can make a change and build a better world for their life and for their children. Melina Merheby

The most important thing I learned from Access was respecting people whatever their point of view. Omar Chaar

Community Service Project

The port Mina, in Tripoli, has a beautiful coastline that could stand improvement. The Access class wanted to plant trees along its coast, sending a message to the community about the importance of trees and nature. The mayor of Mina encouraged the class, who planted 23 trees and posted the class name next to the trees.

The students felt more responsible and discovered the importance of giving to their society and not taking anything in return. They plan on doing community service again to prove that everyone can make a change and build a better world.

TRIPOLI MINA (INTERMEDIATE)



Community Service Project

An old and precious place, Mina Park was deteriorating. The oldest park in the town, it used to be visited by all the people of Tripoli, but the number of people frequenting the park decreased. Wanting to beautify the place they have fond memories of and attract more people to the park, the Al Hayat class rehabilitated and painted 50 park benches. The head of the municipality attended and encouraged the students. They were also helped by the Tripoli-Mina secondary class. The project completed, the park became once more a beautiful and attractive place for all people.

The best activity was the Halloween party. We tried new games and danced a lot. I liked the donut game, it's very awesome. Dana Halawani

I feel Access has made a difference...we learned an important language. Because I want to be a translator in the future, learning English is very good for me. Saria Khayat

Access has made a difference in my life because I learned English, and I learned the American culture. Samira Haroun

I'll do community service again because it was very different in my life. I like this. Marwa Nizam

In the past two years of being in Access we learned a lot of new things. We learned the importance of the friendship and the American culture. I learned an important language, I learned the importance of working in a team. I learned the importance of sharing ideas. Dina Abdeh

We learned that this scholarship is so important in our life. Darine Ibrahim

I learned how to be strong. Rayan Majzouh



My favorite activity is Jeita Grotto...when you get inside the Grotto you feel that you are in a different world. Mounira Tannous

My favorite Access activity is obviously Field Day since my best hobby is sport. I personally adore smelling the perfume of the green grass of the football stadium because I'm a football player myself. Salma Jabbour

Access improved my English, and gave me the chance to know how to behave with American people and especially learning about their traditions and customs. Jenny Jabbour

Now I have learned a lot of things about the language so I can do well in my future studies and work because the English language is the world language. Patricia Al Nour

It developed my personality, improved me in my school and...it helped me to contact with others in the society and how to be friendly. Lina Hbeich

After it, I felt responsible. It made a great impact that I have accomplished something that would help the community, and it's an event that I would like to keep doing. Antoine Geitani

Community Service Project

A big problem in the world is the overuse of plastic bags, which are found everywhere but mostly in grocery stores. The Zgharta students decided to target the local grocery stores to help decrease the use of plastic bags. They bought fabric and a local tailor turned it into 300 reusable cloth bags. The class then raised public awareness in local stores and distributed the bags to customers, asking them to shift to reusable cloth bags. People were excited about the idea, and many even took bags to their family members. The students felt they made a small yet meaningful impact in their communities.



Community Service Project

The students of Zgharta wanted to give back to their community by making it beautiful. In addition to the funding received by Access, the class wanted to raise more money by conducting a bake sale selling Nescafé and cupcakes. Their earnings, combined with the money from Access, allowed them to buy 300 flowers. The municipality of Zgharta sent a representative to aid them by teaching them how to plant the flowers at various roundabouts in Zgharta. They planted the flowers, gaining appreciation from many of the town's citizens, and resulting in a brighter and more beautiful town.

It makes a lot of difference in my life because I am now understanding and speaking English, I became more serious, more sociable... I met new friends. Khader Assaad

Access is like a dream for me, I learned something so important in my life that I couldn't forget. Ali Tamra

Access has made a big difference in my life. And this difference will make a difference in my future because I learned a new language. Ali Hussein

The project was to plant on the main road to decorate our village. At the beginning, I was embarrassed of this situation, but when I began planting I forgot everything, people took lots of pictures. At the end, I felt so proud because I did something to help the environment. Eddy Bitar

I learned how to be more sociable, met new people, made new friendships. I learned to be more encouraged, to feel proud about something that I do to help the environment. Marcel Khazen

Thank you, Access, thank you. Selman Al Hajj

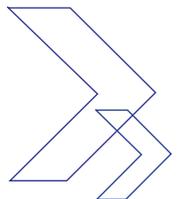
ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Challenging, Entertaining, Fun
but most of all, Educational!



The Access events are the most anticipated part of the program, and for good reason. Each event is modeled from and inspired by typical things Americans do, from visiting national treasures to seeing live shows to learning about leadership and developing success skills. In combining fun and games with education, team-building, and leadership training, Access students learn about American culture and develop their personalities, becoming the people they are today.

So, whether it's working together to pull your team to victory in Tug o' War, or putting your newfound economic skills to the test, either way, you will always remember that you tried something new, something different, and came out from it a little changed, a newer, better version of yourself.



CERTIFICATE CEREMONY



My favorite Access activity has been the Certificate Ceremony in Barouk because we met for the first time our classmates in the other regions of Lebanon.

Mariam Berberi, Batroun



It was really exciting and joyful. I liked the way they helped us to make friends by sitting and having lunch with students from different classes.

Nourhan Al Tinawi, Bar Elias



The Barouk Certificate Ceremony was beautiful because Ambassador Michele Sison came and sat with students at one table.

Amira Tarshishi, Bednayeil



THE MOST
ANTICIPATED
EVENTS OF THE
YEAR....
THE CERTIFICATE
CEREMONIES AT
BAROUK AND
JOUNIEH!

Access 5 students were officially welcomed into the U.S. Department of State's English Access Microscholarship Program at Barouk Palace in the Barouk Cedar Reserve in the Chouf Mountains. As students arrived, they reveled in the beautiful scenery before sitting down at the tables, where they interacted with students from other centers, making new friends and broadening their horizons.

U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Michele Sison began the ceremony with a speech welcoming them into the program. Using the picturesque scenery around them, she encouraged and motivated the students to take care of their environment and their country. Then, the high point of the afternoon arrived: the distribution of the certificates. All the students enthusiastically received the certificates, and they also didn't miss a chance to take pictures and chat with the Ambassador afterwards.

After lunch was served, a hike in the Cedar Reserve rounded out the afternoon. For the majority of students, this was their first time in Barouk, and more importantly, their first time seeing a real Lebanese cedar tree, their national symbol. The beautiful scenery inspired the students and helped them to appreciate their natural surroundings even more.

All in all, the students had a memorable and exciting day, one that certainly would end up changing their lives.

CERTIFICATE CEREMONY



My favorite activity so far was the Certificate Ceremony in Jounieh. I felt proud and glad!

Naji Assaf, Bterram



I felt as if I was a famous person when I met the Ambassador.

Dalia Ghandour, Kamed El Lowz

It was really an amazing day! We met new people all over Lebanon. The most wonderful thing that Michele Sison, the American Ambassador, was with us. We took pictures with her, we played a lot of games, and we made real friendships.

Claudia Tannous, Bterram



The Access 5 Intermediate students' Certificate Ceremony took place with all the buzz and excitement of a red-carpet event in Hollywood. The students arrived at Shtrompf restaurant in Jounieh brimming with excitement about the day's events. As they waited, they talked and mingled with other students, making new friends with students from different villages from Lebanon.

Then the woman of the hour came in. She welcomed them, showering each and every one of them with her smile and her voice. The Ambassador of the United States to Lebanon, Michele Sison, had never made a group of Lebanese students feel so special: she chatted and took pictures with them, along with other members of the U.S. Embassy, including Tom Daughton, Jennifer Williams and Edith Bitar. After her speech, each student was presented with a certificate, accepting them into the U.S. Department of State English Access Microscholarship Program.

Lunch satisfied everyone's appetites, and then a few rounds of Pictionary got all the students excited to use the new English words they had learned from their Access classes. They also completed a word search, and wrapping up the afternoon was the distribution of art kits. Each student received one and drew pictures of what Access means to them.

All in all, it was a memorable day for the students, marking the beginning of their journey with the U.S. Embassy and AMIDEAST.

105 INTERMEDIATE

STUDENTS

+

360 SECONDARY

STUDENTS

=

465 ECSTATIC

STUDENTS!

DISCOVER LEBANON DAY



To me our visit to Jeita Grotto was the most amazing activity. It gave me the advantage to carve the pictures and fascinating scenes of such a paradise in Lebanon in my heart and mind forever.

Salha Melhem Ghazale, Rashaya



My favorite activity is to see Jeita Grotto because seeing it is my dream. Access made it possible.

Mariana Hayet, Bterram



My favorite Access activity was going to Jeita Grotto because I discovered more about my fantastic Lebanon.

Rayan Shahoud, Tripoli



A TRIP TO JEITA
FOLLOWS IN THE
FOOTSTEPS OF
AMERICAN
FAMILIES, WHO
VISIT NATIONAL
PARKS AND SITES
EVERY SUMMER.

Every year, the Access Program takes the students to see one of the most spectacular natural wonders of the world: Jeita Grotto. Home to an extensive set of caverns, it boasts a lower and an upper cavern, the latter of which has the world's longest stalactite. Visiting this national symbol often for their first time, the Access students realize that they have a lot to be proud of as Lebanese.

The cable car ride to the openings of the caverns gave them a panoramic view of the Nahr El-Kelb valley below. Starting with the upper cavern, the winding walkway took the students deep inside, affording the students a breathtaking view of the natural limestone formations. After exploring the upper cave's impressive stalactites and stalagmites, the students descended into the lower grotto. The small boats floated along the underground river, its shimmering aqua water reflecting off the cave walls. A video documentary about the creation of Jeita and its discovery educated the students, and the day ended with lunch.

Visiting Jeita is always an immensely pleasurable experience for the students, and each time, they return home with more pride and appreciation for their country.

FIELD DAY

It was an amazing day...it connected us with people from different places with different cultures. It wasn't about winning or losing; it was about having fun with interesting people who share the same age.

Ali Al Jammal, Aley



The best part was learning about the American sport games.

Hala Fakhoury, Beirut



The best thing is the team work and how we can achieve something when the whole group is working together.

Zeinab Radwan
Khaled, Rashaya



A battle of strength and wills played out at Field Day held at the American University of Beirut. Students practiced sportsmanship and team building, but more importantly, they stepped into the shoes of American students who participate in Field Day annually at their schools.

Each class started off with breakfast and then the games began! Music energized the students, and teams were sent to one of three areas where games were played in rotation. YES alumni and Access alumni planned and organized the day's events, and also manned the stations. Games included the potato sack race, basketball shootout, and jump the creek. But nothing compared to tug o' war: each class was pitted against another in the middle of the field in an ultimate showdown of strength, strategy, and teamwork. All these games worked up everyone's appetites, so lunch gave the students a well-needed break to fuel up and continue for the rest of the afternoon.

Finally, the much-anticipated championship round ended the day. Winners from each class competed against each other, and the finals for jump the creek and tug o' war got everybody on their feet and cheering for their classmates. Students left the field on a high note, and with a better sense of the tradition that their American counterparts experience every school year.

SWEAT ON YOUR
FOREHEAD...

ADRENALINE

PUMPING...

DETERMINATION

TO WIN...

THIS IS

FIELD DAY!

HALLOWEEN



The most favorite activity I've been in so far is Halloween because I like the horror. I like the horror film and Michael Jackson dance. Mouhy Al Dine Nafeh, Khreibet El Jundi



Halloween was a blast: a very nice hotel and a fun program. Everyone was wearing cool costumes and we never thought we'd have that much fun. There were games, songs and snacks, and we got to see what other classes did with their pumpkins. Then we wrapped things up by choosing the best costumes and dancing the "Thriller" dance. Pretty amazing, huh? Doha Adi, Bar Elias

PUMPKINS,
WITCHES,
SKELETONS,
MUMMIES,
SPIDERS,
OH MY!
IT'S
HALLOWEEN!

Access celebrated Halloween at the Commodore Hotel with all the fun and scariness that their American peers do each year. Prior to arriving, each class carved a Jack-O'-Lantern, a long-standing tradition in the U.S. Costumes ranged from princesses to monsters to fighters, and non-costumed students even had the chance to get their faces painted.

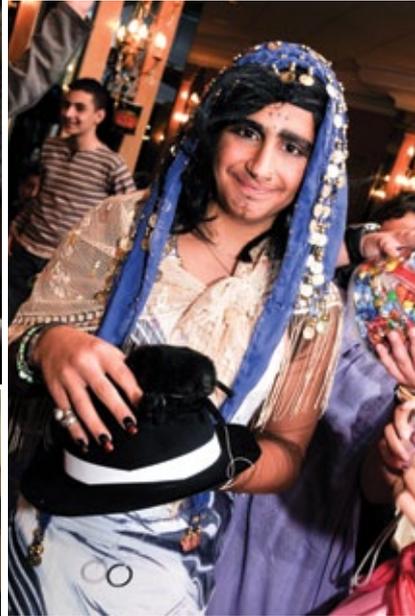
Six different stations of games kept each class busy, where they rotated earning key chains, candy, and cupcakes for winning. Games included Pin the Wart on the Witch, Bobbing for Apples, Bean Bag Toss, Pumpkin Carving and Candy Jar Votes, Catch the Donut, and Musical Pumpkins.

At the end, prizes were awarded for best costumes and student votes for best class Jack O' Lantern were tallied. The candy jar – filled with more than 1,000 pieces! – was awarded to one lucky student who guessed the closest to the right number.

The floor cleared, and the students were invited to first watch Charlie Brown's "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown." The students then got the chance to learn the infamous Michael Jackson Thriller Dance, which everyone had a blast trying to learn the steps.

At the night's end, the students went home having had an authentic experience of this American tradition that has kept Americans scared for centuries.

HALLOWEEN



THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving has had its great impact on me for we all, the Access students, Amideast staff and members from the Embassy were gathered as one family to enjoy the traditional meal of Thanksgiving and to give thanks for life's many blessings.

Kassem Saad, Bint Jbeil



I think that Thanksgiving Day really captured the essence of what Access is all about, because we were all gathered to be thankful for all the blessings we got. We were all laughing and having fun and looking to tomorrow with hope and optimism.

Asmaa Shebli, Bar El Elias



What I liked most was the way we were gathered on the same table, which was considered as a table of brotherhood. That table included Lebanese teenagers from all sects and areas, hence it established a relationship between us.

Orsola Baydoun, Bazourieh



A HOLIDAY THAT
HAS US
REFLECTING UPON
WHAT WE ARE
MOST THANKFUL
FOR IN THE
AMERICAN
TRADITION.

Turkey and gravy? Green beans? Mashed potatoes? Cranberry sauce?! Access students got to experience these and more at Thanksgiving dinner at the Coral Beach hotel. To get into the spirit of this important holiday, the students wrote short paragraphs in class explaining what they were thankful for. As they arrived, they put their paragraphs in a large bowl to be randomly drawn later.

AMIDEAST and U.S. Embassy representatives thanked the students for sharing this holiday with them. The program started with a presentation about the first Thanksgiving and its significance, and a description of a typical American Thanksgiving. Embassy representatives and others also talked about some of the traditions and food that they and Americans look forward to each November.

Paragraphs were drawn out of the bowl, and their authors read them aloud. Some students also spontaneously stood up and told the group what they were thankful for. Afterwards, the meal came, and each student tried turkey with gravy, green beans, carrots, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, and apple pie. Most tables had a table leader who had experienced an American Thanksgiving before, so students heard about all different kinds of traditions.

All the students went home full and with a new appreciation for this one-of-a-kind holiday that holds a special place in the hearts of Americans.



DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE POPCORN!

Francis Ford Coppola is one of the biggest names in film, and Access 5 students had the chance to see him present his film at the 2009 Beirut International Film Festival (BIFF). Organized by the Beirut Film Foundation, this annual event showcases international films by well-known directors and amateurs, highlighting films by Middle Eastern directors.

Everyone was excited to see Coppola present his production of "Tetro," the story of two rival, artistic brothers reunited after a 10-year separation. Other students had the chance to see "Taking Woodstock." The film follows a young man who rented out his family's motel and the nearby farm to music producers. His actions would make the 1969 Woodstock Music and Arts Festival the event that ultimately defined American pop culture.

The BIFF gave students the chance to glimpse American culture through the medium of film, which people all over the world know and enjoy.

My favorite Access activity has been Beirut Film Festival because everything was different there, like American people, French people, and the film was wonderful. I met very nice people.

Youssef Arnaout, Tripoli Mina

"EVERYWHERE I GO, AROUND THE WORLD...WE STRUGGLE THE SAME, IN EVERY AREA CODE."

With meaningful lyrics and an amazing beat, Chen Lo and the Liberation Family, known for their authentic hip-hop music, got the Access 5 students out of their seats and dancing along to the music. Students had the chance to see an American band play live, courtesy of the Embassy of the United States of America in cooperation with Jazz at Lincoln Center. The band touched on world issues, and performed classic hip-hop songs. Lebanese hip hop artists came on stage to display their versions of hip hop and shared some of the problems Lebanese youth face.

A mixed Lebanese American audience enriched the students' experience and exposure to American hip-hop culture. Inspired by the show, they insisted on taking pictures with the artists afterwards.



One event was my absolute favorite: Chen Lo and the Liberation Family. Their songs had amazing lyrics and they were very special to me because they were talking about peace. Roula Abou Chabke, Jounieh

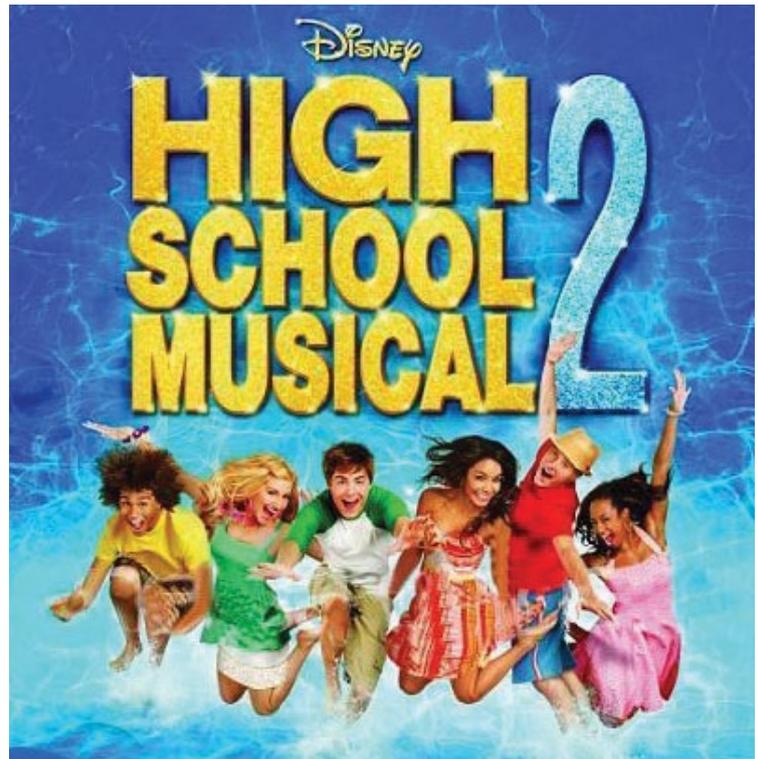
THEATER PRODUCTIONS

“WHEN YOU DREAM THERE’S A CHANCE YOU’LL FIND / A LITTLE LAUGHTER, OR HAPPY EVER AFTER.”

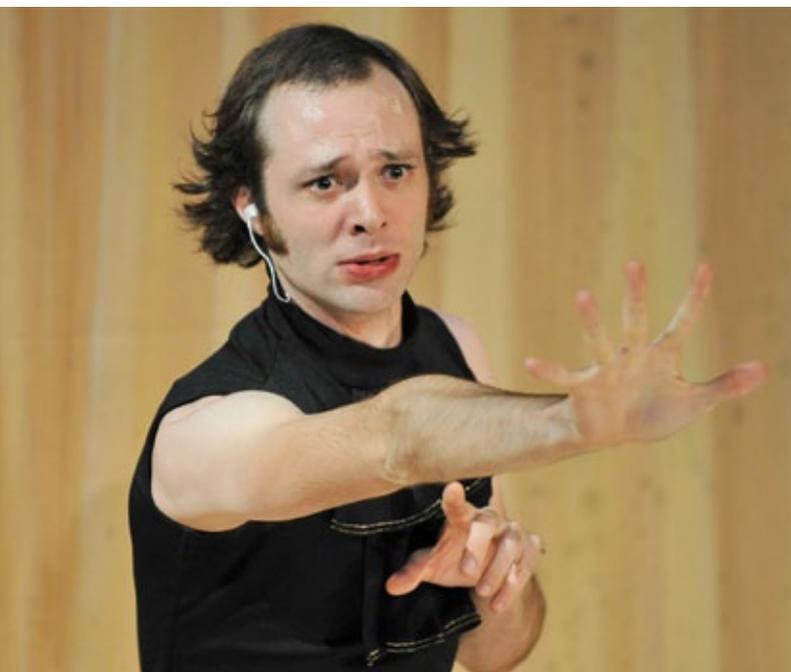
For the first time since the beginning of Access 5, all 465 students joined together in heated tents in the Saifi Village near downtown Beirut for a rendition of High School Musical 2, produced by Theatre de Mazitou, a Lebanese company that uses Lebanese and Arab nationals for their English productions.

Singing and dancing absorbed the students from the beginning of the performance until the end. The actors even resembled the movie characters, and the plot followed the storyline exactly: it’s summertime, and Troy, Gabriella and their friends get jobs at a country club owned by Shar Pay, who has bad intentions for Troy and Gabriella.

The play blended Lebanese actors with an American movie about regular American teenagers, and Access students saw the similarities between Lebanese and American high school life. The exposure to the English dialogue and songs inspired the dramatic aspirations of the budding Access artists.



High School Musical was my favorite activity, because I actually loved the movie and the script is great. I liked the songs...great music, lyrics, and performance.
Jenny Jabbour, Zgharta



Romeo and Juliet was an awesome activity. I had fun and I liked the way they were making fun of the British. I laughed from the bottom of my heart! It was really entertaining.

Ranine Hassane, Tripoli

OH, ROMEO, ROMEO?! WHEREFORE ART THOU, ROMEO?!

Who doesn't know these infamous lines? In most American high schools, Romeo and Juliet is studied at least once; the Shakespearian play is undoubtedly the most well known love story of all time. Access 5 students had the chance to see Nature Theatre of Oklahoma's spin on the favorite story people love and know. Or...how well do we know it? Staged as a set of memories, "Romeo" and "Juliet" alternated appearances on stage, recalling their version of the "true" story: details were lost and confused, and no one had the same story, as happens often with most storytelling, forming the foundation of the play.

Although this version deviated from Shakespeare's work a great deal, it closed with a beautiful reenactment of the famous balcony dialogue found in the original, followed by bows from Romeo, Juliet, and the giant yellow chicken.

SUCCESS SKILLS WORKSHOPS



It motivated me to go into banking and finance as a major. I've been waiting for such an opportunity to be introduced to the world of finance and fortunately Access provide me with one.
Hanan Imad, Aley



I've learned what leadership means and I got so much information about life, and I think it's important to my future.
Lozan Moukheiber, Tripoli



It helped us communicate with our classmates, help each other and cooperate to achieve the best work we could.
Salman Yousef Serhal, Rashaya



To teach the students much needed success skills, Access collaborated with Injaz, a local non-profit organization dedicated to providing educational economic programs to youth. Several workshops were held for the students to develop their economic education and empower them with entrepreneurial principles that they will need to succeed and help develop Lebanon's future.

"Leadership Program" taught students how to take control of the direction of their futures by developing interpersonal, workplace, and leadership skills, learning the basics of entrepreneurialism, and anticipating unforeseen challenges. The "Entrepreneurship Master Class" addressed the issue of self employment facing many young people. Topics included the imperatives of planning, effective communication, approaches to problem solving, and how to turn an idea into reality. "Banks in Action," addressed different jobs in banks and how they operate, and included the reasons for the latest economic crisis. Students learned about interest and investments, and were taught strategies to attract new customers. After learning the concepts, they put theory into practice, by signing in as a virtual bank and competing against each other using the newly learned techniques.

The Success Skills Workshops are some of the biggest and most enjoyable the Access students participate in. Students leave the workshops more skilled, more motivated, and ultimately more empowered to take the reins of their futures and lead them in whatever direction they dream.

"THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR QUALITY ECONOMIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN LEBANON,"

Kamal Katra
Vice President, Merrill Lynch
Chairman, Injaz

WRITING & POETRY WORKSHOPS



It has improved my skills of writing. I liked it since we met the American writers.

Dana Toubia, Beirut

Selected Access 5 students attended a Creative Writing Workshop given by Dr. Chris Merrill, a University of Iowa Professor and Director of the “Between the Lines” two-week creative writing workshop held in Iowa for students from across the MENA region each summer.

Special guest Katherine Wilkens, Vice President for Communications at AMIDEAST headquarters in Washington, D.C. commenced the day, and then, Dr. Merrill jumped right into the workshop. His discussion centered on his tips for honing writing skills: write every day, pay attention to details, describe something vividly, and translate ideas and descriptions. His expertise also included how to defeat writer’s block, and he encouraged each writer to use existing work as a launching pad for an even better composition.

Students left with their personal narratives and each one undoubtedly learned a little bit more about the pursuit of creative writing and its meaning and possibilities for their own lives.

Poetry isn’t easy to learn, but the Poetry Writing Workshop given by Tom Sleigh and Claire Messud, two writers and professors at Hunters College of the University of New York, helped Access students learn. Tom Sleigh, winner of the Kingsley Tufts Award, has published eight books of poetry, criticism and translation, and Claire Messud is author of The Emperor’s Children. Meeting these two famous American writers brought hope and inspiration to the students who attended.

The American guests provided students with insight on writing creatively and freely. Tom and Claire encouraged students to break rules of rhythm and rhyme, and reinforced ideas of creative expression, assisting them with guided practice. Afterwards, each student produced a mini poem and many of the students worked up enough courage to share their creations with the rest of the class. The workshop taught each student about the pursuit of creative writing and made it meaningful for their own lives.



I liked the poetry workshop because it was an amazing experience. Our teachers were very funny and they explained their ideas in the best but simplest way.

Sayde Terrazi, Rashaen

DRAMA WORKSHOP



I was very interested in the Drama Workshop. I found out that some of my acting characteristics were hidden and I am really good at it.

Abir Kaskas, Beirut

I've learned what leadership means and I got so much information about life, and I think it's important to my future.

Lozan Moukheiber, Tripoli



The drama workshop has been the best activity I've participated in; I really love acting and it was my first chance to discover my hidden talent.

Lamiss Abou Aliwy,
Bint Jbeil

This perennial favorite, taught by Robert Iyer, an American English teacher working in Lebanon, introduced students to the basic exercises and scene study work that professional actors engage in. Everyone had to speak English in a new way and in the process, gained more self-confidence.

The students worked in groups, with partners, and by themselves. The work forced students to think on their feet and work with their bodies and imagination. Beginning with basic motivation and concentration exercises, followed by a round of theater games, the students practiced and presented entrance and exit scenes. They also worked on content-less scenes, in which a scene imposes no context. The ultimate challenge was to be as imaginative as possible, so no two interpretations were the same!

While rehearsing, Iyer taught students how to build the characters they had developed and improvise scenes. Afterwards, students wrote drama journals summarizing their experiences.

Every year, the workshop challenges students to think creatively, and the students become more aware of body language, facial expressions, and vocal expression, and how they utilize these components to communicate with others. Because it gives students a chance to experience a different and, ultimately, more enjoyable approach to learning English, the students evaluate the Drama Workshop as one of their all-time favorite activities.

CHALLENGING

YET FUN,

STUDENTS

EXPERIENCE

AMERICAN HIGH

SCHOOL DRAMA

AND USE ENGLISH

IN A NEW WAY.

COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY



The community service activity helped me interact with students from other schools, with Yaroun villagers and members of Bint Jbeil municipality. This helped me to know and recognize my leadership skills. It was an experience I'll never forget. We really served our community.

Aya Suleiman, Bint Jbeil



Our impact is clear: we repair the country by our will. Don't stand about doing nothing, make yourself useful.

Sondos Haj, Fnaydek



GYSD was all about communicating with our planet, land and people. Ghinwa Haroun, Beirut



“ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS” AND THE STUDENTS SHOWED THEIR COMMUNITIES THEY HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Each year, Access classes think of and choose a community service project for their areas. In American high schools, community service is a requirement to graduate, but most students discover they enjoy the feeling of making a difference. These Lebanese students were no exception, and came away from their projects feeling strengthened and empowered to bring about tangible change in their communities.

Access teamed up with the Association for Volunteer Services (AVS), a local organization devoted to promoting and facilitating volunteering and community service throughout Lebanon. AVS helps Access participate in the annual Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), the largest annual service campaign in the world, mobilizing millions of youth to improve their communities by addressing the world's most critical issues. Access 5 classes focused their projects on raising environmental awareness within their communities.

After their projects were completed, AVS held a GYSD recognition event on May 16, 2010 at Beit Al Tabib. Sixty different projects from all over Lebanon exhibited their posters. Out of the top ten projects announced, Access won prizes for four projects, two of them achieving the number two and three spots. The winners got a prize, a certificate for their special project, and had their photo taken. The recognition the classes earned for their projects made them feel good, but actually doing the projects was even better.

ACCESS MOMENTS



AUTOGRAPHS

Ask your friends to sign your yearbook and remember all your favorite moments and memories together!

Dear Access students,
Wow! We can't believe how quickly two years
have gone by. It seems like just yesterday
we were at the Certificate Ceremony. We have
so many memories together: playing sports
at Field Day, wearing crazy costumes for
Halloween, and cleaning up our neighborhoods
together. It's been an unforgettable two years,
and we'll miss you. Keep in touch, because
we'd love to hear from you. Good luck with
everything and see you soon!
- AMIDEAST/Lebanon Access Team



Barbara Batlouni
Country Director

Rana Salloum

Nazha Sadek

Beth Khalil

Dana Saleh

Claudia Gabriel

AMIDEAST/Lebanon Access Team

Founded in 1951, America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST) is an American non-profit organization playing a leading role in the exchange of education, information and development assistance, working to bridge cultures between Americans and peoples in the Middle East and North Africa.

AMIDEAST/Lebanon opened in 1968, and has continued working non-stop for over 40 years. Each year, it serves over 20,000 visitors at the downtown Beirut office, with many programs being conducted in all regions of Lebanon. Thousands of Lebanese individuals, whether students or professionals, benefit from diverse programs each year.

AMIDEAST is a leader in regional education and training. Program areas include:

- Scholarship and exchange programs
- English language and professional skills training
- Institutional development
- Educational advising and testing
- Outreach programs

AMIDEAST/Lebanon is pleased to work with the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon on the Department of State's English Access Microscholarship Program, which provides English language instruction and American cultural awareness while furthering AMIDEAST's mission of strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation between Americans and the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa.

For further information about our programs or classes, call or visit our office or check out our website!



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Since 2004, 2,068 Lebanese youth from all regions of Lebanon have benefited from the English Access Microscholarship Program. It is funded by the U.S. Department of State and managed by AMIDEAST.

