UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

The United Nations International School (UNIS) is the school of the United Nations, and is a Pre-K-to-12th grade, coeducational, International Baccalaureate, college-preparatory day school. Founded in 1947 by a group of United Nations parents to provide an international education for their children, UNIS has grown into an internationally recognized educational institution. Today, UNIS has 1,600 students and two campuses (Manhattan and Queens). UNIS was one of the founding schools of the International Baccalaureate (IB) and was among those awarding the first diplomas. The comprehensive Pre K-12 curriculum prepares UNIS students for the IB, and the school’s internationally recognized academic standards enable our students to study in top colleges and universities in the United States and worldwide.

Our students represent 109 countries, and are offered far more than solid grounding in classic and contemporary academic discipline. The UNIS international education enables students to become cognizant of the differences among the world’s people and to work together for the benefit of humankind.

UNIS Mission Statement:
Under the auspices of the United Nations and guided by its ideals, UNIS provides an inclusive and diverse learning environment in which rigorous international programs foster academic excellence, innovation, creativity and cross-cultural communication to educate and inspire its students to become an active force in shaping a better world: peaceful, compassionate and sustainable.

Tutorial House Students on the first day of school. Junior School students celebrate UN Day.
Dear UNIS Families and Friends,

It is our privilege to present the 2019-2020 UNIS Annual Report, covering a school year that was unlike any other in our lifetimes. What shines through is how the UNIS community persevered despite the global pandemic that altered our daily lives. This report highlights some of UNIS’ many accomplishments, both before and after COVID-19 shifted our concept of normality.

The close relationship between UNIS and the UN continues to define the essence of our School. The year began with six UNIS students attending the first ever UN Youth Climate Summit, as well as numerous students attending World Children Day at the UN. A distinct highlight of the year was having UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres address the 2020 graduating class. Additionally, we had the privilege to meet with the Secretary-General and 22 Honorary Trustees to discuss ways to continue strengthening the relationship between UNIS and the UN.

One of our last in-person events was our annual UNIS gala. The event showcased our incredible community, bringing together parents, faculty, staff, members of the Board of Trustees, and students. The highlight of the night was a performance by UNIS musicians.

Unfortunately, in mid-March, we were forced to close down in-person learning. In retrospect, this period of uncertainty and navigating in uncharted waters became an opportunity for our students, families, faculty and staff to demonstrate their strength and resilience. We successfully shifted to an online learning environment, where our students were able to interact with their teachers and classmates each day. Members of the community created opportunities to help those most affected by the pandemic. Students wrote letters to healthcare workers, families donated meals to those in need and to workers on the frontlines, students held classes for younger students - the list goes on.

The spring also served as a period of reflection for UNIS. As national protests about racial injustice occurred, we were encouraged to look inward. Our leadership team has humbly listened to students, alumni, teachers and parents and we are excited to now have a new program to support diversity, equity and inclusion. At UNIS, we intend to set an example of what an all-inclusive democratic community can truly look like.

Overall, 2019-2020 was a unique year that ultimately helped us grow. We feel hopeful looking ahead as we continue educating global citizens, inspiring students to help make a better world.

Catherine Pollard
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Dan Brenner, PhD
Executive Director
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2019-2020

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2019-2020

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Mr. Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for Secretary-General António Guterres
Mr. Peter N. Greenwald, Former Vice-Chair, UNIS Board of Trustees
Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, met with Dr. Dan Brenner, UNIS Executive Director; Ms. Catherine Pollard, UNIS Board Chair; Ms. Joan W. McDonald, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNIS; H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore, currently a member of the Board of Trustees, and 21 UNIS Honorary Trustees at the UN.

The Secretary-General spoke of the connection between the school and the United Nations and made special reference to his visit to UNIS last Spring.

He noted that UNIS is different from other schools as it truly is the School of the UN. He also noted the UNIS community’s commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The high-level meeting discussed the important relationship between UNIS and the UN, and proposed different ways to continue strengthening that relationship. It was a valuable opportunity to exchange views and perspectives.
UN 75: Youth in the Driving Seat

To honor the UN’s 75th anniversary, UNIS students from the Middle School, Tutorial House, and Queens Campus attended the UN75 Inaugural Launch with the Secretary-General at the United Nations General Assembly in January 2020.

The event was titled “Youth in the Driving Seat” and aimed to begin a global conversation on shaping our future. The event included a panel of university students; they were asked questions by the Secretary-General about how our youth view the future and provided advice from the younger generation’s perspective. Topics varied from Climate Change, technology, equality, and many more intriguing subjects. The panelists provided insightful answers about how we can help create a better world, and included UNIS Alumna from the Class of 2014.

Above: S-G Guterres greets UNIS students after the UN-75 launch event.

Above: UNIS students in the General Assembly and outside of the UN.
Adjusting to a Virtual World

**UNIS Master Classes**

As the COVID-19 pandemic altered almost every aspect of daily life at UNIS, we wanted to create ways for our community to share meaningful experiences despite the inability to be together on campus. One way we achieved this was through our Master Classes series. These Master Classes were hosted weekly and allowed students, parents, faculty and staff opportunities to hear from and speak with experts in various fields.

Though the topics varied, each class had a message true to our UNIS mission with the ultimate goal of providing “an inclusive and diverse learning environment...to educate and inspire [our] students to become an active force in shaping a better world.”

In total, ten classes were held and featured distinguished guests such as The Honorable Stephen Breyer, US Supreme Court Justice to our very own UNIS students.

**Episode 1: The Honorable Stephen Breyer, US Supreme Court Justice**
The first session featured Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Justice Breyer began by explaining the importance of State Law, noting that these are the laws that affect us most on a day to day basis while living in the US. He then shared about the US Courts, the role that the Supreme Court plays, and the Constitution.

**Episode 2: Max Hollein, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of NY**
Session two featured Max Hollein, the Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Community questions focused around the 150th anniversary of the Met, how the Museum is confronting the current health situation, and how it is adapting to a globalized art world. Mr. Hollein pointed out the importance of being able to share the Met experience via digital platforms.

**Episode 3: Michael Mayer, Tony Award Winning Director**
We welcomed Michael Mayer, the Tony Award Winning Director of “Spring Awakening,” “American Idiot,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” and “Hedwig and the Angry Inch.” Mr. Mayer has also directed numerous other plays and musicals, films, television shows, and operas. Mr. Mayer answered questions from the panel of UNIS teachers and students about his process, how to appeal to varying audiences, and the overall experience within the world of Broadway.

**Episode 4: UNIS Students present the Smiling Mask Concert**
A group of students with the goal of educating about COVID-19 built a website (sites.google.com/unis.org/coronavirus), raised funds and created a concert highlighting the international language of music. We are proud of our students who actively work to build a better world.

The Honorable Stephen Breyer, US Supreme Court Justice

TH students perform the virtual Smiling Mask Concert.
UNIS Master Classes Cont.

**Episode 5:** Neal Shapiro, President and CEO of WNET and former President of NBC News

Our fifth session featured Mr. Neal Shapiro. Mr. Shapiro provided insight into his journey through the world of journalism. He highlighted the role of media in today’s society, especially its role during a pandemic.

**Episode 6:** Madeleine Smithberg, UNIS Class of ’77 and Creator of the Daily Show

In our sixth session, Madeleine Smithberg discussed her experiences since graduating from UNIS, Class of 1977. After UNIS, she became an Art History major, took her first job post-grad in Italy, co-created the Daily Show, and continues with her success today.

**Episode 7:** Carol Bellamy, Chair of Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

Session seven featured Carol Bellamy a lawyer, a banker, and a New York City politician. She was the Director of the Peace Corps, and also served as the Executive Director of UNICEF. She has been a leader in education, Board Chair of the IBO, and CEO of World Learning. Ms. Bellamy noted that becoming a volunteer in the Peace Corps was the most important decision she made. Ms. Bellamy discussed her experiences working both domestically and internationally.

**Episode 8:** HE António Guterres, UN Secretary-General and the UNIS Class of 2020

Session 8 featured Secretary-General António Guterres as he addressed the UNIS Class of 2020 and celebrated their achievements. He answered questions from Tutorial House students about his experience in high school and his life today as the S-G. He provided our community with invaluable advice. Afterward, the celebration of the Class of 2020 continued with memories from their time at UNIS.

**Episode 9:** Dr. Prem Premsrirut, MD/PhD, CEO of Mirimus

Episode 9 featured Dr. Premsrirut who spoke to us about the work of the scientific community during COVID-19. Dr. Premsrirut explained the structure of COVID-19, how it infects humans and replicates, and the immune response it generates. She then provided an in-depth analysis of the various testing methods, antibodies, and more.

**Episode 10:** A Panel of UNIS Alumni discuss Dismantling Racism

Episode 10, our final masterclass, featured a panel of UNIS Alumni: Ann Morning ’86, Associate Professor of Sociology, NYU; Arthur Ago ’86, Director of Criminal Justice Project, Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights; E. Michael Bobbit ’87, Assistant Commissioner, Community Action Programs for the City of New York. Moderated by Sonny Ago ’87, Assistant Vice President for Student Life at Manhattan College.

The discussion began by defining racism, explaining why our concepts of race matter, and noting that UNIS students have the power to be agents of change. The panelists provided insight and background into our current climate, as well as the history that has brought us here. They then took questions from our community. The panelists emphasized that this is just the beginning and we must work to sustain the conversation and take action.
Cardboard Challenge
The 7th annual Cardboard Challenge was once again a successful family event! Students and parents expressed their creativity using cardboard and other recycled materials. Together, they focused on sustainability and built sustainable cars, space rockets, solar paneled homes, boats, trees, dinosaurs and even the United Nations building! Waste reduction initiatives included reusing cardboard boxes, paper tape and some painter’s tape (no plastic), cut fruit and bulk snacks, a waste sorting game for students and a Halloween costume swap on

UN Day
On Friday, October 18 our community celebrated the 74th UN Day. We celebrated our attachment to the values of the United Nations and its mission. Students, faculty and staff dressed in outfits that represent their backgrounds. The Junior School celebrations kicked off with their annual Parade of Nations, filled with smiles, laughter and the multicolored flags of many nations. The parade also included hand drawn pictures and signs that embraced and celebrated diversity, acceptance, and sustainability. Afterward, international breakfasts were held in each JS classroom.

A JS Student works her designs for the cardboard challenge.

JS students celebrate UN Day.

JS families celebrate UN Day.
Earth Day
Once March came around and the pandemic altered life as we know it, we transitioned into full remote learning. This did not stop many of our favorite events from occurring - simply in a new format! The Junior School (JS) celebrated Earth Day with a virtual assembly featuring presentations by JS students. Our JS students informed us of the history of Earth Day and described many challenges we face such as food waste, the use of plastics, and climate change. They shared ways to celebrate and respect the Earth and provided us with ways to conserve.

Peacekeepers
Our Peacekeepers are always working to help make our world a better place. The JS Peacekeepers kept spirits high throughout our shift for virtual learning. They created numerous campaigns for the community, including one on what to do during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the words of wisdom include: "keep trying and don't give up," "call your grandparents," and "read a book." They often shared messages of kindness and hope. As well as messages for change.

Let's watch a video about Food waste

A JS student presents on Earth Day about Food Waste.

JS Peacekeepers share messages for change.

JS Peacekeepers share their advice for what to do during Covid-19.
Middle School Highlights

UN Day
The Middle School UN Day 2019 celebrations were particularly special. After a delicious breakfast provided by our parents, Middle School students mingled with their classmates and students from other grades to share their knowledge of the UN Sustainable Development Goals they had researched. The celebrations ended with two special assemblies. One with the M1s who hosted speaker Andrew Hudson, and one with the M2s, M3s and M4s who hosted T1 students Natalie Meola, Maya Mukerjee, and Akari Tomita, and special guest speaker, Christina Delfico.

Collaboration
Middle School students were visited by students and teachers from the Russian Mission School in New York. Students gave them a tour around the school in Russian and then had a quiz on Russian culture and literature and debates between two teams. At the end they got souvenirs and certificates from both schools.

City Harvest
MS students took an active role in the UNIS community's City Harvest collection. MS students helped collect food to donate to City Harvest and toiletries to donate to Community of Hope Homeless Outreach. Toiletries were packed into gift bags decorated by students and handed out at the Community of Hope Soup Kitchen, where they also worked to serve a meal.
Middle School Highlights

Talent Show
One of the first big events in the Middle School that was affected by the global pandemic was our annual talent show. The MS students showcased their resilience, dedication and creativity, and quickly shifted into a virtual format. The virtual talent shows showcased the skillsets, energy, and creativity of our students and their uplifting spirits were much needed during a difficult time.

Poetry Sharing
Middle School (MS) ELL students shared their original poetry with poets from Open DoorsNYC. The poets read their own poems to the students, including themes such as protest and frustration. The MS students then wrote, practiced, read, and shared their personal poems including, “To Corona,” “A Broken Leg,” “My Fears,” “Homework,” “McCarren Skatepark,” “Online Learning,” “Family,” “School,” and “Confinement.”

M4 Graduates
Middle School students virtually celebrated their achievements. Their virtual graduation ceremony featured musical performances, videos created by students and faculty, stories and more.

Above & Below:
Ms students participate in their virtual talent show.

MS students share their original poetry.

MS Vice Principal shares a video with MS graduates.
UN Youth Climate Summit
Six TH students attended the first ever UN Youth Climate Summit in New York City in September. The event served as a platform for young leaders who are driving climate action to showcase their solutions at the United Nations, and to meaningfully engage with decision-makers on the defining issue of our time. It was the the largest gathering of young climate leaders at the UN in history. The Youth Climate Summit featured a full-day of programming that brought together young activists, innovators, entrepreneurs, and change-makers who are committed to combating climate change at the pace and scale needed to meet the challenge. The event was action oriented, intergenerational, and inclusive, with equal representation of young leaders from all walks of life.

Human Rights Conference
TH students successfully hosted their 22nd Annual Conference at UNIS and UNHQ.

The topic was ‘Beyond Housing: Education, Gentrification, Climate Change.’ We were pleased to have Ms. Carmelyn Malalis, NYC Commissioner for Human Rights present to students as the Keynote speaker who gave an overview of the many functions of their office along with specific information relevant to this year’s topic. Day two of the conference began with a powerful message from Ms. Dorie Hagler, a photojournalist, and US Census Bureau official. Later in the afternoon, student organizers hosted a panel discussion with four guests, who shared their personal stories related to homelessness. Towards the end of the program, all attending students interacted with one another to collaborate and work on producing a variety of PSA poster messages they created in small mixed groups. The conference culminated with students taking a tour of the UN.

TH Students Volunteer During the Pandemic
As school drastically shifted and students yearned for some normality, our oldest students volunteered to help. Wellness Wednesdays began to help our community keep their health a priority despite all the changes.
Tutorial House Highlights

Tutorial House students hosted online classes and activities for JS students. The students volunteered their time to meet, plan, design, and deliver the activities/workshops.

TH students also hosted and created recorded lessons on various topics such as languages, musical instrument demos, and art tutorials. They shared these classes with students from Elementary School P.S.M169.

A virtual Graduation

Although our graduation ceremony at the UN had to be postponed, we were still able to celebrate the achievements of our Class of 2020. TH students ran their own virtual celebration, which featured H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations. S-G Guterres celebrated the class of 2020, answered questions from students about his experience in high school and his life today as the S-G. The celebration of the Class of 2020 continued after and included many memories from the students’ time at UNIS. Thanks to the collective help of UNIS faculty and staff, students were able to pick up their diplomas in person at UNIS. We were particularly proud of our oldest learners for adapting to the new normal and finding ways to celebrate their achievements as a community.
Queens Highlights

Outdoor Classroom
Queens students started their year attending presentations and having class outdoors! Thanks to the new addition of an outdoor classroom, Queens students are able to enjoy fresh air while learning.

Virtual Learning
The Queens campus quickly transitioned into virtual learning and did not allow the shift to alter student learning.

STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education at UNIS Queens included Digital Citizenship, Design & Inventions, Robotics, Architecture & Engineering, and Coding & Programming.

International Day of Peace
MS students attended International Day of Peace celebrations at the UN. During the celebrations The Secretary General António Guterres, rang the Peace Bell reminding students and attendees about World Peace! After the ceremony, MS students attended the UN Conference on "Climate Action for Peace".

Arts in a Virtual World
The Queens campus promotes a strong commitment to the fine arts and the pandemic did not change this! Students were able to engage with their art teachers and created beautiful works of art.

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**Arts Highlights**

**Visual Arts**
Our IB Visual Arts students curated their IB Diploma show as a professional exhibition titled, "Cultural Collisions" held at the Caelum Gallery. However, unlike past years, the pandemic prevented students or community members to attend the show. TH faculty hosted the show virtually, showcasing the IB student artwork.

[Image of IB Visual Arts promotional poster for the show "Cultural Collisions"]

Art students worked on drawings in response to COVID and the BLM movement as a way express themselves and to learn digital and traditional media. These projects allowed a blending of the UN's SDGs, a seamless integration with technology, and highlighting the student voice.

[Image of student artwork in response to the BLM movement]

[Image of JS & MS students performing 'Matilda']

**Theatre**
The Theatre Department's productions were all successes, despite the unusual circumstances. The JS and MS musical production of "Matilda" put on amazing shows in our theatre before unfortunately having to shift to a virtual format.

The Tutorial House's production of 'Twelfth Night' was performed by students in a purely virtual format.

**Musical Performances**
Our musicians practice and rehearse year round for various musical performances. A few highlights included our senior chorus performing at the United Nations for the launch of the U.N. Women's Year of Elimination of Violence Against Women, as well as our students performance at Carnegie Hall.

[Image of UNIS students performing at Carnegie Hall]

[Image of JS & MS students performing 'Matilda']
Athletics Highlights

Interscholastic Moments

Team Achievements
- Boys Varsity Soccer: NYCAL Regular Season Champions
- Boys Varsity Soccer: NYCAL Postseason Champions
- Boys Varsity Soccer: NYSAIS Post Season Quarterfinalists
- Boys Junior Varsity Soccer: NYCAL Regular Season Champions
- Boys Junior Varsity Soccer: NYCAL Postseason Champions
- Boys Middle School Soccer: NYCAL Regular Season Champions
- Girls Middle School Volleyball: NYCAL Regular Season Champions
- Girls Junior Varsity Volleyball: NYCAL Post Season Finalists

Individual Achievements
- Isabella Padasak: NYCAL All-League
- Tea Kuzbari: NYCAL All-League
- Michael Shahinian: NYCAL Most Valuable Player & NYCAL All-League
- Marius Labaun: NYCAL All-League
- Selma Gullikstad: NYCAL All-League
- Sebastian Margetts: NYCAL All-League
- Nalin Haley: NYCAL All-League Second Team

Notable Successes/New Initiatives

During the 2019-2020 athletics season, we introduced seven new teams!
- Girls Middle School Volleyball ‘White’ (Fall)
- Boys Middle School Soccer ‘White’ (Fall)
- Girls Varsity Tennis (Fall)
- Girls Middle School Basketball ‘White’ (Winter)
- Boys Middle School Basketball ‘White’ (Winter)
- Boys Middle School Volleyball (Spring)
- Coed Varsity Ultimate Frisbee (Spring)

Additionally, we achieved numerous new initiatives, including but not limited to:
- Established relationship with NYC Parks Department;
- Secured access to fields for UNIS Queens campus;
- Introduced changes to NYCAL Track and Field timing system;
- Recorded record tryout numbers (over 300) and sign-ups for after-school sport (235);
- Organized Athletics ‘Kick-off’ event for Middle School athletes (with guest speaker);
- Refined team selection process, including request for clear criteria and rationale from coaching staff;
- Introduced intramural programs in Girls JV soccer and Coed Badminton;
- Introduced new Athletic Training ‘Appointments’ System for UNIS Athletes.
Donors

2019-2020

The UNIS Fund is an annual appeal in which trustees, parents, alumni, faculty and staff, and friends, support UNIS by making a financial gift to the School. These gifts support the School’s current fiscal-year operating budget. Donations to The UNIS Fund help to pay for our current and most immediate needs including safety and wellness protocols, academic and extracurricular programs, technology enhancements, tuition assistance, and maintenance of our buildings and grounds. A growing and vibrant UNIS Fund is vital to our mission to provide the best education for our students. Every gift, of every amount, is valued and appreciated. Thank you to all of our supporters.

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**By the numbers**

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<th>Country/Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American University</td>
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<td>Manchester Metropolitan University</td>
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<td>Tufts University</td>
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<td>Tulane University</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Italy</td>
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A number next to a university signifies multiple attendees from the UNIS Class of 2020.
UNIS is committed to fiscal sustainability and affordability via active and conservative financial management. We are determined to efficiently fulfill our educational mission while providing exceptional academics, arts, and athletics at two campuses in Manhattan and Queens. Our financial health and the generosity of our donors enable UNIS to attract and retain a world-class, committed faculty and an extremely gifted and diverse student body.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, tuition comprised 90% of total revenue. UNIS's tuition for the 2019-20 fiscal year increased by 3.8%. In keeping tuition increases predictable, we are committed to continue our efforts to increase non-tuition revenue sources, such as gifts to the Annual Fund.

As a result of the pandemic, we shifted our focus on allocating the necessary resources to building improvements, technological advances for remote learning, and professional development for our faculty and staff for hybrid learning.

Capital projects focused heavily on improving long-deferred building maintenance projects at both campuses to avoid major repairs in the future. Where possible, outside sources of income such as insurance were leveraged. Because of this disciplined approach to cost management and resource allocation, the school finished the fiscal year in a firm financial position.

Through the ongoing work of the Investment Sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees, the endowment continued to build on its performance from the prior year with a market value of $21.7 million as of June 30, 2020.

UNIS is grateful for the Modern Language Department’s ongoing support from several UN Member States, including the Sultanate of Oman, China, Germany, Italy, and Spain. We look forward to our continued success in language instruction.

Finally, we benefitted from strong donor support among parents and alumni. We hope to continue this growth to reduce reliance on tuition and provide financial aid to those students in need. Financial contributions make a significant impact on UNIS’s ability to innovate and enhance our students’ educational experience. The continuing generosity of parents, alumni, parents of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of UNIS affirms their awareness of philanthropic gifts vital role. As a result of the school’s financial position and through the support of our community, UNIS could continue its $1.54 million in financial aid assistance to our students.

We are very excited about all the new developments and achievements by UNIS in the 2019-20 academic year. We are looking forward to more to come in the years ahead of us.

Alla Liberman
Treasurer, Board of Trustees
““Our template and guide remains the Sustainable Development Goals, and I know I will be able to count on the UNIS community to help us achieve those goals”

-Secretary António-Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations, to UNIS Class of 2020 graduates