



The Greek Catholic Patriarchate School Beit Sahour

School Background:

The Peter Nettekoven Greek Catholic Patriarchate School was established in Beit Sahour, the town where the angel announced the news of Jesus Christ's birth to the shepherds. His Excellency Bishop Gabriel Abu Sa'da laid the first stone of the school and it was properly opened in 1966. It was named after his Excellency Bishop Peter Nettekoven for what he offered for this school financially and spiritually.

The first graduation for the Secondary Certificate (Tawjihi) was in 1979. In 1990, His Excellency Bishop Lutifi Lahham opened the new school that included an Administration section, classrooms from first to fourth grades, and a special section for the Kindergarten. The nuns of the Savior's Convent operated the school. In 1985, the priests of the Savior's Convent took over operations and continue to the present time.



What Our Students Have Been Doing This Year:

1. The students of the school have learned how to recycle **waste glass to produce art vases**. In this way, they are contributing in keeping the environment clean and producing a useful, saleable product.
2. **Competition for keeping our Palestinian heritage:**
Students recognize the importance of maintaining the old traditional quarters of the town and are learning how to preserve and conserve its' history.
3. **Picking olives:**
Groups of students participated in picking olives. The olive tree has a great importance in the lives of the residents of the Holy Land.
4. **School trips to holy places** to let students know the stories behind these important sites and to strengthen their loyalty toward their homeland.
5. **Art Exhibition:**
At the end of each scholastic year an art exhibition is held. All of the artistic work displayed is done by the students.
6. **Chess Competition:**
The students have learned to play Chess and to develop the talents of students, competitions are held between our students and students from different schools.
7. **Recycling paper:**
As they learn about our environment and keeping it clean, our students have learned to recycle waste paper used to make cards in different shapes and colors.
8. **Ideal schools net Program (Model Schools Network Program-MSN):**
This program is directed by the AMIDEAST (USAID), which trains and qualifies our teachers and students to develop their educational abilities.
9. **Partnership Programme with Bethlehem University:**
Training graduates and providing them the opportunity for good jobs at schools.

Sports Activities:

Marathon:

A marathon is held every year at school. Some students of our school take part in it.

Sports Festival:

Students train for this festival, learning gymnastics and track. This festival is held in spring.

Open Day:

Includes recreation varieties of singing, dancing and playing.



More Foreign Language classes:

Besides teaching the English language, a class was opened on 9/9/2008 to teach German **language**.



Carnival:

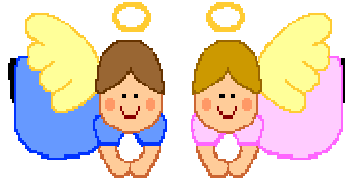
At the beginning of spring, an annual carnival is held for the kindergarten children.



Graduation Day

A formal festival is held annually for the new graduates of our student body, who later join the college or university. Since the founding of the school, we have graduated thirty-one groups of students whose major role in society is to become the pillars of their community





Principal's Corner

My prayer to God humbly asks Jesus Christ the Savior of Charity to help me draw the smile on the children's faces.

I hope we'll be able together to celebrate this year, and every year, Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, and to strengthen the existence of Christians in this Holy Land forever. Amen.



Christmas

Preparations for Christmas

We are striving to strengthen the concept of the importance of this holy city, Bethlehem, where Jesus Christ was born, and the Shepherds' Field, where angels were witness of this human event.

The weekly Mass:

The school principal, heads a mass for each class in the school church with the help of the religious education teacher. This divine service is to prepare our students spiritually, offering their hearts to God to resign, secure and ready, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas this year.



The Christmas celebration depends on you!!

Each class takes part. Students are busy now rehearsing Christmas carols and recitals. On the day of the program, each student will be given a Christmas gift from St. Nicolas, as we attempt to make this Christmas a special holiday in light of the tragic living conditions. This school will give every teacher a financial gift to enable them to buy their children and themselves Christmas needs, and then all the employees of the school will make their way to have their Christmas lunch with Bishop Joseph – Jules Zerey and the School Principal.

We are in sore need of monetary donations to make this event happen. The current political situation has had a devastating effect upon our economy, as those who follow the international situation know so well. We are asking that you donate whatever you can towards honoring our efforts to make this Christmas a blessed one for our students and our devoted staff, and we thank you in advance in the name of Christ as we approach the time of year honoring His birth in our holy city of Bethlehem. Please do what ever you can to help our student's celebration to be a success!

Peace







