Executive Summary

Thamer International School

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Description of the school's size, community/communities and location:

Thamer International School (T.I.S.) is a private, independent, international, English-medium day school serving both the local and expatriate communities in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. It is co educational from nursery till Grade 3 and sex segregated from Grade 4 till graduation year. It is operating legally under the supervision of the Ministry of Education the American & the British License.

T.I.S. was officially founded in the academic year 2000/ 2001. It is managed by its own Senior Executive Team (SET), and is owned by HRH Prince Faisal Bin Thamer Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

T.I.S. is located in Quraish Street, on a 31,000 sqm plot of land, and serves as an ideal site for teaching and learning.

Thamer International School was originally located in Hamra district on a much smaller (8,500 sqm) plot of land. As the number of students increased exponentially over time, the school moved to its current location in the academic year 2008/2009.

Thamer International School served a student population of around 1000 students in the academic year 2000/2001. Ever since, it has witnessed a remarkable increase in student numbers to reach this academic year about 3600 students.

Today, Thamer International School is one of Jeddah's most prominent international schools renowned for the quality education it provides to students aged between 3 to 18 years.

The school's community ranges from middle to upper-middle class families and incorporates students from all backgrounds whose parents' main priority is giving their children the best education they can afford.

T.I.S has students of about 47 nationalities, the highest percentage being Egyptian, Lebanese, Saudi, Jordanian, Syrian, Yemeni and Palestinian students.

The school organizational structure:
As mentioned before, T.I.S. is co-educational from nursery till Grade 3 and sex segregated from Grade 4 till graduation year.
The school is divided into the Primary School and the Upper School.

The Primary School consists of:
- Lower Primary School (Pre-K to KG2 aged 3 years to 5 years)
- Upper Primary School (Grades 1-3 aged 6 years to 8 years)
Each of the above schools has its own head of school, subject coordinators, teachers, and social workers.

The Upper School consists of:

- Middle School (Grades 4- 8 aged 9 to 13 years)
- Senior School (Grades 9-12 aged 14 to 17 years)
Each of the above schools has its own head of school, coordinators, teachers, and social workers.

Thamer International School operates under the supervision of the Saudi Ministry of Education/International Education Sector as well as Cambridge International Examination Center .The school has a very well-rounded and comprehensively developed curriculum that conforms to the school vision, mission, and beliefs.

Changes T.I.S has experienced in the last three years and unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves:
After moving to the new campus and during the past three years, many additional changes to our facilities were made and the school had been a Cambridge Center only for boys also became a full Cambridge testing center for girls in June 2015.

Several facilities and departments were added to our new campus such as:
- Princess Jawaher Auditorium with a capacity of 350 attendees
- A basketball field for the middle and senior school female students.
- Two libraries for the middle and senior schools (males and females).
- An Activity room with several educational corners where students can learn in a joyful way relating to their real life situations.
- A theme room that simulates the real life phenomena and places.
- IT department which works continuously to keep us up to date.
- A quality assurance department which plans for the needed professional development as well as audits the classrooms to evaluate the learning environments.
In the past three years the school has improved in the technology field in all aspects. Our main challenge is to keep coping with the fast and constant change in technology in order to expose our students to the latest technological development and acquaint them with its implementation in their academic growth.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

System's Purpose

The current purpose statement of T. I. S. was established by the school's SET committee. Representatives from the school's teachers middle leader and SET committee worked to revise and update the school's mission values and beliefs. All stakeholders took part in this update process in 2015 through a Mission Poll accessed on the school's website. A general satisfaction was noticed towards the updated mission statement and this was proven through the stakeholder's survey results as well.

Purpose/Mission statement was agreed to be a completely accurate representation of the school system which is clearly witnessed through the school daily practices.

Our system's Purpose/Mission was completely updated in June 2015 and it continues to reflect the Purpose/Mission originally created in 2000. Our vision was developed and updated to match our purpose/Mission in an easily understandable and well communicated way to all stakeholders.

Thamer International School:

Our Vision

To passionately deliver a unique academic experience that prepares our students to be socially responsible leaders in global communities and highly self-motivated learners in prestigious universities worldwide.

 Our Mission

To create viable educational opportunities to our learners, respect the idiosyncratic needs of our students, secure a safe and innovative learning environment; help evolve a comprehensive development of our learners and engage educators, administrators and stakeholders to constantly enhance our long-cherished "community of leaders and learners."

Our Motto

"Students First"

Our Beliefs

1. Students are our highest priority.

2. Providing quality education directs the board's decisions.

3. Engaging the students in the learning production.

4. Diversifying the teaching approaches and strategies to best suit various learning styles.

5. Securing safe and comfortable physical environment.

6. Seeking up-to-date technological, instructional, and research advances to enhance teaching.

7. Fostering the multi-cultural environment to graduate globally broad - minded students.

The key words in our school's statements are "learners, our students" and we are often quoted by our motto "students first". Hence our staff works diligently to ensure that all our students are successful and this is well reflected via the school's IGCSE and GCE standardized exam results.

Finally, stakeholder's survey results depicted that the school's purpose statement is clearly focused on student's success.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Thamer International School (T. I. S) is proud of the achievements and improvements in all areas fulfilling its Purpose/Mission statement. The mission and the Motto of T. I. S. is "Students first" and that our students are self-motivated learners which is clearly reflected by Cambridge IGCSE/GCE standardized exams for the past 5 years. Each academic year T. I. S. has several ranks world wild across Saudi Arabia and Jeddah as Follows:

May/June 2015:

- Ammar Anas Alsayed Mohamed Aboagwa: First place in Saudi Arabia and Jeddah, Best across 3 Cambridge AS Subjects.

- Syed Yasin Kadri: High Achievement in Cambridge IGCSE Co-Ordinated Sciences (Double Award)

- Ahmed Omar Mohamed Mansour Soliman: Top In Region in Cambridge IGCSE Physics

- Ammar Anas Alsayed Mohamed Aboagwa: Top in The World in Cambridge AS Mathematics.

- Rania Fathi Farouk Mohamed Farid : Third place, Best across 7 Cambridge IGCSE subjects.

- Salma Ashraf Gouda Elsayed: Top In Region in IGCSE English as a Second Language (Count-in Speaking)

May/June 2014:

- Ahmed Munzer M Tayeh : (Third Place in Saudi Arabia) Best Across Seven Cambridge IGCSEs.

- Hind Mohamed Nabil Elazar : Top in Jeddah in Business Studies.

- Mohammed Ayman Hussein Shalaby: Top in Saudi Arabia in Applied ICT

- Moustafa Amr Nazieh Alsaddik Ali: Top in Saudi Arabia in Chemistry.

- Moustafa Amr Nazieh Alsaddik Ali: Moustafa Amr Nazieh Alsaddik Ali in Mathematics.

- Moustafa Amr Nazieh Alsaddik Ali: First Place in Saudi Arabia Best Across Four Cambridge International A Levels.

- Mohammed Ayman Hussein Shalaby: Second Place in Saudi Arabia Best Across Four Cambridge International A Levels

- Noor Atef Abdul Monem: Third Place in Saudi Arabia Best Across Three Cambridge International A Levels.

May/June 2013:

- Yasmeen Ashraf Ali Ibrahim: Top in Saudi Arabia in Business Studies.

- Yasmeen Ashraf Ali Ibrahim: (Third Place in Jeddah) Best Across Seven Cambridge IGCSEs.

- Toka Tarek Elmohammedi Abdel Aziz Eid: Top in Saudi Arabia in Mathematics.

- Mohammed Ayman Hussein Shalaby: Top in the World in Applied ICT.

- Moustafa Amr Nazieh Alsaddik Ali: Top in the World Mathematics.

- Moustafa Amr Nazieh Alsaddik Ali: Top in Saudi Arabia in Chemistry.

- Moustafa Amr Nazieh Alsaddik Ali: Top in Jeddah in Biology.

- Moustafa Amr Nazieh Alsaddik Ali: First Place in Saudi Arabia Best Across Three Cambridge International AS Levels.

- Mohammed Ayman Hussein Shalaby: Second Place in Saudi Arabia Best Across Four Cambridge International AS Levels.

- Walid Mohammed Itani: Top in Saudi Arabia in Mathematics

- Joussi Essam Shafik Ramzi Guirguis: Top in Jeddah in Biology

- Joussi Essam Shafik Ramzi Guirguis: Top in Jeddah in Physics.

- Joussi Essam Shafik Ramzi Guirguis: First Place in Saudi Arabia Best Across Four Cambridge International A Levels.

May/June 2012:

- Moustafa Amr Nazieh Alsaddik Ali: Top in Saudi Arabia in Biology.

- Mohammed Ayman Hussein Shalaby: Top in Saudi Arabia in English as a Second Language (Count-in oral).

- Mohammed Ayman Hussein Shalaby: Top in Saudi Arabia in Chemistry.

- Moustafa Amr Nazieh Alsaddik Ali: Top in Saudi Arabia in Chemistry.

- Mohammed Ayman Hussein Shalaby: (First Place in Jeddah) Best Across Seven Cambridge IGCSEs.

- Moustafa Amr Nazieh Alsaddik Ali: (Third Place in Jeddah) Best Across Seven Cambridge IGCSEs.

Our mission is clearly reflected in our graduation rate which is above 99% for the class of 2015. In addition T. I. S. takes pride that our students are accepted in universities worldwide with an acceptance rate exceeds 98%.

- One of T. I. S. achievements is the introduction of Cambridge Primary and Secondary Checkpoint standardized exams through which our students succeeded to score excellent results in Math and Science "School rate was excellent".

- Another achievement is the introduction of MAP test this academic year 2015-2016 in which KG, Grade 5 and Grade 7 students scored above the norm.

- T. I. S. students participated in the AC MAS regional comprehension and gained the top ranks for the past 2 years as follows:

AC- MAS held in Amman- Jordan April 2015: Where Our little geniuses achieved great results and made T.I.S. proud by receiving the first & the third ranks.

AC- MAS regional competition held in Beirut - Lebanon in April 2014. Our student Sovan Al jahdali has got the first rank.

- Thamer International School has been nominated by the University of Cambridge for our excellence in education for three consecutive years

T. I. S. has been mentioned in Cambridge publications among some other schools as one of the best education providers worldwide. These Cambridge publications are:

- Inspiring Leaders and Innovation. April 2015.

By Cambridge University, Students' Union. Page 152 - 153.

- The Guide of Excellence 2014 edition. Celebrating 50 years of CUSU

By Cambridge University. Students' Union. Page 200- 201.

- T.I.S. was awarded the International School Award (ISA) by the British Council for the schools' extracurricular activities in 2013.

- T.I.S. was awarded Al Raeda School title and T.I.S. was the first International School in Jeddah- Saudi Arabia to be awarded this title.

In our pursuit of walking the talk and implementing our vision and mission, the school has added the twin side of an educated leader: the athletic side. Our department has built a professional program for the students, in order to plant not only educational schemes and curriculum in their minds and hearts, but also the physical character, knowing that a Sound Mind, needs a Sound Body.

During each academic year, we plan a well devised and organized schedule meticulously ensuring that it does not clash with the educational processes in school. Alongside the educational activities, tournaments, Sports Days, Parent-Student matches and teacher-students competitions are held inside/outside the school to enhance the competitive spirit in students, and help them sense the beauty of achievements in life. Moreover, we have what we call, the "Thursday club", where participants experience and indulge in a variety of sports like: football, basketball, karate, and cherish the Artistic flair in the Art Club.

Notable Achievements in advanced technology

In order to achieve differentiated instructions, T.I.S. has installed an Interactive white board in every classroom from Pre-k to Grade 12. All computers have access to the curriculum and school activities through the school's shared folders.

The IT Department provides quality, standardized services with continuous education and innovative technology solutions to effectively serve

the staff, students and parents. The IT Department Services is comprised of the following divisions: Administration, Technical Support/Help Desk, Network Infrastructure, Websites & Portals, Database, Security, Emailing and General IT Assets.

The Administration division provides two Windows Server 2008 R2 Domain Controllers; a server that responds to security authentication requests (logging in, checking permissions, etc.) within a Windows domain (TIS.com). In addition to that, two file servers, also configured on Windows Server 2008, provide two separate network directories in which staff members share files and folders for other staff to use, manage, secure and backup these resources. Moreover, a remote control software provides an effective and time saving support by giving IT administration direct access to each end users' workstations. In addition, the fingerprint system is of substantial support to the HR and Accounting Department for recording the staff's working hours and absences.

Technical Support is managed and configured using our in-House IT Helpdesk system (SysAid) in order to automate the handling of IT service requests, sent by staff, to work faster and more efficiently with priorities to ensure that every service request receives proper attention. For parents and students, a support form linked to our school website is designed and configured to receive Service Support Ticket for all our school e-services. E-services includes our Advanced Webmail, Learning Management System "Moodle", Students Updating Records, and Wire Fees transfer.

Network Infrastructure is the backbone of the school's IT structure connecting about 500 nodes using core, distribution, and access CISCO switches along with High Speed Fiber Optic Connections ,which reaches a speed of 1 Gbps and will be upgraded to 10 Gbps in the upcoming Academic Years, to effectively and securely integrate voice, video, and data. The internet connection consists of three Mobily Fiber Optic lines, 100 Mbps each, so that staff can use the internet without any hindrance related to speed and availability.

School's Website (tis.edu.sa) and Learning Management System Portal (elearning.tis.edu.sa) have been developed by IT Department making daily needed information and school resources easily accessible by parents, students, and staff. School information and resources include news, announcements, events, notifications, weekly agendas, worksheets, general information and guidelines along with e-services like IT support, Wire Fees Transfer, online records update, stakeholders feedback and contact forms.

As for Security, two Ubuntu Linux (Squid) and one TMG (Threat Management Gateway) servers are configured as a software firewall, web content filtering, and caching system which reduces bandwidth and improves response times by caching and reusing frequently-requested web pages.

Microsoft Office 365 provides staff, parents, and students with email, sites, online document editing and cloud storage. Also it provides communication services with the power and flexibility to effectively modernize the school's internal and external communication process. In addition, Mail Merge Toolkit is a powerful add-in for Microsoft Office helping to extend the mail merging capabilities in Microsoft Outlook, Word and Publisher allowing administration to send private/public messages to a small/large group of stakeholders at once. This is a great way to have bulk messages sent to related recipients like login credentials, invitation cards, and report cards.

General IT Assets like workstations, smart boards, projectors, access points, IP Printers offer staff high capabilities assisting their daily work duties. Assets are distributed among classes, each class equipped with a smart board, a projector, and a workstation with internet access, offering a modern way of teaching and learning. Computer labs offer 200 individual workstations, providing a professional learning environment for ICT lab sessions.

Finally, the Office of Information Technology mission/purpose is to provide the highest quality technology-based services, in the most cost-effective manner, to facilitate the school's mission as it applies to the management, teaching, learning, and community service.

Pastoral Care Program:

One of the most important achievements is the pastoral care program which is practiced through the form tutor's sessions on a daily bases.

Form Tutor Roles and responsibilities:

The Form Tutor plays a key role in the effective running of the school's pastoral care system. The Form Tutor is usually the student's first and most effective personal contact and should, therefore, be the first person to whom a student turns for help and advice.

The primary responsibility as Form Tutor is to build positive relationships and to model behavior that promotes respect, responsibility and resilience. As this is a front line pastoral role, routines may vary.

Safe and Caring environment:

Over the past years T.I.S. is well known for its safe and caring environment. This was clearly reflected and revealed by the stakeholder's survey results.

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

T.I.S. is proud of several planned achievements in several areas such as:

Technology:

- Student follow-up system was launched this Academic Year 2015-2016 through which parents are informed about their children's academic and behavioral progress on a daily basis.

- Our technology department continues to participate in professional learning to keep up with the latest innovations in software and technology. They also continuously train the staff and teachers about the smart boards and e-learning portal usage.

- Communication with parents is considered as an extremely pivotal aspect. Technology has allowed T.I.S. system to reach and update all of our parents through the school's website, e-learning portal, students' emails, and school Facebook page. We continue to share information with all stakeholders via the telephone calls, SMS, one to one meeting, and the school induction and orientation days.

- Because of the emphasis on continuous professional development and improvement, all the teaching staff has received the required trainings related to the classroom environments, differentiation in learning, classroom management, critical thinking, etc.

- A quality assurance department was formed to monitor and evaluate the classroom environments as well as planning for professional development according to the needs of the staff.

- T.I.S. persistently strives to be a part of the community of Jeddah- Saudi Arabia and constantly preserves to participate in hosting events for both MOE, Cambridge, and the British Council. As being part of the community, the school has successfully hosted the following events:

- IB leadership for the 21st century in 2015 for more than 7 schools.

- The British Council Young Learners Program in 2014.

- The Ukuni Parents Night in 2014.

- In 2014, we were the main sponsor for the MOE meeting called "Leqa'a wa Ertiqa'a".

- In 2015, we participated in the "Arabic Day" held to celebrate the Arabic Language and also in another activity called Developing the personal skills for the schools principals".

- In the same year, we hosted a very important event for the MOE for Noor program 83 schools from Jeddah attended this meeting.

- Cambridge Principal's Forum in 2013 and in 2015.

- Cambridge IGCSE and GCE A-Level face to face trainings for all the British International Schools OF Jeddah 2016.