

Introduction to the Jubilee School

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The Jubilee School fosters human talent, promotes cross-cultural understanding, and educates new leaders grounded in democratic values, tolerance, and community service. By enhancing students' academic and social skills, the school creates a synthesis between education and leadership and prepares them to enter the next stage of their lives as responsible, action-oriented, knowledgeable, and engaged citizens. The School believes that these carefully selected youngsters represent their countries' national wealth and therefore should be carefully nurtured. By offering them a unique learning experience and a curriculum tailored to their special needs and capabilities, the Jubilee School seeks to develop them into future leaders committed to serving their countries and capable of addressing the constantly shifting challenges of the Middle East Region and the world.

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The Jubilee Institute—the Jubilee School and the Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education—is a major undertaking of the King Hussein Foundation (KHF) that works to sustain and build upon the late King Hussein's lifelong commitment to peace and sustainable development through programs that promote education and leadership, community development, governance, and cross-cultural understanding in Jordan and the Middle East. The Jubilee School is an independent, residential, coeducational secondary school providing a 4-year program for outstanding students with a strong commitment to scholarship. The school was established in Amman, Jordan, in 1993 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the late King Hussein's accession to the throne.

The mission of the school is to advance educational standards through the development of innovative curricula and training programs, with the aim of developing future leaders committed to serving their country and capable of addressing the constantly shifting challenges in Jordan and beyond.

One of the Jubilee School's strategic objectives is to establish a model for an advanced educational environment for outstanding and gifted students in Jordan and the rest of the region. This is done by providing equitable educational opportunities to all outstanding students, with an emphasis on underprivileged areas. We focus on less advantaged areas and pockets of poverty, and give this chance to all outstanding students from Jordan. Another objective is to develop broad and challenging curricula that stimulate creative thinking, promote leadership, encourage problem solving, and provide both strong communication and effective decision-making skills. The Jubilee School serves as a laboratory for the research, development, testing, and dissemination of innovative techniques in science, technology, and mathematics. We also provide a variety of educational services to public and private educational institutions through workshops and training programs. We seek not only to enhance gifted students' scientific knowledge, but also to give them the wherewithal to put that knowledge into practice and to imbue them with visionary leadership, creativity, and social responsibility.

For admission to its program, the Jubilee School employs rigorous selection criteria based on outstanding academic achievement over the last five school semesters—the sixth grade, seventh grade, and one semester of eighth grade. The students start the school in ninth grade and proceed through twelfth grade. The school has its own examination, the Jubilee Scholastic Aptitude Test (J-SAT), which measures verbal, mathematical, and logical reasoning abilities. We take the students with the highest scores. Students must reflect leadership potential and positive characteristics, assessed on the basis of a personal interview. Each year, about 100 students from private and public schools are selected to join the Jubilee School.

The Jubilee School offers a comprehensive four-year secondary educational program that fulfills the special needs of outstanding students and promotes their intellectual and leadership

skills. The school has a unique and enriched curriculum—enriched both horizontally and vertically. “Horizontally” means that we have a variety of subjects and topics, more than any normal classroom or grade level; “vertically” means that we go into depth in our teaching by offering more advanced subjects, sometimes at the university level.

The curriculum at Jubilee is based on exploration and experimentation, which together constitute a very important part of our program. Through interactive and challenging methods of teaching, we enhance students’ problem-solving and decision-making abilities.

The Jubilee School acts as an educational incubator, pioneering new subjects and methods in teaching its students. The school was the first to introduce videoconferencing, multimedia instruction, and other information communication technology (ICT) topics in the classroom. It was the first school in Jordan to introduce robotics based on the same concepts used in industry, combining computer programming and automated technology. It was also the first school to introduce and start a computer numerical control (CNC) laboratory to teach design and technology—and this will be transmitted to other students through the F1 competition in schools. We would like to invite all the schools in Jordan to participate in the laboratory.

The educational initiatives begun at the Jubilee School have been replicated in other schools, both public and private, in the region. We aim to transfer knowledge by inviting schools, be they from Jordan or other regions, but especially other Arabic countries, to visit us. We try to supervise or support these initiatives in those schools.

Students at Jubilee are encouraged to design and implement research studies and surveys. They are encouraged to engage in the community through voluntary work and excursions in Jordan and abroad. They are provided with access to programs and with resources that are appropriate for their abilities to continue to learn outside the classroom through a variety of national and international activities.

All students at Jubilee are required to do a minimum of 120 hours of volunteer work. They start in the small community inside the school and then work outside the school, with other institutions and organizations. Students must also take part in an evaluation project at the end of the eleventh grade. They are asked to organize events and invite students from other schools to discuss issues and recommend solutions to problems that youths face.

Jubilee students continue to learn outside the classroom through participation in a variety of national and international activities, such as The Future World Summit Presidential Classroom Program, which takes place in the United States; the International Youth for Human Rights Summit in Switzerland; and the Model United Nations Forum. They participate in the Asian Physics Olympiad (APO) and the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO). Two projects were short-listed to present Jordan in the United States at Intel. Other competitions and seminars, such as the International Computer Fair and Seminar (COFAS) competitions in information technology, take place in India, in partnership with City Montessori Schools. A group of six students came back from COFAS with many awards, winning many exceptional places. Still other competitions are the QUANTA International Competition for Science, Mathematics, Astronomy, and Computer Science; and the QUEST International Festival of Biotechnology.

Jubilee School students also take part in student-exchange programs. The school has partnerships with schools in the United States, India, Indonesia, and in both Munich and Berlin, Germany. Students are encouraged to participate in sports, and the school has won major achievements and awards through them.

In sum, the educational program has three major components: academics, the Jubilee General Education Program, and leadership. Academics includes compulsory and elective

subjects. The enriched curriculum is built on national and international curricula, the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), and eight other programs. Through the enriched curriculum, the school aims to give its students more opportunities in education. The other way of helping outstanding students is through elective courses. Every semester, students choose two electives according to their abilities and interests, be they in science, languages, or other subject areas. Among the school's 70 electives are Newtonian physics, astronomy, algebra, applied sciences, applied chemistry, biotechnology, and nutrition. Nonscience electives include languages such as German, Spanish, French, and English, as well as many other subjects.

In the second component, the Jubilee General Education Program, all students attend a summer orientation program after they are accepted. They come for the summer to learn about the Jubilee School, our expectations, and the events and curricula that they will take at the school. While in school, all students must learn about inventions. They undergo counseling to discover themselves and to empower them. They undertake a community service program and complete a graduation project. Many are involved in international programs and, of course, have career and college counseling.

Interpersonal development grows through the third component of the Jubilee School's educational program: leadership. The school teaches leadership skills, communication skills, thinking skills, project management, entrepreneurial skills, and organizing events. We believe that all this knowledge must be reflected by offering our students leadership opportunities, allowing them to organize events, from A to Z, without interference. They choose the speakers. They raise funds for the event. They invite other schools. They prepare the sessions. They lead the sessions. Finally, they participate in many national conferences through their research, by reading papers, or just by attending these conferences.

At the Jubilee School's twin organization, the Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education, we prepare and develop curricula for gifted education in elementary and high schools, and we conduct training workshops and seminars in innovative approaches to teaching mathematics, science, and technology. The center promotes the use of advanced educational technology and creative problem-solving skills, and develops methods and tools for the assessment of gifted students. At the Jubilee Center, we have the Testing, Research and Development Center, innovative programs such as Drama in Education, and math and chess clubs, among others. We have the Science Garden, which features models and examples of many scientific instruments. We have the Great Exploration in Math and Science (GEMS) program, in partnership with the University of California, Berkeley. We have a National Educational Center for Robotics and "F1 in Schools" competition.

The Jubilee Institute considers itself fortunate to have many internationally recognized leaders and thinkers visit the school to interact with the students. His Majesty King Hussein, His Majesty King Abdullah II, Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Prince Hamza Bin Al-Hussein, Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya bint Al-Hassan, Bill Gates, Hilary Clinton, Gerhard Schröder, Neil Armstrong, Jeffrey Hoffmann, and others were able to come and have an honest dialogue with the students, discussing major issues.