

المدرسة  
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الشميساني



The National  
Orthodox School  
Shmaisani



# EVOLVE

*NOS Students' Newsletter & Podcast*

Feb. 2025 | Issue 1 | Year X | No. 18

**10** GREAT  
YEARS  
OF US

**EVOLVING!**

**76 + 1 YEARS OF GENOCIDE**



NOSEVOLVE



EVOLVE:NOSStudents'Newsletter



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## NOS Students' Newsletter & Podcast

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### WELCOME TO ISSUE 1 | YEAR X

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#### **Q: What is 'EVOLVE'?**

Evolve is the National Orthodox School-Shmaisani (NOS) student-based newsletter & podcast. The newsletter was started by a student (Majd Muna) in 2015, and the Podcast was started by a student (Mariah Manneh) in 2022. It's a space where students can express their thoughts and feelings and share their take on what's happening at school and beyond with our school community and the world.

#### **Q: Who can join and how?**

The EVOLVE team consists of Grade (9-12) students. A detailed announcement is sent out to all student and family emails during the first weeks of each school year. Anyone from Grades (9-12) can apply to join, by a certain deadline. This year, our team has filled up; however keep an eye out for future announcements for vacancies! Moreover, any student from any stage who is interested in writing is most welcome to contribute an opinion piece. You can pitch your ideas for contributions by sending an email to: [editor.newsletter@nos.edu.jo](mailto:editor.newsletter@nos.edu.jo)

#### **Q: Where can I find the previous issues & podcasts?**

Our school administration sends Evolve to NOS students, families and staff by official email. So, you can look for it in your NOS school email inbox. Additionally, the issue is posted on our socials, and you can find a link tree in our Instagram (NOSEVOLVE) bio. There, you will also find the links to the NOS website, previous issues, and our Podcast; or you can find us on the NOS website ([www.nos.edu.jo](http://www.nos.edu.jo)), under News & Publications.

#### **Message from EVOLVE advisor Dina Ra'ad-Yaghnam:**

Our Dear EVOLVE Readers,

When our students started working on their first issue for the '24-'25 School Year, there was a heaviness: yet another year was starting - and another issue and podcast were being published - while our brothers and sisters in Gaza were still suffering under the worst Genocide in modern history, at the hands of the Zionist Colonial State. Even though a ceasefire had taken place by the time the issue was ready for publication, and for the first time in Palestine's history, our Palestinian brothers and sisters returned home (although there was nothing but rubble to return to), we kept the articles as written, as a documentation, a diary of sorts, to add to the collective, permanent memory of what happened and how our young journalists felt about it and what they had to say.

We are very proud of our EVOLVE team members for the heart and soul they put into writing the articles and designing yet another rich, enlightening issue. We hope you will enjoy reading what they have in store for you. We are also very proud of them for the astounding job they did organising the EVOLVE Event, which took place at the end of the 1st Semester, with Special guest Journalist Mohammed Khalidi. They did an extremely impressive job in terms of EVOLVE's 3rd Podcast as well, which we encourage you to keep an eye and ear out for.

Last but surely not least, we wish EVOLVE a Happy 10th Birthday, as 2025 marks 10 years of EVOLVE-ing! Here's to many more years of student journalism. We wish you pleasant reading.



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## *NOS Students' Newsletter & Podcast*

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# Hope in the Ashes

## The Unbroken Spirit of Gaza's Students

Tia Beiruty

It's 6 am; the alarm is banging on the nightstand, light is struggling to enter through the shut blinds, and piles of books clutter every corner of your room. Certainly, no one looks forward to this typical school morning. But what if I told you that going to school was no longer an option? You don't need to ponder much; this is the harsh reality of 625,000 Gazan students.

This year, we entered our classrooms with a new perspective, gratitude and even guilt. A year into the Gaza Genocide, as of October 2024, almost 93% of educational institutions in Gaza had been crumbled to ashes by Zionist Occupation Forces, including 562 schools and all 12 universities. More than 12,329 students and 500 teachers were killed. According to the United Nations, this is a 'Scholasticide', which is the systemic obliteration of education through the arrest, detention or killing of teachers, students and staff, and the destruction of educational infrastructure.

### GAZA'S SCHOLASTICIDE: THE NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES



**625,000**

STUDENTS HAVE **NO ACCESS** TO EDUCATION



**85%**

OF SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN **DIRECTLY HIT OR DAMAGED** REQUIRING EITHER FULL RECONSTRUCTION OR SIGNIFICANT REPAIRS



**12,329** STUDENTS AND **500** EDUCATIONAL STAFF HAVE BEEN KILLED



**ALL 12 UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEEN BOMBED**, RESULTING IN THEIR COMPLETE OR PARTIAL DESTRUCTION



**88,000**

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS **CANNOT ACCESS** HIGHER EDUCATION



**AT LEAST 95**

UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS HAVE **BEEN KILLED**

Education is a weapon of its own. This has been evident throughout the ages; anytime the superior powers wanted to control a certain group or class, they would strip their right to learning. Women in particular have been targeted, as they are the ones who raise the children of future generations, leading in the end to a less educated and capable population overall. This is what the Zionist occupation forces have been trying to do in Palestine, since 1948, up till the present Scholasticide in Gaza.



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# Hope in the Ashes

## The Unbroken Spirit of Gaza's Students

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Tia Beiruty

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Palestinians losing their education due to a scholasticide is conventionally the path to a future full of suffering and failure; but the persistent people of Gaza repeatedly emerge from the rubble, with no challenges holding them back from their dreams, not even a genocide, or a scholasticide.

People like Oula Al Ghoul, a Palestinian educator, who has gone out of her way, creating an alternative classroom for Central Gazan students. A tent barely withstanding gentle winds has become the place where this upcoming generation is thriving in spite of their books being one use away from falling apart. It doesn't stop at grade school; Gazan comedian and social media influencer Mahmoud Zuaiter, received his Master's degree remotely. This is a stellar example of grit and perseverance, with our heroes prospering amidst a deadly scholasticide.



It's easy to get distracted with our fast-paced lives. However, this article sheds light on the entitlements which we forget to think about. Palestinians are a symbol of beacon and resilience, despite this horrifying Genocide, they persevere and are determined to do anything they put their minds to.

Take this article as your call to action. Let's support each and everyone of them and be a light, even if it's faint, in their career paths. National and international organizations including Interpal, WISE School Platform and Academic Solidarity with Palestine have created a medium for people to advocate and volunteer to help Gazans.



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# Gaza's Mental Health Crisis

## The Burden of Survival Beyond the Genocide

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Daniella Sweidan

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Since the genocide in Gaza on October 7th 2023, it's becoming increasingly obvious to the entire world that people in Gaza, especially children, are going to grow up with a condition or mental health disorder called PTSD, or worse: CTSD (Chronic Traumatic Syndrome Disorder), "chronic" because psychologists say that this disorder will stay with the genocide survivors and even be transferred to future generations, even after the genocide has ended.

Over the past year and more, the Israeli occupation army has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians, and left more than 20,000 unidentified, missing or buried under the rubble, and around 100,000 injured. More than 60% of Gaza's buildings have been destroyed and 90% of the population has been displaced. The United Nations says "The Israeli blockade of food and water has sent Gaza spiraling down a 'full-blown famine.'" UNRWA's telecommunications director, Juliette Touma, says the conditions are 'incomparable' to any other lethal crisis in modern history. "This is by far the largest humanitarian crisis that this agency has been through", she said, "I think we've passed the point in time where we describe what's happening in Gaza as concerning. And I'm not sure I have the right words to describe the situation in Gaza. These are not living conditions".



It is worth mentioning that even before this genocide, Gaza had been under siege since 2006 by the Israeli colonial occupation state; as a result, more than 61% of Gaza's population had been experiencing extreme poverty, 47% had lost their jobs, and food was already scarce. According to UNICEF, "Even before this latest escalation, more than 500,000 children in Gaza were identified as needing mental health and psychosocial support. In terms of trauma, 69% of adolescents already had PTSD, around 95% experienced high levels of anxiety, and 40% were dealing with depression between moderate and severe.

Since October 2023, Studies have shown that PTSD occurrences range from 30-50% in Gaza, and that close to 70% of Gaza's children exhibit signs of PTSD, depression and anxiety. These figures are very likely to rise as the genocide continues. According to Doctors without Borders, the trauma that Palestinians are enduring from this latest genocide are going to turn into "chronic" form of PTSD.



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# Gaza's Mental Health Crisis

## The Burden of Survival Beyond the Genocide

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Daniella Sweidan

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### What is PTSD?

PTSD stands for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: a condition that develops when a person has been exposed to, or observed, a frightening, horrific or dangerous event(s). These stressful or traumatic events usually involve a life-threatening situation, or a severe injury, or sudden, violent loss of loved ones and so on.

### Factors Leading to Chronic PTSD from the Gaza Genocide:

Causes of PTSD for the people of Gaza during the past year of genocide include sights and sounds of bombed buildings and injured people screaming, 24-hour buzzing of surveillance and shelling drones, fear of being kidnapped, fear of being arrested for no reason, losing a loved one or their entire family, getting severely injured, undergoing medical procedures such as amputations and C-sections without anesthesia, seeing the remains of humans, being confronted and threatened by the Israeli Occupation Soldiers, not having nearly enough food or water, seeing people die of starvation, seeing their homes and belongings destroyed, fear of losing their own life, and other terrible things.

Gaza's 1 million children, who make up almost half the population, are among the most affected. Oxfam says "over 25,000 children have either lost a parent or become orphans, leaving them in deep emotional distress. Most children are grappling with anxiety and severe physical injuries, with many having lost limbs."

The genocide has even taken a massive toll on Gaza's healthcare and medical workers, including those who specialize in mental health. Almost 9000 medical workers have been killed, according to UN Médecins Sans Frontières. Healthcare workers are always dealing with "constant fear, stress and anxiety" due to the horrors of injuries they witness such as "crushed limbs and burns from explosions." Mental health workers are not only working with the most traumatized people, but they are experiencing trauma of their own, and they are working with hardly any support or medication to help them do their job.





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# Gaza's Mental Health Crisis

## The Burden of Survival Beyond the Genocide

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Daniella Sweidan

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### How will the trauma of the genocide impact future generations of Palestinians?

The current survivors are already suffering from the results of grief, shattered families, forced starvation, anxiety, depression, and so much more. According to experts, the trauma of the genocide is going to affect how their DNA works and develops; it is going to be passed on to their offspring, the unborn Palestinians. Even if they have never experienced this genocide, this genocide is going to impact their health, psychology, and their epigenetics, experts say.

### Some PTSD Symptoms Expected to Remain Among Gazans:

Here are some symptoms of PTSD that are expected to stay with the people of Gaza for a long time even with future generations:

1. Flashbacks, or feeling like the genocide is happening again. Once the genocide on Gaza is over, the victims might get reminded of the event and relive it all over again.
2. Trouble sleeping or nightmares. Children might begin to have extreme and realistic nightmares which could cause them distress, anxiety and depression.
3. Gazans might be very alert all the time, as their brains have become wired to be on the lookout for any potential threats. Living in a high-stress environment can activate the brain's natural 'fight or flight' response to become overly active, which could make people hyper-aware of sounds, movements or anything out of the ordinary, putting them in an intense state of alertness. This creates emotional, mental and physical strain. Being in this overly alert state, especially for prolonged periods of time, contributes to long-term stress-related problems, such as higher blood pressure, fatigue, sleep disturbances, digestive problems, weakened immune systems, higher risks of developing CVD, and lower energy levels.
4. Having physical pain like headaches or stomach aches is the body's physiological response to stress. PTSD can also lead to changes in the nervous system such as sensitivity to pain, muscle tension and inflammation, as well as physical changes such as gastrointestinal issues and muscle aches.

To sum up, PTSD is a truly serious problem especially during this time and even more serious if it becomes **chronic**. So, it's important that we all try to chip in, to do everything we can to ease the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Gaza. Donating money, food and clothes as well as raising awareness about the Genocide on social media are just some of the things we can do, so we can hopefully end this Genocide soon.





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# Evolving in Pink

## A Journey Through Breast Cancer Awareness Campaigns

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Loren Haddad

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Breast Cancer Awareness Month has grown from a simple awareness campaign in the early 1990s to a global movement promoting education, early detection and treatment accessibility. Every October, the pink ribbon becomes an iconic symbol representing not just solidarity for those impacted by breast cancer, highlighting themes such as survivorship, emotional well-being and the value of community support, alongside medical care; but it also emphasises the ongoing commitment to battling the disease.

The pink ribbon, which initially gained popularity through the Susan G. Komen Foundation in 1991, has played a critical role in raising awareness about the importance of regular screening, including lab tests, mammograms, breast self-exams and clinical exams used to detect breast cancer early, even before symptoms appear. Mammograms are recommended for women starting age 40 or 50, while breast self-exams can be performed at any age. This early detection is essential; it greatly improves the chances of successful treatment and survival. Breast cancer has one of the highest survival rates, with the 5-year relative survival rate for localised breast cancer at about 99%. This statistic has improved significantly over the past decades, thanks to advances in screening and treatment.

Just a few decades ago, cancer, particularly breast cancer, was considered a taboo topic, partly due to low survival rates in the past and lack of awareness about the importance of early detection, creating a vicious cycle. These cultural barriers made public discussions and awareness campaigns difficult to launch. However, the advent of social media revolutionised how awareness is spread, and helped normalise conversations around breast cancer and connect larger audiences, especially with improvement of survival rates. Platforms like Instagram and X amplify messages using hashtags such as #Pinktober, allowing survivors to share personal stories and build communities. For example, individuals have organised virtual fundraising events and support groups online, encouraging participation from around the world.





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# Evolving in Pink

## A Journey Through Breast Cancer Awareness Campaigns

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Loren Haddad

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Nevertheless, Breast Cancer Awareness Month has not been without controversy. The rise of "pink-washing" - when companies use the pink ribbon primarily for marketing purposes without making significant contributions to the cause - has drawn criticism. Advocates are calling for greater transparency so consumers can see how much of their purchase actually supports breast cancer research or services. Organisations like Breast Cancer Action urge the public to examine pink-themed products and choose those that truly contribute to the cause.

Recent awareness efforts have also placed greater focus on "health equity," which means ensuring that everyone has equal access to healthcare, addressing disparities in breast cancer outcomes. For example, in the U.S., Black women are 40% more likely to die from breast cancer than white women, often due to differences in socioeconomic status, delayed diagnoses and access to care. These statistics highlight the need for equal access to screenings and high-quality treatment for all, regardless of race or income.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month reminds us of how far we have come in raising awareness and improving care, but it also serves as a call to action for ongoing efforts. As is the case with any awareness day or month for any important issue, the commitment to breast cancer awareness should not be confined to October. Advocates urge people to prioritise regular health screenings and adopt a healthy lifestyle that includes nutritious eating, avoiding smoking and limiting exposure to carcinogens year-round. Additionally it is crucial to support initiatives that ensure timely and effective care for those who need it, regardless of location, background or financial situation. The goal is not just to raise awareness, but to save lives.

October and beyond, the pink ribbon serves as a powerful reminder that progress has been made, but the fight is not over. Together, we must continue to push for better care, greater access and more comprehensive support systems for all.



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# Past the Stereotypes

## What ADHD Really Means

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Daniella Sweidan

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Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, better known as ADHD, is a condition that affects people's behavior, emotions, and cognitions. People with ADHD often appear to be restless, have trouble with concentration, and sometimes act on impulse. One of the biggest misconceptions about ADHD is that it is often characterized as a "disorder", but the purpose of this article is to prove that it doesn't have to be a disorder; it can sometimes be a blessing.

I spoke with Ms Suha Musallam, Head of Tamkeen Centre at NOS, which helps students with special educational needs such as ADHD. "ADHD might be a very big or scary title, but with what's going on with technology, with advancements, with everything, it is becoming just a different lifestyle," Miss Suha said. "The actual meaning of ADHD is basically just a different way of how things work".

Basically, ADHD is just another way of saying that some people's brains are just "wired" differently. But it doesn't have to be wired in a bad way, on the contrary, it may be wired in a way that can be compatible with life.

### **Can ADHD be a blessing?**

As someone who was diagnosed with ADHD, I do think ADHD can be a blessing. In fact, many successful writers, artists, actors and some of the most famous people in history have confirmed they have ADHD and are successful, not despite it, but because of it. Celebrities that have confirmed they were diagnosed with ADHD include America's Got Talent Judge Howie Mandel, Harry Potter's star Emma Watson and renowned Chef Jamie Oliver.



Those with ADHD are usually bright, creative, funny, spontaneous, energetic, resilient, can hyper focus and have amazing conversational skills. Many people have viewed these benefits as their "superpowers" because those with ADHD can use them to their benefit.

According to Miss Suha, thought, "I can't say ADHD is a blessing, nor can I say it's a curse; it's just the way that it's supposed to be happening. So ADHD... so what? It's like wearing glasses. To me, it might be a blessing because it may widen the perspective for that person, but I don't see it as either; it's just who you are."



# Past the Stereotypes

## What ADHD Really Means

Daniella Sweidan

*continued...*

Miss Suha also explained about Tamkeen, the NOS special education centre which helps students with ADHD and other special education needs and helps create awareness about them. "At NOS Tamkeen Centre, and we collaborate with the counselling department, plus, we do awareness. October is ADHD Awareness Month; we (hosted) a specialist and we invited parents to have a better understanding and create awareness. Other than that, we are meeting with teachers; we're giving them orientation; we're giving school recommendations, accommodations, access arrangements, just to facilitate the learning experience for students who have been diagnosed with ADHD."



When I asked her if there was anything she feels people should know about ADHD, Ms Suha said, "I just hope for the understanding of any learning difficulty... that it's not the end of the world; it's just how things are and just a different way of dealing with a situation. You just need the proper support and guidance, and ما في حدى ما بيوصل (There is no one who cannot reach their goal). You might just need a little longer time, but eventually, you will get there".





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# A New Club on the Block

## From Debate to Distinction

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Maria Kandah

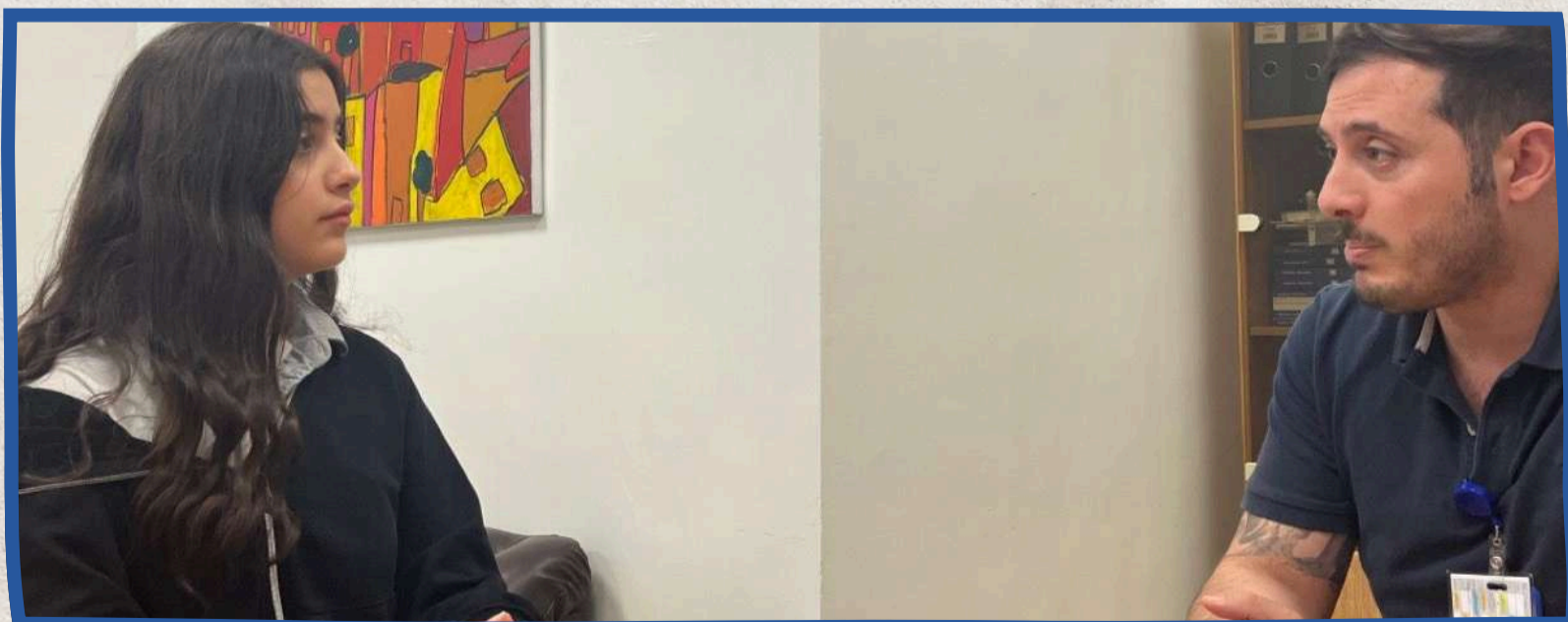
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A group of NOS students gather in a classroom, to debate important topics that challenge their intellectual skills, from plastic usage, to artificial intelligence. Founded in the 2023-2024 school year, the NOS Debate Club has quickly become a space for respectful discussion of diverse opinions. What started with around 16 debaters has now expanded to 30 students who were selected after three stages of auditioning, out of 90 who signed up from the current 8th graders. The team is being trained after school by the club's founder, NOS 8th grade English teacher, Mr. Ahmad Al Jaber, and it might be competing with other schools in 2025.

As a past debater in this club and a current mentor for the new students, I have realized that this club started at a time where the skill of debate was needed; a time where there is so much happening around the world to debate. These ongoing debates dare students to explore current issues and moral conflicts, as well as to practice public speaking and critical thinking skills.

The NOS Debate Club aims to help students master not only the art of communication, but also allows students to express themselves as responsible members of society. It highly recognizes the power of dialogue in shaping well-rounded individuals.

I interviewed the club's founder, Mr. Ahmad Al Jaber, to get his overview on the Debate Club and to get more details.





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# A New Club on the Block

## From Debate to Distinction

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Maria Kandah

*continued...*

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**Maria:** What inspired you to start the NOS Debate Club?

**Mr. Ahmad:** I was impressed by the students' English skills and always dreamed of starting a debate club. At NOS, I found it possible because of the students' willingness to improve and accept change.

**Maria:** What's the importance of debate clubs for students today?

**Mr. Ahmad:** Debate helps students learn how to argue effectively, using credible sources instead of just throwing information around. Our communities need more organized, open discussions.

**Maria:** Is the club only for students who are interested in debating?

**Mr. Ahmad:** No, debate is for everyone. At some point, everyone needs to argue, whether it's for a pay raise or justifying a decision as a teacher. It also helps develop skills like understanding both sides of an issue.

**Maria:** Why did you choose 8th grade students for the club?

**Mr. Ahmad:** 8th graders are at a stage where they'll face many situations requiring argument skills, like Model United Nations or convincing their parents about future choices.



Personally, after debating in this club, I have felt a drastic change in my public speaking skills. The skills I developed in articulating my thoughts, presenting evidence and thinking "on the spot" have not only made me a more confident and effective debater, but have also played a significant role in my daily life experiences, like convincing my mom that I am fit for the academic programme I chose. The club has truly helped me build the confidence and persuasive skills that are required both inside and outside of the debate room.



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# Beyond the Bell

## What Comes Next? University, Gap Year, or Work?

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Lamar Naber

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Do you ever feel scared imagining what life will be like once you graduate and realize how difficult it is to choose the correct path for your future? Understanding the options of attending college, taking a year off, or going straight to work can help graduates decide what path suits their long-term goals and interests.

The most chosen option is attending university. This choice is best for students who want to specialise in – and base their future careers on – a topic they are passionate about or one that fits the conditions around them. Studying for a degree in a certain field provides specialised knowledge that can boost a person’s financial stability. Additionally, individuals studying for a degree can get networking opportunities that can help in their future careers. However, pursuing a degree can take a lot of time and effort, and the cost of tuition may be high and unreasonable at some universities.

Some graduates find taking a gap year very beneficial. It is a non-traditional option where graduates spend months or a year or more gathering experience and developing skills that can improve their future college or job applications, or just relaxing after the pressure of the last few years of school.

I interviewed a couple of NOS graduates whose surrounding factors supported their decision to take a gap year, including Michael Hijazin, Class of 2024, and former EVOLVE Head of Design. He is taking an unplanned gap semester because his university’s first semester starts in February 2025. Michael shared his experience saying, “I now have time to focus on my personal development. I can go to the gym without the stress of studies, take Spanish and Bible classes, and complete my internship in interior design.”

A gap year allows students to step out their comfort zone, explore new opportunities, become more self-aware of their personal goals, and view the world from different perspectives.

Kira Yaghnam, NOS Class of 2022 and past Co-Editor-in-Chief and Head of Design for EVOLVE, decided to take a gap year once she received confirmation that she had been cast in the lead role of Hiba in Al Rawabi School for Girls 2. Kira emphasized, “Thanks to my gap year, I became certain that my passions lie in acting and performing arts, and I realized that Psychology would be the most suitable degree for me. A gap year is a gift that gives you more time to discover what truly excites you and gives your life meaning.”





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# Beyond the Bell

## What Comes Next? University, Gap Year, or Work?

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Lamar Naber

*continued...*

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Taking some time off before going to university can be useful; however, students can find it challenging to adjust to academic routines when they return. This can delay their entry into the job market.

For other graduates going straight to the job market aligns best with their long-term goals. "It doesn't always have to be academics first, then work.

I built my career before academics, because I knew universities would always be there, but career opportunities, especially in a country with limited chances, won't always be," said Ibrahim Alami, NOS Class of 2022 and a previous EVOLVE member, who is known as "The Hair Boy" across several social media platforms.



Ibrahim has been a hairstylist for years and now runs his own hair salon. He further explained, "Entering the job market right after school is not a bad decision, it makes us more mature and responsible, allowing us to concentrate on our long-term goals, because sometimes, we go through a lot in high school and enter the real world not knowing how to deal with it."

By directly entering the workforce, an individual quickly earns money and gains hands-on experience. One advantage of this path is that individuals can develop their careers by gaining practical experience and achieving personal and professional goals. Despite that, the chosen industry might develop and require new qualifications, leaving the individual with an unstable income and limited professional connections due to limited exposure to other fields.

In the end, there is no single right path after graduation. Whether it is attending university, taking a gap year, or going straight to work, each option has advantages and disadvantages. The main concept is knowing how to choose the path that best suits your goals and where you want to reach in the future, understanding that every step you take will bring you closer to what you aim for.





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# What Makes NOS Non-Profit? And What Is “Non-Profit” Anyways?

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Ishmail Mustafa

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Our school, the National Orthodox School-Shmaisani (NOS) is a non-profit school. You might've asked the question, "what is non-profit anyways?" I sat with Mr. George Mushawar, Board Member and Honorary Treasurer of the Orthodox Educational Society (OES), NOS's parent organisation, to answer this question which had me intrigued.

According to Cornell University, a non-profit organisation is "a group organised for purposes other than generating profit and in which no part of the organization's income is distributed to its members, directors, or officers." Mr. Mushawar adds that non-profit organisations can be split into two types: "Organisation" or "Company", but both have the same key characteristic: they keep all "surplus" - the non-profit equivalent of "profit" - made by the business, and they reinvest it within to serve the organisation or company's goals.

It is important to note that being non-profit does not necessarily mean being charitable, although many non-profits, including OES, have a charitable aspect. OES is an example of a charitable non-profit organisation; it provides financial assistance to students of families with limited income and organises charitable drives and fundraising events and campaigns.

However, Mr. Mushawar explains that the main focus of the OES mission is on building and overseeing the operation of educational institutions that provide affordable quality education, starting with NOS-Shmaisani and including NOS-ALAshrafiyeh and Wahbeh Tamari KG.





# What Makes NOS Non-Profit? And What Is “Non-Profit” Anyways?

Ishmail Mustafa

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## How does OES spend its money?

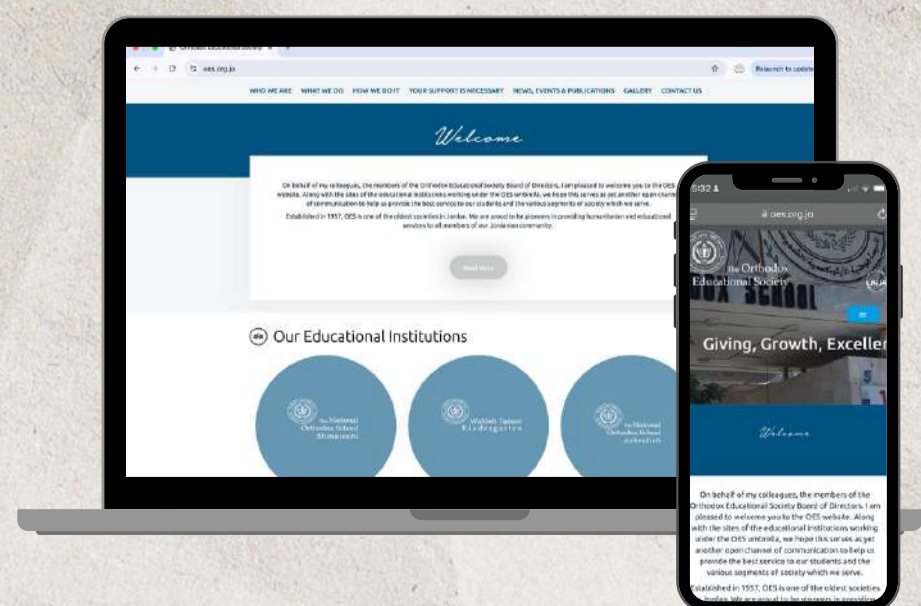
Many of the things you see around school come from money OES has reinvested in NOS. Examples include the recently added Air Conditioning system and new energy-saving LED lights introduced in the 2022-2023 school year, new lockers, new students chairs and desks, and the OES Culture and Sports Centre and the soccer field (the Zaki Noursi Greenfield).

The aim is to continuously make the school better with each reinvestment, and reinvestments are not limited to physical things; reinvestments are also used to train staff, increase salaries and even for working to meet accreditation criteria for the Council of International Schools (CIS), while also investing in offering diverse academic programmes: the IBDP, the IGCSE, and the Jordanian Tawjihi. NOS strives to serve different groups of people without adding extra financial pressure on them, even with some things that may usually be expensive. All the while, NOS still manages to offer a high quality education with excellent resources, which I can confidently testify to, as a student at NOS myself.

However, OES reinvestments can also take the form of establishing other educational institutions, such as the new school being built in Marj Al Hamam. The income from all schools goes into OES, and OES then spends from there on the needs of the various projects. As for NOS-Shmaisani, which is the OES' first established school, it is self-sufficient, meaning it does not need to get its money from outside sources.

During my interview with Mr. George, I learned a lot more about my school and why it does what it does. In all honesty, I developed a new-found appreciation for NOS and for OES as a whole. Being non-profit doesn't mean that our school is cheap or free (which is a misconception); **it means that it is not interested in financial gain, but in our own benefit.**

I would advise any students with questions on any topic that they find interesting to seek answers, because doing deep dives like this will give you even more insight on topics which you might be wondering about.





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# SpaceX's Starship Booster Captured in World First

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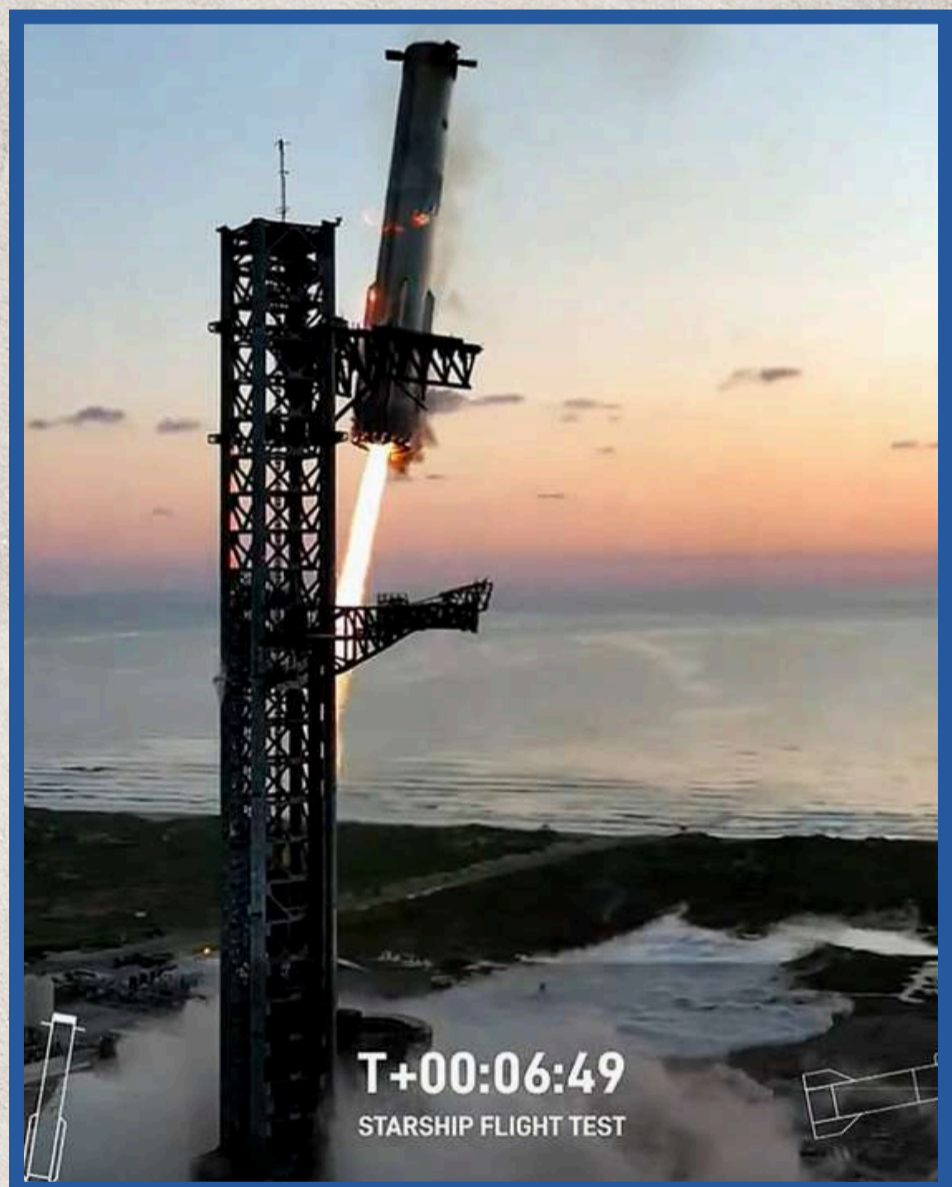
Sanad Amarin

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The rocket Starship by SpaceX completed a key test on October 13, 2024: catching the Super Heavy booster- a big rocket, which is the bottom half of its vehicle - as it returned to the launch pad. In its fifth test flight, the booster was caught by a giant pair of mechanical arms at the launch tower of SpaceX in Cameron County, Texas, in a world-first feat for spaceflight technology.

The success draws SpaceX closer to its dream of an entirely reusable and quickly deployable rocket - a quantum leap toward new frontiers in space exploration - and could possibly lead to the commercialization of space travel. Its long-term vision is to use the Starship system for missions beyond Earth, including to the Moon and Mars, with the aim of making humanity multi-planetary.

None of this was expected on the fifth flight, where initial expectations called for the booster to perhaps touch down in the Gulf of Mexico. By catching the rocket, it was a momentous day for SpaceX. Engineers called it "a day for the history books." That's a little over a year and half after Starship's first flight, which ended with the vehicle exploding shortly after liftoff. SpaceX emphasizes that such failures are crucial to accelerating system development, since they produce a lot of really helpful data for future refinements.



During the test flight, the Super Heavy booster separated from the main rocket two minutes and forty-five seconds into the launch, starting up its descent towards Boca Chica, Texas. After a myriad of thousands of criteria had to be met, the decision to attempt the catch came only two minutes before landing. The booster plunged back into the atmosphere at tremendous speeds, slowed down, and fit neatly into the mechanical arms of the launch tower.



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# SpaceX's Starship Booster Captured in World First

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Sanad Amarin

*continued...*

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The second part of the rocket, called "Ship," also landed successfully, in the Indian Ocean. "Ship" is planned to eventually carry crew and gear, but in this test flight, it was without crew for safety purposes. The dual success of both parts landing safely reinforces SpaceX's plans for reusing hardware and therefore greatly reduces costs, enabling rapid re-deployment. NASA also seemed pretty confident in this endeavor, having invested \$2.8 billion in Starship for its Artemis lunar missions by 2026.



This successful test marks a huge step forward for SpaceX, bringing them closer to making rockets reusable and space travel more affordable. It's an exciting moment that pushes us closer to exploring the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

***Due to the stance of SpaceX's owner Elon Musk's with the Zionist Colonial Occupation State, it is important to note that this article's author does not agree with -or approve of - Musk's actions and affiliations, but the writer views these as separate from SpaceX's technological advancements and its scientists' and engineers' achievements and innovations in space exploration, which the writer believes it is important for the public to know about.***





# EVOLVE EVENT

## Mohamad AlKhalidi: Journalism During Genocide

شرفاً عظيماً لفريق نشرة وبودكاست طلبة المدرسة الوطنية الأوثوذكسيّة: إيقولف، في العام العاشر لتأسيس النشرة، أن يكون السيد محمد الخالدي، مقدّم برنامج نبض البلد على قناة رؤيا، ضيفنا لنشاط إيقولف لهذا العام في اللقاء التفاعلي الذي نظّمه الفريق يوم الثلاثاء 3/12/2024 بعنوان **“التغطية الإعلامية في ظل حرب الإبادة على غزة”**.



For our EVOLVE Event, in EVOLVE's 10th anniversary year, we were happy to host journalist Mr Khalidi, presenter of Roya TV's 'Nabd al Balad', Tues. 3/12/2024, in an interactive session entitled **“Journalism During Genocide”**.



[Watch Now on Youtube!](#)



# NOS HIGHLIGHTS



Raising our voices for Gaza during our morning assemblies

**Celebrating our seniors receiving their senior jackets**



**Students coming together for our NOS Schools Choir Festival**

**Representing our school for our NOS annual sports tournaments including basketball, football and volleyball**



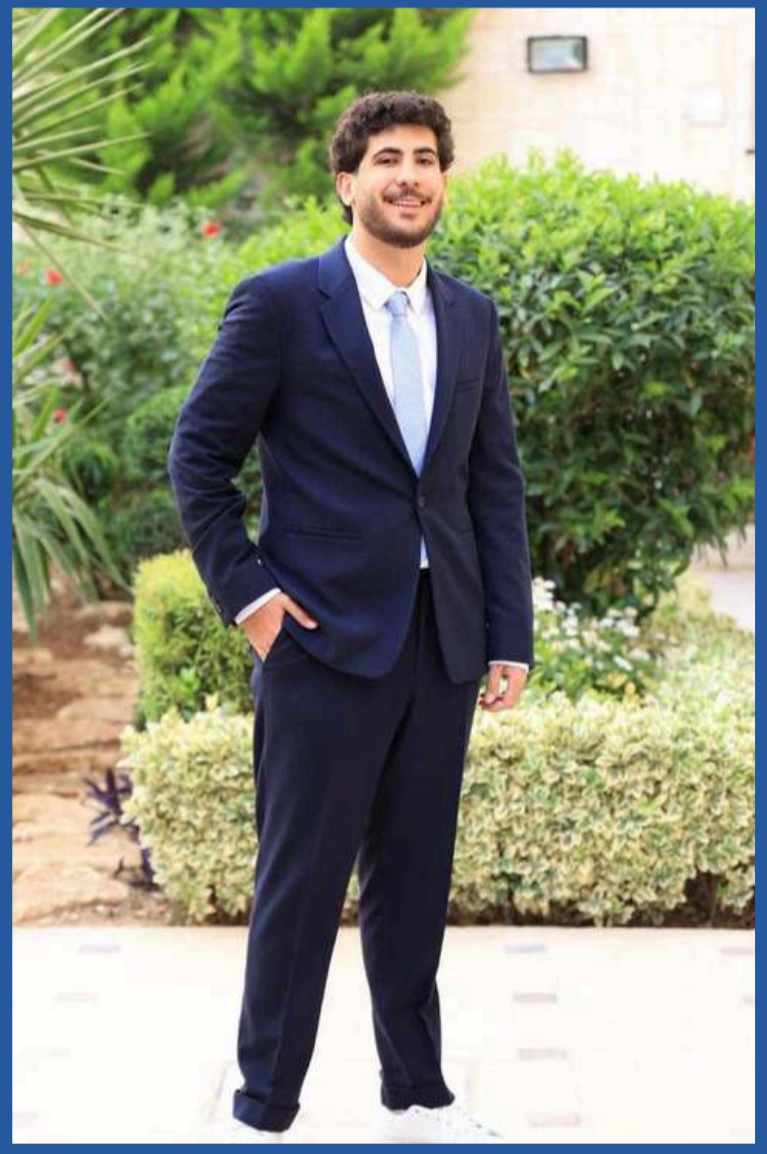


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## IN LOVING MEMORY OF: Munir Fanous

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بقلوب حزينة، مؤمنة بمشيئة الله،  
ننعي أخونا، ابن الوطنية الأوثوكسية،  
طيب الذكر منير فانوس (خريج 2023)  
الذي رحل عنا مبكرا. لترقد بسلام،  
يا منير، مع الملائكة والقديسين.

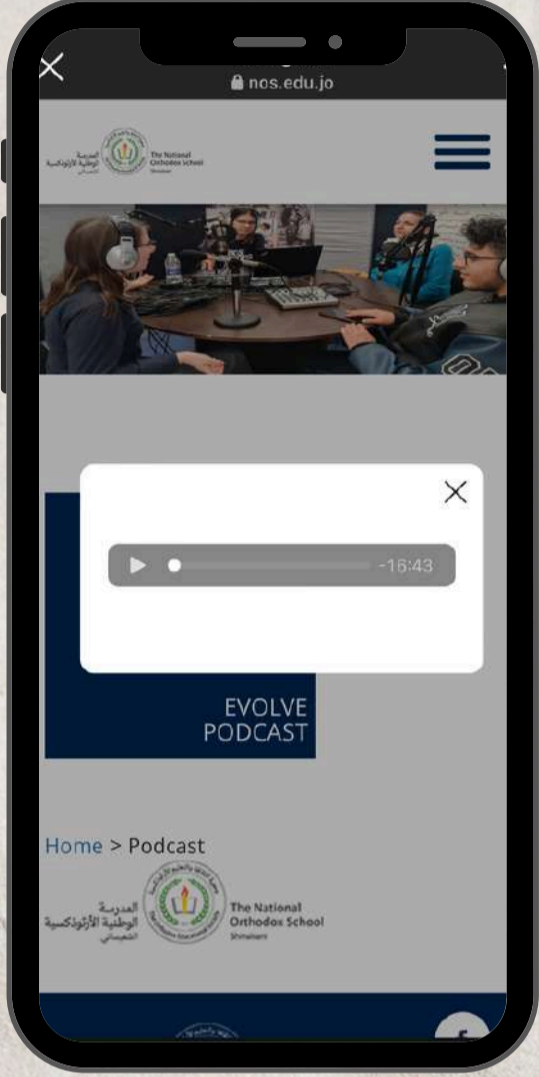


With heavy hearts, we mourn the sad and sudden loss of our NOS brother, Munir Fanous (Class of 2023). Our most sincere & deepest condolences to his family and all who loved him.

Rest in peace Dear Munir,  
Memory Eternal



## NOS Students' Newsletter & Podcast



## Coming soon



Stay tuned for our  
1st Podcast of this year!

<https://nos.edu.jo/shmaisani/podcast>

Listen to the 2 episodes  
already available online!

For more NOS news, visit our school's  
official social media platforms:  
Facebook, Instagram & YouTube.

للمزيد من الأخبار، زوروا الحسابات الرسمية  
لمدرستنا على فيسبوك وإنستغرام ويوتيوب.



[nos.shmaisani.official](https://www.facebook.com/nos.shmaisani.official)



[NOS- National Orthodox School- Shmaisani](https://www.youtube.com/NOS-NationalOrthodoxSchool-Shmaisani)





## NOS Students' Newsletter & Podcast

# MEET THE TEAM



Julie Zeidan  
Editor In Chief



Leen Abu Gharbiyeh  
Editor In Chief



Maya Fakhouri  
Editor In Chief



Naya Abdallat  
Deputy  
Editor In Chief



Cileena Arafat  
Co-Head of Media



Lutfi Sabanekh  
Co-Head of Media



Daniella Sweidan  
Co-Deputy Head of  
Media



Natalie Zabaneh  
Co-Deputy Head  
of Media



Reine Bahou  
Co-Deputy Head  
of Media



## NO&S Students' Newsletter & Podcast

# MEET THE TEAM



Dana Abu Qudais  
Head of  
Photojournalism



Lujayn Injadat  
Deputy Head of  
Photojournalism



Makram Sunna  
Deputy Head of  
Photojournalism



Jude Kayyal  
Co-Head of Design



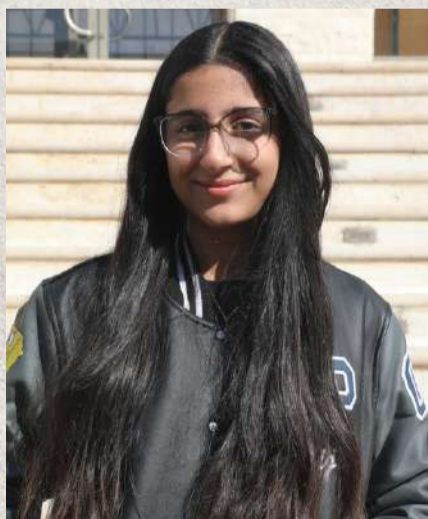
Mariana Eid  
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Maya Bosheh  
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Talin Habash  
Co-Deputy Head of  
Design



Perla Hijazin  
Co-Head Podcast  
Producer



Seta Ohanian  
Co-Head Podcast  
Producer



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## *NOS Students' Newsletter & Podcast*

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# MEET THE TEAM



Hind Habash  
Co-Deputy Head  
Podcast Producer



John Wakeileh  
Co-Deputy Head  
Podcast Producer



Yanal Al Hussein  
Co-Head of  
Audiovisual Editing



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## *NOS Students' Newsletter & Podcast*

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Ishmail Mustafa



Lamar Naber



Loren Haddad



Maria Kandah



Tia Beiruty

Daniella Sweidan  
Sanad Amarin

ALONG WITH:

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# MEET THE TEAM

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*continued...*



## More of Our Hardworking Members:

**Bottom row, left to right:** Naya Abdallat, Leen Abu Gharbieh, Julie Zeidan, Maya Fakhoury.

**Second row, left to right:** Qais Hijazin, Yanal Al Hussein, Perla Hijazin, Seta Ohanian, Jude Kayyal, Marianna Eid, Lutfi Sabanekh, Dana Abu Qudais, Cileena Arafat.

**Third row, left to right:** Kareem Abdallat, Maya Bosheh, Hind Habash, Talin Habash, Natalie Zabbaneh, Jessica Azrai, Halaa Abu Baida, Reine Bahou, Lujayn Injadat.

**Fourth row, left to right:** Daniella Sweidan, Tala Al Wazani, Hind Al Shalabi, Samia Yaghnam, Lamar Naber, Maria Kandah, Raneem Theodory, Tala Al Qusus, Jida Abboud, Zaid Zeidan.

**Fifth row, left to right:** Maya Suleiman, Loren Haddad, Tia Beiruty, Dalia Al Ahwal, Yasmine Billeh, Christine Hanania, Jude Abdallah, Sama Daghllass, Makram Sunna.

**Top row, left to right:** Jacob Nimri, Ishmail Mustafa, Salma Abu Mariam, Aoun Arabiat, Sanad Amarin, Sara Zawaideh, Zaid Bakeer.

**MIA:** John Wakeileh

*EVOLVE is supervised by: OES Member/Former NOS Head of Communication & Outreach Dina Ra'ad-Yaghnam, Head of Communication & Outreach Carla Demerjian, Communication Officer Shereen Aghabi, Social Media Officer Hiba Khnouf, Audio Visual Services Coordinator Al Masri, Head of Arabic Language Department Mona Ayyash and National Programme Coordinator Miss Alia Nofal.*