The Anglican Schools of the Bahamas

The Anglican Diocese of Nassau and The Bahamas has been involved in educating the youth of this nation for many years. Today there are four schools governed by the Anglican Central Education Authority. St. John's College and St. Anne's School are on the island of New Providence, Bishop Michael Eldon School (formerly Freeport Anglican High School/Discovery Primary School) is on the island of Grand Bahama and St. Andrew's Anglican School in George Town, Exuma. All four schools are coeducational institutions. The Primary Departments of the schools have grade levels Nursery and Kindergarten through grade six. The Secondary Departments have grade levels seven through twelve (St. Andrew's Anglican School grades 7 through 11).

St. John's College
In 1947 the Anglican Diocese under the direction of Bishop Spence Burton founded St. John's College. Being the first secondary school of the Diocese, it was named after the patron saint of the Diocese. The school was located on Market Street north until 1979 when it was moved to its present campus on Bishop Eldon Drive, off Bethel Avenue. The sprawling campus sits on twenty-eight acres of property. Since 1947 St. John's College has always encouraged its students to achieve academic excellence and uphold high moral standards. The many Bahamians who hold positions of authority and who are making an invaluable contribution to the Bahamas evidence its many successes.

School Crest: The crest holds the Latin Ecce Agnus Dei, (Behold the Lamb of God) the first words uttered by John the Baptist when he saw Jesus, according to St. John's Gospel.
Motto: Respice, Adspice, Prospice: Look to the Past, Present and Future
Hymn: “Praise to the Lord the Almighty”

St. Anne's School
St. Anne’s School, located on the eastern end of New Providence Island, began in 1955 as a parochial school. Canon David John Pugh founded the school when he was the Priest-in-charge of St. Anne’s Parish Church, Fox Hill. Recognizing the need for schooling in the Fox Hill vicinity, Fr. Pugh utilized the Old Parish Hall and converted it into three classrooms, and he made use of the rectory’s garage. Thus began the Parish School of St. Anne with twenty-six students and four teachers under the principalship of Fr. David J. Pugh. Due to the lack of classrooms and the increasing number of students, some classes had to be taught in the church yard, under the sapodilla and almond trees, and in the church’s graveyard. Over the years St. Anne’s has developed into a flourishing and renowned educational institution. Academically, St. Anne’s School has held its own and has made an invaluable contribution to the Bahamas. The school has built up an enviable reputation in the community for its academic excellence.

School Crest: Shows St. Anne’s Church (Fox Hill) and the Sapodilla tree where classes were once held.
School Motto: Dei Gratia: By the Grace of God
School Hymn: “Now Thank We All Our God”

Bishop Michael Eldon School
(Formerly Freeport Anglican High/Discovery Primary School)

In the Northern Bahamas, on the island of Grand Bahama, Bishop Michael Eldon School (Freeport Anglican High School and Discovery Primary School) is governed by the ACEA. Freeport Anglican High School originally known as Freeport High School opened its doors in September of 1965. Over the next three years the campus was developed with the addition of more rooms. In 1975 the school was taken over by the ACEA. Fr. Bishop, who had been headmaster at St. John’s College for many years, was appointed principal. Like its sister and brother schools on New Providence the success of the school can be seen in its graduates who have made contributions nationally and internationally. Lady Henrietta St. George founded Discovery Primary School in a cottage in the garden of her Freeport home. In 1991 Lady Henrietta built the new Discovery Primary School on the grounds of Freeport Anglican High School. In 1993 she donated the buildings to the Diocese and Discovery Primary became a part of the Anglican Schools family. Both schools have flourished. In September 2005 the school was renamed Bishop Michael Eldon School after Bishop Michael Hartley Eldon, the first Bahamian Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands. From 1954 through 1962 Bishop Eldon served as Assistant Master at St. John’s College. In 1962 he began his ministry on Grand Bahama Island, where he taught, served as Rural Dean, Archdeacon, probation officer and Chairman of the Grand Bahama Christian Council. Bishop Eldon retired as Lord Bishop of Nassau in 1996.

School Crest: The crest is a shield divided into three sections. One section depicts three birds representing egrets that were once plentiful on Grand Bahama and the indigenous scrub pine; the second has a sail ship with a cross on its sail; and the third has the school’s initials in capitals BMES.

School Motto: Lux Mentis Lux Orbis: The Light of the Mind, the Light of the World – Discover the Truth

School Hymns: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” and “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

St. Andrew’s Anglican School

In the Southern Bahamas, on the island of Exuma, St. Andrew’s Anglican School is governed by the ACEA. The Preschool was founded 1983, the Primary Department in 1995 and the Middle School in 2002. The school is located on the ground floor of the St. Andrew’s Community Center in the heart of George Town, Exuma. The ACEA had assisted in the development of the school since 1993. In 2003 the ACEA increased its involvement in the administration of the school.

School Crest: The crest is a shield divided into three sections. One section has a Blue Marlin; the second has the cross of St. Andrew; and the third has the school’s initials in capitals SAAS.

School Motto: Sapere Aude: Dare To Be Wise

School Hymn: “Jesus Calls us O’er Tumult”

With St. John’s in the west, St. Anne’s in the east, Bishop Michael Eldon School in the north and St. Andrew’s Anglican School in the south, the Anglican schools by the grace of God will look to the past, to the present, and to the future to enlighten the minds of our youth and challenge them to be wise through quality education.
Luke 2:52 “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

NATIONAL SYMBOLS

Coat of arms

By royal warrant dated 7\textsuperscript{th} December 1971, The Bahamas was granted a new coat of arms. The Bahamian National Coat of Arms (right) were officially adopted on July 12, 1971. The arms show the Santa Maria, the flagship of Columbus, who discovered the islands. The sun symbolizes the sunny climate. On the shield is placed a shell, which symbolizes the dependency of the islands on the sea. The supporters are a flamingo (the national bird) and a marlin. The coat of arms was developed from drawings submitted by artist Rev Dr Hervis L. Bain, Jr. who also contributed to the design of The Bahamas flag.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

\textbf{MARCH ON BAHAMALAND}

Lift up your head to the rising sun, Bahamaland; March on to glory, your bright banners waving high.
See how the world marks the manner of your bearing!
   Pledge to excel through love and unity.
Pressing onward, march together to a common loftier goal;
Steady sunward, though the weather hide the wide and treach’rous shoal.
   Lift up your head to the rising sun, Bahamaland;
   'Til the road you've trod
   Lead unto your God,
   March on, Bahamaland!

Lyrics and Music: Timothy Gibson CBE (1903-78)
   Adopted: 1973

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

   I pledge my allegiance to the flag,
   And to The Commonwealth of The Bahamas for which it stands,
   One people united in love and service.

   Rev Dr Philip A Rahming, JP

FLAG

The design of The Bahamas flag is a black equilateral triangle on a background of three equal horizontal stripes of aquamarine, gold and aquamarine. Its design is based on a composite of ideas and suggestions collected from Bahamians in a national competition to design the flag, held two years before independence.
The official symbolism of the flag's colours and design is as follows: Black represents the vigour and force of a united people; the triangle pointing towards the body of the flag represents the enterprise and determination of Bahamians to develop and possess the rich resources of land and sea symbolized by gold and aquamarine respectively; the colours of the flag are symbolic of our bright tropical land of sea and sun.

National flower
The yellow elder (Tecoma stans or Stenolobium stans) a tubular-shaped yellow flower with delicate red stripes, is the national flower of the Bahamas.

**National tree**

The lignum vitae, or tree of life (Guaiacum sanctum), is the national tree. It is the heaviest of all woods with clusters of small blue flowers at the branch tips.

**National bird**
The national bird is the flamingo, a pink long-legged wader of the genus Phoenicopterus. Flamingos are found on the island of Inagua which is the site of the world’s largest breeding colony of West Indian flamingos.

National fish

The blue marlin, of the genus Makaira is the national fish. It is the sharp-billed aristocrat of Atlantic game fish.

COST OF LIVING
Food, automobiles and some items of clothing are comparatively expensive in Nassau because of freight and customs duties.
Residents are billed monthly for electricity charges and quarterly for water charges. Telephone rental is on a monthly basis. The average deposit for electrical service varies with home size and location, ranging from $200 to more than $1,500, with about $300 as average. Telephone deposits range from $50-$500 for owners/landlords, and $150-$1,000 for tenants. A $55 water deposit is required for buildings with one water closet or bathroom and $115 for those with two or more.
Virtually all homes and apartments for rent or sale are basically furnished. Rents vary according to location and season. Summer is the best time for apartment hunting.
In general, an efficiency apartment rents monthly on a one-year lease for $500-$1,000; one bedroom, $500 and up; two bedrooms, $700-$6,000. A two-bedroom detached house can rent for $1,200--$5,000. A three-bedroom detached house or condo rents for $2,500-$8,000 per month depending upon location. Short-term leases usually include utilities. Rent is higher for short-term leases.

New Providence and Freeport have well-stocked supermarkets carrying US brands as well as a range of name brands from other countries. Most stores offer weekly specials where you might get savings on specific items.
New Providence prices* (June 2009)

Grocery items:
1 gal McArthur milk $7.99
1 doz extra large eggs (locally produced) $1.89
(imported) $3.09
6 oz Starkist chunk white tuna in spring water $1.09
4 lbs Evercane sugar $2.35
5 lbs Robin Hood Flour $2.39
Dial antibacterial soap (3-bar pack) $2.49
Breakfast cereal $3.99/$7.99
16 oz Oscar Mayer sliced bacon $5.99
1 lb ground beef chuck $1.99/$3.29
1 lb Barilla spaghetti $1.85
7 oz Nescafe classic $8.56
Lady Speed Stick Deodrant $4.99
100 Lipton Yellow Label tea bags $6.79
32 oz Hellman's mayonnaise $2.79
5 lbs potatoes $1.99
Three heads romaine lettuce $4.99
1 lb tomatoes $1.39
1 lb white grapes $1.69
1 lb Chiquita/Dole bananas $1.19
1 lb green bell peppers $1.79
3 lbs oranges $5.99
1 lb yellow onions $1.19
½ gal Haagen-Dazs ice cream $1.09
1 lb Fleischmann's soft margarine $2.29
6 oz Dannon plain low-fat yogurt $1.19
1 loaf Roman Meal whole wheat bread $3.19
1 gal Aquapure water $ .99
1 case Coca-Cola sodas $15.96
5 lbs Uncle Ben's rice $3.29
63 oz Gain (with bleach) $8.99
8 oz Kraft salad dressing $2.69
64 oz Tropicana orange juice $5.39
14½ oz Carnation evaporated milk $1.09
½ lb Fern Leaf butter $0.98
24 oz Kellogg's Corn Flakes $5.99
8 oz Kraft cheddar cheese (sharp) $2.88

**Other items & services:**
Shampoo and set $35 and up
Manicure $25 and up
Men's haircut $10 and up
Women's haircut $25 and up

**CULTURE**

The people who live in The Bahamas are predominantly of West African descent who were captured and forced into slavery on the cotton plantations in the Americas.
Most white residents of the Bahamas are descendants of the first English settlers (English Puritans), who emigrated to Bermuda in 1647 to gain religious freedom and settled on the island of Eleuthera.
The culture is a melting pot of many native customs ranging from the indigenous "Indian" people who populated the Bahamas, including West African, English and other cultures who over the past three or four centuries, arrived in the Bahamas. These include people from many diverse backgrounds, such as British Loyalists (accompanied by slaves) fleeing America after the War of Independence, Bermudan slaves, people from other Caribbean islands, and many other nationalities. Bahamian culture today has been shaped by their experiences, beliefs and lifestyles.

In the less developed family islands, people create handicrafts include basketry made from palm fronds. This material, commonly called "straw", is plaited into hats and bags that are popular tourist items.

Junkanoo is a street parade of music, dance, and art held in many cities of the Bahamas every Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Regattas are important social events in many family island settlements. They usually feature one or more days of sailing by old-fashioned, as well as an onshore festival.

Some settlements have festivals associated with the traditional crop or food of that area, such as the "Pineapple Fest" in Gregory Town, or the "Crab Fest" on Andros.

Other significant traditions include storytelling.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

The Islands of The Bahamas gained independence from Great Britain on July 10, 1973, which is celebrated as Bahamian Independence Day. As a member of the British Commonwealth, The Islands of The Bahamas has a symbolic link to Great Britain, with an appointed Governor-General, Honourable Arthur D. Hanna, representing the Queen of England. However, the current Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Hubert Alexander Ingraham, who is an elected official, is the actual head of the government.

The Constitution, which has been in effect since 1973, declares that The Islands Of The Bahamas is a sovereign democratic state. It guarantees fundamental human rights, such as freedom of expression and assembly, as well as protecting the privacy of the home. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet make up the Executive Branch of government. The Legislative Branch includes the Senate, which is appointed, and the House of Assembly, which is elected. The Judiciary is comprised of Her Majesty’s Privy Council, the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and the Magistrates Courts.

In 1997, local government was introduced into The Islands Of The Bahamas with locally elected officials being charged with certain local responsibilities.

General elections are held every five years but the ruling party can call an election at any time.
EDUCATION
Education in The Bahamas comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture. There are 248 schools in The Bahamas. Of these, 160 (64%) are fully maintained by the government and 88 (36%) are independent. In New Providence, 59 are government-owned and 58 independent. In the Family Islands, 109 are government-owned and 30 independent. Schools in The Bahamas are categorized as follows:

- Preschool: ages 3-5
- Primary: ages 5-11
- Secondary: ages 11-17
- All-age: ages 5-17
- Special education: all ages

(for exceptional students or those with severe learning disabilities).

Free education is available in government schools throughout The Bahamas and students must attend school until age 16. The Ministry of Education, in consultation with the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, introduced The Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) in 1993. Twenty-six subjects covering academic, technical and vocational areas are offered. Grades are on a seven-point scale, A-G. It is based on the UK General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and is targeted to a wider range of abilities than the former GCE O levels. The Bahamas Junior Certificate (BJC) is taken by grade 9 students in 10 subjects. Grades are on a seven-point scale, A-G.

A diagnostic test, the Grade Level Assessment Test (GLAT), is administered to grades 3 and 6. It is used to identify weaknesses and strengths in language arts and mathematics programmes for all schools. Social studies and science are added at grade 6. The grade 6 test is also used as a placement examination for pupils entering grade 7 in government high schools.

Independent schools provide primary and secondary education. The term "college" connotes a fee-paying school rather than a university.

Several private schools of continuing education offer secretarial and academic courses. The government-operated Princess Margaret Hospital offers a nursing course through the School of Nursing, at The College of The Bahamas’ Oakes Field Campus.

There has been a marked increase in private institutions offering tertiary level education and degrees. Every school must be registered with the Ministry of Education, although prospective students should check each one to determine accreditation.

In addition, some US schools offer degree programmes in The Bahamas. Examples are University of Miami, Kent State University, Sojourner-Douglass College and Nova Southeastern University. Classes are usually offered on weekends and at night.

LITERACY

The 2003 United Nations Human Development Index reported that data collected in 2001 showed a 95.5% adult (15 and up) and 97.3 % youth (15-24) literacy rate In The Bahamas. This is based on the percentage of people who can, with understanding, both read and write a short, simple statement related to their everyday life. The National Literacy Services was established in 1999 and has expanded to include family literacy and adult literacy.
GEOGRAPHY
The Bahamas is a 100,000-square mile archipelago that extends for more than 500 miles between southeast Florida and northern Hispaniola; between longitudes 72°35'W and 80°30'W and latitudes 20°50'N and 27°30'N.
The waters surrounding The Bahamas are virtually free of pollution and silt, making them among the clearest and most colourful in the world. Bordered on the west by the Gulf Stream and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, the islands have a subtropical climate. Highest land elevation is 206 ft.
The mile-deep Tongue of the Ocean is located east of Andros, and flanked by the world's third-longest barrier reef. These waters are used for oceanographic research by the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Centre (AUTEC), a multimillion-dollar US Navy research base.

CLIMATE
The Bahamas has a subtropical maritime climate and generally experiences neither frost, snow, sleet nor extreme temperatures. An exception occurred on January 19, 1977, when parts of the northern Bahamas experienced a brief flurry of light snow as the temperature in Freeport plunged to 39°F, the lowest ever recorded in The Bahamas. The lowest recorded temperature for New Providence was 41.4°F on January 20, 1981.
In centrally-situated New Providence, winter temperatures seldom fall much below 60°F and usually reach about 75°F in the afternoon. In summer, temperatures usually fall to 78°F or less at night and sometimes rise above 90°F during the day. Winter temperatures are cooler in more northerly islands than in New Providence, and about five degrees warmer in the south. In summer, temperatures tend to be similar all over The Bahamas. Sea surface temperatures normally vary between 74°F in February and 83°F in August.
Humidity is fairly high, especially in summer months. Winds are predominantly easterly throughout the year but have a tendency to blow from the northwest, north and northeast from October through April and southeasterly from May to September. Wind speeds are, on average, below 10 knots; in winter months winds of about 25 knots may occur.
There are more than seven hours of bright sunshine per day in New Providence on average, though periods of cloudy weather can occur at any time of year. Daylight hours vary from 10 hours, 35 minutes in late December to 13 hours, 41 minutes in late June. Rain showers occur any time of year, but the rainy months are between May and October. Rainfall is mainly in the form of heavy showers or thundershowers which clear quickly.

HURRICANES
A hurricane is defined as a type of tropical cyclone, which is a generic term for a low pressure system that generally forms in the tropics. The cyclone is accompanied by thunderstorms and, in the northern hemisphere, a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface.
Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:
- Tropical depression: an organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and sustained winds of at least 38 mph.
- Tropical storm: an organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and sustained winds of 39-73 mph.
- Hurricane: an intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and minimum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher. The way in which the strength of a hurricane is determined is to measure its intensity as it progresses. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale gives hurricanes a 1-5 rating based on factors such as wind
speed & storm surge. The scale is essential for hurricane warnings and to estimate what level of
damage can be expected from a particular hurricane.
from a particular hurricane.

Category 1: Winds 74-95 m.p.h. - storm surge generally 4-5 ft. above normal.
Category 2: Winds 96-110 m.p.h. - storm surge generally 6-8 ft. above normal.
Category 3: Winds 111-130 m.p.h. - storm surge generally 9-12 ft. above normal.
Category 4: Winds 131-155 m.p.h. - storm surge generally 13-18 ft. above normal.
Category 5: Winds 155 m.p.h. + - storm surge generally 18 ft. + above normal.

A hurricane watch is issued for any part of The Bahamas likely to experience hurricane
conditions within 36 hours. A hurricane warning is issued 24 hours in advance of a hurricane
with sustained winds of at least 74 mph. However, hurricanes are unpredictable. They have
swept full circle, reversed course, even dissipated, only to reconstitute themselves and deliver a
devastating punch to unsuspecting areas.

A five-day coastal weather forecast is available to boaters which is essential in the Family
Islands where materials for surviving severe storms are less readily available. The Doppler radar
network covers portions of The Bahamas, as do satellites positioned in geosynchronous orbit
above North America.

Hurricane season
The Bahamas can be affected by hurricanes or tropical storms between June 1 and November
30, the greatest risk being in August, September and October.

Hurricane Katrina, one of the deadliest hurricanes in US history, developed from a tropical storm
near Long Island on August 23, 2005.

Hurricane Wilma battered Bimini, West End, Grand Bahama and, to a lesser extent the Berry
Islands and Abaco, in October 2005, with winds between 105-115 mph. The storm was
responsible for one death and extensive coastal and property damage.

Hurricane Frances of September 2-5, 2004, was the first hurricane since 1866 to affect the
entire archipelago of The Bahamas. Islands directly hit by the eye of Frances included San
Salvador, Cat Island, Eleuthera, Abaco and Grand Bahama. Frances, the deadliest hurricane in
years resulted in two fatalities.

Hurricane Jeanne struck later the same month, causing additional damage in Abaco and
Grand Bahama.

Hurricane Michelle of November 4-6, 2001 packed winds from 74-95 mph. Michelle was the only
hurricane in more than 35 years to make direct landfall on the island of New Providence. The
last hurricane to do so was Betsy in 1965. Based on figures compiled for the past 90-year
period, Nassau may expect to experience hurricane conditions an average of once every nine
years. An efficient warning system gives ample notice for necessary precautions to be taken.

DRIVER’S LICENCE & VEHICLE INFORMATION:
The Bahamas follows the British system of driving on the left-hand side of the road. As most cars are generally imported from the US, they have the steering wheel on the left. The speed limit downtown and in congested areas is 25 mph. Everywhere else in The Bahamas, it is 30 mph. Cars travelling west of the Ministry of Works building on John F. Kennedy Drive (towards the airport), on Independence Drive and Tonique Williams Darling Highway, may travel at 45 mph.

There are three types of driver's licences in The Bahamas, which cover the following vehicles: motor vehicles with standard shift or automatic transmission; two-wheel vehicles (motorcycles, scooters, etc) and commercial and public service vehicles. The Road Traffic Department is located in the Clarence A Bain Building, Thompson Boulevard and Moss Road. All applications for driving permits and licenses are processed there. Driver's licenses carry the bearer's photograph and personal information such as date of birth, gender and height, with a valid passport or voter's card being presented at the time of application. Drivers are required by law to have licenses in their possession at all times.

**Driver's licence requirements:** Applicants must be at least 17 to qualify to drive a motor car, motorcycle or motor-assisted cycle equipped with pedals. First time applicants must obtain a learner's permit for $10 and then take an oral/written test and a road test when they are ready to drive unaccompanied. Each test costs $10. The fee is not refunded for cancellations less than 24 hours prior to the test. The oral/written test concerns highway code (traffic regulations). Upon successful completion of the oral/written test, the applicant may take the road test. A period of one hour is allowed for the road test. Latecomers are rescheduled for a later date—possibly as long as three months later. A driver's licence costs $20 and is renewable by the end of the driver's month of birth on an annual basis for $20, or for three years at a cost of $50. Bahamian driver's licences are issued only to Bahamians or persons who have Bahamian status, residency or permission to work in The Bahamas. It is recognized internationally. Drivers holding a valid licence issued outside The Bahamas may apply to the Road Traffic Department for a Bahamian licence. The licence is issued upon presentation of the driver's current valid licence at a fee of $20 per annum, renewable by the end of the driver's month of birth. Visitors or persons staying, but not working, in The Bahamas may drive on their foreign licence for up to three months. Expatriate employees must have a valid Bahamian driver's licence once they start work. Periods of settling in are not considered. The licence is necessary only when employment actually begins.

**International driver's licence** The Road Traffic Department issues an international licence at a cost of $50, valid for one year. This licence is issued only to legal residents and work permit holders, and can be used in any country except the country of issue. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and must hold a valid Bahamian driver's licence in order to qualify for an international driver's licence.

**Vehicle inspection**
All vehicles must be taken to the Road Traffic Department for inspection before being licensed to operate on the streets. The fee is $25. The Controller of Road Traffic and the Police are
empowered to demand a further examination of any vehicle they consider to be of questionable roadworthiness.
Privately owned vehicles are inspected annually by the end of the owner's month of birth. Public service vehicles are inspected twice annually, usually in May and October. Company and government-owned vehicles are inspected in March. Inspectors examine hand and foot brakes; tires; headlights and dip switch; parking, signal, brake and reverse lights; windshield; muffler; bodywork and mirrors.

**Vehicle ownership (licensing)**
A vehicle ownership fee is paid annually by the end of the owner's month of birth. The fee is $75-$360, depending on size of the vehicle. The owner must produce proof that the vehicle is covered by minimum road act insurance.
There is a fee of $10 for transfer of a vehicle already licensed. The new owner must also present a bill of sale with a 25¢ postage stamp affixed, and the registration card with his name entered in the space provided. Owners of newly imported vehicles must present a certificate of ownership issued by the Department of Customs.

**HOLIDAYS**
The following public holidays are observed in The Bahamas:

- New Year's Day – January 1
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Whit Monday (seven weeks after Easter)
- Labour Day (first Friday in June)
- Independence – 10th July
- Emancipation Day (first Monday in August)
Discovery Day (October 12)

Christmas Day (December 25)

Boxing Day (December 26)

BUS ROUTES/TRANSPORTATION — NEW PROVIDENCE

Visitors may use their home driver's licences for three months. Traffic *moves* on the *left* side of
the road.

Taxi rates are government controlled. All taxis are required to have meters in good working condition. The first quarter-mile is $3 for one or two passengers; each additional quarter mile is 40¢. Additional passengers after the first two pay $3 per person. Accompanied children under five ride free.

Car rental prices are competitive with Hertz, Avis, Budget, Dollar, /Alamo/national and local companies represented. Prices range from $76.95 per day ($461.70 per week) for a compact car to $127 per day ($767.70 per week) for a minivan, including unlimited mileage. Insurance and gas are extra.

The jitney (bus) provides inexpensive transportation and a close view of local life. All buses travel to town. Fare is $1 in town and a bit more for outlying areas. Transfers and change are not provided. Service is from 6:30am-7:00pm. Bus stops are marked. However, schedules are unpredictable.

**BUS ROUTE (#) AREA/STARTING POINT**

1. Englerston/East Hill Street Depot
2. Grants Town & St. Michael’s/East Hill Street
3. Marathon Mall/Baillou Hill Road
4. Market Street/Baillou Hill Road
5. Kennedy Subdivision/Soldier Road
6. Big Pond Subdivision/East Hill Street
7. Kemp Road/East Street
8/8A. Yellow Elder-PMH/Town Centre Mall Depot
9/9A. Fox Hill & Elizabeth Estates/East Hill Street
10. Cable Beach/George Street
10A. Cable Beach & Farrington Road/East Hill St
10B. Chippingham & Oakes Field/George Street
11/A. Elizabeth Estates/Commonwealth Blvd
12. Coral Harbour & Lyford Cay/Roundabout
14A. Jubilee Gardens/Bacardi Road
15. Yamacraw & Winton/Winton Shopping Centre
15A. Yamacraw & Winton/Prince Charles Avenue
16. Flamingo Gardens/Faith Avenue
To Open an Account:
In order to open an Account, you should take into BEC’s Business Office on Blue Hill and Tucker Roads or the Mall-at-Marathon office the following:
1] The original Electrical Installation Approval and a copy of the Occupancy Certificate (or occupancy exemption). These documents are issued by the Building Control Division of the Ministry of Works & Transport and can be obtained from the electrical or building contractor. 2] Two forms of personal identification; your National Insurance Card (a must), along with a valid Passport. In the case of non-working expatriates a valid Passport (a must) along with a Social Security Card or Drivers License.

How to Close Your Account:
You can fax a signed letter to The Manager, Customer Services along with first 4 pages of passport or front and back of driver’s license. Be sure to include in your letter your name, account number, meter number and state when the supply should be terminated.

OR

Go in to any of the offices and request that the supply be disconnected. Again, you will to bring along your national insurance card and passport identification. They will also need specific directions to your premises, street name and phone contact. Once the account is finalized and there is a remaining balance due on the account the deposit will be applied to the account. Also, if there is a credit balance after the funds have been applied to the account it would then be transferred to your new account. If there is no outstanding balance due, a cheque will be prepared for collection for any outstanding credit balance. You are required to provide photo identification in order to collect your cheque. This process may take approximately 3 to 4 weeks.
BANKING: The Bahamian dollar is legal tender in The Bahamas; all other currencies are foreign, although the US dollar is accepted and is on par with the Bahamian dollar.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT: Passport/Driver’s License

We strongly suggest that you open an account at the bank where your school has an account in an effort to avoid any possible delays in receiving monthly cheques or conducting any other banking business.

SCHOOL BANKS:
St. John’s College: ROYAL BANK OF CANADA - JFK Branch
St. Anne’s School: FIRST CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL BANK – Harbour Bay Branch
Bishop Michael Eldon School: FIRST CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL BANK – Freeport, Grand Bahama
St. Andrew’s Anglican School: SCOTIABANK – George Town, Exuma

Drafts / Paying US Bills / Sending money out of the country:
The Central Bank is responsible for the control and regulation of gold and foreign currency under the Exchange Control Act, 1952, and the Exchange Control Regulations, 1956. For exchange control purposes, the world has been divided into two categories: The Bahamas and the rest of the world. The Central Bank has the authority to determine residential status of all persons including legal entities. Resident Individuals are either citizens of The Bahamas or citizens of other countries who have been so designated by the Central Bank. Residents are subject to many, although liberal, exchange control regulations. Residents in The Bahamas may not purchase foreign currency, maintain foreign currency accounts or remit foreign currency abroad without permission from the Central Bank.

Non-resident individuals are citizens of a country outside The Bahamas who may reside in, but are not gainfully employed in The Bahamas. These persons are subject to minimal currency regulations. Foreign currency deposits held by non-residents are exempt from exchange control regulations. Foreign citizens who are gainfully employed within The Bahamas for one year or longer are regarded as "temporary residents." Such persons may be eligible for certain exemptions which permit them to retain all existing non-Bahamian assets, to operate foreign currency accounts and to repatriate Bahamian assets on leaving The Bahamas.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
BAHAMAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
John F. Kennedy Drive - 323-4991
Mall at Marathon - 394-3391
Bay Street - 325-5661
Town Center Mall - 323-8890
Shirley Street - 393-1590
Telecommunications services and facilities in The Bahamas are on par with the US and Canada. A 100% digital switching system allows direct distance dialling to more than 100 countries. Three undersea fibre optic cable systems link The Bahamas with the continental US. Two of those systems, ARCOS and BICS, provide redundant rings with self-healing capability. The latter is owned and operated by Caribbean Crossings Ltd, a subsidiary of Cable Bahamas Ltd, and also links Grand Bahama, New Providence, Abaco, and Eleuthera.

The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTC) is a public corporation owned by the government but operating without subsidy from it. The government has been seeking a private-sector partner to run BTC. No strategic investor has been identified thus far.

BTC offers a wide range of services, including telephone, fax, telex, cellular and radio phone networks, private line services, VOIP, packet switching and satellite service. BTC has a monopoly on cellular services including GSM.

To make application for a telephone: Two forms of personal identification are needed; the National Insurance Card (a must), along with a valid Passport.

MEDICAL CARE

Medical care can be less costly than in the US. An out-patient clinic at Princess Margaret Hospital (government operated) in Nassau is available at $10 per visit for residents and $30 for non-residents—but you may wait several hours for treatment.

Specialists' office visits average $150-$350. At Princess Margaret Hospital a bed on the public ward is $30 a day plus expenses. Private rooms are $80 with a bathroom, and $70 without, per day. Semi-private rooms are $65 and $70 with a bathroom, per day. At Doctors Hospital rooms on the medical/surgical and maternity wards are $595 semi-private and $670 private, per night. Internal medical care wards are $845 semi-private and $940 private, per night. Intensive care rooms are $1,290 per night. Round the-clock nurses are included in the cost at Doctors Hospital.

Doctors Hospital accepts major credit cards as payment and specific medical insurance plans are also accepted.

Participants in Atlantic Medical Insurance Plan are only required to pay a $100 fee for treatment at the Emergency Room.

HOSPITALS & CLINICS

High-quality health care is available throughout The Bahamas, through government and privately operated hospitals and walk-in clinics.

The Public Hospitals Authority (PHA) is a government corporation established July 1, 1999. Governed by a chairman and 11 board members, it has direct responsibility for the ongoing development and management of the government-owned hospitals (Princess Margaret Hospital, Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre and Rand Memorial Hospital), Grand Bahama Public
Health Services and National Emergency Medical Services. The PHA is headed by managing director Herbert Brown.

**Princess Margaret Hospital:** Shirley St. Government operated, 405-bed acute-care hospital with private wards. Specialist services include: family medicine; internal medicine; anaesthesiology; cardiology; cardiovascular surgery; dentistry; dermatology; ear, nose and throat; gastroenterology; general surgery; oral maxillofacial surgery; endocrinology; pulmonary medicine; podiatry; rheumatology; paediatrics; obstetrics and gynaecology; oncology; neurology; urology; nephrology; ophthalmology; radiology; intensive care unit; critical care services; neonatal intensive care and special care baby unit; dietetics; speciality clinics; dialysis unit; burns unit; neurodevelopment and pharmacy services. Rehabilitative services include physio, occupational, audiology and speech therapies.

Diagnostics and other allied health services include: stat lab; general laboratory; biochemistry and microbiology labs; blood bank; radiology with mammography; diagnostic imaging; CT scan; EKG and ECHO.

**Doctors Hospital:** Corner of Shirley St and Collins Ave. Privately operated, acute care hospital with 72 patient beds. Medical specialities include, but are not limited to, emergency medicine; ear, nose and throat; general, endoscopic, laparoscopic and orthopaedic surgery; obstetrics and gynaecology; ophthalmology; oncology; nephrology, neonatology; pulmonology; internal medicine; family medicine; gastroenterology; urology; cardiology; cardiovascular surgery; neurosurgery; plastic surgery; psychiatry and pediatrics.

Primary and specialist care are available through the sessional clinic which includes cardiac catheterization, dialysis, total joint replacement, organ harvesting, kidney transplants, spinal surgery and open heart surgery. Ancillary depts: clinical laboratory, blood bank, imaging (tele-radiology, X-ray, ultrasound, mammography, bone densitometry, nuclear medicine, MRI, 16-slice spiral CT scans, pharmacy, EEG/ECG, diet and nutrition counselling and rehabilitation (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech, language pathology, ergonomics and psychiatry). The medical staff comprises more than 150 physicians representing nearly every medical speciality.

There are three operating rooms, one with laminar flow; eight-bed recovery area; intensive care unit with eight beds and telemetry unit; 18-bed intermediate care unit; 32-bed medical/surgical unit; level 3 nursery and maternity suite with 14 beds and four delivery suites. Emergency doctors are on the premises 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All emergency room staff is ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) and PALS (Pediatric Advance Life Support) certified.

Doctors Hospital Health System (DHHS) accepts most major insurance plans. DHHS offers emergency ground ambulance and airlift services.

**Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre:** Fox Hill Rd. Government-owned. Comprises the 342-bed Sandilands Psychiatric Hospital and the 128-bed Geriatric Hospital. The hospitals are staffed by consultants, medical podiatrists, dentists, nurses, psychologists, social workers and allied health workers. The centre is managed by an executive committee headed by the hospital
An outpatient community counselling and assessment centre, located on Market St, provides services for mental disorders, stress, substance abuse and depression.

**Sandilands Psychiatric Hospital:**
Built in 1956 to accommodate, treat and rehabilitate patients with mental illnesses and substance abuse-related problems so they may return to their respective communities. The hospital includes a maximum security unit, acute psychiatric male and female wards, Timothy 0 McCartney child and adolescent unit, Lignum Vitae (drug) unit, detox and evaluation unit, Brian Humblestone House (alcoholic unit) and day hospital facilities. Services for rehabilitation include special education; recreational, occupational and physical therapy; psychological evaluation and social services. The hospital also provides a child guidance day care programme, a halfway house for long-stay patients and psychiatric outpatient care at Princess Margaret Hospital.

**Geriatrics Hospital:** Established in 1965 to provide comprehensive medical and nursing care to elderly patients who are chronically ill and unable to be cared for at home or in any other community facility. It operates outpatient gerontology clinics for ambulatory elderly community residents are located at the Ann's Town and Fox Hill clinics.

**Lyford Cay Hospital/Bahamas Heart Institute:** Lyford Cay. Four -hospital beds, including two-bed coronary care unit and two-bed telemetry unit. There is also an operating theatre, X-ray and laboratory as well as an emergency room with a doctor on call 24 hours. Specialist treatment is offered in cardiology, internal medicine and family practice. Transtelephonic ECG, peripheral vascular ultrasound, Holter monitoring, exercise stress testing, enhanced extracorporeal counter pulsation (EECP) and recompression chamber/hyperbaric oxygen therapy are also available. The full-time cardiologist is also on the staff of the Cleveland Clinic, Ft Lauderdale, FL; Duke Medical Center, Durham, NC, and the Miami Heart Institute, Miami Beach, FLA. The hospital is affiliated with all three institutions.

**Family Island clinics**
The Ministry of Health operates 115 clinics of varying size, complexity and scope of services. In cases where more medical assistance is needed, patients are flown to Princess Margaret Hospital in Nassau. Visitors needing medical assistance in the northern Bahamas may receive coverage from the Rand Memorial Hospital, Grand Bahama.

**Other services**
Community and environmental health services are offered throughout The Bahamas. Bachelor's and Associate's degree programmes in nursing are offered through The College of The Bahamas. There is also a basic course in clinical or practical nursing and six post-basic courses. A nursing cadet programme was implemented by the Ministry of Health in 1996. A Faculty of Medicine in conjunction with the University of the West Indies was founded in April 1997.

**NATIONAL INSURANCE:**
All persons engaging in gainful employment within the Commonwealth of The Bahamas are required to register with the National Insurance Board (NIB) and must pay contributions into National Insurance. Registration should be completed before, or as soon as possible after commencing work. The registration process involves the assignment of a number, which creates an account into which all record of contributions and benefit payments will go. To register, an individual needs to present to the Local Office a passport, birth certificate, Baptismal certificate, or affidavit, and a completed Registration Form (R.4).

National Insurance is administered by the National Insurance Board of The Bahamas. It provides a wide range of benefits, long- and short-term, for qualified insured persons and their dependents. Benefits are in the form of partial income-replacing payments in times of sickness, invalidity, maternity, retirement and death. In the case of injury, disease or death arising out of employment, the programme provides for free medical care and expenses.

**Benefits**
Payment of benefits to employed persons began with sickness benefit in April 1975, and maternity and funeral benefits in September 1975. Long-term benefit entitlement began in 1977. Each benefit has qualifying conditions.
For example, to qualify for sickness benefit, the claimant must be incapable of work as prescribed by the National Insurance Act. The claimant must have made at least 40 contributions, which must include 13 contributions in the 26 weeks immediately before the week the illness started, or 26 contributions in the 52 weeks immediately before the week the illness started, or 26 contributions in the contribution year immediately before the year in which the illness started.

**Adjustment of entitlements:** In 1986, a provision was introduced in the Act enabling employers
to modify the rates of benefits payable under their own pension schemes. It allows employers to integrate their benefits with those provided under the National Insurance Act and to eliminate overlapping benefits. Employers wishing to change their occupational pension schemes must first submit proposed modification to the minister responsible for National Insurance, for approval. Employers may modify terms and conditions of the contract of service relating to wage payment during sick, maternity or injury leave, to take into account similar benefits provided under the National Insurance scheme.

The NIB headquarters are on Blue Hill Road, New Providence, with a local office on the ground floor and two regional offices: one in the Wulff Road complex and one in the Fox Hill Park Plaza, Bernard Road. The Board also operates two cashier's windows for payment of contributions in New Providence. These are located on the ground floor of the main post office, East Hill Street and in the post office in Cable Beach.

There are 24 regional offices in the Family Islands, including four offices in Grand Bahama, which provide a full range of services to contributors, claimants and the general public. The NIB also operates a consumer telephone hotline service Monday to Friday between the hours 9am-5pm, through which answers to any National Insurance questions may be obtained Tel: 325-4655/6. A toll-free number: (242)300-1394 serves the Family Islands.

RELIGION

The Bahamas is a religious country claiming to have the greatest number of churches per capita in the world. Christianity predominates, and the church is influential in Bahamian society, including government affairs. Church news and events are prominently positioned in newspapers. The Bible is preached at face value and biblical references and quotations are common in all aspects of daily living. Events and celebrations often include a church service as part of the festivities.

Denominations include Anglican, Assembly of God, Baha’i Faith, Baptist, Brethren, Christian & Missionary Alliance, Christian Science, Church of God of Prophecy, Greek Orthodox, Jehovah's Witnesses, Jewish, Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), Lutheran, Methodist, Muslim/Islamic, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Seventh-Day Adventists, The Salvation Army and other smaller denominations.
immediately before the year in which the illness started.

1] **Invalidity benefit:** Paid to an insured person, age 16-65, who has paid a minimum of 150 contributions and has been diagnosed by the board's medical referee as being permanently incapable of gainful employment.

2] **Sickness benefit:** Pays $62.31-$240 per week (60% of the individual's average weekly insurable wage) for insured persons. Contribution requirements apply. Normally, the sickness benefit is payable for a maximum of 156 days for a continuous period of illness, but payment may be extended to 240 days in certain circumstances.

3] **Maternity benefit:** An amendment to the National Insurance Act raised the rate of maternity benefit to 66.66% of the woman's average insured income. The amendments were enacted in
2004, but this provision had retroactive effect to 1st January 2002. Maternity benefit pays $62.31-$266.66 per week. Contribution requirements apply.
In addition to the rate of benefit, the National Insurance (benefit and assistance amendment) regulations, 2004 also allowed for the following:

A woman can receive maternity benefit in respect of the delivery of a stillborn child after 24 weeks of pregnancy. Previously the pregnancy must have progressed to 28 weeks.)

Maternity benefit will now be assessed daily.
The maternity benefit period can be broken up to accommodate a woman who returns to work (while a premature child is hospitalized) and then resumes leave (after the child is discharged).
The maternity benefit period can be extended up to six weeks for a woman who has an illness arising out of her confinement.
The maternity period can be extended by one week for each week that confinement is delayed.
The unpaid portion of maternity benefit due a deceased woman can be paid to the next of kin.
The maternity grant of $500 for each live birth will be paid to the uninsured wife of a man who satisfies the conditions for the maternity benefit.
Maternity benefit is paid for 13 weeks, starting within six weeks of the expected week of confinement, provided the woman has stopped working.

Funeral benefit: Paid in the form of a $1,500 grant on the death of an insured person to the person paying the funeral expenses but Contribution requirements apply. Funeral benefit is also paid for funeral expenses of an uninsured deceased spouse, based on contributions of the insured husband or wife.

Industrial benefits: Introduced in 1980 to be paid to, or in respect of, employed persons, irrespective of contribution status, and to eligible self-employed persons who suffer injury, disability or death as a result of an accident or a prescribed disease arising out of, or in the course of, employment.
The industrial benefits replaced the provisions of the repealed Workmen's Compensation Act and include: injury benefit, paid for a continuous period or in spells, for up to 240 days from the date of the accident, or the date of development of the prescribed disease; disablement benefit, which is paid according to the degree of disablement the person suffers as a result of the accident or prescribed disease; and death benefit, which is paid to the surviving dependants when death results from the accident or prescribed disease.
Injury benefit ranges from $62.31-$266 per week (66.66% of the person's insurable wage), Payment of disablement benefit is based on the degree of disablement. If it is more than 1 % but less than 25%, the benefit is paid in the form of a cash grant at the rate of $100 for each 1 % of disablement.
If the degree of disablement is 25% or greater, benefit is paid both as a grant and a pension. This pension is paid for life or a specified period. Death benefit is paid according to the rate of the injury benefit paid or payable.

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The Bahamas Telephone Directory

The world Wide Web

The Ministry of Tourism

The Ministry of Transport—Road Traffic Dept.

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DRESS CODE POLICY

No dress code can cover all contingencies so Faculty must exert a certain amount of judgment in their choice of clothing to wear to work. If you experience uncertainty about acceptable, professional attire for work, please ask your Year Head/Head of Department, Principal or Education Office staff.

Slacks, Pants, and Suit Pants - The rule of thumb is that slacks should be loose-fitting and well-tailored – two fingers should be able to fit in the waist band without holding your breath. Females should wear a jacket or long blouse over slacks.

Acceptable: Slacks that are similar to Dockers and other makers of cotton or synthetic material pants, wool pants, flannel pants, and other dress synthetic pants.

Inappropriate: Slacks or pants which include jeans/denim, sweatpants, exercise pants, Bermuda shorts, short shorts, shorts, bib overalls, leggings, and any spandex or other form-fitting pants such as people wear for biking.

Skirts, Dresses, and Skirted Suits
Acceptable: Casual dresses and skirts, and skirts that are split at or below the knee. Dress and skirt length should be at a length at which you can sit comfortably in public. Dress suits which may include a skirt and jacket or sleeveless/short sleeved dress and jacket.

Inappropriate: Short, tight skirts that ride halfway up the thigh, mini-skirts, skorts, sun dresses, beach dresses, sleeveless and spaghetti-strap dresses., denim dresses.

Shirts, Tops, Blouses, and Jackets
Acceptable: Casual shirts with school logo, dress shirts, sweaters, blouses, and turtlenecks. These must not reveal too much cleavage, expose stomach or underwear. Most suit jackets or sport jackets are also acceptable attire, if they do not violate any of the listed guidelines.

Inappropriate: Tank tops; midriff tops; sheer and see through blouses, shirts with potentially offensive words or terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans; halter-tops; tops with bare shoulders; sweatshirts, and T-shirts unless worn under another blouse, shirt, jacket, or dress.

Shoes and Footwear
Acceptable: Conservative walking shoes, loafers, boots, sandals, flats, dress heels, and leather deck-type shoes. Shoes with an open toe must have a strap at the back. Stockings are optional for females. Males must wear socks with sandals.

Inappropriate: Sneakers, thongs, flip-flops, slippers, slides.

Miscellaneous – Earrings are acceptable for females only. No visible tattoos or body piercings. Hats are not allowed.

Conclusion - If clothing fails to meet these standards, as determined by the employee’s Year Head/Head of Department, Principal and Education Office staff, the employee will be asked not to wear the inappropriate item to work again. If the problem persists, the employee may be sent home to change clothes and will receive a verbal warning for the first offense. Progressive disciplinary action will be applied if dress code violations continue and may result in suspension from duties without pay.
THE ANGLICAN CENTRAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

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Bishop of Nassau and the Bahamas incl. the Turks and Caicos Islands

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Philosophy of Education

All children have a right to be given the opportunity to develop their God given talent and to receive an education which will help them build God’s Kingdom.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Anglican Diocese in Education is to provide quality Education in a Christian environment by developing the whole child spiritually, academically, physically, and socially and in so doing prepare the child for life.

Goals and Objectives

In accordance with the philosophy and mission of the Anglican Diocese with respect to education, the goals and objectives of Anglican Education are:

To promote a Christian philosophy of life by engaging students to know God and to have a daily relationship with Him.

To prepare students for Christian service in the church and the wider community.

To produce competent individuals who can compete successfully in all aspects of education and to promote in them a zeal for excellence.

To inculcate in students positive qualities of character that lead to self-discipline, integrity, and good citizenship.

To develop in students a respect for the corpus humanum (human body) as the temple of the Lord, thereby discouraging any form of abuse and encouraging their commitment to realize to the fullest a mens sana (sound mind) in corpore sano (a sound body).

To foster in all students a knowledge of and love for their environment and the wider world in which we live, and to develop in them a sense of responsibility for the preservation of nature.