

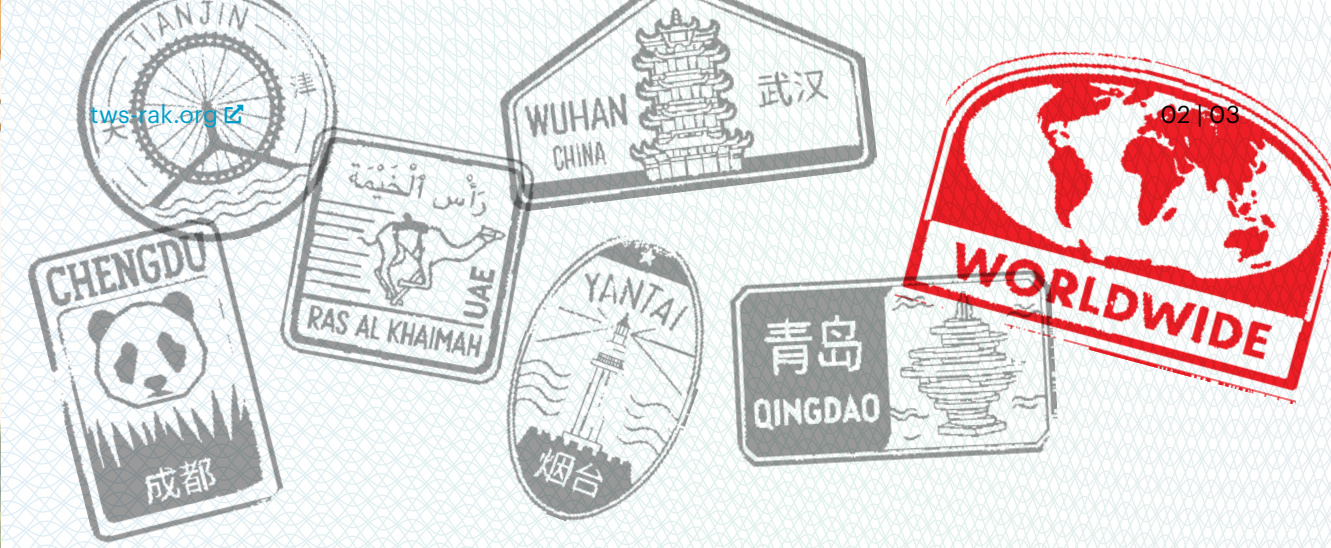


The  
WellSpring  
Private School  
RAS AL KHAIMAH

A LifePlus® International School

A lifelong impact  
by learning,  
loving and leading  
**Our annual  
report 2024-25**

Our annual report 2024-25



[tws-rak.org](http://tws-rak.org)

02 | 03

## Rooted and reaching out

### A note from the LifePlus CEO

Healthy growth always begins with strong roots. For LifePlus, those roots are found in our shared mission: to see lives transformed through education that shapes both the mind and the heart. Over the past year, those roots have continued to grow deeper.

We've invested in academic programs, strengthened leadership development for our educators and shared expertise across our network of schools. We've also continued to reach outward—fostering partnerships in support of refugee educational services in Cairo, Egypt—to help extend that same impact of learning and transformation to more students globally.

For families, this matters because your child's school is part of a living, connected system. A teacher in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, can collaborate with colleagues in China. Leadership teams can share strategies, resources and innovations. Students gain access to opportunities that extend beyond their own campus—such as advanced courses and global learning pathways that prepare them for universities and futures around the world.

We know the world your children will enter as adults is complex and changing. Our system-wide strength gives us the ability to adapt, support one another, and provide the kind of stable, excellent education that equips students for whatever lies ahead.

As we look to the future, we do so with confidence—not in our size, but in our shared purpose. Thank you for being part of this growing story.



**Martin Klopper**  
Chief Executive Officer

**LifePlus...**

## From our Head of School

### Review of last year

At The WellSpring Private School, we are committed to inspiring learners to make a life-changing difference for the common good.

What a milestone year it has been! As we celebrate a decade of learning, growth and community, we also wrap up another incredible school year. From inspiring achievements to unforgettable events, this year has been a testament to our dedication and passion. A heartfelt thank you to our students, staff and families who continue to make our school a thriving and supportive place. Congratulations on 10 years—and we are excited about many more to come.

This year has been filled with growth and achievement. Students have thrived through new opportunities and the expansion of existing programs, including Global Information Systems (GIS), Business Entrepreneurship, STEM courses, the ISS Space Program, additional Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and more. It’s been inspiring to see the positive impact of these experiences on our students. This year, we saw a significant rise in participation across our

co-curricular programs. The WellSpring Wolves proudly represented our school in games and tournaments in RAK and Sharjah. Our musical theater program grew, with students showcasing their talents in multiple performances of Aladdin at the Ministry of Culture theater.

A highlight of the year was our 10-year celebration, where the community came together to reflect on a decade of accomplishments. Longstanding students and staff shared their experiences, and everyone enjoyed great food, fellowship, and the joy of celebrating this milestone together.

**Jeff Kingma**  
Head of School



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## Growing up in Ras al Khaimah

### A brief history



## 2015

#### Small beginnings

WellSpring opened its doors in 2015, renting a small space inside RAK Academy for 175 students. At the time, we only offered grades Pre K through nine.

## 2017

#### Growing with our students

The growth of the school meant additional classes were built in 2017 to accommodate our students moving up in grades, as well as having room for new students joining the community.

## 2018

#### Branching out

This quickly became too small, and new classrooms were built on the same site in 2018. We soon needed a second campus for our secondary students.

## 2020+

#### One extended family

At the end of the 2020–21 school year, we moved to a single campus with enough space for all our Pre K–12 students and staff to learn and grow together in ways we never could before.



## Part of the LifePlus family

### Accreditation

**Life Plus...**



Through LifePlus, our school is accredited by Cognia, a world-renowned educational body that recognizes the incredibly high standards of our work and continues to evaluate our performance. LifePlus also benefits us in three important areas.

First, LifePlus helps us to innovate: sharing research, knowledge and ideas. Second, LifePlus is a truly international and robust setup that lets us focus on what we do best: growing servant leaders of outstanding character, competence and calling. Third, LifePlus makes WellSpring more than a local school, connecting us to a worldwide network of talent, knowledge and support.

To learn more, visit [lifepusworldwide.com](https://lifepusworldwide.com)

The WellSpring Private School is accredited by Cognia, the largest education improvement organization in the world—demonstrating our commitment to learners, teachers, leaders and communities. Being Cognia-accredited, the incredibly high standards of our work are recognized globally, and our performance continually evaluated—raising us higher, taking our students further.



1 The WellSpring Private School  
[tws-rak.org](https://tws-rak.org)

2 Tianjin International School  
[tiseagles.com](https://tiseagles.com)

3 Yantai Huasheng International School  
[yhichina.com](https://yhichina.com)

4 International School of Qingdao  
[isqchina.com](https://isqchina.com)

5 Wuhan Yangtze International School  
[wyischina.com](https://wyischina.com)

6 Chengdu International School  
[cdischina.com](https://cdischina.com)

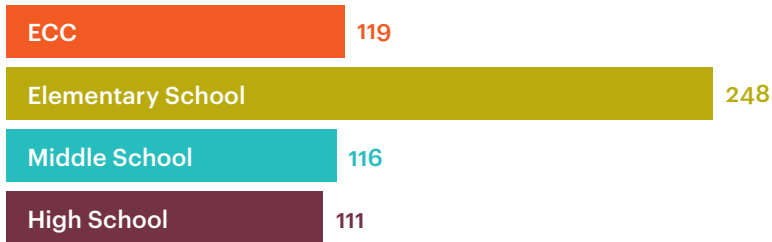
## Who we are

### Demographics

#### Student population

# 594

Total enrollment



#### Student nationalities

# 49

Passport countries include UAE, USA, Egypt, Jordan, South Africa, Philippines, Syria, Canada, India, UK, South Korea, Turkey, Lebanon and others

#### Teachers

# 65

Passport countries include USA, South Africa, Philippines, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, South Korea, Jordan, Syria, UK, Canada, India, Kenya, Belarus, Yemen and Romania

#### Teacher: Student ratio

# 1:8

#### Average years of experience

# 9.25 years

#### Average class size

# 17

ECC × 14  
Elementary School × 19  
Middle School × 19  
High School

#### Post baccalaureate studies

# 23.8%

20% of our teachers have a Master's Degree. 1.5% of our teachers have a Doctorate Degree. 2.3% of our teachers are studying their post-baccalaureate degree.

## What we do and why

### Our values

At WellSpring, we desire for our students to grow in more than knowledge. That's why we spend time and great care investing in character education for all our students. The LifePlus Qualities for Life help guide everything we do. From administrators to kindergarteners, we strive to be...



#### People who learn

We are *purposeful, curious and discerning.*



#### People who love

We are *connected, courageous and compassionate.*

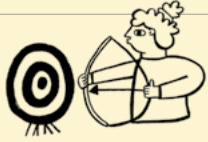


#### People who lead

We are *humble and persistent in service.*

## LifePlus 9 Qualities for Life

### Purpose



*I treat myself and every person with intrinsic value and purpose.*

- *I strategically use the gifts and talents that I have to accomplish bigger purposes.*
- *I look for deeper meaning and explanations and I am not content with appearances or easy answers.*

### Curiosity



*I investigate and explore by asking questions and critically thinking about the answers.*

- *I am eager for authentic knowledge, wisdom and understanding.*
- *I refuse to let others do my thinking for me or cheat myself out of learning opportunities.*

### Discernment



*I can see and understand people, things or situations clearly.*

- *I use knowledge to make wise choices and judgments, speak the truth and live with integrity.*

### Connection



*I value people and so I invest in communication, language learning and understanding the cultures in which I live.*

- *I collaborate effectively and respectfully with people from any culture.*
- *I build and maintain healthy relationships with others in my life.*

### Compassion



*I show empathy for others and look for ways to make a difference.*

- *I listen carefully and think deeply to determine the best response or action.*
- *I will communicate my beliefs with clarity and respect.*

### Courage



*I take risks and boldly do what is best.*

- *I am willing to ask questions and make mistakes.*
- *I persist in thinking, inquiring and discussing even in the presence of threat or fear.*

### Humility



*I have an accurate picture of my abilities, thinking neither too highly nor too lowly of myself.*

- *I acknowledge my limitations and my need for help, as well as accept criticism and demonstrate a teachable spirit.*
- *I demonstrate good sportsmanship.*

### Service



*I make available my gifts, talents, time, energy and enthusiasm to serve the needs of those around me.*

- *I show love towards the world around me by being a responsible caretaker of our resources.*

### Persistence



*I strive for excellence and practice diligence to get things right; I don't give up.*

- *I respectfully communicate until I am understood and question until I understand.*
- *I approach challenges with tenacity, creativity and thinking.*



# A year of purpose, curiosity and discernment

## We learn

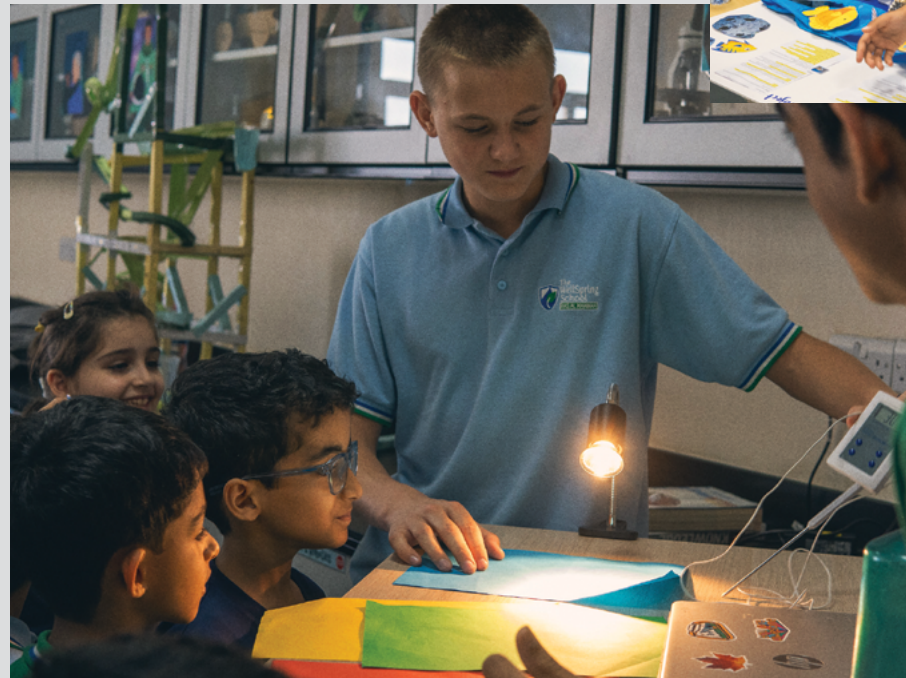
### Z-A countdown: X marks the spot

As part of our Early Childhood “Z-A Countdown,” students celebrated the letter X with an exciting school-wide treasure hunt: “X Marks the Spot!” Children followed a series of clues across campus, building problem-solving, teamwork and map-reading skills along the way. Their adventure ended with the discovery of “buried treasure,” sparking joyful smiles and a sense of accomplishment. This creative activity blended fun with meaningful learning and gave students a chance to reflect on their year with enthusiasm and curiosity.



### KG2 transition meeting and learning showcase

We hosted our first KG2 parent transition meeting and learning showcase to support families as their children prepare to move from early childhood to elementary. Parents heard from school leaders about what to expect in Grade 1 and how to nurture a smooth transition. Following the meeting, parents visited classrooms where KG2 students proudly shared their growth and achievements, showing their readiness for the next stage of learning.



### Student-led home videos: Strengthening school-home connections

During the first parent-teacher conferences, students submitted short videos sharing—in English—their favorite place at home and favorite activity. This initiative strengthened speaking skills while creating a meaningful bridge between school and home, giving families a more personal way to engage in their child’s learning journey.



### Move to mastery learning

This year, our elementary division adopted mastery learning and a standards-based grading system. This shift empowers students to take ownership of their progress while giving teachers the tools to provide more targeted and effective support.

### Science fair

Students in Grades 1–5 brought curiosity to life during our first-ever science fair. Each student presented a creative project inspired by a concept from their curriculum. They confidently explained their work to classmates and parents, showcasing scientific thinking, communication skills and creativity in action.

### Schoolwide initiatives

This year, students engaged in several initiatives that connected learning with the world around them:

- **Green Month** encouraged environmental responsibility through interactive sustainability projects.
- **Ocean’s Week** took students on a creative in-school journey through the layers of the ocean.
- **Reading Month** celebrated literacy with activities like Drop Everything and Read and a bookmark design contest.

Each initiative inspired curiosity, creativity and real-world connections in learning.





**XPRIZE challenge**

WellSpring students proudly participated in the global XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition, funded by Elon Musk to accelerate solutions for climate change. Competing as Carbon Quest UAE in partnership with Quest4Excellence (San Jose, CA), the team presented projects ranging from aquaponics and mangrove enhancement to recycling and chemical processes for ocean desalination. Their innovative work earned them a place among the top 100 teams worldwide—an extraordinary accomplishment alongside major corporations. Although they did not advance to the final round, several students represented our school at the XPRIZE Carbon Removal Capital Summit in San Francisco, gaining insights from leading scientists and entrepreneurs while experiencing a new culture in the USA. This milestone was both an achievement and a launching point for future innovation.



**People of determination week: "Together we shine"**

Our school proudly celebrated People of Determination Week, focusing on inclusion, awareness and honoring students with special needs. Elementary students created artwork themed "Together We Shine," which brightened the stairwell with color and meaning. They also wrote on paper hands why supporting classmates who learn or behave differently matters and how we can do it. The week fostered empathy, understanding and a stronger sense of belonging across our school.

**Senior sociology and statistics joint project**

Senior students collaborated on a cross-curricular project connecting sociology and statistics. They explored sociological theories of student interaction, then designed and administered a school-wide survey to gather real data. Using statistical methods, they identified patterns in social behavior across secondary and presented their findings to teachers and administrators. Their thoughtful recommendations for enhancing student life highlighted both academic rigor and the power of applying knowledge to real-world challenges.

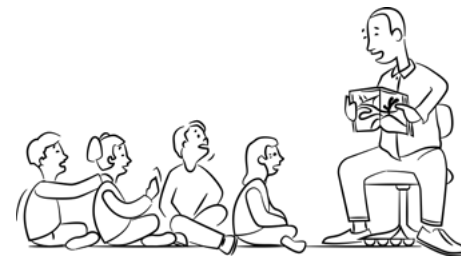
# A year of connection, courage and compassion

## We love

### Character Education

At WellSpring, character education is at the heart of who we are and what we value. We believe true education goes beyond academics, athletics and the arts—it’s about developing the whole person from the inside out. Character is the foundation of who we are and who we are becoming.

Through ongoing reflection on the LifePlus 9 Qualities for Life, students are learning to live with purpose, compassion and discernment. They are becoming individuals who learn, love and lead with confidence and humility.



### Senior presentations

One of the most powerful moments each year is when our seniors share their personal journeys in their senior presentations. These moments offer a meaningful glimpse into their growth and the transformation that has taken place during their time at school. They are an inspiring reminder of the importance of nurturing not just minds but also hearts and lives.

### Counseling services

In 2024-25, we placed a strong focus on strengthening our counseling services with an increased emphasis on school-wide interventions. Counselors regularly conducted weekly assemblies for students in early childhood, elementary and secondary on topics related to mental health and student well-being.

To further improve the program, the following strategies were adopted:

- 1. Tiered interventions chart:** Counselors worked closely with principals to create a chart outlining interventions

and support systems offered at Tiers 1, 2 and 3. The chart includes clear entry, exit and progress-monitoring criteria, allowing for more effective collaboration between teachers, support staff and counselors when working with students at risk.

- 2. Data-driven approaches:** Counselors used data from the Student Risk Screening Scale – Internalising and Externalising Behaviors (SRSS-IE) to prioritize caseloads and offer targeted interventions. This approach will continue guiding tailored support for students at risk.

# A year of humility, persistence and service

## We lead

### Parent Involvement

This year, parents played a vital role in many school events and activities, strengthening the sense of community at WellSpring.

The first event was a trip to the RAK National Museum, where new parents were invited to learn about Emirati culture and the history of Ras Al Khaimah.

Later in the fall, we celebrated our 10-year anniversary with the Family Fall Festival, which welcomed more than 400 families from both inside and outside the school. Parents supported preparations, invitations and event decoration, making the day a true community celebration.

Cultural exchange was another highlight of the year. Emirati parents welcomed others into their homes to share traditions, while Western parents opened their homes to introduce Christmas and other festivities.

Parents were also central to National Day and Culture Day, two of the biggest events of the year. For National Day, Emirati parents arranged decorations, entertainment

and food. For Culture Day, families representing more than 45 nationalities prepared booths with decorations, music, food and traditional dress, creating an inspiring showcase of our global community.

The Parent Council also contributed significantly, organizing awareness coffee mornings and engaging parents in reading sessions and activities with students.



### A milestone year

This year marked a milestone for WellSpring as we celebrated our 10th year of learning and community in Ras Al Khaimah. In November, the school came together for a joyful celebration filled with fellowship, reflection and fun.

Each year, the Ministry of Education (MOE) conducts independent inspections for schools across the city. This year, we achieved our goal of maintaining a *Good* rating while also showing strong growth in many areas. To achieve a

Good rating, 75% of students must perform at or above grade level. This accomplishment reflects the dedication of our staff, the perseverance of our students and the support of our parents.

Another highlight was our production of *Aladdin Jr.* at the Ministry of Culture theatre. Students performed two shows in December that were so successful we were invited back for three additional performances—a true celebration of creativity and talent.



# A year of arts, athletics and activities

## Extra-curricular



Our athletes also excelled in cross-country and athletics, with several students placing in the top three in their events. A highlight of the year was the enthusiastic participation of more than 100 members of our school community in the RAK Half Marathon.

### Co-curricular growth

The 2024–25 school year brought continued growth in co-curricular activities, with rising student participation and expanded opportunities across sports and beyond.

The year began with strong performances in our affiliated sports league—our U14, U18 boys and U18 girls basketball teams all secured tournament victories. The U14 and U16 girls netball teams also impressed, finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively. These are remarkable achievements for our small school competing against much larger institutions.

Beyond competitions, we continued developing a local league within our Emirate—a project we launched two years ago. This year, the Ras Al Khaimah Department of Knowledge (RAK DOK) partnered with us, providing vital support to help bring this vision to life. We are excited about the increased opportunities this collaboration offers for our students and the wider community.



### Fine arts highlights

The Ministry of Culture and Youth generously partnered with our school to stage the musical *Aladdin Jr.*, providing the use of their professional theatre. Students performed three times in December and returned for three encore performances in February at the Ministry's request.

The enthusiastic audiences and positive feedback were a true testimony to the students' hard work and determination.

In January, several ensembles—including handbells, strings and choirs—performed a varied repertoire at Manar Mall during the school day. These groups, along with talented soloists, are preparing to shine again at the annual end-of-year Fine Arts Celebration.



### STEM highlights

WellSpring's STEM program continues to grow, offering students engaging, hands-on electives such as ISS Space, Oceans, computer programming and general STEM courses. These opportunities spark curiosity and encourage problem-solving, creativity and innovation across grade levels.

One of the highlights of the year was Oceans Week, a school-wide celebration of marine science. Through guest speakers and interactive

assemblies, students learned about the vital role oceans play in our planet's health. The week made STEM learning memorable and meaningful while reinforcing our commitment to offering enriching experiences for every student.

The year also saw the launch of our first school-wide science fair, giving students the chance to experiment, apply real-world knowledge and strengthen their critical thinking and reasoning skills.



## How we measure up

# Standardized test results

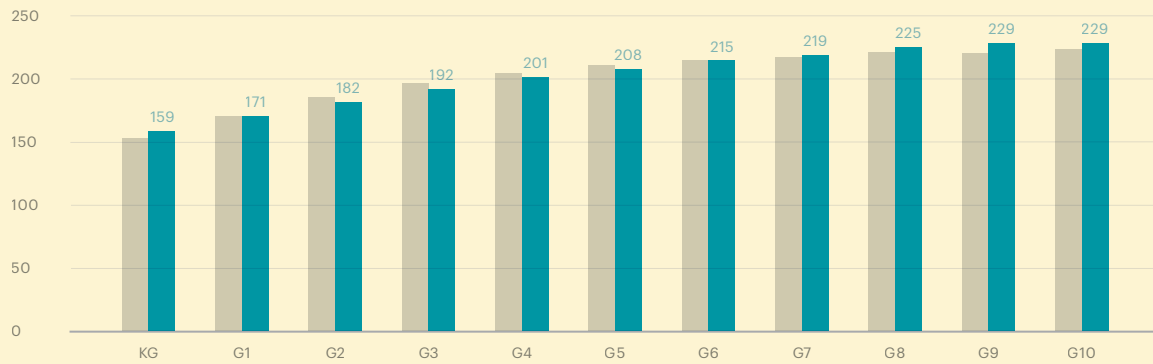
### MAP® (Measures of Academic Progress)

Aligning with the LifePlus-adopted AERO standards, MAP® Growth™ assessments serve more than 13 million students in the USA and abroad. The subject specific assessments measure both student achievement and growth in math, reading, language usage and science.

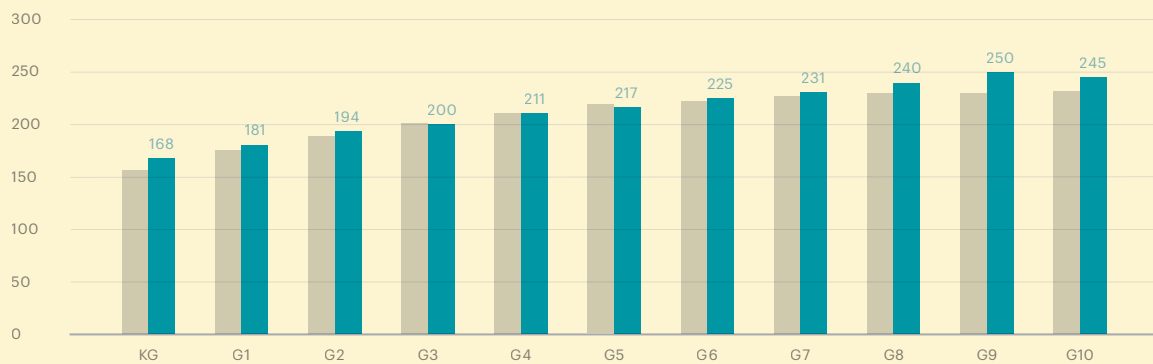
At WellSpring Private School, MAP® Growth™ assessments in reading and math are taken by students in Kindergarten through Grade 10, and students in Grades 3-10 are also tested in language usage and science.

● The WellSpring Private School average    ● USA average

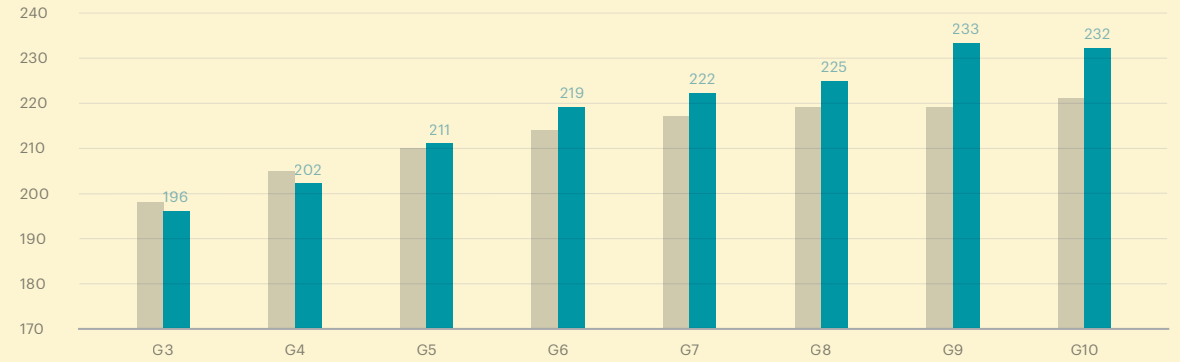
MAP Growth® average reading scores



MAP Growth® average math scores



MAP Growth® average language usage scores



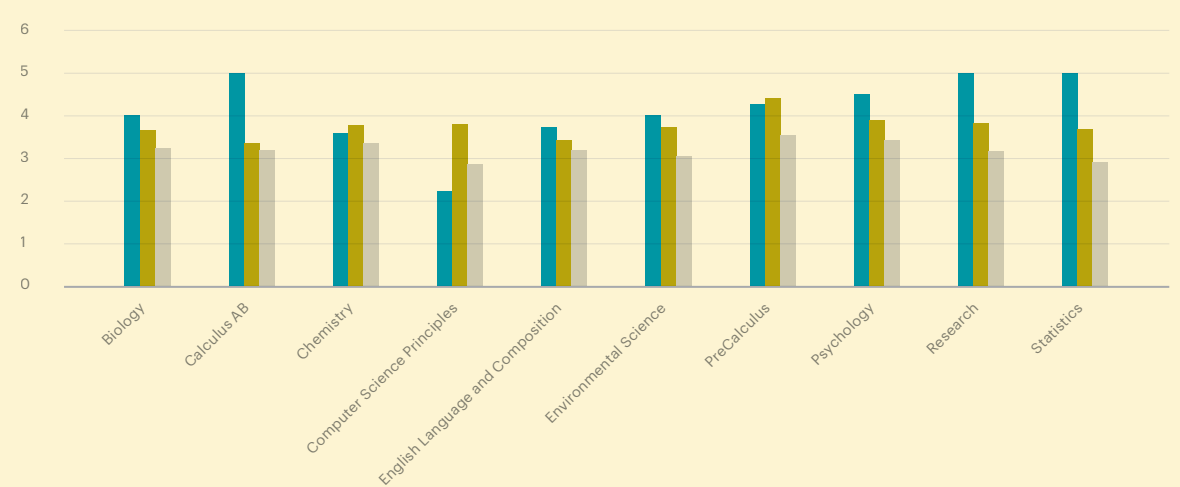
### AP® (Advanced Placement)

College Board's AP® program provides high school students with university-level curricula and exams. Universities worldwide consider AP scores in student acceptance, and many universities offer course credits to students with test scores of 3 or higher.

This profile highlights The WellSpring Private School's average score on each 2025 subject-area AP exam, comparing it to the LifePlus schools' 5-year average and the 2025 global average.

● The WellSpring Private School 2025    ● LifePlus 5-year    ● 2025 Global

2025 AP® exam results



## Next steps on the learning journey

### University acceptances

Students at The WellSpring Private School have been accepted to colleges and universities this academic year including:

#### Asia

Hanyang University (Korea)  
Korean Aerospace University  
Polytechnic University of the Philippines

#### Canada

Ontario University  
Simon Fraser University  
University of Calgary  
University of Manitoba  
University of Toronto

#### Europe

Czech Technical University  
Freie Universität Berlin  
Pleven Medical University  
Tbilisi State Medical University

#### MENA (outside UAE)

British University in Egypt  
Higher Colleges of Technology (Oman)  
Weill Cornell Medicine, Qatar

#### UAE

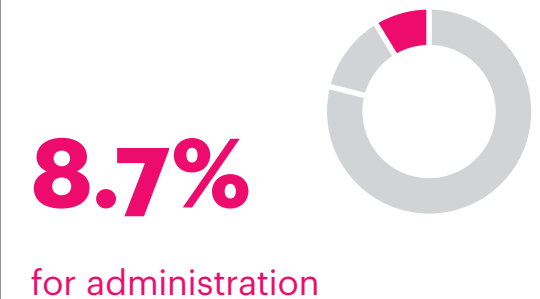
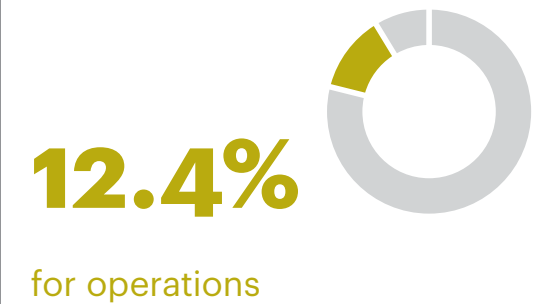
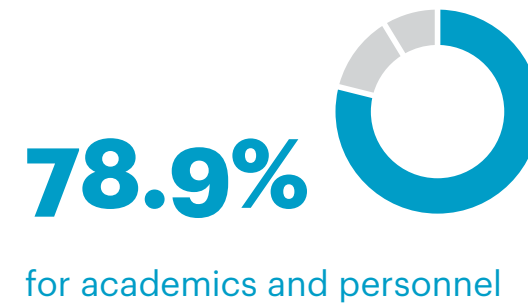
Ajman University  
American University of Ras Al Khaimah  
American University of Sharjah  
Birmingham University (UAE)  
Emirates University  
Fatima College of Health and Sciences  
Harriot Watt University, Dubai  
Higher Colleges of Technology  
Khalifa University  
Les Roches, Abu Dhabi  
RAK Dental University  
RAK Medical and Health Sciences College  
Rochester Institute of Technology, Dubai  
Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi  
University of Sharjah  
University of Wollongong, Dubai  
UAE University

#### USA

Auburn University  
California Baptist University  
Cairn University  
Clemson University  
Georgia State University  
Grand Canyon University  
Kansas State University  
Liberty University  
Mississippi College  
Mississippi State University  
Missouri State University  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of Mississippi  
University of Texas, Arlington

## Investing in the common good

### Financial summary, 2024–25



## How we intend to grow

### Our goals for 2025–26

#### Celebrating 2024–25

##### WellSpring—10 years old

The 2024–25 school year marked the 10th anniversary of The WellSpring School. The annual Fall Family Festival provided a joyful opportunity to celebrate a decade of learning, growth and impact in Ras Al Khaimah. Current and former students, families, staff and community supporters gathered for a memorable afternoon of reflection and connection.

Throughout the event, attendees shared how WellSpring has shaped lives over the years. Students especially emphasized the lasting influence of the school’s focus on character development and its core values: Learn, Love and Lead. The festival not only honored the school’s journey so far but also cast a hopeful vision for the future, grounded in the strong foundation of its first decade.



##### School-wide events

What makes WellSpring exceptional is its vibrant and supportive community. Students, staff and parents work together to create an environment where learning thrives. Throughout the year, various events showcase and celebrate learning within the context of community.

Following the Fall Family Festival, the annual UAE National Day celebration deepened students’ appreciation for the values and rich history of the United Arab Emirates. The entire school community contributed to this meaningful event through cultural activities, traditional food, music, dance and student performances.



In January, WellSpring continued its partnership with Ride for Unity—an organization that uses sports to promote diversity, inclusion, tolerance, sustainability and unity. World-class athletes and guest speakers spent the day with students, focusing on this year’s theme of resilience and inspiring learners to live out these values.

In February, the community gathered once more for the annual Culture Day celebration. This colorful and enriching event highlighted the 48 nationalities represented

within the school. Families shared food, music, dance and traditions from around the world, offering a powerful glimpse into the beauty of global diversity.

These events are more than traditions—they reflect WellSpring’s commitment to building a strong, inclusive and engaged community. By coming together throughout the year, the school celebrates its diversity while reinforcing the shared values that unite and strengthen it.

### Goals for next year

#### Innovation

WellSpring provides outstanding opportunities for students to explore innovation, aligning with the UAE’s national vision to cultivate creative thinkers. The school emphasizes STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—through programs such as the ISS Space Program, Marine Science, Business Entrepreneurship, GIS research and Introduction to Game Design. These offerings strengthen students’ interdisciplinary skills and add meaningful depth to their learning.



Looking ahead, WellSpring is committed to expanding innovation-focused opportunities for students. This includes the development of specialized programs as well as integrating real-world problem-solving into core subjects such as math, science, English, social studies and Arabic. Since critical thinking and problem-solving are essential in every discipline, the school will continue to cultivate these skills across the curriculum—empowering students to become creative and capable leaders in an ever-changing world.

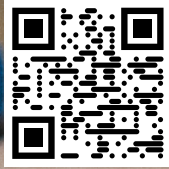


#### Mastery



WellSpring’s focus on mastery is rooted in a philosophy that encourages students to develop a deep understanding of academic standards in each subject. This individualized approach allows learners to progress at their own pace, expanding their knowledge, skills and application in ways tailored to their specific needs and abilities.

Looking ahead, a strong foundation has been established for mastery-based teaching and learning. In the coming year, the curriculum and resources will be further enhanced to ensure every student has the tools needed to meet—and exceed—curriculum standards. This includes comprehensive support across all areas of learning, such as English language development, mathematics, special education, counseling services and programs for gifted and talented students.

By providing targeted and holistic support, WellSpring empowers each student to reach their full academic potential and thrive in a learning environment that values progress, excellence and individual growth—preparing them to positively impact the world around them.



Learn more at  
[tws-rak.org](https://tws-rak.org)

 The.WellSpring.School  
 wellspringrak



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