



GEMS

مدارس جيمس السعودية العالمية - الظهران
Saudi International Schools
DHAHRAN

Monthly Newsletter

August | Issue 1

OUR GSIS'

NEWSFLASH



Welcome back to school to all our GSIS students. We are happy to see your smiling faces back at school!

What's in This Month's Issue

- Back-to-School Spirit
- Our Schools at a Glance



**Welcome to our class friend
the attendance BEAR for all
KG - Grade 6**



GEMS
EDUCATION

Ms. Katia Chacra Superintendent



As we conclude the first month of the school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our journey together so far. It has been a remarkable start to what promises to be an exciting and transformative academic year. I am delighted to reflect on our extraordinary achievements and experiences during the first month of this school year.

The first week of school set the tone for the entire year with a vibrant burst of activities that welcomed our students back with enthusiasm and excitement. Our new branding in the reception areas has breathed fresh life into our school environment, reflecting our commitment to providing a modern and inspiring space for learning. We are also thrilled with the launch of our Advanced Placement (AP) courses, offering our students an even more rigorous and enriching educational experience. In addition, our recent Ya Hala events were a resounding success, fostering cultural appreciation and understanding among our diverse student body.

Moreover, our implementation of new health and safety procedures, including a safe drop-off and pick-up system and the establishment of a nut-free zone in the canteen and the school as a whole, has been crucial in ensuring the well-being of our students. We proudly introduce healthy hot meal options at the canteen, promoting balanced nutrition and good eating habits. We have also streamlined our dismissal process, making it more effective and efficient for the convenience of parents and students alike.

Our swimming program for grades 4 to 6 has begun, enhancing physical fitness and water safety skills. Additionally, our recent first aid awareness day, complete with practical training, was a significant step in equipping our students with essential life skills.

On the professional development front, our teachers have been engaged in a rigorous program, ensuring that they are well-prepared to deliver the highest quality education. Lastly, we continue to prioritize children's safeguarding practices to provide a secure and nurturing environment for your children.

In closing, I want to express my pride in what we have accomplished in this first month of school. It is a testament to the strength and unity of our school community. Let's carry this momentum forward, supporting one another and striving for excellence in all we do.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education, and here's to a successful and fulfilling academic year ahead.

Regards Ms. Katia Chacra

GSIS NEWS



Ms. Maritza Vorster
Deputy Superintendent.

The past few weeks have been exciting as we started the new academic year! I wish all our students the very best of success this year! We are very busy working to ensure high-quality education while ensuring health and safety measures are in place to ensure our students are happy at school! We look forward to the upcoming weeks filled with many campaigns and activities.

I want to thank each parent actively involved in the school community through feedback emails and calls. We listen to each parent and refer to your comments in our planning.

We are actively working on highlighting our core values through various elements and areas in school and acknowledging these values shown by our students.

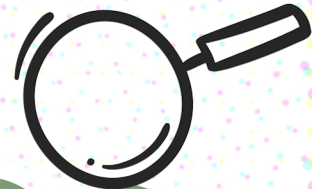
Please take a look further down in the newsletter for the monthly value focus, which forms part of our student profile!

I am wishing you all a Smiling September!

Ms. Maritza Vorster



ACADEMIC DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Dr. Ean Alleyne **Academic Director**



The old adage "Time flies when you're having fun" has certainly manifested here at GSIS, as Week 3 of the first term is quickly approaching its end. I write to all of you to thank you for entrusting your most prized possessions within our care. I am uniquely placed around both sections of the school, where I get to witness firsthand the learning and transformation that has transpired in only 21 days. Students have started on their journeys of inquiry and are asking insightful questions and making connections between the familiar and the unfortold. As we prepare for our GEMS School Review on 17-18 September, which is a comprehensive evaluation of our School by a team of expert GEMS evaluators, I am excited to show off all that we do at our School. The 3 September 2023 also saw the first teaching AP Courses at GSIS and, hence at automatic increase in academic rigor. Personalization of Learning Plan Meetings have been underway and have been made commonplace amongst Grades 9-11 boys and girls. Please watch for periodic updates through Edtech or simply email for lots more initiatives coming your way.

I am delighted by the honor to serve the students, parents and faculty of GSIS this academic year and beyond. I have come to serve, not go be served.

Regards
Dr. Ean Alleyne



PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF PROCEDURES



Thank you to all parents who are on time for school! We are working on our procedures at the gates to ensure the health and safety of our students. Our staff members are visible in the yellow Hi-vests support the students to cross the road safely. To help us, we encourage our parents to be **on time** to school to prevent delays in reaching the school.

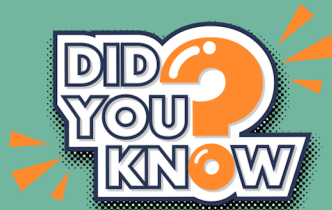
**BE ON TIME
FOR DROP-OFF
AND PICK-UP**

IMPORTANT

Please note that **GATE 2 and 3** will be a drop off zone only.

6:45 to 8:00 in the morning

2:25 to 3:00 in the afternoon



We are working with the relevant authorities to support us during these busy traffic times of the day.



Ms. Fatima Al Wasmi

Kindergarten and Lower Elementary Principal



Dear Kindergarten and Lower Elementary Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Hello, and welcome to GSIS! I hope this letter finds you all anticipating a wonderful school year ahead.

As the Principal of our Kindergarten and Lower Elementary division, I am thrilled to extend a warm and joyful welcome to each of you.

To our new students and families, we are delighted to have you join our school family. Your child's educational journey is about to begin, and we are excited to be part of this special chapter in their lives. To our returning families, welcome back! Your continued trust in GSIS is deeply appreciated, and we can't wait to continue this educational adventure with you.

The early years of education are a time of wonder, exploration, and discovery. At GSIS, we are committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment where your child can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. We understand that every child is unique, and our dedicated team of educators is here to support and guide them on their individual paths to success.

Our curriculum is designed to spark curiosity, encourage creativity, and build a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Whether your child is learning their first letters, exploring numbers, or embarking on their journey through literature, science, and the arts, we are here to ignite their love for learning and foster their natural talents.

Parents and guardians, you are an essential part of our school community. Your active involvement in your child's education significantly impacts their growth and development. We encourage you to participate in school activities, engage with our teachers, and join us in creating a positive and inclusive learning environment.

Throughout the year, you can look forward to a variety of events, meetings, and opportunities to connect with our school community. We value your feedback and encourage open communication as we work together to provide your child with the best educational experience.

As we embark on this new school year together, I want to express my gratitude for entrusting us with your child's education. It is a privilege and an honor to be a part of your child's learning journey, and we take this responsibility to heart.

The year ahead holds boundless possibilities for each student, and we are excited to witness their growth, achievements, and moments of joy. Our dedicated staff is ready to create a supportive and enriching environment where every child can thrive.

Thank you for choosing [GSIS] as your partner in education. Here's to a year filled with laughter, learning, and building lifelong friendships.

I wish you all a fantastic start to the school year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Fatima Al Wasmi

Kindergarten

at a glance!



On August 23rd, we welcomed our fantastic kindergartners for the start of the AY23-24 academic year. We wish them all the best of success for this year!



RESPECT

**OUR VALUE FOCUS
FOR THE MONTH OF
SEPTEMBER!**





KINDERGARTEN NEWS



The first week of kindergarten was filled with excitement as our young learners began their educational journey, making new friends and discovering the joys of learning.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Please pack a healthy snack for your child.

A kind reminder that no sugar items are allowed.



TOP ATTENDANCE

We closely track the student's attendance to acknowledge the top attendance classrooms.

Please note that in case your child is absent we do require a medical note.



LOWER ELEMENTARY NEWS



TOP ATTENDANCE



We closely track the student's attendance to acknowledge the top attendance classrooms.

Please note that in case your child is absent we do require a medical note.

Classes with top attendance in August

1B, 1C, 1D, 1F, 2A, 2C, 3B, 3D

REMINDER



- Please pack a healthy snack for your child
- Please wear your uniform every day
- No Make-up exams without a medical note

FUN FACT

A school in Germany has been built to look like a giant white cat.



Ms. Nouf Al Mousa

Upper Elementary Principal (Girls)



Greetings,

August has gracefully ushered us into a new school year filled with boundless excitement and endless possibilities. As the principal of our beloved upper elementary school, I feel privileged to witness the incredible growth and enthusiasm of every one of our outstanding students.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our remarkable students. Your commitment to attending school daily, with beaming smiles lighting up the hallways, sets an inspiring example for us all. Your unwavering dedication to your education is commendable, filling my heart with immense pride. Each day, I witness your thirst for knowledge, eagerness to learn, and genuine passion for stepping out of your comfort zone. Remember, dear students, the path to success is paved with consistency and perseverance, and I have no doubt that you will soar to new heights this academic year.

I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to the parents who attended our Ya Hala session. Your presence and support mean the world to us. Education is most effective when it is collaborative between the school and the home. Your active involvement emphasizes the significance of our students' journey as we work hand-in-hand to nurture their growth. Your dedication to their education is a shining beacon, illuminating the path towards a bright and successful future.

We are filled with boundless enthusiasm and anticipation as we embark on this new milestone together. Our mission is to create a learning environment where curiosity is valued, dreams are cherished, and respect is the cornerstone of our interactions. We welcome this exciting year of discovery, growth, and transformation with open minds and hearts. Let's seize every opportunity to learn, explore, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Thank you for your presence, your smiles, and your dedication. I am truly honored to lead with you as your principal, and I am confident that this year will be one of immense growth, fulfilment, and success.

With great anticipation and warm regards,

Ms. Nouf Almousa

Back to School Adventures: Upper Elementary Edition

Joining the school on August 20, 2023, the upper elementary students were greeted with exciting back-to-school activities. The boys bounced with joy on the trampolines while the girls immersed themselves in bracelet-making and fancy face painting. Laughter filled the air as they had a blast, creating unforgettable memories. With hearts brimming with happiness, they eagerly prepared for an incredible year ahead.



THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

Sparkling Sapphire:
Cultivating Respect in
September!



SAPPHIRE
RESPECT



RUBY
EMPATHY

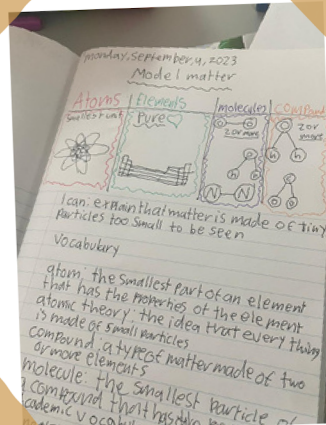
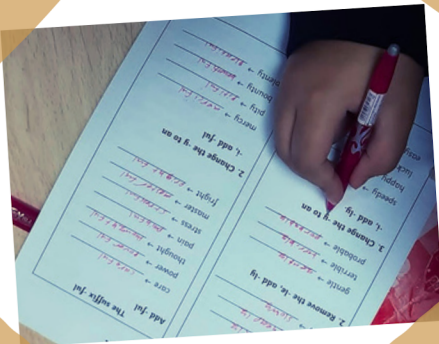


EMERALD
COMPASSION

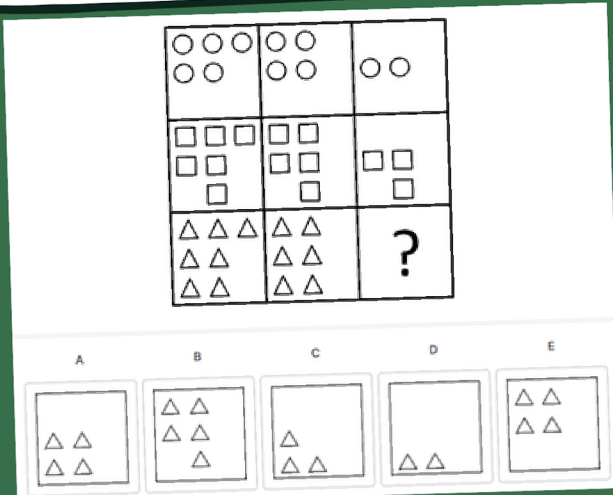


TOPAZ
HELPFULNESS

Upper Elementary News



Try to solve this Math problem!



Students to do list

- ☒ Punctuality
- ☒ Healthy snacks & lunch
- ☒ Uniform

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



Reem Al Shamsi

Middle and High School Principal for Girls

With immense pleasure and excitement, I communicate with you today as the Principal of Middle and High School Girls in GSIS, ready to kick off another incredible academic year. To our returning students, welcome back! Your presence and the experiences you bring to our school community enrich the fabric of our institution. I extend a warm and hearty welcome to our new students and families to our GSIS family. We are thrilled to have you join us on this educational journey, and we promise that this will be a year filled with discovery, growth, and meaningful connections.

Each new school year is like opening a new book, filled with blank pages waiting to be written. It's an opportunity for all of us—students, parents, and educators alike—to set new goals, chase new dreams, and embark on a journey of learning and self-discovery. Together, we will fill these pages with success, resilience, and triumph stories.

As parents and guardians, your role in your child's education is paramount. Your involvement and support make a significant difference in their academic journey. We encourage you to stay engaged, communicate with our teachers and staff, and participate actively in our school community. Together, we can ensure our students receive the best education and support.

As we begin a new school year, I am hopeful and optimistic about what lies ahead. I am confident that together—students, parents, guardians, and educators—we will make this year one of growth, achievement, and unforgettable moments.

Let us embark on this exciting journey with enthusiasm, determination, and a commitment to excellence. I am excited about the endless possibilities that this academic year holds for us all, and I look forward to witnessing the incredible accomplishments of our students.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Together, we will make GSIS a place where dreams take flight and futures are shaped.

Here's to a fantastic Year

Regards

Ms. Reem Al Shamsi

Written By Laura
Sami Alkhashan.
Grade 7

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Your
VOICE
MATTERS

The summer vacation has ended and it's time for the first day of school.

All the students gathered down in the reception area as they were giving us our classes. Later that morning all classes went up to their home room classrooms.

Ms. Reem Alshamsi, our principal, went to each class to welcome the students and to wish them a great year.

Our teachers took us to the auditorium, as we enjoyed eating popcorn while watching an interesting video about robots and AI.

After that, all grades 7 to 11 students were directed to the gym to play Challenging Games.

At the end of the day, we went back to our classes to enjoy our time with our homeroom teachers.

I felt that the first day of school presentation was very educational and I learned a lot from it
(Fatimah Alhalal-G8A)

I loved that in the first day of school we watched a documentary and got popcorn! **(Kanzzy Taher-G11)**

The first day of school was interesting. And I loved the activities.
(Aleen Alzayer-G10)

What I felt is positivity, energetic, and happy since it is the first day of school. I was happy to meet my friends and teachers. I expected that the school improved and that is what we can see. This year is different and special. **(Fatimah Alyami -G7)**



Have a
great
FIRST
Day

I found the first day of school very fun. The movie was interesting. It was nice to see the different technologies. **(Khowla Alkhelaiwi -G9)**

I found the first day of school very fun and entertaining. I was a little confused with the new adjustments but nothing else. I love this school and will continue throughout the grades inshallah. **(Tala Alkhairs-G8B)**



BOYS SCHOOL NEWS

Mr. Ahmed Al Asmari

Middle and High School Principal for Boys



I hope you are doing well and are excited for the upcoming school year. As we embark on this journey together, I want to address you, our valued partners in education.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for entrusting us with your children's education. We understand the immense responsibility that comes with it, and we are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for our students to learn and grow.

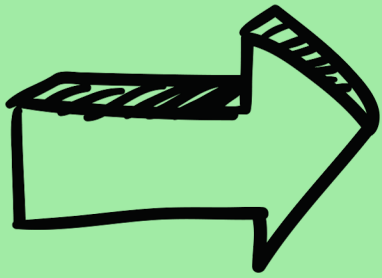
Returning to school is always a significant milestone for students and parents alike. It is an opportunity for new beginnings, friendships, and endless possibilities. This year, it is essential for us to ensure the well-being of our entire school community.

Now, more than ever, communication and collaboration between parents and educators are crucial. We encourage you to stay actively engaged in your child's education. Please stay tuned for school updates, assignments, and events. Also, do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We are here to listen, support, and guide you and your child throughout the school year.

I am confident this school year will be filled with growth, achievement, and joy. Let us forge ahead, hand in hand, and create a solid educational foundation for your child's future success.

Thank you for your ongoing support and belief in GSIS. Here's to a fantastic ahead!

Regards Mr. Ahmed Al Asmari



BOYS' SCHOOL



ACTIVITIES



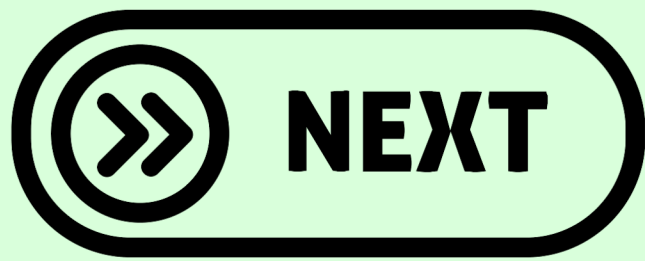
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

AREAS OF FOCUS:

This year we will focus on making the boys' school a better place to learn, grow, and make good memories.



COLLABORATIVE LEARNING



For International Literacy Day September 10, 2023, students will participate in Literature activities. **All students can bring their favorite book and their bear as their reading buddy to school.**



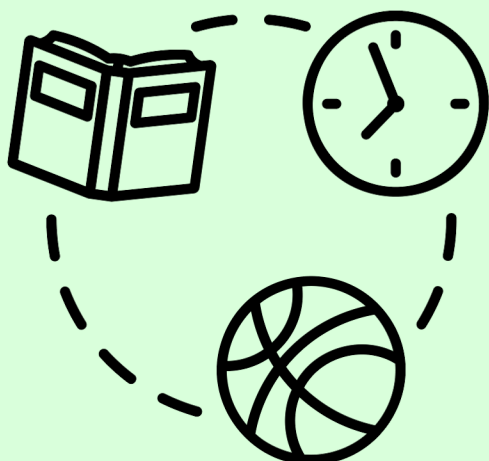
17th- 21st September - Raising Islamic Awareness

19 September - Visit tour from L'Alliance Francaise to explain about Delf (Grades 7 - 11)

24th September - No School - National day

25th September - National Day Celebration at school

28th September - Early Release Day
(Parent-Teacher Conference)



COMING SOON

Parents requested for the after school program to start!
We are taking our time to plan a fun and engaging Term 2 program. Please keep a look out!