

New Academic Year Highlights 2020-2021

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Issue No. 1

1. School Starting Dates

School will commence according to the following schedule:

Date	Grade	Group	Time
Sunday, 30/08/2020	1-12	Orientation for new students ONLY	9:00 – 10:30 am Virtually
Sunday, 30/08/2020	K – 3 Parents and students	Meet the teacher	11:00 am – 01:00 pm Virtually
Tuesday, 01/09/2020	1-12	According to a special schedule	Details to follow
Tuesday, 01/09/2020	KG1 + KG2	According to a special schedule	Details to follow

2. Back to School Scenario

Over the past few months, we have been carefully planning for multiple scenarios for September 2020 ; therefore we are fully prepared for the new academic year 2020-2021.

AKNS receives its operational directives from the government and KHDA. We have an approved calendar for 2020-2021. We intend to follow the dates as confirmed in the calendar with a start date for all students on September 1, 2020 . Please note that we are committed to studying and planning for the **following scenario** :

KG1 and KG2:

Only 10 students in KG will be accommodated in physical setting for each section of KG. KG schedule will have 2 shifts; one physical (F2F) from 8:30 – 12:30 for Group A, and then a Virtual shift from 12:30 – 4:00 pm for Group B (**Tuesdays will be rotational**) . **The groups will be rotating according to the following:**

Week 1: Sunday to Thursday AAA/BB F2F 8:30 AM -12:30 PM

Week 1: Sunday to Thursday BBB/AA DL 12:30 PM-4:00 PM

Week 2: Sunday to Thursday AA/BBB F2F 8:30 AM -12:30 PM

Week 2: Sunday to Thursday BB/AAA DL12:30 PM-4:00 PM

Grades 1-12:

will be in a blended-learning environment, where classes are split into two groups (A and B) to achieve social distancing. **Designated groups of students will be allocated to attend school on a rotational schedule over a 2-week schedule. Tuesday will be rotational on a two-week basis as follows:**

Week 1: Sunday to Thursday AAA/BB F2F 8:00 am- 2:25 pm

Week 1: Sunday to Thursday BBB/AA DL 8:00 am- 2:25 pm

Week 2: Sunday to Thursday AA/BBB F2F 8:00 am- 2:25 pm

Week 2: Sunday to Thursday BB/AAA DL 8:00 am- 2:25 pm

New Academic Year Highlights 2020-2021

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Issue No. 1

Students who are at home online from Grades 1-12 will be able to see and interact with the teacher and students who are in the same class on campus. This blended environment when at home will be a mixture of both synchronous and asynchronous learning.

We are going to group the students based on your preference. Please make sure to fill the survey in case you did not do so **no later than Thursday 23 July, 2020.**

KG1	https://forms.gle/DYbvPyyvj2tYyJ6i7	Gr6	https://forms.gle/yQ7ToPgEktV9YDyH6
KG2	https://forms.gle/ZNRqy7n4WuFHjus57	Gr7	https://forms.gle/79dzfwZPcbvShs8r7
Gr1	https://forms.gle/4kcxwj61ERjCymhT7	Gr8	https://forms.gle/MGQ3FGby5zJ24v9x9
Gr2	https://forms.gle/KUcDFGXSTSa8BZgq8	Gr9	https://forms.gle/LWesB94HumjxVp4MA
Gr3	https://forms.gle/uBop3eb9c9zSZwAT7	Gr10	https://forms.gle/go1pPikpKrrmDLg4A
Gr4	https://forms.gle/jHX1RwxdC9BhtLJM9	Gr11	https://forms.gle/QSn6WhvDQqaQbRya7
Gr5	https://forms.gle/XdAuBsY4XzjBE3Yr8		

3. Health and Safety main measures at AKNS:

In line with KHDA School Re-Opening Guidelines, AKNS is following a set of health, safety and operational procedures and protocols that includes:

Physical Distancing:

- Minimum 1.5m distance in class and 2m everywhere else.
- Staggered or allotted time for toilet breaks.
- Use of outside space for PE, with 2 m distancing.
- Isolation rooms for suspected cases.
- Markers on floor for social distancing.
- Showers and changing rooms not permitted.

Restrictions:

- Students and Staff with medical conditions are exempted from mask (medical certificate required).
- Staff in direct contact with children (KG/SEND) should wear transparent masks /face shields.
- Cancel all festivals, holiday events, performances, school trips, tournaments, camps, etc.
- Prayer room to be closed.

Food & Beverages:

- Pre-packed food only.
- Parents encouraged to send food with plastic utensils.
- Staff must bring their own food and drink (no tea/coffee mass servings to staff allowed).
- Staggered meal breaks.
- Only sanitized water bottles allowed, water dispensers not allowed.

New Academic Year Highlights 2020-2021

Thursday , July 16, 2020

Issue No.1

Transportation:

- Bus can run at Half capacity (50%) with seat marks for seating guidance.
- Temperature screening .
- All bus riders to wear masks except for children below 6 years .
- Sanitize seat/seat belt/handles/swipe machines after every use.
- Windows open preferably .

Find more information in the below links:

[Schools Re-opening Protocols by KHDA](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions about Re-opening Schools by KHDA](#)

4. Tuition Fees 2020/2021

Kindly find below the school tuition fees structure for the academic year 2020-2021:

Grades	Tuition Fees for Academic Year 2020-2021	Charge for Sep-Dec 2020 Last Date of payment is 01-09-2021	Charge for Jan-March 2021 Last Date of payment is 01-01-2021	Charge for April-June 2021 Last Date of payment is 01-04-2021
KG1-KG2	16,546	6,626	4,960	4,960
G1,Gr2,G3	18,793	7,513	5,640	5,640
G4,Gr5,G6	22,265	8,905	6,680	6,680
G7,Gr8,G9	26,758	10,698	8,030	8,030
G10,Gr11,G12	31,661	12,661	9,500	9,500
Payment				
Cash	Credit card	3 Cheques (1 current + 2 pdc), paid to 'Al Khaleej National School' (dated latest DOJ, January & April).		

New Academic Year Highlights 2020-2021

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Issue No. 1

5. Academic Year Calendar

Kindly note that you can view the calendar for the **Academic Year 2020-2021** with important dates highlighted on the school website:

<https://www.gemsakns.com/for-parents/academic-calendar/>

6. School Management Information System (Phoenix and Phoenix Classroom)



Our school will be moving to **Phoenix** and **Phoenix Classroom** Learning Management System next academic year. **These two systems developed by GEMS Education are going to replace PowerSchool and FrogOs respectively.**

Students and teachers will be using **Phoenix Classroom** to share lessons, send quizzes, assignments and monitor attendance and behavior.

Phoenix will also be our system for report cards, attendance, making payments and many other features. Parents will be receiving notifications to monitor their children's learning and school life.

We will be providing you with more details on the app and its features in addition to training sessions in the beginning of next academic year.

7. Inspection Report 2019/2020

According to the report, this is what the school does best:

- Very high standards of safety, care and guidance, which lead to students' very good or better personal and social development in all phases.
- Students' good and very good progress in almost all core subjects and phases.
- Very strong provision in the KG, which supports children's very good progress in English, mathematics and science.
- The outstanding level of students' understanding of Islamic values and Emirati heritage, and the high degree of social responsibility that students show.
- The commitment and expertise of the senior leaders to improve students' achievements.

[click here](#) to view the full inspection report 2019/2020.

New Academic Year Highlights 2020-2021

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Issue No. 1

8. Changes on the School Structure

Tania Al-Nasser , Acting High School Principal

After getting her Bachelor's degree in English Literature, Language, and Political Science from the University of Jordan in 1994, Tania Al Nasser worked for a year in the communication department at Queen Noor AL Hussein Foundation. A year later, she decided that she wanted to pursue a career in education and began her 25-year journey in education working in leading educational institutes in Jordan, which exposed her to a varied educational experiences and curricula such as GSCE and IB.



She started as a homeroom teacher for the elementary and moved to teaching English language in Middle school and High school grade levels. In 2015, Ms. Tania joined AKNS as an English language teacher in the High school section. In 2016, she took the role of Assistant Principal for Middle and High school/ Girls where she assisted in ensuring that the high standards and quality education that AKNS always strives for are in place. From 2018, she co-led the Middle School/ Boys and Girls in her capacity as Assistant Principal and was part of the team who worked diligently to raise school KHDA ratings.

Her educational experiences have helped her the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse group of people to meet the common goal of increasing student achievement, attainment and well-being.

Her educational philosophy is based on her uncompromising belief that all students can learn, given a positive learning environment, strong and knowledgeable leadership, a committed and focused educational team, an encouraging community, and a supportive family.

Belinda Weweje , High School Assistant Principal

Ms Belinda Weweje has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, Chemistry and Psychology in 1988 and immediately stepped into a classroom and started teaching while studying part time to obtain her teaching credentials. She taught Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths for 29 year in South Africa. During this time she furthered her studies and in 2004 she completed a Bachelors of Education (honors) degree specializing in Mathematical Teaching and curriculum writing and was selected to be part of a panel that would write the curriculum for Mathematical Literacy, a new subject introduced in South Africa.



Her passion is Science and she was selected by the Shanduka foundation to be part of a program to improve the skills of Science teachers in disadvantaged schools in South Africa.

New Academic Year Highlights 2020-2021

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Issue No. 1

She has 15 year experience in Education Management and was Head of High School for 7 years and it is from this position that she left her country and went to her first International School in Qatar.

In 2016 she started working in Abu Dhabi as a Chemistry teacher at ADEK's model school for girls and was seconded to the Head Office where she started writing the Chemistry Curriculum while still teaching 4 days a week at the model school.

Later on she moved to Dubai where she started teaching IB Chemistry. She has a sincere passion for teaching . For the past 35 years she has never been out of the classroom.

Adriana Baba ,Acting KG Principal

Ms Adriana Baba is a mother of two and a passionate early years educator. Her career began in 2006, in Jordan as a KG1 teacher. She moved to Dubai in 2008 and began teaching KG2 in American and IB schools . Adriana worked with Emirati and International students throughout her career and she is focused on driving change and helping students to reach their full potential.



Ms Adriana studied Professional Development in Early Years ,and took multiple courses in leadership. She has also attended many workshops in IB , Reggio Emilio and studied the Jolly Phonics system.

Ms Adriana joined AKNS in 2016 as KG Coordinator and last year she was the KG assistant principal and her hard work with the team has resulted in moving all indicators to Good and Very Good. She enjoys cooking healthy food, exercising and studying . Next year she will be our KG Acting Principal. Wishing her all the best.

Serpouhi Vartivarian, KG Assistant Principal

Ms Serpouhi started her passion for teaching and inspiring young learners in 1996 and my many years of experience has confirmed her belief in the importance of students' role in their learning and the value that would be added through the teacher's dedication and commitment. She worked in different well-known schools in Jordan as well as in the States, with different age groups and curriculums, and her devotion to work has promoted her to take a role of a coordinator, team leader and a reference teacher as well as being a PYP teacher for the last 9 years.



Her teaching experience has also given her an opportunity to work with students from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds as well as with students with different learning difficulties.

New Academic Year Highlights 2020-2021

Thursday, July 16, 2020

Issue No. 1

She has a Bachelor's degree in Education and finished her Professional Development in Early Childhood diploma from Wisconsin Stout University. She considers teaching as her mission in life, it is her passion. She is a big believer in the inquiry based teaching method; concept based learning, hands on activities and creative thinking, learn through play and agency. She is a team player as well as a long life learner and that's why she chose to work at AKNS with other likeminded educators for the betterment of students in all areas which is the main objective in AKNS's mission. She joined AKNS last year as KG Coordinator and KG1 teacher at the same time .

Mohammad Abusenenh, Head of Islamic Studies (1-12)

Mr Mohammad has B.A. in Islamic Studies & Law from Al Ahqaff University in Yemen. He started his journey in education in 2015 and always wanted to be in a classroom knowing that it is the place to begin toward making the world a better one.

He taught at The American School of Creative Science for a year before he started his journey in GEMS United School since August 2016, and now excited to join AKNS as a Teacher and Head of Islamic Studies Department.



He has acquired a Professional Diploma in Teaching from City University Collage of Ajman, also I have acquired a certificate in Teaching Arabic as a Second Language to make sure that students get the best of the best. His ultimate goal is to foster an understanding of Islam that discards the extremity and misunderstandings that plague our society today through various outlets, such as social media.

In October 2019, he was named the 2019 GEMS Education's Most Inspirational Teacher. Being healthy is key to a better mind that's why he spent years training in Calisthenics (Street Workout) and became a trainer for the youth. In his spare time, Arabic Calligraphy is his favorite thing to do, and from time to time, he enjoys playing soccer and had the opportunity to train U14.

Technology is his top of line in his life. And his interest is not going to stop to using the Smart Board in the classroom but also staying connected with his students wherever they go.

He also enjoys the company of a book where he can feel that he gets a free ticket to the land of imagination whenever he wants.

Last but not least , we would like to thank Ms Eva Pillossof the Assessment Director , Mr Casey Doumitt the High School Principal, Mr Allen Mcinnis the High School Assistant Principal and Ms Muna Hajir the Elementary Assistant Principal for their commitment, dedication and added value during their stay at AKNS. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

We look forward to your continued support and wish you a wonderful 2020-20201 academic year!

Ghadeer Abu-Shamat
Superintendent/CEO