



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 20th September 2021

Calendar

SEPTEMBER 21

23 THU

**Service as Action and Interdisciplinary Learning MYP
Information Session**

Time: 09:00 am to 10:00 am

Location: on Zoom

26 SUN

Academic Integrity and Referencing Information Session

Time: 09:00 am to 10:00 am

Location: on Zoom

A Message from the Director

Dear parents,

Three weeks have passed since we have been reunited with our eager learners, a long-awaited reunion in which none of our students ever expected to crave this much. Today, faces are still gleaming with unbridled enthusiasm, eyes are beaming with utter joy, and minds are yearning to quench their thirst for learning. In order to sustain such high spirits and to ensure that we continue with on-campus learning, it is our utmost priority to proceed with providing a healthy and safe environment for our students. Therefore, I would like to

remind you that it is mandatory for all parents to wear masks while on school grounds and to have your temperature taken upon entering the campus; I kindly urge you to cooperate with our staff whenever asked to adhere to either request.

As we move into fall, cold breezes are creeping in and will soon be embracing our students in the morning rather than the sunny rays of sunshine. Undoubtedly, such weather can bring its share of colds and flu; one of the easiest and best ways for you to help prevent the spread of germs is to promote handwashing. It is exceptionally important to make sure that all children are always properly dressed for the weather. Additionally, I would like to draw your attention to another area of concern, traffic safety. It has come to my attention that unfortunately, some students are crossing the street to get to the main entrance and vice versa. It is vital that you utilize the designated parking areas and to encourage your children to exit the car on the curbside of the street instead of stepping out into traffic. By establishing and encouraging responsible routines and habits, you will be helping to create a healthy, safe, and successful school year for your children and our community.

On another positive note, our sports tryouts are over! I wish to congratulate all the selected students who made it into the sports teams. Always proud of our IAA athletes and looking forward to a busy and successful year for our Hawks. Moreover, I am pleased to announce that registration for the extra-curricular activities in Grades 1 - 5 should commence this week; you will soon receive a schedule for a wide range of activities that your child could participate in. Academics and extracurricular activities go hand in hand to raise well-rounded individuals and independent learners! It is imperative that we provide our children with an environment that fosters their overall personality and encourages them to bring out their talent in the limelight, giving it wings in the right direction.

Lastly, I am delighted to welcome the new members of our PTA Executive Committee and I am eagerly anticipating the many joyous and pleasant events you will be working on this school year!

Thank you all for the ongoing support and cooperation you have demonstrated since the start of the school year; I genuinely take pride in our community's constant dedication and unwavering sense of commitment to ensure that our students are always provided with the finest learning experience they could possibly attain.

Kind regards,
Hana Kanan, Ed. D
Director

Primary School News

Dear parents,

Thank you for your ongoing support and positivity as we return to face-to-face learning. We are delighted to welcome our students back to school, and I hope in-person learning will remain the same for the rest of the academic year. We have seen high levels of student attendance throughout the school, from PreK to Grade 5, and this brings joy to our hearts and assurance that learning can continue against all odds.

Parent Information Sessions

Huge thanks to everyone who participated in the virtual parent information sessions last week. I hope you found the sessions informative. The presentation slides are on Moodle for those of you who were not able to attend the sessions.

Drop-off and Pickup

Our morning drop-offs are flowing nicely, and it has been great to see you and your families on campus. Students arrive every day with smiles on their faces, and they are eager to learn. Please continue to adhere to the drop-off and pick-up times as indicated in the gate policy letter. We appreciate your compliance with the directions of our excellent staff here at IAA, who are working tirelessly to ensure everyone's safety during school drop-off and pickup.

Communication

I want to encourage you to continue engaging in a dialogue with your child's/Children's teachers and our counsellors when needed. We have been responding to emails and requests to call daily. Please also note we will be happy to arrange a Zoom call with you to discuss any issue regarding your child's academic performance and well-being at school. Please email primary@iaa.edu.jo with details about what you wish to discuss and your child's full name and class.

After-School Activities

After-school activities will resume in early October. We will send you information about the activities available for students.

School Bus Timing

I have received emails regarding issues with when bus students are collected from their class to ride home on the bus. Please note that teachers will endeavour not to introduce new teaching and learning concepts at the end of the school day, and use the time to revise what has been learnt during the day.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Omolola Wright-Odusoga
Primary School Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

What a wonderful three weeks we have had. Everyone is enjoying being together and having that live pulse of energy and education run through our buildings and spaces. I hope you were able to join in, or watch the recordings of, our “Meet and Greets” for the Grades and our DP and MYP information sessions. Recordings can be accessed from the student-parent tab on Moodle.

We have two more sessions coming up. On Thursday September 23rd, we will present on the two key elements of the MYP – Service As Action and Interdisciplinary Learning. On Sunday September 26th, we will present on library resources and academic integrity.

As we enter the next fortnight, we will begin to see summative assessments taking place in subjects. You may notice homework loads increase a little bit, and your children begin to talk about ‘their tests’. The natural response for many students at this point is to work more. Whilst we encourage our students to work smartly, ensuring that time on task is as productive as possible, the best possible preparation they can have for more demanding periods of time at school is to sleep well.

Research does suggest that sleep scheduling, i.e. maintaining a consistent pattern of sleeping habits, is very beneficial. As is ensuring that the sleep we have is of the best quality, and this is where phones and caffeine prior to sleep definitely do not help. Not only can good quality, regular sleep be linked to academic performance through enhanced memory consolidation, it is clear that students who are fatigued will not perform as well under pressure. In addition, there is evidence that quality sleep is a predictor of good mental health. The National Sleep Foundation strongly recommends 8 to 10 hours of sleep per night for teenagers. These points may help form the basis of a valuable conversation at home.

We had very successful tryouts this past weekend. We look forward to seeing our students become active with the school teams again. Activities in school are beginning to roll out, with both MUN’s (I’MUN and Majlis) starting to plan for training. Other activities will be coming online over the coming weeks, and information about them will be shared with students as appropriate.

Finally, as we have had three weeks to finalise all aspects of school uniform, we are concentrating on having our students follow the uniform guidelines that can be found on pages 54 and 55 in the Parent/Student Handbook. Thank you for your support in ensuring our students leave home, for school, wearing the required uniform.

Yours sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

Library News

Our students are settling in nicely into their library routines and we are ecstatic about putting books into their hands! The libraries have some amazing databases and resources that will help your children with their research and learning. To access our libraries, go to <https://library.iaa.edu.jo/>. All 3 libraries use Destiny Discover to search and access library books, eBooks and online resources.

Whole School

Britannica School

A citable, online learning resource trusted by teachers and students. It uses safe, up-to-date, and age-appropriate information resources for both primary and secondary students. Here they'll find leveled encyclopedia articles, multimedia, primary sources, and other learning resources that support student research and reinforce curriculum standards.

Primary Library

PowerKnowledge LifeScience

This is a content-driven, visually stimulating, and media-rich online science resource specifically designed for students in grades 3 to 6.

Secondary Library

Gale Databases

Gale gives us access to many popular magazines and news sources like The New York Times and The Economist, in addition to media sources from all over the world for a better global perspective.

JSTOR

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary sources.

Please contact your respective librarian for any questions. Have a wonderful week!

Sincerely yours,

Dima Shaka'a

Head of Libraries/Primary Librarian

Sports News

IAA Hawks is excited to be back on the field. After week one filled with sports day events for secondary students, we had a tremendous turn out for our school team tryouts.

Students from grades 6 to 10 came to tryout for different sports. The environment was electric, with student athletes looking to maximize on their athletic development, with some student athletes trying out to three sports in the same day!

Our long term athlete development plan will continue foster and work with our student athletes to help them reach their athletic and academic goals. With some of our graduate student athletes reaching very high standards, such Aliya Boshnaq participating in the most recent Summer Olympic games held in Tokyo, Japan, our student athletes are now even more motivated to develop themselves and continue raising the IAA Athletic flag worldwide.

Our school team training will start this week, with students excited to start working their way into full fitness, after months of limited physical training. Student athletes are now welcomed to begin a new chapter of sports at IAA, filled with fun, competitiveness and joy, in what is considered the healthiest environment for student athletes.