



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 21st September 2020

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

24 THU

**Service as Action and Service Learning in MYP (SAA)
9:00am - 10:00am on zoom**

A Message from the Director

Dear Parents,

During such turbulent times, it is imperative that we act together for the benefit of our community - particularly our children. As much as we had hoped the face-to-face teaching to continue, it was inevitable to switch to online learning given the surge in numbers. You must agree that such precautionary measures are essential and necessary for all. I am aware that switching to e-learning has its challenges, and for that, I would like to thank you all for your flexibility and willingness to step up to the challenge and help support our children while learning online. To the working parents, e-learning is perhaps more of a challenge as you strike the right balance between your livelihood and schooling. I recognize the difficulties involved and applaud you for a job well done!

At school, we continue to be highly vigilant of the situation; and the routine sanitization of our premises remains a priority. We do what we can to keep our campus safe and this includes having our masks on at all times. Medical reports indicate that masks play a key role in keeping people safe and protected and they should not be disregarded or overlooked. Despite the hot weather and the general inconvenience of wearing a

mask, students are asked to make sure their masks cover the entire mouth and nose area; especially when in contact with others. Removing them or not wearing them properly will not be accepted or tolerated.

It was heartwarming to know that G11 and G12 cheered when they learned they were exempted from the Ministry of Education's decision of online learning; we are just as happy to have them on campus! However, as the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health continue to assess the pandemic situation, we have no guarantee that this would remain the case. Let's hope students make the most of their time in school by showing extra commitment and effort. You would agree these final two years of high school are crucial to their acceptances at university and beyond.

Stay healthy!

Dr Hana Kanan
Director

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

It's been a busy week and as our team has done a great job of navigating the various Ministry of Education announcements and the implications they have for learning. In doing so, we have been deeply appreciative of your ongoing support and positivity. Our teachers were happy to welcome back our Early Years students on Sunday and the high levels of attendance throughout the school underscore your commitment and the importance of the provision of quality education; now more than ever.

Distance Learning

As those of you that have experienced Distance Learning will note, we have made considerable changes to our delivery from last year. Whenever there is a need for a whole grade to move to Distance Learning we will do what we can to continue to offer our students the knowledge, concepts and skills that they would receive in core subject areas during face-to-face learning. We have increased the number of synchronous sessions and also provided opportunities during the week for students to receive a 1:1 check-in from their teacher or TA. Details of our Distance Learning Plan feature in the guide that was sent to parents last week.

Parent Information Sessions

With the rush to move to Distance Learning last week, our Grade 4 & 5 Parent Information Sessions were postponed. Links to the Zoom details have been sent to parents via email and we have rescheduled them as follows:

Grade 4 Tuesday, September 22nd @ 2:45pm

Grade 5 Tuesday, September 22nd @ 3:15pm

Drop-off and Pick-up

Our drop-off procedures of a morning are flowing nicely, and it has been great to see the maturity in our students as they move to their classrooms with greater confidence and independence. Please do note that as of Sunday, September 27th the school gates will be closed for students in KG2 and above from 7:55am. Pre-school and KG1 students may enter the campus until 8:25am. KG2 – Grade 3 students should be picked up at 2:15pm while Pre-K and KG1 students may be picked up earlier (12:15pm or 1:45pm) as arranged with their child's

teacher. Please note that these timing will be strictly adhered to and appreciate your compliance with the directions of our staff.

Communication

I would encourage parents to continue to dialogue with their child's teachers and our counsellors as necessary. Mr Walid and I have been responding to emails and requests to call on a daily basis. Should you have an issue that you have tried to address through your child's teacher, or the counsellor and it remains unresolved we would be happy to call or Zoom with you on a Monday morning. To arrange a call or brief meeting, please email primary@iaa.edu.jo with a brief sentence about the topic or issue as well as your child's name and class. Our curriculum leaders, Ms Anna (Pre-K – KG2), Ms Melinda (G1-5) and Ms Alia (Arabic) are also happy to return your calls or Zoom should you have a curriculum related issue to discuss.

Preparing for Virtual Classes

While most of our KG2 – Grade 3 students are back at school, we will continue to schedule regular sessions during the week in order to prepare for further changes to the mode of delivery of our programmes. If your child is yet to have apps downloaded onto their device our IT staff are happy to do this and it may be arranged by contacting your child's classroom teacher.

Wishing you a wonderful week.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell
Primary Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

There has been a lot going on at school despite the uncertainty and then move to online learning for most of our Grades. Thank you for supporting our school policies and for all the communication to the school nurse when you are deciding to keep children at home as a precautionary measure if they are not feeling well.

Student Representative Council

I would like to congratulate our Student Representative Council (SRC) for 2020/2021 on their election and wish them the best of luck for what will be a challenging year, needing more creativity, energy, leadership and resilience than usual. I would also like to thank each and everyone of the students that ran for the SRC. Your interest to make a difference to the IAA community is appreciated. The first SRC meeting is taking place after school on Monday.

Online Learning

Online Learning has begun positively. There is a noticeable difference to last year, and we are definitely being more productive in our lessons. It continues to be really important to keep routine. Being on time, in school

uniform, at a desk will make a big difference. **Phones!** It is normal for students to not have their phones in class at school. We are noticing that the temptation to multi-task between zoom lesson and phone is too tempting for most of our students. The result is that the value of the zoom lesson is significantly reduced. As much as you can, please do not allow our learners to have their phones with them during class time.

IB Innovator Award

The IB have recognised our brilliant finalists of the MYP innovator awards. You can actually read about them on the IB website. <https://www.ibo.org/programmes/middle-years-programme/myp-student-innovators/myp-student-innovator-awards/> For IAA to have so many finalists in this select group is quite amazing. We wish them all the look as they continue to develop their products, although along with many things this year, the journey will now be very different to how it was originally planned.

Parental Meetings

We have been busy with Parental meetings these past few weeks. The meet and greets went well, the Grade 11 and 12 parents have had specific IB DP meetings, and we have run a number of MYP specific seminars. Turn out has been great, and I hope all those who attended were able to have questions answered and clarified. Over the next seven days we have two more for the MYP:

- Thurs 24th: For Parents, Service as Action in the MYP, (9.00– 10.00)
- Sun 27th: For Parents, Academic Integrity and Referencing (9.00– 10.00)

Zoom links will be shared nearer the time.

G10 Personal Project

The G10s should be devoting some time to work on their Personal Project during online learning. They should have met with their supervisor at least once since the start of the school year. Students are required to submit their product by the 29th of September, and the Process Journal extracts by the 5th of October. After which, they will meet with their supervisor to evaluate their product against the success criteria and to receive feedback on the extracts. We will continue to use PSHE sessions to support students with their Personal Project.

Civvies Day: Thursday 24th September

- For Grades 11 and 12 the usual applies. Come to school in civvies and pay the usual 2JD to do so. The SRC are dealing with the charity that will be supported.
- For Grades 6 to 10 there will be a civvies day at home. No donation is requested.

We wish everyone the best of health at this time.

Regards

Mr Martin and Ms Zena.