

ABU DHABI GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CANADA)



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Together We Make the Difference!

WEBSITE: <http://www.agsgrmmr.sch.ae>

Date: Thursday September 28, 2017

Welcome back to a new year at Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada). We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and the children are now refreshed. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. A warm welcome to all the new families who have joined our school community.



School Times

KG to Grade 2 @ 7:55 am to 2:00 pm

Grade 3 to 12 @ 7:55 am to 3:00 pm

School news
at your fingertips



Newsletter

This school newsletter will be published on a monthly basis. Parents of students in grades K – 6 please ensure that your child brings it home to you, to be informed about school happenings.

Hard copies are available

for Grades 6-12 students at the reception office and all newsletters will be posted to our website at www.agsgrmmr.sch.ae

School Website

We are delighted to announce that we will launch our new school website very soon. Feel free to visit the page at www.agsgrmmr.sch.ae

Attendance and Absence

If your child is going to be absent for a day you must inform the school by the beginning of the school day. Students are not supervised prior to 7:20 am so please do not drop your children off before that time.

The school is not responsible for any students prior to this time.

Please ensure your child is at school prior to the first bell at 7:55 am. All KG - 8 students must

report to Ms Rola and Ms. Lena and all 9-12 students must report to Ms. Diane if they come to school late so it can be recorded in the Late Book. We are going to work hard to ensure that our students are on time for school this year! If you wish to pick up your child early from school you must report to the main security office and sign in and show your ID card. If someone other than a parent/guardian is picking up your child you must send written permission for them to be picked up. The receptionist will sign your child out of the school. Thank you for your co-operation with these procedures. All students must be picked up from school by 2:10 pm (KG-2) and by 3:10 pm (grades 3-12). There is no supervision provided for students and it is not a safe environment to leave your child unattended.

Lates

Being late for class is very disruptive for all students. Students who enter the classroom late interrupt all of the other students, the teacher and their own learning by having to catch up to what is going on in the classroom. Please make every effort to get your children to school on time and encourage our older students to get out the door and to school on time. Please help us resolve this issue of dealing with students being late. Thank you!

Further information will be sent regarding procedures in place to alleviate the problem of students being late for school.

Curriculum Night

Our Curriculum Night for parents was held on Wednesday 27 September. There was a short presentation and introduction in the gymnasium at 6:30 pm. After this parents met the teachers for each grade in the classrooms until 7:30 pm. The teachers shared with the parents what will be happening in their child's classroom over the next ten months.

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Classroom Resources

Again this year parents were not required to purchase text books for all courses for their children from Grades KG-9. The school has purchased class sets of text books that students will use while they are in class. As you are well aware not every page of every text book is used and teachers use them depending on the content and relevancy to what they are teaching and in relation to the Nova Scotia Curriculum as well as learning about the UAE, the country where we live.

By having the school purchase the textbooks, needed at each grade level, students will have access to the books at all times while in the classroom. As well many other resources have been purchased which will make learning more exiting for your child. You will see much more photocopied materials coming home and work will be posted on teacher's websites once they are up and running. Text books are available to borrow and can be taken home by students as needed.

Students are not required to purchase laptops or iPads. These are purchased by the school and accessible to students on a scheduled basis to learn basic technology skills such as word processing, research and video making, etc. Students will not be using technology as their main way of communicating and learning. Teaching methods will not differ from previous years however, we are pleased that we are able to meet IT outcomes through the addition of planned lessons in using technology.

We are very pleased to add Google Chrome learning and training to our students this year. The school has purchased many Chrome Books for your child to use while at school.

Each year fees for resources are collected, cost depending on grade level, to cover the cost of depreciation of text books, photocopying of resources for students to take home, purchasing software and updating to latest technology

Moral Education

Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada) is excited to be introducing the new Moral Education Program during the 2017-18 school years. The Moral Education Program is comprised of an innovative, engaging curriculum designed to develop young people of all nationalities and ages in the UAE with universal principles and values, that reflect the shared experiences of humanity. The program encourages youth to explore questions core to everyday life, building on the cultural values shared across the UAE's diverse communities. It promotes character building to develop the next generation of role models and leaders, who contribute positively to the long-term health and well-being of society and the wide world. The program fosters universal concepts relevant to any community, and was carefully developed in close collaboration with social and education leaders from the UAE and the world. The Moral Education program was born out of the UAE's broadened vision of building a sustainable society, grounded in the happiness, wellness and social well-being of its people. The program creates a framework of collaboration between the school, the family and the wider community to promote good citizenship. The use of the word "moral" in this context represents a set of attributes that shape the next generation to become citizens of the world.

Please make sure that you have email and website information for your child's teacher

School Site Access

After 8:10 am you will have to access the school only through the security office. If you need to access the school site during school hours you will have to see Mr. Sadat at the front gate and obtain a Visitor's Badge. We are implementing these procedures to ensure the safety of all students at AGS and to comply with ADEC regulations.

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At 2 pm KG students will be brought to the front gate to line up and have their parents pick them up. Grades 1 students will line up by the castle area and Grade 2 students beside the main reception. Parents are welcome to come in the gate by the security guard where students enter in the morning and exit via the front gate.

At **2:00 pm** the large front gate will be opened for parents to pick up their children from KG to Grade 2.

If you need to see a teacher or an administrator, please make an appointment through the school office.

During class time teacher's focus is on the safety of all students at this time and they are not available for discussions about your child. Again, please make an appointment if you need to meet with a teacher.

For security reasons parents are not permitted entry into classroom areas during the school day, or at the end of the day, until all students have left the building.

AGS School Uniform

The AGS school uniform is purchased at *First Day Textiles (Tel#: 02 6340043 & Mob#: 050 5322630) behind Omeir bin Yousif mosque, Hamdan St., Abu Dhabi. Shop hours: 9:30 am – 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm.* Please see the price list below for the uniform items:

1	Polo T. Shirt half sleeve	65 dhs
2	Polo T.Shirt full sleeve	70 dhs
3	Round neck half sleeve- sports	45 dhs
4	Round neck house T.Shirt-sports	50 dhs
5	Black shorts- sports	55 dhs
6	Black pants- sports	55 dhs

Please note that students are responsible to buy their own pant for school. Pants must be LOOSE FITTING, regular, plain black pants/trousers. Leggings and denim, 'jeans' are NOT allowed at school. AGS logo is not required on the pants.

The AGS school uniform consists of:

- LONG regular black pants

- Collared AGS T-Shirt
- Dark shoes and white socks

The AGS sports uniform consists of:

- Black AGS PE shorts/pants
- AGS T-Shirt
- Proper foot wear for the gym
- All students are expected to wear their AGS PE shorts to physical education classes only. If a student is not dressed in the correct PE uniform they will not participate in the PE lesson.
- Students are required to wear dark coloured shoes; not brightly coloured ones.
- **Beginning on Sunday we will be strictly enforcing the wear of proper uniform.**
- **PLEASE NOTE:** Parents will be phoned and asked to bring the correct AGS uniform to school if their child does not wear the correct uniform to school.



Early Dismissals for Professional Development

AGS is dismissing early the last Thursday of the month so that teachers can take advantage of Professional Development to enhance programming and learning for our students. This year is an inspection year at AGS and we want to work together to make it as successful as possible. Having this time is very useful for our teachers to best prepare for your children's education. **We will be having early dismissals in November and March for Parent Teacher Conferences and in September, October, January, February, April and May for Professional Development.** Students from grades K-2 will be dismissed at 11:30 am and students from grades 3-12 will be dismissed at 12:30 pm on the dates designated. We are giving you lots of time to plan for childcare on

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those dates so please keep the school calendar close at hand.

Update of Medical Records

Parents are asked to please visit the nurse in the School Clinic if there are any changes to report regarding the health of your child. It is especially important to bring in any medications that a child needs for conditions such as: allergies, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy. Children requiring the use of Epi-pens for severe allergic reactions **MUST** provide an Epi-pen for the School Clinic. Thank you for your cooperation. Ms Danazel and Mr Ahmed are our School Nurses this year. Please see them if your child requires any special medical attention during the year.

Medical and Dental Appointments

All appointments for doctors and dentists should be made outside of school hours. If you must schedule an appointment during school hours, please send a **WRITTEN NOTE** to your child's teacher detailing the appointment time and the arrangements for picking up your child. The absence is then excused, everybody is aware of the appointment and the note is placed in the child's file.



Bus Procedures

Emirates Transport will be handling bus transportation for the school this year. Transportation registration should be completed before your child is allowed to use the school transportation. If your child travels on a school bus to and from school please reinforce the following bus rules with them.



Simple Bus Rules (FOR SAFETY)

Students should display positive behavior and courtesy during the ride. Students are expected to be ready for pick up. The bus will leave after 2 minutes maximum. No exceptions. Assistants will make emergency calls **ONLY**. Any issues should be directed to the administration.

You are required to wear a seatbelt while on the bus. As long as the bus is in motion, remain in the seat, facing front, feet on the floor. Keep books, materials, your head, arms, and other parts of your body, inside the bus at all times. Do not throw anything out of the bus. Students are responsible for their belongings. The aisle and bus stairwell should be clear of any obstruction at all times. Treat the bus equipment as you would your own personal belongings at home; you will be held responsible for any willful damage you may cause. No food or drink is to be consumed on the bus. No littering. Three warning letters are made to the student if an offense has been committed while on the bus. After that, the student will lose the privilege of using the bus.

Students are not permitted to travel on any bus, other than the one they are scheduled to go on, without **written permission** from a parent and the note must be signed by an administrator.

Failure to obey these bus rules may lead to temporary or total loss of bus privileges. All school rules apply when on the bus.

Healthy Lunches

Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth and lifelong health and well-being.

We are discouraging students from bringing unhealthy snacks or lunches to school. Items such as chips, chocolates, candy, chocolate cookies and pop are not to be brought to school. There are 4 Food Groups that we need to eat from each day. They are Milk and Milk Products; Meat and Alternatives; Breads and Cereals; and Fruit and Vegetables. Students

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should be aiming to choose 1 serving from each of the 4 Food groups during every meal and to choose snacks from the Fruits and Vegetable Group.

Celebratory Food Gifts

Please do not bring any birthday cakes or party food to school to be shared in the classroom. Whilst very well-meaning, it creates health and logistical problems at the school. We have many children at the school with food allergies. Furthermore, we are also trying to encourage healthy eating.

Please understand that teachers will be consistent in not accepting party food for their classes.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT AGS IS A NUT SAFE SCHOOL!



We have students at our school who are severely allergic to nuts and could have fatal consequences if they ingest or are exposed to nuts.

Cell Phones

A reminder to all students and parents that cell phones are not permitted to be used during the school day. Before the morning assembly and after 3:00PM is permitted. Also students are permitted to use their phones with the approval of a teacher. Cell phones not being used must be stored during the day and not used. If a student uses a cell phone the phone will be taken and given back by the teacher at the end of the day. A second offence the phone is given to administration and the incident is recorded. Students may pick them up at the end of the day at the office. A third offence will result in the phone being kept at school indefinitely until a meeting with the parents and student is arranged.



ADEC will be notified after a 3rd offence, as this is considered defiance.

Lockers

Lockers are available to students from grades 6 to 12. Mr Faouzi is responsible for these lockers. There is a rental of 50dhs and a refundable insurance deposit of 50 dhs per locker. **Lockers should be cleared before the winter, spring and summer breaks.** A copy of the key will remain at the office with Mr Faouzi.

Expectations at AGS (Canada)

The following are some expectations for students

attending Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada)

- Follow the nut safe policy
- Follow school cell phone policy
- Dress appropriately
- Place garbage and recyclables in the proper containers
- Use appropriate language
- Allow others to move freely in the halls
- Enter the building through the stairs to your classroom area only
- Respect school property and the property of others
- Use only the washrooms in your area
- School is a gum and substance free zone

Classrooms

- Arrive on time
- Be prepared
- Use appropriate language
- Respect the rights of others to learn
- Leave your work area tidy

Cafeteria

- Place garbage and recyclables in the proper containers
- Use the chairs, not tables, for sitting

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Library:

- Food free zone
- Maintain a quiet and courteous learning environment

School Events:

- Remember you represent AGS (Canada) when attending school events both on and off campus
- Be supportive and positive

Gymnasium:

- Arrive to class on time.
- Gymnasium is a food and gum free zone
- Participation requires that you change into appropriate gym wear

Code of Conduct

This past year our school has reviewed and revised our Code of Conduct for implementation in September 2017. The revised Code of Conduct was developed in cooperation with staff, students, parents and it follows guidelines established by ADEK. The Code of Conduct will assist in ensuring a safe and positive learning environment for all students and staff. The Code of Conduct has been posted on the school website for all to read and become aware of the contents. We look forward to everyone's cooperation in ensuring a safe and positive learning environment at Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada) this coming school year.



Students in Grades 3-12 are able to buy food from the cafeteria on a daily basis. Water, juice, fresh fruits, zaatar, pizza, sub sandwich, salads are available for purchase at reasonable prices. There will be a 'meal of the day' available as well every day.

MOCK PISA Assessments

Mock In support of ADEK's 2021 vision of being among the top 20 performing countries in PISA, ADEK conducted a mock PISA test on the 26th of September from 11:00AM to 1:00PM at all schools in the UAE. Students born in 2002(age 15) participated in the test. The test was an English, Math and Science test on basic knowledge that a 15 year old student should have master by their age. Participation at AGS was excellent with only one student missing the test. When the students finished the tests were packaged and ship to ADEK to be corrected. Once completed the school will receive a report with our results.

