

What to expect in grade 6 at GEMS American Academy Abu Dhabi

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.

Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Our Vision at GAA Abu Dhabi



We inspire. We educate. We lead. We innovate.

Our Team

Principal

Katherine Banner

k.banner_gaa@gemsedu.com

Vice-Principals

Derek Lea

d.lea_gaa@gemsedu.com

Peter Thorpe

p.thorpe_gaa@gemsedu.com

Curriculum Coordinator

Jennifer Parker

j.parker_gaa@gemsedu.com

IBDP Coordinator

Paddy Lyons

p.lyons_gaa@gemsedu.com



Secondary Curriculum

Internationally and Nationally recognized Learning Objectives

IBDP (IB org was founded 1968, and is used in 141 countries)

AERO - American Education Reaches Out Common Core+
(2000, US national standards to serve multi-national student bodies)

National Arts Standards (1994, collaborating with the Common Core)

SHAPE America

MOE - Ministry of Education (UAE)

Nuts and Bolts

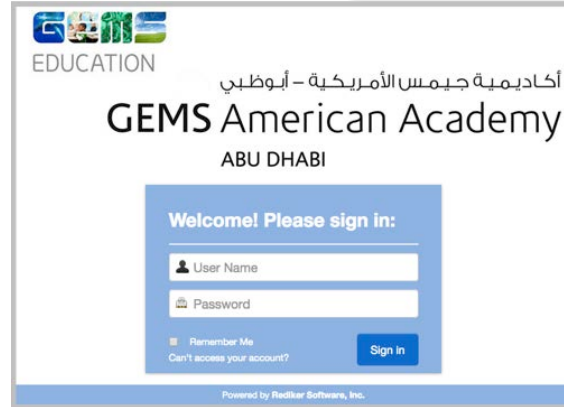
Nuts and Bolts

- 5 day Schedule
- Different teachers for each course
- Students move from class-to-class
- 10 minutes between classes
- Lockers

Schedule

Sunday (Day A)		Monday (Day B)		Tuesday (Day A)		Wednesday (Day B)		Thursday (Day C)	
A1	7:45-9:05 AM	E1	7:45-9:15 AM	C2	7:45-9:15 AM	G2	7:45-9:05 AM	H3	7:45-8:30 AM
Break	9.05-9.15 AM					Break	9.05-9.15 AM	G3	8:35-9:15 AM
B1	9:15-10:35 AM	Break	9:15-9:30 AM	Break	9:15-9:30 AM	H2	9:15-10:35 AM	Break	9:15-9:35 AM
		F1	9:30-10:55 AM	D2	9:30-10:55 AM			F3	9:35-10:15 AM
Advisory	10:40-11:10 AM	Break	10:55-11:10 AM	Break	10:55-11:10 AM	Advisory	10:40-11:10 AM	E3	10:20-11:00 AM
Break	11.10 - 11.20AM							Break	11:00-11:15 AM
C1	11:20-12:40 PM	G1	11:10-12:40 PM	A2	11:10-12:40 PM	E2	11:20-12:40 PM	D3	11:15- 11:55 AM
								C3	12:00-12:40 PM
Lunch	12:45-1:25 PM	Lunch	12:45-1:25 PM	Lunch	12:45-1:25 PM	Lunch	12:45-1:25 PM	Lunch	12:45-1:25 PM
D1	1:30-2:55 PM	H1	1:30-2:55 PM	B2	1:30-2:55 PM	F2	1:30-2:55 PM	B3	1:30-2:10 PM
								A3	2:15-2:55 PM

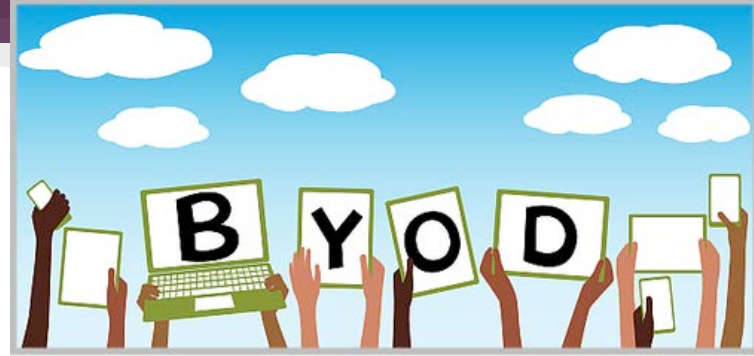
ICT & tech systems



“Training sessions” will happen for both students and for parents in September

Bring Your Own Device

- ICT is integrated.
- GAA laptop program.
- iPads are not laptops.
- Students may connect more than one device.
- Lockers are provided.
- Batteries must be charged.
- We do not repair, borrow or loan.
- Minimum specifications are outlined on The Launcher.



Bring Your Own Device



The following is a guideline in selecting and purchasing a laptop for your child to use while they are in Secondary School at GAA. While there are many options, these are minimum specifications that we require to support your child's learning.

In simple terms, laptops should be:

- good quality and be
- less than 3 years old.

iPads and Android based devices do not meet the minimum requirements for a student owned device at this time

Platform	PC or Mac
Screen Size	11 inches or more
Processor	AMD Athlon II or higher; Intel i3 or higher
RAM	4GB or higher
Hard Drive	120GB or higher
Operating System	Windows 7 Pro or higher; Mac OSX or higher Operating system MUST be in English
Wireless	802.11g or higher
Ports	2 x USB; Audio
Battery Life	4+ hours
Warranty	We recommend 3 year; Consider damage protection

Google Apps



All teachers and students.

Students are `firstname.l_gaa@gaa-ad.com`

Docs: collaboration and online editing

Drive: unlimited online storage

Slides: Presentation

Sheets: Spreadsheets

Sites: Create and private websites

Google Certified Educators and Trainers on staff

Haiku LMS



- All teachers and students have Haiku accounts.
- Students login through Google - single sign on
- Parent accounts can shadow students in courses
- Learning Management System - blended learning
 - Class resources
 - Class notes
 - Homework

PlusPortals

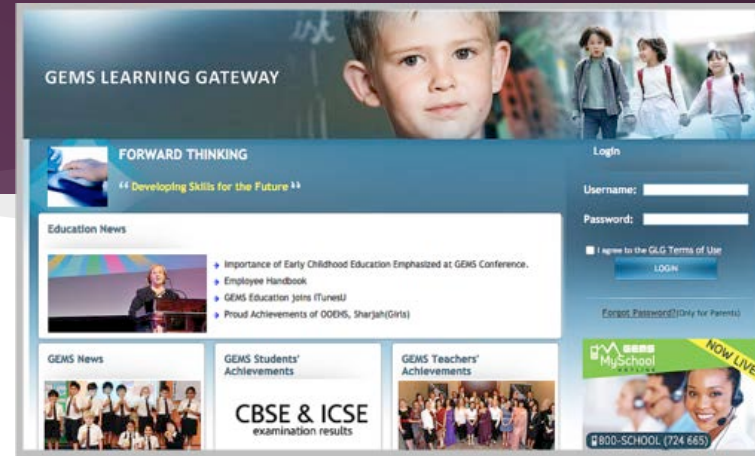


- Online report repository
- Gradebook
- Schedule
- Grade-in-progress
- Course overview and information
- Semester reports
- Course selection and requests

The screenshot shows the login page for GEMS American Academy Abu Dhabi. At the top, there is a logo for GEMS EDUCATION and the text 'أكاديمية جيمس الأمريكية - أبوظبي' and 'GEMS American Academy ABU DHABI'. Below this is a blue box with the text 'Welcome! Please sign in:'. Inside the box are two input fields: 'User Name' and 'Password'. There is a 'Remember Me' checkbox and a 'Sign in' button. At the bottom of the box, there is a link that says 'Can't access your account?'. At the very bottom of the page, it says 'Powered by Rediker Software, Inc.'

GLG

- Student information system
- Re-enrolment of students
- Bill payments
- Change of student information (contact details)
- GEMS corporate communication



Assessments

- Teachers use a variety of assessment methods throughout and at the end of units of study... including self and peer evaluations and reflections
- Units could last 3 to 6 weeks
- Feedback is given to students on assessments and grades from summatives are recorded on PlusPortals
- Teachers use Haiku to announce major assessments
- No final exams for students in grade 6

Expect regular homework

Assessments

Letter Grades (A to F)

Variety of Formats:

Project-based

Reports, essays and written tests

Cross-disciplinary

Rubrics

Presentations, role-playing



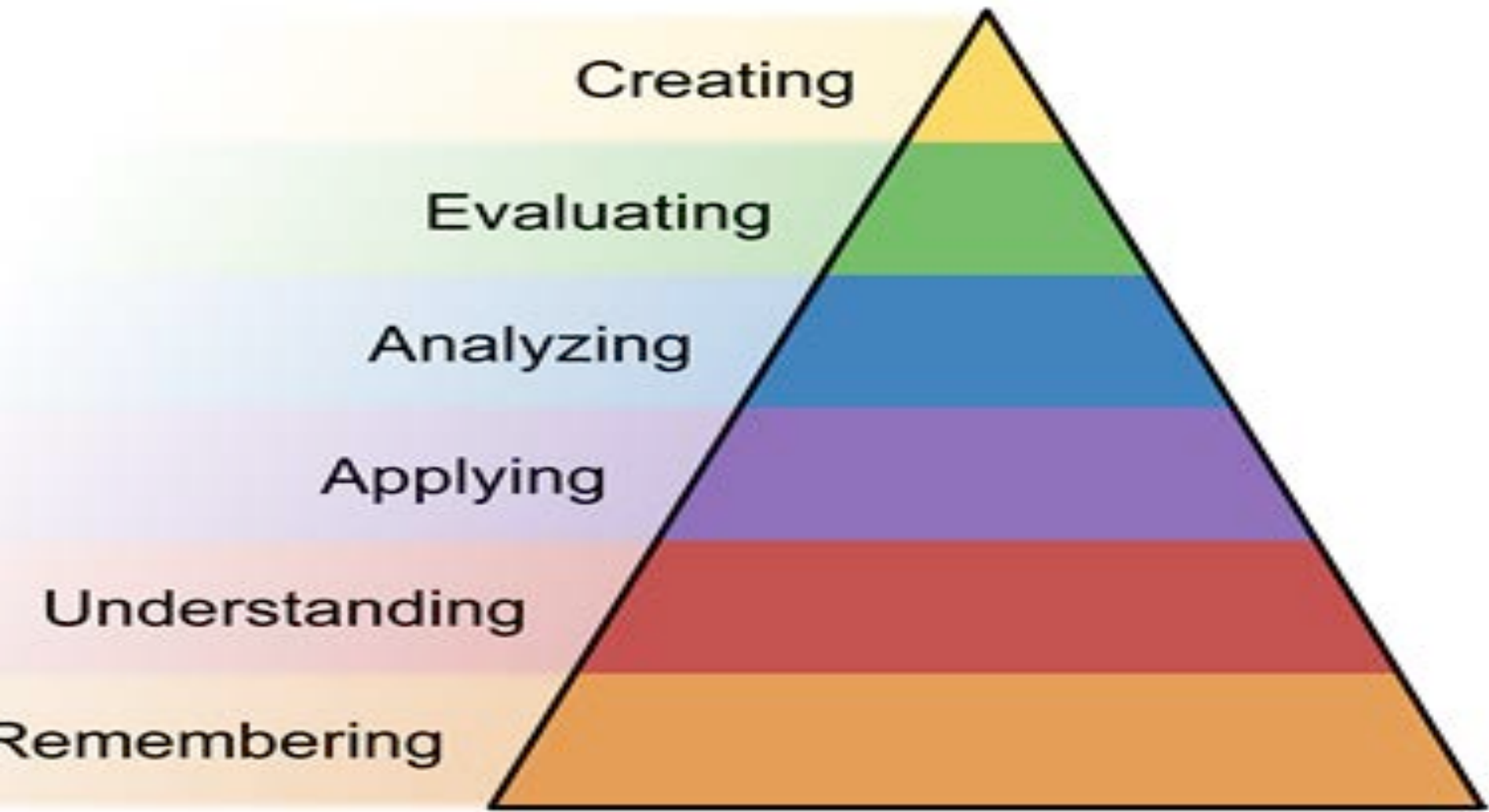
Example of Assessment Values: *Who is this?*



Alexander the Great



How Much Do YOU Remember?



What's Most Important/ Complex?

- **memorize the events of his life (remember)**
- **give example of his successes or failures (apply)**
- **form an opinion and justify it: To what extent was Alexander really Great? (evaluate)**
- **write an advice manual for future world conquerors: *Why do Kingdoms Rise and Fall? How to Maintain Your Empire* (create)**

Can do the lower levels:

Good Worker



Remembering

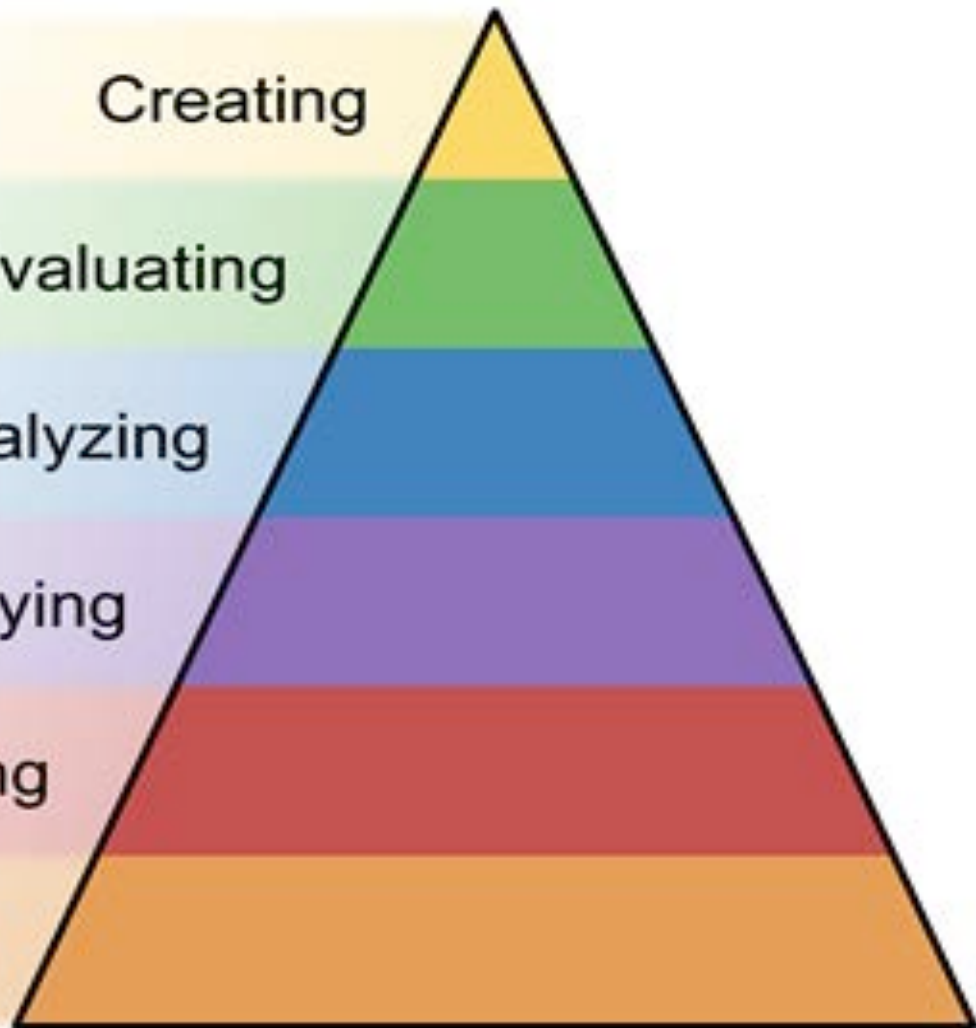
Understanding

Applying

Analyzing

Evaluating

Creating



Can do the higher levels:

Great Leader



Creating

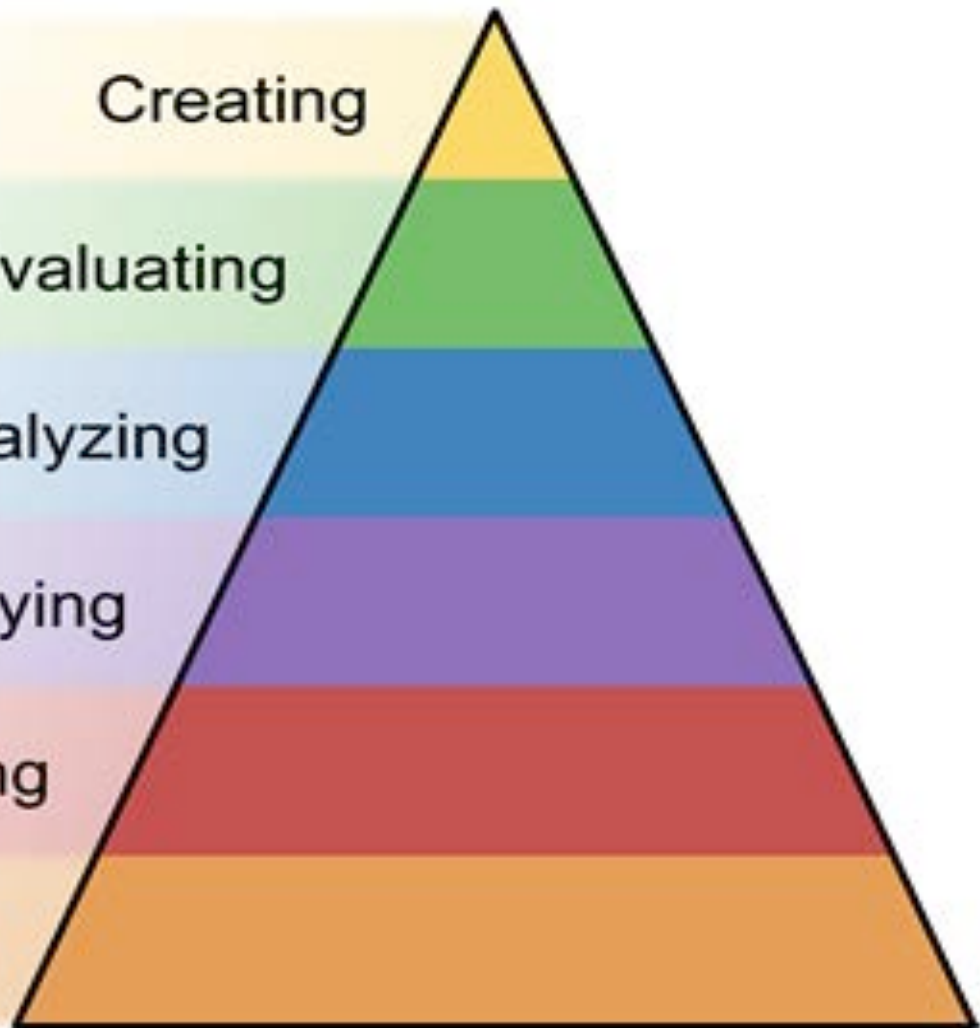
Evaluating

Analyzing

Applying

Understanding

Remembering



Homework

- Assigned by subject teachers at the conclusion of each class
- Usually due next class - but not always
- Students must keep track of their assignments
- Should add up to about 60 minutes per night for an average student
- It is important that Middle School students have a designated work space to complete their school work that is free of distractions and interruptions.

Homework

- Children also need time to play and relax. Too much extra academic work can be detrimental to your child's success in school and their personal/social growth.
- Sleep is food for the brain! Teenagers need 9 ¼ hours of sleep per night to function best.

Discipline

Mandated academic help after school

After school detention

Saturday school

(see Handbook for more details)

Expectations of Students

- Keep notes and work organized
- Bring supplies everyday
- Check Haiku daily for announcements and assignments
- Ask questions; seek extra help when needed
- Complete assigned work on time
- Collaborate with peers

*RESPECT YOURSELF
RESPECT OTHERS
RESPECT YOUR SCHOOL*



Gr.6 Supplies for Success

- 2-ring binder/ folders to hold loose papers
- A4 lined folio paper with binder holes
- graphing paper (grid paper)
- pencils, eraser and pens
- coloured pens, coloured pencils, highlighters
- scissors, gluestick, ruler
- fully charged laptop - with a charger
- agenda



Learner Profile

Learning is more
than books and
assessments...



Approaches to Learning

Communication: Reading comprehension, Writing, Speaking, Listening - Expressing their ideas effectively

Social: Collaborating with others*, **Team Work**

Self-Management: Organizational skills, time management, **Good study habits and routines**

Research & Thinking: **Inquiry**, Curiosity, Creativity/Imagination, Reflection, Self & Peer evaluations, Critical thinking

* **Group collaboration** often means being able to communicate with group members outside of school - whether using shared docs or meeting

Supporting your child(ren)

Counseling / Guidance

Being in Middle School can be a challenging and exciting time for both the student and the parents

Kathleen Leishear

Secondary School Counselor

k.leishear_gaa@gemsedu.com

Philip Abraham

Secondary School Counselor

p.abraham_gaa@gemsedu.com



What may be “new”

- Different teachers and classrooms for almost all subjects
- Organization
 - Students need to be more responsible for looking after their own belongings & must show up to class with all the correct materials
- Homework
- Textbooks (although a variety of resources are used)
- Discipline Policy - detentions

Common Challenges

- Classrooms – changing classrooms and different teachers
- Time management - getting to class on time, getting their work done on time
- Organization
- Tech habits
- More homework - handling stress

Organization at School

Point of adjustment for Grade Six students

- Students should come prepared with all necessary supplies
- Students each have a locker to store their belongings and books
- Students are only permitted to visit their lockers during breaks between classes, not during class time
- Subject teachers will inform students what specific materials they require for each class at the beginning of the year

Organization at Home

- Students must record their homework, due dates, upcoming tests, etc. at the end of every class in their agenda
- Parents should ask to see the planners and the completed homework on a regular basis to make sure students are keeping up on their homework.

Refer to Haiku and PlusPortals

- Teachers also write emails to parents (and vice versa) to keep the channel of communication open.

More Tips for Parents

- Have a routine- after school structure for homework completion, decide what's best for your child.
- Support them in getting in a routine of checking Haiku and Plus Portals daily/weekly.
- Help them with organization- utilize the supply lists for each class, check their bags regularly. Show them how to pack their bags. Together do frequent book bag checks, making sure all papers have a "home" and binders are organized.
- Encourage your child to find a relaxation method such as deep breathing. Encourage them to get involved in school activities and talk to them about social skills.

Other Common Challenges

- Cliques - bullying? what to do? who to talk to?
- Adolescence
- Communication - higher expectations for being a self advocate
- More responsibility

Tips for Parents

- Same policies for bullying for the entire school
- Open communication- talk to them and listen; check in on them – ask how the day was regularly, but avoid asking too many questions (try not to judge or jump to giving advice/telling them what to do)
- Autonomy and Independence – help them to advocate for themselves, but know that you will be there too if they need
- Talk to other parents who have had students who are in or have been in MS before (This is especially good for first time MS parents)



Advisory

Advisory

- Twice a week
- Extra support at GAA for both parents and students
- Team building
- Organizational skills
- Study skills
- Assemblies
- Progress checks with Teacher Advisor

Other Courses

Subjects

1. English
2. Math
3. Science
4. Social Studies
5. Arts
6. Languages (French/Spanish)
7. Arabic/Islamic/UAE Social Studies
8. PE
9. ELL, LS

English

“Be careful of your habits, for your habits become your character. Be careful of your character, for your character becomes your destiny.” - Chinese proverb

English

Skills:

- 1) Organization
- 2) Self-management
- 3) Interpersonal
- 4) Critical thinking
- 5) Speaking
- 6) Grammar
- 7) Vocabulary
- 8) Spelling
- 9) Reading
- 10) Writing

English

Rubric-based demonstrations of learning:

1. Individual and group presentations
2. Dramatic performances
3. Essays and narratives
4. Traditional paper-based & online assessments
5. Binder checks

Math

Problem Solving Strategies



Draw a Picture or Diagram



Find a Pattern



Guess, Check & Revise



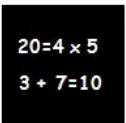
Use Objects



Make an Organized List



Make a Table



Use a Number Sentence



Work Backwards



Use Logical Reasoning

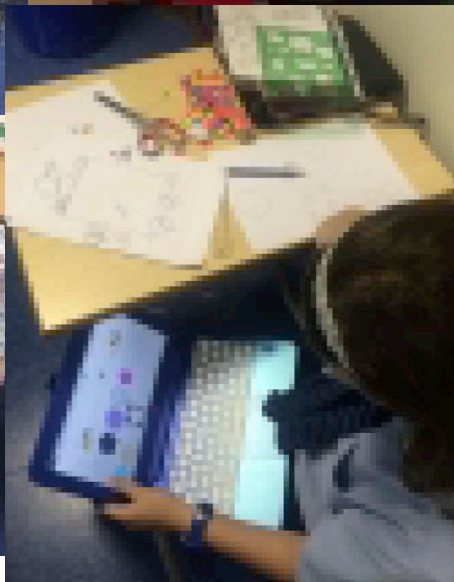
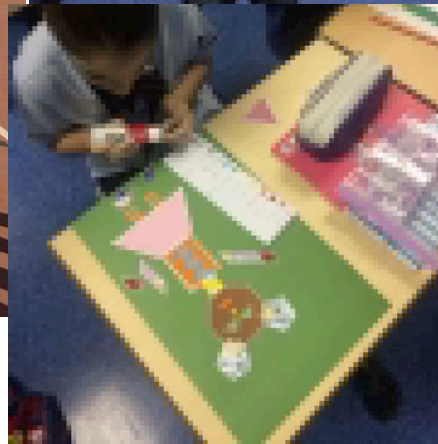
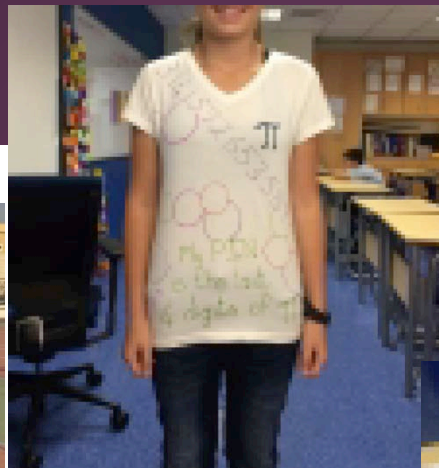


Make It Simpler

- Problem Solving
- Reasoning (justifying answers)
- Communication (modeling)
- Connections - math in everyday life

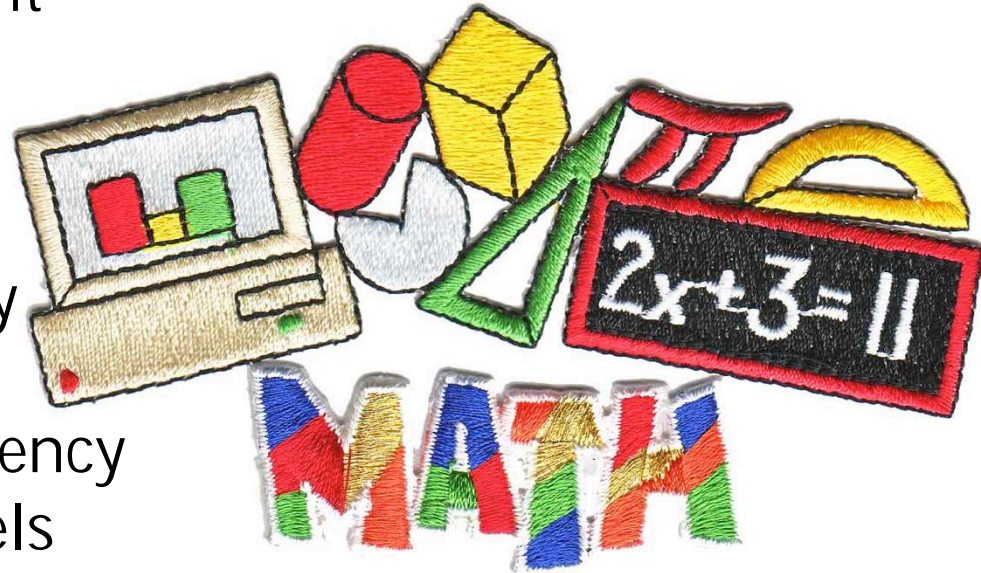
Make math meaningful... and fun!

Math



Math

- Content & Skills
- fractions, decimals, percent
- ratios & proportions, unit conversions
- negative numbers
- data analysis & probability
- 2D & 3D figures
- transformations & congruency
- patterns & algebraic models



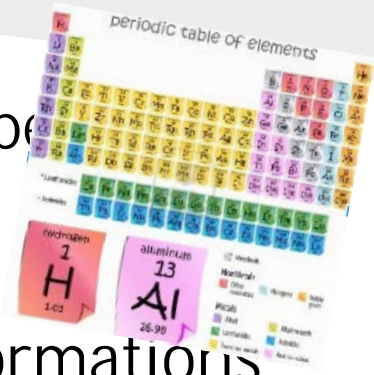
Science In Action



Science

Topics of Study in 6th grade Science:

- Inquiry- The Scientific Method/Controlled Experiments
Safety
- Matter - All about Chemistry/Periodic Table
- Energy - Ideas about Energy & Energy Transformations
- Living Systems - The Biology Component - Cells, Cell Division, Organ Systems, and Characteristics of Living Things.
- Earth & Space - Earth, Sun, Moon, and Solar System



Science

Skills

- collaboration/team work
- organization
- time management
- self reflection/self & peer evaluations
- critical thinking
- following laboratory procedures
- forming a hypothesis/designing a test/collecting data/forming conclusions
- communication - lab reports
- measurement and safe use of lab equipment

Science

How Will Learning Take Place?

- Inquiry/Experimental Based: **Controlled Experiments & Lab Reports**
- In the lab: Experiments involving **chemicals** - an emphasis on safety all year
- Hands on
- Theoretical: More in depth topics - **faster pace of learning**
- Group Work/Collaborative & Independent

Social Studies- Ancient Civilizations









The Arts

Shared Department

Multiple Arts Disciplines-

- Drama
- Instrumental Music
- Visual Art
- Vocal Music - Choir



The Arts

Creative Exposure

General Survey Courses-

- All Grade 6 Students
- Introduction to all GAA arts programs
- 9 Week Rotations
- Emphasis on Discipline for Learning



The Arts

Shared Curricular Goals

Studio Learning Habits-

- Attention to Detail
- Observing
- Collaboration
- Organization
- Communication
- Responding
- Arts Learning



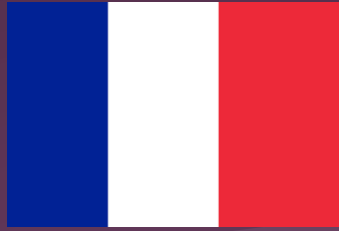
The Arts

After School Opportunities

- Art Club
- Big Band
- Drama Productions
- Choir Ensembles
- Annual Arts Festival



Languages



Students study one world language, **French** or **Spanish** in G6 and continue with that language throughout their secondary education (G6-10) in order to reach their best potential when they enter the IB7u Diploma program in G11-12.

Or...

They can switch into the other language and take Ab Initio.

Course selection forms were sent home already.

Languages

What previous knowledge of the language do Grade 6 students need to have?

None, we start from Phase 1 Beginners

If they have some knowledge of the language of study, they can work on a different phase (level) as we have mixed grade classes.

However, if they are a French (or Spanish) speaker they must take Spanish (or French) - the other language

Languages



What curriculum do we follow in World Languages?

Curriculum: Criteria-based, similar to the PYP that they used in elementary and to the Diploma programme

Goals: Communication skills

Understand the linguistic, social and cultural nature of the language.

Skills: speaking, listening, writing and reading

Secondary aims of the program:

To develop global awareness, international understanding and an appreciation of cultural diversity

Languages

Parlez-vous
Français?



What topics will students focus on in Grade 6?

Aim to develop vocabulary and grammatical structures through topics of personal interest.

Students will begin with the sounds, greetings, the alphabet and numbers and work their way through the themes of:

*Daily life

*Festivals and celebrations

*The weather

*Food

*Sports and leisure activities

*Life around town

*A day at school



Arabic - for non native

The primary goal of teaching Arabic is to develop communication skills while enabling students to understand the linguistic, cultural and social nature of the Arabic language. Through classroom activities students will develop all four areas of language learning: speaking, listening, writing and reading.

for grade 6 levels we offer:

- 1-Middle school foundation 1
- 2-Middle school foundation 2
- 3-Middle school foundation 3
- 4-Nonnative 6



Arabic For Native

الكتاب المتمد • يُعتمد في أكاديمية جيمس الأمريكية لتدريس اللغة العربية للطلاب العرب الناطقين باللغة العربية المنهاج المقرر من قبل مجلس أبوظبي للتعليم بجزئيه الأول والثاني خلال العام الدراسي بفصوله الثلاثة.

المعاريير • نراعي أثناء التدريس تطبيقي المعاريير التي يحددها مجلس أبوظبي للتعليم من خلال وثيقة اللغة العربية للناطقين بها في تنمية وتطوير مهارات اللغة الأربع استماعاً وتحدثاً وقراءة وكتابة.

الهدف • نسعى إلى التمييز من خلال الارتقاء بمستوى طلابنا في إتقان لغتهم الأم.

المميزات • نولي عمليّة الكتابة وتطوير مهارة الطالب في التعبير وإفراغ أفكاره على الورق اهتماماً إضافياً في المرحلة الثانويّة.

Arabic For Native

الأساليب • ونسعى لأن نخرج مادة اللغة العربية من إطارها الجاف إلى جو غني ممتع ليكون الدرس محبباً للطلاب مع تحصيل القدر الأكبر من الفائدة المرجوة.

التطور • في هذه المرحلة يتابع الطالب بدقة ويرصد تطور أداءه في كل حصة بهدف الوصول لأفضل النتائج في نهاية العام الدراسي.

التواصل • أخيراً بإمكان أولياء الأمور متابعة سير الدروس والاطلاع على الخطط الأسبوعية وأوراق العمل والواجبات والنشاطات التي تتم في درس اللغة العربية من خلال متابعة برنامج (الهايكو) الذي يمكن أن يتابعه الطلاب وأولياء الأمور في أن معاً.



Islamic

This course will be only for Muslims

The main goal of Islamic Studies is

to demonstrate a true understanding of the key aspects of Islam:

- Principles of tolerance
- Understand issues related to worship, culture and the social nature of Islam
- Develop peaceful living among Muslims & Others

Skills: Understanding, presentation, research, discussing, and convincing.

We will follow the ministry's curriculum and books.

UAE Social Studies



سننتناولُ خلالَ العامِ الدراسي القادِمَ عدَّةَ موضوعاتٍ في مادةِ الدراساتِ الاجتماعيَّةِ تتمحورُ حولَ الوطنِ العربيِّ

أهميَّةُ الوطنِ العربيِّ

الملامحُ الجُغرافيَّةُ للوطنِ العربيِّ

الأنشطةُ الاقتصاديَّةُ في الوطنِ العربيِّ

الحضاراتُ القديمةُ في الوطنِ العربيِّ

سيتمُّ رصدُ الدرجاتِ وفقَ المعاييرِ التي تقيسُ مُستوياتِ الطلبةِ ضمنَ الفروقِ الفرديَّةِ

سيتمُّ إرسالُ الخططِ كُلِّ يومٍ سبتٍ وستكونُ شهريَّةً موضحةً فيها الواجباتُ والمشاريعُ والأبحاثُ

وتاريخُ استحقاقها وأهمُ المهاراتُ المُكتسبةُ خلالَ الشهرِ ، بالإضافة إلى بعضِ القوانينِ الصَّفيَّةِ

ولإيحةِ السَّلوكِ الصَّفيِّ ، وطُرقِ التَّواصلِ .

سيتمُّ في بدايةِ العامِ الدِّراسي إجراءُ امتحانٍ تشخيصيٍّ لتحديدِ المعاييرِ والأنشطةِ التي سيتمُّ

تأكيدها وفهمها .

Physical Education

The aim of physical education is to enable all students to enhance their quality of life through active living.





Be Brave

Participate to Progress



Be Safe

Be a learner

Be responsible

What we will do!

Healthy living: 60 Minute Kids Club

Fitness, cooperative games, dance, swimming, gymnastics, football (soccer), volleyball, basketball, handball, badminton, tennis, hockey, track and field, and games you create!!!

Learning Support Services

The Student Support (SS) service is a partnership in which classroom teachers collaborate with learning support teachers to implement strategies and support students' personal and academic goals.

Learning Support Services

The Student Support staff push into the mainstream classes such as: Mathematics, Science, English and Social Studies.

As well, the students have support outside the classroom to help them consolidate skills taught and be a successful learner.

The students who are accepted into the Student Support (SS) service are referred by the mainstream teachers or by the the Admissions Department.

Learning Support Services

Support Offered By Student Support (SS) Team Include:

- Goal - setting
- Taking into account learning styles and having students understand their personal learning style
- Adaptation to the curriculum, and meeting curriculum demands
- Learning strategies instruction
- Organizational skills and time management
- Self awareness and social skills (introspection, collaboration, self advocacy)
- Routines
- Transitions (preschool, elementary and secondary)

ELL

English Language Learners

- ELL students have come from a country where English is not their first language.
- With help and support from the ELL teacher, ELL students improve their speaking, listening reading and writing skills in English.

ELL

The secondary ELL team works to ensure that:

- students gain full access to the curriculum.
- develop students confidence and competence in English.

ELL

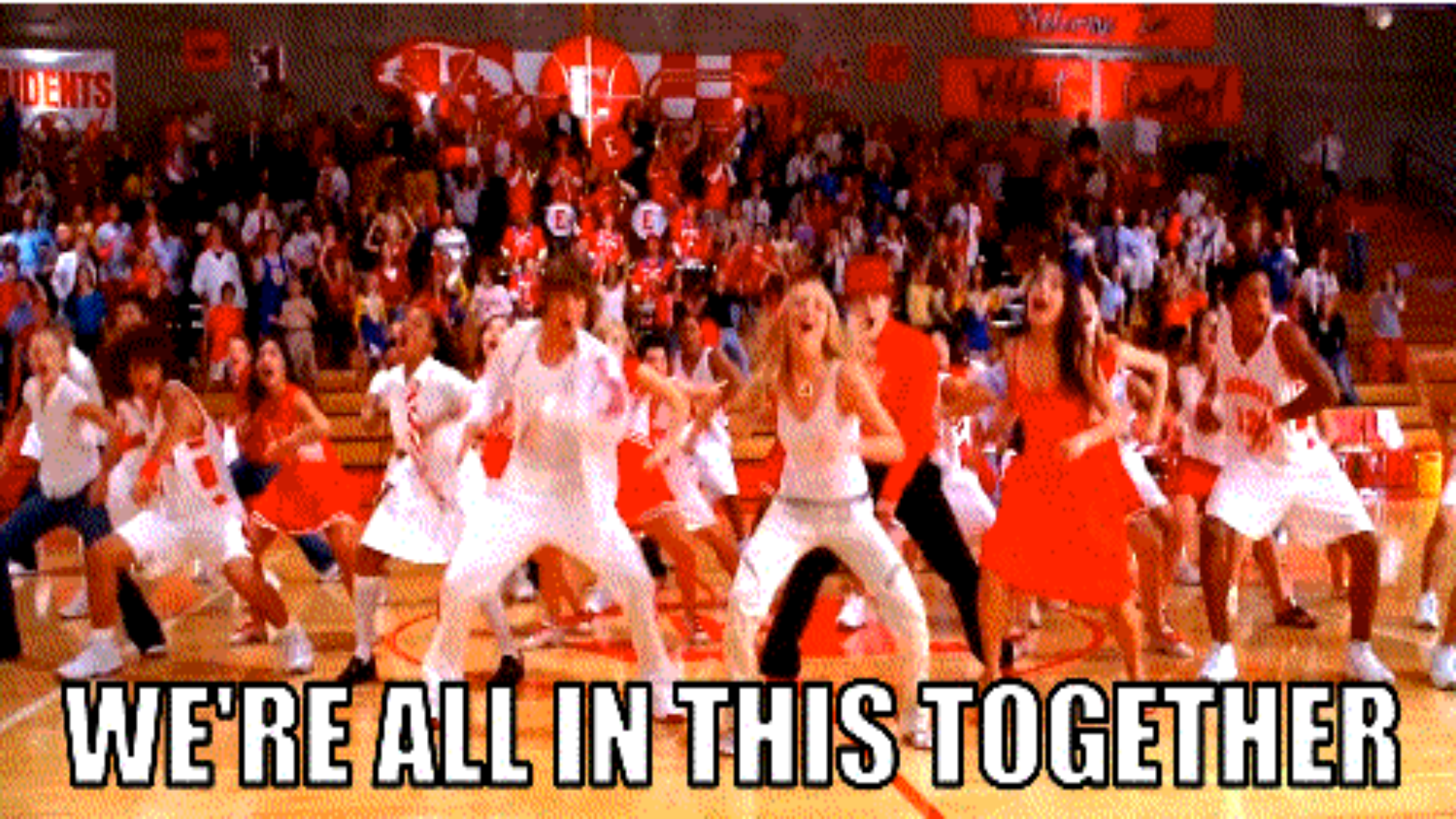
- The ELL team members work with mainstream teachers in the classroom, supporting individual students, and preparing learning materials.

Best Advice for 6th grade parents

Best Advice for 6th grade parents







WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Thank You

We are excited to have your child in our program next year and can't wait to work with you to help them succeed.

GAA Secondary Team