

School Development Priorities for 2017-2018

Priority 1: Positive and Caring School Culture

- Foster a Culture of Kindness within our GAA community;
- Create a safe, healthy and positive learning environment;
- Cultivate mindfulness, resilience, empathy and multicultural awareness;
- Champion character education through teaching and modeling the expected behaviors of the IB Learner Profile;
- Foster student initiative, voice and choice;
- Celebrate the history and culture of the UAE.

Priority 2: Rigorous and Relevant Curriculum

- Align defined GAA Curriculum to learning standards, pedagogy and assessments within a coherent vision of learning;
- Adapt resources, assessments and strategies to meet the needs of students through enrichment and/or intervention;
- Implement an ongoing review of a comprehensive written and aligned K-12 GAA Curriculum and assessments;
- Integrate the IB Learner Profile traits throughout the curriculum;
- Deepen transdisciplinary connections in Grades 6-10.

Priority 3: High Impact Teaching and Learning

- Focus robust learning environments on mastery of clearly articulated standards-based learning objectives and demonstration of student understanding;
- Aim student-centered, differentiated instructional practices at impacting engagement, inquiry, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills;
- Align teaching and assessment with the written GAA curriculum;
- Use qualitative and quantitative data to guide high impact instruction and feedback in a focused and systematic manner;
- Use peer collaboration methods such as coaching, observations and professional learning communities to ensure continuous improvement;
- Focus teacher professional learning and development on high impact learning, attainment and progress.



Priority 4: Tiered Student Support Services

- Ensure a co-teaching and collaborative instructional approach that uses inclusive instructional practices differentiated for the needs of learners;
- Implement a tiered intervention process which includes proactive teacher referrals and a collaborative problem-solving approach;
- Provide comprehensive student support services (Counseling, ELL, Learning Support, Gifted and Talented) based on individual needs of the student within a team approach.

Priority 5: Impactful Innovative Learning

- Research and implement best practices in innovative learning to support the GAA Mission and Vision;
- Cultivate a culture of risk-taking to achieve high impact teaching and learning;
- Provide students with the innovative experiences and tools needed to deepen learning;
- Share innovative learning experiences that are informed by research and authentic application;
- Develop a K-12 digital citizenship program focused on safe and responsible media and technology usage.

Vision & Mission

We Inspire. We Challenge. We Innovate. We Care.

GEMS American Academy is a diverse and caring international learning community offering a rigorous, relevant and holistic education.

We develop global citizens who have the confidence and conviction to pursue their dreams and impact the world.



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