

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman (may Allah protect him), ascension to the throne; the people of Saudi Arabia celebrate this occasion.

At all levels of the nation, both citizens and residents, and during these times of world-wide difficulties, are thankful for the continued development of the Kingdom in all fields because of King Salman's, may Allah protect him, leadership.

We at Gulf International School are pleased to celebrate this dear occasion asking Allah to preserve the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and his trustworthy Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and to perpetuate security and safety for this country.



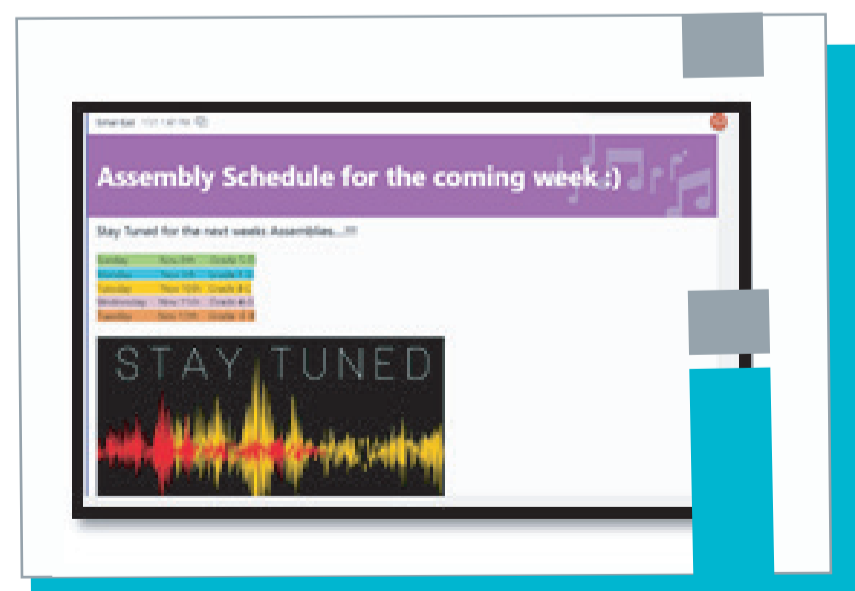
Life Skills Classes

Mrs. Rasha's Life Skills classes have had a positive impact on our students. The lessons and skills she teaches our students included Coping Skills this month. In fact, we shared the lesson with all of our students as this is a topic that is very important at this time. Mrs. Rasha's work as our School Counselor will also be front and center this month as she gives our students tips to avoid test stress as mid-year-exams start in December.

Broadcast Assembly

Gulf International School took another great initiative in this distant learning era by introducing a student-oriented platform for "Morning Assemblies". The objective is to provide maximum opportunities to our students to improve both personal and inter intra-personal skills and to make them feel connected.

Every class from KG3 to grade 12 has a turn to participate in this program. These assemblies are heard live by school students (at home), parents and relatives (mostly while driving) at 7:40am every morning on an active link at <https://mixlr.com/gulf-international-school>.



After-school Activities at GIS

GIS has initiated an After-school Activities program starting from November 9th till December 3rd 2020, for our students. The program is free. We provide these activities for students in grades KG through grade 7. There is a number of activities like storytelling, rainbow making, play dough making, making a snowball launcher, scavenger hunt, salt painting, building miniature furniture, making lava lamp, learning how to create a vlog on YouTube, Zumba and many more. These activities created an enriching learning and growing environment. This program offered by our school is something completely unique and enriching for our students. Teachers took this opportunity to learn together and build a bond with their students. They felt this was lacking due to remote learning. Teachers found out their student's potential, helped develop confidence, self-esteem and encouraged new interests.



Together We Have Succeeded

During the end of last month and the beginning of this month, GIS held their first parent's day meetings and they were a success! Parents and students were able to connect with their teachers in person, to ask those hard questions and just get to know who is behind the screen they always see. During these meetings, GIS took the time to interview parents, students and teachers and get their feedback on the current learning environment. The feedback was positive, parents feel we are heading in the right direction and they are looking forward to the future here at GIS.

Some of the questions asked of parents were, "What are your biggest challenges with online learning?" as well as "What has your experience at Gulf International School been like?" As many of you probably have experienced yourself; online learning was a big adjustment in the beginning. As parents stated, GIS rose to the challenge and have made the transition this year a great experience. Parents feel very positive as well. They were happy to see GIS striving to work with the stakeholders, the professionalism, and promptness in responses to inquires made them feel they are being listened to.

Students were happy as well, along with seeing their friends in the corridors and teachers in the classrooms, we also asked them a few questions and the responses were overwhelming positive. They too felt the beginning of online lessons was a little difficult, but said it didn't take long to adjust and everything is fine now. When asked how they felt about unannounced quizzes they said, "At first we were a little worried, but after seeing how easy the first exam was we are not worried at all anymore! The tests were easy!"

Thank you to all the stakeholders who took the time to be interviewed. Please watch for interviews to be posted on the GIS Instagram page soon.



Together We Have Succeeded



Appreciating Talents



**THANK
YOU!**

In pursuit of new and creative endeavors, Gulf International School would like to thank Mrs. Eanaas M Alshubbar (event planner) and Mr. Zaki Alabdullah (cinematographer) for their spectacular display of talent, and enthusiastic support on parent's day in November 2020. The parent's day was a success and we appreciate their involvement.

We look forward to working with them in the near future.

To know more about their work, you can like, follow and subscribe to their accounts

» <https://www.zaki4films.com/>

» [https://instagram.com/asaf_weddings.](https://instagram.com/asaf_weddings)

PAC Holds its First Meeting

After three weeks of asking for nominations, we held our first Parents' Advisory Committee meeting. Our new parent members are:

Dr. Ibrahim Alkhars

Is in the medical field, Dr. Alkhars has been a member of GIS since 2018 and served on our PAC last year. We welcome him back.

Mrs. Abeeha Imran

Mrs. Abeeha is in the field of education. This is the first year for her children to attend GIS. She has also volunteered to serve the committee as its President.

Mrs. Sara Qannass

Dr. Sara also works in the medical field. She joined the PAC because she is interested in being more involved her child's education in a more direct way.

Mrs. Sarah Ibrahim

Mrs. Sarah works in the medical field. Her children have attended the school for more than four years.

Mr. Awad Ahmed

Mr. Awad is from the professional business field. He has four children in GIS and his children first joined the school in 2017.

If you are interested in joining the PAC, please contact the school at **050 410 8147**

Exam Preparations and Tips

Let's get ready for the end-of-semester exams. Mrs. Srividhya, from our school's IT management, gives us online exam guidelines. At the same time, our school counselor's, Mrs. Rasha, gives our students tips for reducing test anxiety.

Before the Online Exam: Prepare the following:

Internet

1. Make sure you have a good internet connection with maximum signal strength.
2. Do not use the internet for anything other than for your exams during the exam timings

Device

1. For taking an exam, use a laptop or a tablet (preferably 10 inches or above). **Please avoid using mobile phones.**
2. Make sure your device is fully charged or connected to power.
3. Restart your device **30 minutes** before the exam is scheduled to begin.
4. Kindly update your Teams App and Operating Systems (IOS, Windows and Android) in advance of the exams.
5. Close all other programs (WhatsApp, email, Facebook etc...).
6. Keep a backup device ready in case of emergencies.
7. Make sure you select "English" as the language preference on your device.

MS Teams

1. Open your TEAMS account **10 minutes** before the exam is scheduled to begin. Check to be sure that you are logged in with your account.
2. In case of any difficulties in opening the exam paper in the Teams App; use Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge browser to open Teams and the exam paper.
3. Maximize the browser window before starting the test.

During the Online Exam: Focus

1. Set an alarm in advance to notify you when you are running short of time (i.e. 10 minutes left).
2. Do not resize the browser window or app.
3. If you have any internet issues, do not refresh the exam paper, wait until the connection is restored and then continue the exam.
4. Click the "Submit" button to submit your exam. Do not press the "Enter" button.
5. Read or Listen to the exam guidelines carefully.
6. Technical problems? Do not panic but do contact us on our school WhatsApp #050 410 8147.
6. Make sure your camera is turned on at all the times

Tips for test preparation to reduce stress and anxiety before taking your exam

1. **Prepare well for the exam**
Learn your syllabus thoroughly and organize what materials you will need for the test.
2. Review your notes the night before the exam; this will leave information fresh in your memory.
3. Get a good night's sleep the night before the exam.
4. Don't attend your exam with an empty stomach; take a small snack, or some other nourishment.
» Fresh fruits and vegetables are often recommended to reduce stress.
» Drink Water to avoid dehydration.
5. Avoid speaking with fellow students who have not prepared, who express negativity, or who will distract your preparation.
6. Approach the exam with confidence

Tips for test preparation during your online exam time

1. Find a quiet place to take your exam where you won't be interrupted.
» Limit distractions by turning off anything that might distract you from the test - phone, email, TV etc.
2. Make sure that all your materials are with you such as pens, pencils, erasers...etc.
3. Take a deep breath! Take a moment to relax and get focused.
4. Read the instructions carefully and make sure you understand the test guidelines.
5. If you go blank, skip the question and go on to another one.
» If you're taking an essay test and you go blank on the whole test, pick a question and start writing; it may trigger the answer in your mind.
6. Keep time to revise your answers and check your answers before you submit them.
» Ensure that every answer is complete and appears as you intended.
» Review the accuracy of your answers, as well as your spelling and grammar.

a. Mid-semester test schedules

Mid semester exams for all the grades are online commencing from 13th December 2020 and ending on 29th December 2020. Exams will be conducted from 8:00 a.m to 10:30 a.m. Auxiliary Subjects and Core Subjects are conducted separately for the benefit of students. Instructions are shared by the class teachers in their respective teams.

Grade 1 to 3:

Auxiliary Online Exam Schedule

Sunday 6	Monday 7	Tuesday 8	Wednesday 9	Wednesday 9
Revision for Auxiliary Exams will take place in their regular class periods during this week.				
Sunday 13 8-10 am	Monday 14 8-10 am	Tuesday 15 8-10 am	Wednesday 16 8-10 am	Thursday 17 8-10 am
Arabic /Urdu	ISE/ISA	Social Studies	AFL	Computer
Revision Timings for Core Subjects 10:30 am – 12:00 pm				
Revision classes will be held in the English Channel > General post for all subjects				

Online Core Exam Schedule for Grades 1-3

Sunday 20 8 am – 10 am	Monday 21	Tuesday 22 8 am – 10 am	Wednesday 23	Thursday 24 8 am – 10 am
Math	At home study	English	At home study	Science

Grade 4 to 7:

Auxiliary Online Exam Schedule

Grades	Sunday, Dec 13 8-10 am	Monday, Dec 14 8-10 am	Tuesday, Dec 15 8-10 am	Wednesday, Dec 16 8-10 am	Thursday, Dec 17 8-10 am
Grade 4	Computers	Islamic Arabic / Islamic English	Social Studies	SAC Arabic / SAC English	Arabic / (Urdu + AFL)
Grade 5	Social Studies	SAC Arabic / SAC English	Computer	Arabic / (Urdu + AFL)	Islamic Arabic / Islamic English
Grade 6	Arabic / (Urdu + AFL)	Computer	SAC Arabic / SAC English	Islamic Arabic / Islamic English	Social Studies
Grade 7	Islamic Arabic / Islamic English	Arabic / (Urdu + AFL)	Social Studies	SAC Arabic / SAC English	Computer

Revision for Core Subjects will be done from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Find the schedule for revision in the channel “For Parents” under your English Teams.

Online Core Exam Schedule for Grades 4-7

Grades	Sunday, Dec 20 8 am -10 am	Monday, Dec 21 8 am -10 am	Tuesday, Dec 22 8 am -10 am	Wednesday, Dec 23 8 am -10 am	Thursday, Dec 24 8 am -10 am
Grade 4	English	Study leave	Science	Study leave	Math
Grade 5	Math		English		Science
Grade 6	English		Science		Math
Grade 7	Math		English		Science

Grade 8 to 12:

Date	Auxiliary Subjects				Core Subject
	13-12-20 Sunday	14-12-20 Monday	15-12-20 Tuesday	16-12-20 Wednesday	17-12-20 Thursday
Grade 8	Arabic / Urdu	SAC	Islamic Studies	AFL	English
Grade 9	Arabic / Urdu	SAC	Islamic Studies	AFL	English
Grade 10	Arabic / Urdu	SAC	Islamic Studies	AFL	English
Grade 11	AFL / Arabic	SAC	Islamic Studies	-	English
Grade 12	AFL / Arabic	SAC	Islamic Studies	-	English

core subject:

Date	20-12-20 Sunday	21-12-20 Monday	22-12-20 Tuesday	23-12-20 Wednesday	24-12-20 Thursday	25-12-20 Friday 26-12-20 Saturday	27-12-20 Sunday	28-12-20 Monday	29-12-20 Tuesday	31-12-20 Thursday
Grade 8	Math	Study leave	Physics	Study leave	Biology	Study leave	Chemistry	Study leave	ICT	ICT Practical
Grade 9	Math		Physics		ICT		Chemistry		Biology	ICT Practical
Grade 10	Chemistry		Physics		ICT		Math		Biology	ICT Practical
Grade 11	Chemistry / Accounting		Physics / Business. St		Biology		Math		IT	IT Practical
Grade 12	Chemistry / Accounting		Physics / Business. St		Biology		Math		IT	IT Practical

b. Mid-semester break

Mid semester break is starting from 31st December 2020 and online classes will start on 17th Jan 2021.

c. Second semester fees due date:

31st December 2020 is the last date for the dues and second semester fees. Accounts office will remain open between 8.00 am to 1.30 pm even during the mid-semester break.

d. Report card pick up:

On 16th Jan 2021, Parents can collect the report card from the school office.