

GIS REVIEW

THE LATEST GULF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NEWS, VIEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL; WE'VE MISSED YOU

The first week of school was a busy one. Students started the week with a new reality of what school would look like. The week before the opening of the school, GIS held Parent Orientations.

Four orientations were offered: the School Administration Orientation, Kindergarten through Grade Three, Middle School, and High School Orientations. Parents were sent a PPT that included all vital information to start the year and they were invited to attend live Question and Answer Sessions with either our School Management Team or the Academic Directors for each Department.

The School Principals continue to follow up with the Ministry of Education and wait anxiously to invite our younger students to return to school in person. We have missed all our students and can't wait to have everyone back in the school.

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SAUDI NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATES THE KINGDOM'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

According to the Nikkei Index of Recovery from Corona; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is ranked 3rd (third) in the world among 120 countries for their response to COVID-19.

During the last 18 (eighteen) months, since the interruption of our daily way of life including keeping our schools open; we have all felt the impact of the disease. The Kingdom, however, quickly stepped in and took the necessary measures to ensure our health and safety.

Due, in part, to the reaction of the Kingdom's Health Authorities and the Kingdom's Leadership, today our older, vaccinated students are attending classes in school. This month, let us celebrate Saudi National Day with gratitude and appreciation for our health and that of our loved ones. Let's all continue to social distance, wear our masks, and sanitize.

Nikkei COVID-19 Recovery Index (As of Aug. 31)

Rank	Country/region	Total score	Rank	Country/region	Total score
1	China	73.0	61	Switzerland	52.5
2	Hungary	72.0	63	Mozambique	52.0
2	Saudi Arabia	72.0	63	Russia	52.0
4	Chile	71.0	65	UK	51.0
5	Qatar	70.0	66	Pakistan	50.5
6	Denmark	68.0	67	Burkina Faso	49.5
6	Malta	68.0	67	Gabon	49.5
8	El Salvador	67.0	67	Moldova	49.5
8	UAE	67.0	67	Nepal	49.5
10	Portugal	66.0	71	Slovenia	49.0
11	Poland	65.5	72	Cameroon	48.5
12	Hong Kong	65.0	72	Japan	48.5
12	Italy	65.0	74	Bangladesh	48.0
14	Bahrain	64.0	74	Egypt	48.0
14	Singapore	64.0	74	U.S.	48.0
14	Spain	64.0	77	Mexico	47.5
14	Sweden	64.0	77	Papua New Guinea	47.5
18	Lithuania	63.5	77	Zambia	47.5
19	Colombia	63.0	80	Aruba	47.0
19	Ecuador	63.0	80	Ghana	47.0
21	Unagay	62.5	80	Haiti	47.0
22	Turkey	62.0	80	New Zealand	47.0
23	France	61.5	84	Australia	46.5
23	Luxembourg	61.5	84	Costa Rica	46.5
25	Dominican Republic	61.0	84	Namibia	46.5
26	Jordan	60.5	84	Niger	46.5
27	Belgium	60.0	88	Benin	46.0
27	Panama	60.0	88	Bulgaria	46.0
27	Taiwan	60.0	88	Honduras	46.0
30	Austria	59.5	88	Nigeria	46.0
31	Bolivia	59.0	92	Indonesia	44.0
32	Latvia	57.5	92	Tanzania	44.0
32	Norway	57.5	92	Togo	44.0
34	Argentina	57.0	95	Fiji	43.5
34	Canada	57.0	95	Laos	43.5
34	Croatia	57.0	95	Nicaragua	43.5
34	India	57.0	98	Alghamstan	43.0
38	Kazakhstan	56.5	98	Georgia	43.0
38	Morocco	56.5	100	Barbados	42.5
40	Brazil	56.0	101	Uganda	41.5
40	Ireland	56.0	102	Haiti	41.0
40	Netherlands	56.0	102	Mauritius	41.0
40	Paraguay	56.0	102	Mongolia	41.0
40	Senegal	56.0	105	Belarus	40.5
45	Rwanda	55.5	105	Kenya	40.5
45	South Korea	55.5	105	Liechtenstein	40.5
47	Germany	55.0	108	South Africa	39.0
47	Peru	55.0	108	Venezuela	39.0
49	Estonia	54.5	110	Jamaica	38.0
49	Kuwait	54.5	111	Guatemala	37.5
49	Romania	54.5	112	Angola	37.0
52	Cambodia	54.0	113	Libya	36.5
52	Zimbabwe	54.0	114	Iraq	36.0
54	Greece	53.5	115	Malaysia	34.0
54	Israel	53.5	116	Botswana	33.5
54	Serbia	53.5	117	Sri Lanka	32.5
54	Ukraine	53.5	118	Thailand	32.0
58	Belize	53.0	119	Myanmar	27.5
58	Liechtenstein	53.0	120	Philippines	26.0
58	Tajikistan	53.0	121	Vietnam	25.0
61	Oman	52.5			

Source: Nikkei COVID-19 Recovery Index ranks more than 120 countries/regions on infection management, vaccine rollouts and social mobility; a higher ranking indicates a country/region is closer to recovery with its low numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases, better vaccination rates and/or less stringent social distancing measures. data source: ourblue



STUDENT ORIENTATION DAYS GRADES KG3 TO GRADE 3

BY MRS. SALWA

We at Gulf International School were proud to hold 2021-2022 orientation night's for KG3 through Grade 3 students. This event was held over several nights starting from August 29th through September 6th. Nightly different classes were welcomed to our Sesame Street-themed auditorium, where masks and social distancing were required.

Students who participated were engaged in grade appropriate activities provided by their teachers for them and their classmates to do, all while getting to know their teacher and other classmates. Everyone enjoyed meeting new friends and of course taking pictures with the different Sesame Street themed characters set up around the event.

We would like to say thank you to all the students who participated in the event. We are looking forward to seeing you and all our students again in the not-so-distant future.

Middle School News

BY MRS. MARYNA VAN RENSBURG

WELCOME TO THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR!

The beginning of every school year is marked with excitement and possibility. We have been working hard all summer to plan for a safe opening of school and to implement best practices to mitigate the risks associated with Covid-19. Our classrooms have been modified to increase social distancing, and signage has been installed throughout the building to guide students.

This year the anticipation is built up more than usual since we finally get to welcome our students back to 100% in-person instruction. Grade 7's have been coming to school and it is really a joy to hear their laughter and feel their presence after being online for so long. Students that are in school are all immune and have had their vaccine shots.

We strongly encourage students to be at school, on time, every day. Students who are absent from school, or who arrive late to school, or leave early, miss out on important instructional opportunities. Please help us reinforce the importance of daily attendance and reporting to school on time. Try to avoid scheduling medical appointments during school hours as much as possible.

Grades 4 to 6 will still be online till further notice.

Whether we are learning in person or remotely at home, our goal is to encourage active student engagement to foster a lifetime love for learning.

We are proud of our school and have high expectations for each student. Together with our dedicated staff, we strive to make connections with students to help them feel valued, accepted, and safe.



BY MRS. NAOMI GORDON

It has been an exciting time welcoming students back after a long time away from the physical GIS building. While school life has not fully returned to the normal situation of pre-Covid restrictions, the new norm is being embraced by both students and teachers.

As students have received their vaccinations, changes to classes have been altered to accommodate students in a safe manner, which might explain changes to your class allocation. We also still need to wear our masks and we need to ensure that we continue to practice safety measures that will keep all of us healthy. When the rest of the school returns, they will look to the high school for encouragement, so please do not forget that you are role models for the younger students!

As we look forward to the new year ahead, I am excited about what our students will achieve. The draw of actively learning both in the classroom and in the science and computer labs is something many of our students are drawn to. I have also been encouraged by the proactive stance many of the students have taken as they negotiate the hybrid approach to learning. Your eagerness and mature attitude to school is something which I have been proud to witness.

Mr. Arif continues to support our students with their Cambridge journey and has spoken to some of our students about the benefits that this option holds for their academic future both at GIS and beyond. Please get in touch with him if you would like any clarification about these exams.

Finally, my advice to you is to view your learning as a journey that extends beyond the boundaries of textbooks and exams. It is about questioning and reflecting on what has been presented to you. It is about setting high expectations about what you want to achieve. The path to academic success is not a linear one and as educators, we are here to support and guide you with rich learning opportunities which will broaden and enrich your time with us at GIS.

And remember, my door is always open, so please get in touch if you wish to discuss anything.

MEET OUR NEW ACADEMIC DIRECTORS



KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY MRS. SALWA AL-HUSAINI

Mrs. Salwa is originally from the American Northwest, she has more than 30 years' experience teaching and leading in KSA. Mrs. Salwa has taught or held positions of leadership in other schools here in the Eastern Province including, University Schools and AL Bassam National and International Schools.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MRS. MARYNA VAN RENSBURG

Let's welcome Mrs. Maryna van Rensburg to Saudi Arabia. Mrs. Maryna is joining us from South Africa, but she isn't new to the Middle East. She has taught and had leadership roles in South Africa as well as Saudi Arabia and most recently Bahrain. Mrs. Maryna will lead the team of teachers in our Boys and Girls Middle School Department.



HIGH SCHOOL MRS. NAOMI GORDON

Mrs. Naomi Gordon joined us from Scotland at the start of 2021 as our school's Academic Director, having previously worked as a lecturer at the University of Dundee. Prior to this, she taught internationally, including in Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan. Since joining GIS, she has focused on planning, strategizing, and guiding our faculty to strengthen the teaching and learning approaches within the school. In the next academic year, she will continue as Academic Director for the High School Department.



DEPUTY ACADEMIC DIRECTOR - MR. ARIF HANIF MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

As Deputy Academic Director, I would like to welcome all stakeholders of the school to the new academic year. Last year was difficult for teaching and learning. However, with this new academic year, things are back to normal. Students are enjoying face to face learning and being actively engaged.



GIS teachers are highly qualified educators, bringing with them contemporary knowledge and pedagogical insights into the Cambridge Curriculum. By offering a well-rounded international curriculum, we provide our students with opportunities to develop their passions, inquire into areas of interest, ask deep and meaningful questions, and strive to find solutions to them.

GIS continues to provide exceptional support to all stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our IGCSE and A-level students had outstanding results in the last two sessions.

We are proud of our student's success in the Cambridge exams.

It's a great moment of pride and honor that I announce I have been elected as Chairman of Cambridge Schools Community Sharqiya (CSCS).

Cambridge School Communities are run by Cambridge schools, for Cambridge schools. The community aims to encourage collaboration and sharing of best practices.

CSCS will allow learners to collaborate, widen their perspective of life events, and develop empathy and knowledge of diverse cultures. In addition, CSCS will arrange joint school activities for learners, including sports, academic and social events, to increase the confidence of each individual.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

EVENTS	DATES
Mid-Trimester Test	Sept 26 to Oct 7
Health awareness week	Oct 10 to Oct 14
PAC Meeting	Oct 10
Long Weekend	Oct 17 and Oct 18



The(PAC) Parent's Advisory Committee is inviting more parents to participate. Please contact Dr. Mathis if you want to volunteer.

Email: dr.brenda@gis.edu.sa

Director's Corner

I want to take this opportunity to welcome our faculty and student body back to school and welcome both our new teachers and students as well. We hope that you have had a smooth return and that we have provided you with everything you need to be safe and comfortable.

Safety is priority number 1 at GIS. Our School Principals follow up with the MOE daily to ascertain any changes in protocol or procedures. Speaking of protocol, you can find the MOE Protocols for Safety in Teams parent Channel.

We are grateful that our school and that the Kingdom's population continue to receive the necessary vaccinations and that our students and parents follow the guidelines set out by the Ministry of Health.

Please be assured that we want all our students back in school as soon as safely possible; but not before.

We are and will remain vigilant; safety is priority number 1.