



18 August 2020

Dear Grade 6-12 Parents and Students,

We are just a few days away from the start of the school year and are excited to welcome our ALS students and parents to the 2020-2021 academic year. The ALS leadership team and teaching staff have worked together to create a virtual plan that will suit the needs of our community and IB curriculum.

Getting Ready for the First Day

We are busily preparing for our first day of school on **Sunday, August 30**. Returning students should please check their ALS email on Thursday, August 27 for the following information:

- Homeroom and teacher contact list.
- The class weekly schedule. A **sample** schedule is shared below. Virtual learning will run from 9:00am to 3:00pm every day, with a balance of asynchronous/synchronous learning, individual and small group time, teacher office hours, and off-screen breaks.
- For new students, all of the above information will be sent to the parent email address, along with the student's username, password, and login instructions.
- Please make sure to settle last year's tuition fees to ensure that there is no delay in your child joining virtual school.

Virtual School Schedule

The virtual school timetable incorporates best practices in online learning, including opportunities for whole-class live lessons, individual and small group live sessions, independent work time, and office hours which may be booked through an online appointment system. The samples below give an idea of the structure of the day, with adjustments for each class and grade level.

Timetable considers the following
1- Daily pastoral checkin time + weekly Assembly
2- Off screen breaks / independent work time
3- Synchronous whole class sessions
4- Synchronous 1:1 or small group sessions
5- On demand sessions by booking



MYP sample schedule (Grades 6-10):

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
08:00 - 9:00	Staff Preparation & Collaboration				
09:00 - 9:15	ZOOM HOMEROOM Check-In				
<i>Session 1</i> 09:15-09:45	Zoom Maths	Zoom English	Zoom Maths	Zoom English	GoogleMEET Homeroom "Wolf Time" / Assembly
<i>Session 2</i> 10:00-10:30					Zoom Science
<i>Session 3</i> 10:30-11:00	Individual Break	Zoom Science	Zoom Arabic	Zoom Islamic	
<i>Session 4</i> 11:00-11:30	Zoom Arabic			Individual Break	Zoom Islamic
<i>Session 5</i> 11:30-12:00		Zoom Islamic	Individual Break	Zoom Arts	Individual Break
12:00-13:00	Lunch and Prayer				
<i>Session 6</i> 13:00-13:30	1:1/small group Check-In	1:1/small group Check-In	1:1/small group Check-In	1:1/small group Check-In	Zoom DT
<i>Session 7</i> 13:30-14:00					Zoom SSAW
<i>Session 8</i> 14:00-14:30	Zoom PHE	Zoom DT	Zoom Arts	Zoom I&S	Individual/Booking Learning Support/ Counseling
<i>Session 9</i> 14:30-15:00	Zoom SSAW	Individual Break	Zoom I&S	Zoom PHE	
<i>After School Session</i> 15:00 - 15:30	Teacher Office Hours - Individual/Booking				



DP sample schedule (Grades 11-12):

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
08:00 - 9:00	Staff Preparation & Collaboration				
09:00 - 9:15	ZOOM HOMEROOM Check-In				
<i>Session 1</i>	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	GoogleMEET
09:15-09:45	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Homeroom "Wolf Time"/Assembly
<i>Session 2</i>					Zoom
10:00-10:30					Group 5
<i>Session 3</i>	Zoom	Individual	Zoom	Individual	
10:30-11:00	TOK	Break	Group 6	Break	
<i>Session 4</i>	Individual	Zoom		Zoom	Zoom
11:00-11:30	Break	Group 5		Group 2	Islamic
<i>Session 5</i>	Zoom		Individual		Individual
11:30-12:00	Islamic		Break		Break
12:00-13:00	Lunch and Prayer				
<i>Session 6</i>	1:1/small groups	1:1/small groups	1:1/small groups	1:1/small groups	1:1/small groups
13:00-13:30					
<i>Session 7</i>					
13:30-14:00					
<i>Session 8</i>	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	Zoom	
14:00-14:30	Group 6	Group 4	SSAW	Group 1	Group 3
<i>Session 9</i>			Zoom		
14:30-15:00			TOK		
<i>After School Session</i>	Teacher Office Hours - Individual/Booking				
15:00 - 15:30					

To establish routines and maximize learning, timely attendance in all sessions is mandatory and will be monitored. The complex social environment of a classroom is one in which students and teachers converse, share experiences, and participate in activities that, together, make for engaged learning, lifelong skills and memories. We are committed to helping our students feel connected to their learning and to each other despite our physical distance. Just as in a typical school year, the focus of the first days of school will be on getting to know one another, building community and relationships, and becoming more familiar with interactive technology tools and the ethics of digital citizenship.



Books

ALS teachers and administrators are preparing a package for every student which will include all of the books that will be used during the virtual learning period. Returning students may also have books at home from the previous year which need to be returned to school. We will announce shortly the dates and times for each grade level to drop off and pick up materials.

What's New?

Teachers spent much of the summer learning about best practices in virtual learning, and technology enhancements:

- Both Zoom and Google Meet will be used for live classes, according to the needs of the class and subject.
- Google Classroom will continue to be the platform for all assignments.
- A variety of additional apps, websites, and features of G-Suite for Education will be used to enhance the interactive, virtual learning experience of students.
- Arrangements will be made so that students facing difficulties may access school once per week through an online booking system, to meet with teachers, learning support staff, or the school counselor.

We all wish we could deliver instruction face-to-face with students, and wish the COVID-19 situation were different as we begin our school year. However, it is our duty to care for the well-being and safety of all students and all members of our community.. We look forward to the day when we can welcome our students back on campus. Meanwhile, you can trust that our amazing Grade 6-12 team of teachers and support staff are preparing a school year that will support all our students socially, emotionally and academically as best we can. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate our way through 2020-2021.