

BLENDDED LEARNING RETURN TO CAMPUS

REOPENING GUIDELINES
October 11, 2020



ABA
— O M A N —
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Dear ABA Community,

With the 2020-21 school year now upon us, we hope you will join us in looking ahead with hope, optimism, care for one another and a commitment to make the very best of uncertain - and often challenging circumstances.

Our commitment to returning to campus means we have had to adapt many of our physical spaces and behavioural expectations so that we can continue to deliver our mission and vision to our students. Since the school day will not look exactly like what we remember from last year, we have prepared this document to describe what families and students need to do before the opening of our campus, what a day will look like, and what we can all do to make safety our top priority.

Every child has the option to choose to be on campus or off. We have designed our schedule and learning plan to serve students well both on and off-campus. To assist us in planning and ensuring the transition from our Distance to Blended Learning Plan, please complete [this survey](#) to inform us whether your child will continue to learn from home or whether they will return to the campus from November 1st through to November 12th. Families will have an opportunity to change their decisions after the initial two week period.

It is important to note that your completion of the [survey](#) will act as a binding commitment that will not be possible to change until the next period started. If you do not complete the survey by 12 noon on Tuesday, October 13th, ABA will automatically designate your child as an off-Campus Distance Learner for this learning period.

The Reopening ABA Task Force has been and will continue to be hard at work in the interest of continuity of our learning plans and school life and measures to help keep students, faculty and staff safe. I am grateful for all the time, thoughts and attention to detail that has gone into crafting our return to campus plan.

This is new territory for all of us in the ABA Community, Muscat and beyond. This year will surely test our community in ways we have anticipated and in some that may surprise us. To that end, I ask for your patience, vigilance and cooperation in ensuring that we fulfil '[Our Community Promise](#)' to ensure that we can continue to be on campus.

Sincerely,

Craig Williamson

Head of School

CONTENTS

What Are Our Three Scenarios?	5
Face-To-Face Learning.....	5
Blended Learning.....	5
Distance Learning	5
When Will Our Blended Learning Plan Be Implemented?.....	5
What Is Our Approach To Blended Learning?	6
How Do We Determine Which Students Will Be On Campus?.....	6
High School.....	6
Middle School.....	7
Elementary School	7
Early Childhood.....	7
What Is The Plan Between Now And The Winter Break?.....	8
What Should Families And Students Be Doing To Prepare For On-Campus Learning?	9
What Are The Guidelines For Wearing Masks On Campus?	10
Health And Safety Protocols.....	10
Before-School Entry Screening & Sanitizing	10
What Will Drop-Off And Pick-Up Be Like?	15
What Should I Do If For An Unavoidable Reason My Child Is Late To School Or Has An Appointment During The School Day?	16
How Will The Blended Learning Plan Be Implemented In High School?.....	17
In High School:	17
High School Timetable.....	18
Learning Mentor Sessions.....	19
How Will The Blended Learning Plan Be Implemented In Middle School?.....	20
MS Schedule	21

How Will The Blended Learning Plan Be Implemented In Early Childhood And Elementary School?.....	22
Arrival And Dismissal	23
Daily Schedule	23
Safety Measures.....	24
Your Questions Answered	25
Who Is Available To Help?	29
How Will ABA Communicate With Families During Blended Learning?	30



WHAT ARE OUR THREE SCENARIOS?

In line with guidance from the Ministry of Education, ABA has developed plans for the three different scenarios below. Our plans are connected to our risk assessments and current risk status. Plans have been designed so that we can easily toggle between each different scenario. Based upon the **protocols** for dealing with varying scenarios of **suspected** and **confirmed** cases of COVID-19, we ask for families to be flexible and ultimately expect for **students** to **move** from **on-campus** to **distance learning** with **short notice**.

Face-to-Face Learning

When the Face-to-Face learning model begins, ABA can offer all activities and programmes with all staff and students on campus. Safety precautions set by the Ministry of Health will be in place to reduce risk.

Blended Learning

Blended learning is when both in-person learning and distance learning is taking place. It defines a time when some students are learning from home (for health, safety, or scheduling reasons), and some students are attending school in person. During blended learning, a reduced number of students are permitted on the campus at any one time. Safety precautions set by the Ministry of Health will be in place to reduce risk.

Distance Learning

Distance learning is a term that describes a scenario in which students are learning remotely and classes are not permitted on campus. If we must fully shut down the campus, we will implement our Distance Learning Plan.

WHEN WILL OUR BLENDED LEARNING PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

Our Blended Learning Plan will be implemented when we are permitted to open our campus to a limited number of students. This decision may be taken by the Ministry of Education which is our current situation due to COVID-19, or it could be that after completing our risk assessment, we believe that our risk status is High, requiring students to remain off-campus. The current information (as of October 8th, 2020) is that we are permitted to implement our Blended Learning Plan starting on Sunday, November 1st.

WHAT IS OUR APPROACH TO BLENDED LEARNING?

We have developed our Blended Learning Plan following guidelines from the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education and our risk assessments. We will have a reduced number of students, staff and faculty on campus.

The MoH has permitted us to have a reduced number of students on campus at any one time - approximately 70% (16 per class depending upon the size of rooms) of our current student body. This is based on maintaining a minimum of 1.5 metres in classrooms.

Our Blended Learning Plan outlines our approach to educating ABA students both On-campus and those choosing to continue with Distance Learning. Regardless of where your child is learning, ABA will continue to provide a quality international education and support for students and families.

Please see below for how this will work.

HOW DO WE DETERMINE WHICH STUDENTS WILL BE ON CAMPUS?

As mentioned in the introduction message, parents will be given the choice of whether they wish for their children to return to the campus or prefer to continue with Distance Learning. Essentially, we have identified three different groups of students:

- 1) Students whose parents are happy for their return to campus.
- 2) Students who are unable to return to school (100% Distance Learners).
- 3) Students who based upon their home or learning circumstances require a 100% return to school, if possible.

By following the guidance for schools concerning physical distancing, we can have approximately 70% of students on campus and follow guidelines from the MoE and MoH. However, to reduce the physical contact between students from different areas of the school and limits in the size of classrooms, we have a slightly different approach as described below.

High School

Typical classes can be a maximum of 16 students (70%). If we have more demand than 70% of students wishing to return to the campus, then we will split the High School student body

into two groups (A and B), and they will be on campus for alternate weeks. This decision will be based upon the parent survey responses.

Middle School

MS classes can be a maximum of 11* students if we have more demand than 11 students wishing to return to the campus, then we will split the Middle School student body into two groups (A and B), and they will be on campus for alternate weeks. This decision will be based on the parent survey responses.

* This is due to the space restrictions of some MS classrooms when following social distancing protocols.

Elementary School

Typical classes can be a maximum of 16 students (70%). If we have more demand than 70% of students wishing to return to the campus, then we will split the Elementary school student body into two groups (A and B), and they will be on campus for alternate weeks. We will base this decision on the parent survey responses.

Early Childhood

In Early Childhood, we will reduce the maximum capacity of each class to 10 students, to facilitate physical distancing. If we have more demand than ten students wishing to return to the campus, then we will split the Early Childhood student body into two groups (A and B), and they will be on campus for alternate weeks. This decision will be based upon the parent survey responses.



WHAT IS THE PLAN BETWEEN NOW AND THE WINTER BREAK?

Please see the table below for our plan until the winter break (as previously mentioned, please be aware that all students may move to Distance Learning at short notice if we have confirmed cases of COVID-19).

Date	Action	Notes
Tuesday, October 6th	Survey sent to families asking for intentions for November 1st to 12th	<i>The survey will close on Thursday, October 8th</i>
Thursday, October 8th	Survey results reviewed	<i>There will be a follow-up survey asking parents to commit for the first two weeks of Blended Learning</i>
Sunday, October 11th	Blended Learning plan published to the community Return to campus parent survey #2 published (commitment survey)	<i>Deadline 12 noon on Tuesday, October 13th</i>
Tuesday, October 12th	Survey closed and survey responses to be reviewed.	<i>Deadline 12 noon on Tuesday, October 13th</i>
Wednesday, October 13th	Parents informed which students will be on campus.	
Thursday, November 5th	Survey sent to families asking for intentions for November 15th to December 17th	<i>The survey will close on Tuesday, November 10th</i>
Wednesday, November 11th	Survey results reviewed	<i>Parents will be asked to commit to a plan until the Winter Break</i>
Thursday, November 12th	Parents updated which students will be on campus	<i>If the demand is higher than capacity, then we will split students in half (A and B groups), who will be on campus for alternative weeks</i>
Sunday, November 14th	Second 'choice' period starts.	
Thursday, December 17th	Winter Break starts (12 pm dismissal)	

WHAT SHOULD FAMILIES AND STUDENTS BE DOING TO PREPARE FOR ON-CAMPUS LEARNING?

Masks

Help your child get used to wearing masks, and you have an appropriate number of face masks at home. Each face mask must be labelled with the individual's name or initials. Please see the following section on mask guidelines for more information.

Educate your family about essential hygiene practices such as hand-washing, not touching the face, keeping physical distance, etc. Engaging in frequent hand washing on and off-campus as a vital step to reducing infection.

Avoid Unnecessary Travel

We aim in school and stay in school as long as conditions permit. To that end, we are asking all families to evaluate their travel two weeks before the start of school. Please do your best to avoid areas that are hot-spots, maintain social distancing and wear a mask where appropriate so that we have the best possible chance as a Community.

Temperature Screening

Perform regular temperature checks at home to know your family's baseline/average temps, in case of discrepancies. After November 1, families will take their child's temperature each day and perform a symptom check at home. No child with a temperature of 37.5 or above is allowed on campus.

Backpacks

Lockers and cubbies will not be available. All students need a backpack large enough to hold all of their personal belongings throughout the day. Ensure your child has all items labelled with their names to avoid cross-contamination.

Meals

There will be no cafeteria services at the school. Please plan to provide healthy, individually packed snacks and meals that students bring from home. Please ensure all containers are labelled to protect against sharing and cross-contamination.

WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR WEARING MASKS ON CAMPUS?

We have received clear guidance from the Ministry of Health (based upon that of the [WHO](#)).

- For older children (Grade 5 and upwards) and adults, it is straightforward as all must wear masks on campus.
- Students in Grades 1-4 cannot be mandated to wear masks.
- Students in EC and KG are not required to wear masks, according to [WHO advice](#) and as directed by the Ministry of Health.
- If there is a health reason for an individual student to wear a mask (for example a parent has an underlying health issue), then we request a note from a doctor advising for a mask to be worn.
- Face masks may not be shared under any circumstances.
- Approved face masks are a minimum three-ply cloth covering designed explicitly for COVID mitigation that securely and continuously covers mouth and nose. Masks with vents, bandanas, scarves and gaiters are not acceptable for this purpose.
- In keeping with our school dress-code expectations, students must not wear masks with distracting imagery, messages or symbols. Solids and patterns are acceptable.
- There will be times when masks cannot be worn, such as during snack and lunch. While seated for eating, students will be physically distanced and are not required to wear masks.
- We strongly recommend that students who carpool with other students/families wear masks in the car on the way to school.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

These protocols have been developed by the Taskforce with the guidance of the Ministry of Health.

Before-School Entry Screening & Sanitizing

- Before school opens, we will distribute a paper questionnaire that asks about any recent travel or COVID-19 exposure that needs to be completed by EACH family and brought to school with your child on November 1st. Your child will not be allowed to enter the campus unless this survey is handed to a member of staff.

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- At home, before departing to school every day, families must screen each family member. We will provide you with a handout that you can use as a daily checklist.
 - Students must wear a mask as they exit their cars and will have their temperature taken upon arrival. When students are cleared to head into school (pass screening questions and no fever), the student will enter the campus through a designated set of doors for their Division.
 - If a student presents a high temperature (37.5 degrees or higher), the student will be escorted to the Isolation room where, after a short waiting period, the nurse will take a second temperature. If the student's temperature continues to be above 37.5 degrees, staff will contact the parents to pick up the student, and any siblings will also be brought to the isolation area for parent pick-up too.
 - Early Childhood students will remain in their car during the temperature check and will only be let out if their temperature is in the normal range. If the temperature of the child is high, the driver will be asked to park their car where, after a short period, a member of staff will take a second temperature check. If the fever persists, the child will return to the car and be sent home.
 - Students will sanitise their hands before entering the campus.

Regular Hand Sanitizing/Washing

- Students will proceed to a first hand sanitising station before entering the school campus.
- Students and adults will wash or sanitise hands again before entering the classroom, eating, leaving the classroom, after any recess and non-classroom playtime.
- Students will be taught appropriate hand washing techniques that last for more than 20 seconds after using the bathroom, before and after recess/snack time and before and after meals.

Classroom Guidelines & Partitions

- While our ABA classrooms typically range anywhere from 10 to 24 students; we will reduce the number of students in a classroom or use larger classrooms to allow for appropriate social distancing.
- Students will be at individual desks spaced 1.5 metres apart or at tables 1.5 metres apart with no more than two students at a table at any given time. If there

are two students at a table, they will be separated by a transparent, plexiglass partition for extra precaution.

- Unwashable, soft furnishings (couches, soft manipulatives, rugs) have been removed from classrooms.

Physical Distancing

- In the classroom, desks and tables will be at least 1.5 metres apart.
- In community spaces (hallways, staircases, etc.) 2 metres physical distancing must be maintained. There will be increased signage, and reminders for all community members to understand the importance of physically distancing themselves.
- Students will be supervised during snack and lunchtimes by faculty and staff who will remind students that social distancing guidelines need to be followed.

Enhanced Campus Cleaning

- An additional facilities staff person has been hired to assist the existing staff.
- Classrooms will be sanitized daily or more often if more than one cohort uses a single room
- Faculty and students will assist in maintaining sanitised manipulatives
- High touch areas and fixtures, such as stair rails and doorknobs, will be sanitized regularly.
- Cleaning supplies for each classroom will be available and replenished daily as needed.
- The school health and COVID rooms will be sanitised each evening using School-owned fogging equipment and a product designed for overnight fogging and re-occupancy.
- Other spaces that become contaminated will be closed and fogged before reopening.

Ventilation

- Where possible windows and doors will remain open to provide ventilation (weather permitting).
- Air conditioning units will be frequently cleaned.

Minimise Campus Visitors & Volunteers (Including Parents)

- A vital part of being able to maintain our safety protocols is reducing the number of people on campus at all times. Therefore, we have decided that only essential members of the community (faculty, staff, students and essential personnel) will be allowed on campus.
- While we recognise this is difficult - for parents and the school as we love the ways you support your children and our community as volunteers - we are committed to doing all we can to keep numbers down to ensure the safety of our students and faculty/staff during these times.

No Communal Dining (Lunch/Snack)

- There will be no cafeteria services at the school. Please plan to provide healthy, individually packed snacks and meals that students bring from home. Please ensure all containers are labelled to protect against sharing and cross-contamination.
- Lunch and snack time will be mask breaks (out of necessity), so it will be pertinent for students to remain seated and physically distanced during food breaks.
- There will be no sharing of open food this year.
- Outside food orders will not be permitted.

Playground/Play Areas

- We will continue to have a recess for all children.
- Exercise and activity are important parts of whole-child education so that we will be providing play equipment that can be used for individual and socially distanced play and is easy to disinfect each day.
- Students will be supervised at all times during recess by faculty and staff who will remind students of physical distancing guidelines.

Health Rooms On Campus

The health office will continue to remain open for general health issues and medication dispensing. We have designated a new space for anyone with symptoms that may be related to COVID-19. The space will be separated into “pods” to separate symptomatic students from each other in this room. Should we suspect COVID in any

community member and they are presenting symptoms, we will follow appropriate protocol by asking parents to pick-up their child immediately.



Dan Willms
Mathematics Teacher

Arrival And Pick-Up

We will have staggered arrival and dismissal times based on Divisions (details to follow). As students depart cars, they will be screened (details in next section).

To help manage logistics and ensure safety, if you have children in multiple grade levels, you will need to drop and pick them up at each grade level's designated time. Children may not be dropped off before their grade's appointed time.

Though we realise the frustration this staggered schedule may cause, we discourage families from carpooling at this time to minimise possible exposures and quarantines away from school. In the event of a positive diagnosis within the carpool, an entire carpool would be quarantined for a minimum of 14 days.

To ensure all screening and health/safety protocols are followed, we ask that parents do not walk onto campus for drop-off or pick-up.

Area of School	Drop-off	Location	Pick-up	Location
Early Childhood	8.00-8.15am	EC entrance	1.30 pm	EC entrance
Elementary	7.30-8.00am	Main entrance drive-through	2.00pm	Main entrance drive-through
Middle	7.20 - 7.40am	Side entrance	2:30 pm	Side entrance
High	7.15- 7.35 am	Secondary School entrance	2:15pm	Secondary School entrance

WHAT WILL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP BE LIKE?

To help maintain physical distancing, we have staggered drop-off times and separate entrances for different areas of our school. Although we ask that all parents check their child's temperature before setting off for school in the morning, before entering the campus, all students will have their temperature checked.

Area of School	Drop-off	Location	Pick-up	Location
Early Childhood	8.00-8.15am	EC entrance	1.30 pm	EC entrance
Elementary	7.30-8.00am	Main entrance drive-through	2.00pm	Main entrance drive-through
Middle	7.20 - 7.40am	Side entrance	2:30 pm	Side entrance
High	7.15- 7.35 am	Secondary School entrance	2:15pm	Secondary School entrance

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF FOR AN UNAVOIDABLE REASON MY CHILD IS LATE TO SCHOOL OR HAS AN APPOINTMENT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

EC, ES and MS students should access the campus via the main entrance; students will be escorted to their class by a member of staff. HS students may enter from the High School entrance and report to the Secondary School office before going to class.

For High School students who need to leave campus during the day for an appointment, we ask that an email is sent in advance to secondaryoffice@abaoman.org. The student should then sign out at the Middle and High School office and leave by the High School exit.

For Middle School students who need to leave campus during the day for an appointment, we ask that an email is sent in advance. If your child is in MYP 1 (grade 6) [Clarie Anthony](#), MYP 2 (grade 7) [Kathleen Bowin](#) and MYP 3 (grade 8) [Megel Barker](#). The student should then sign out at the Middle and High School office and leave from the security gate at the front entrance of the school.

For Early Childhood and Elementary students who arrive outside of the designated drop-off time, parents can escort their child to the Administration building to sign them in. A member of staff will then take the child to their classroom. Parents must wear a mask and undertake the temperature check at the security gate. If a child needs to leave campus during the day for any reason, the parent can meet the child in the Administration building at a pre-arranged time. An adult will bring the child to meet their parents.

HOW WILL THE BLENDED LEARNING PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN HIGH SCHOOL?

Our vision for Blended Learning in the High School is for both 'home' and 'on-campus' students to make at least the same progress as they would during normal school operations. They will have equitable access to all materials, interactions, demonstrations and one to one time with teachers and mentors. They will undergo the same tasks, be assessed on their progress in the same way and have as near to the same experience as those physically in school. In short, lessons on campus will be broadcast through Google Meet; this means that students at home will access the same timetable and live classes alongside their on-campus peers.

Also, we aim to provide as many authentic opportunities as feasible for students to engage in the wider aspects of ABA High School life.

In High School:

- All students will continue to access learning and resources via Google Classroom for all subjects.
- Students must bring their device (and headphones) to school so that they remain able to access learning via Google Meet.
- Students must bring their day-to-day equipment as they are unable to share with others.
- All Google classrooms will have a common unitised content structure.
- Where students continue to be outside of Oman, we will record lessons where possible. Nonetheless, resources will be available via Google Classroom.
- Teachers will continue to use various applications such as Breakout Rooms to enable all students, whether at home or on campus, to collaborate safely.
- In addition to 8 periods of learning, we will continue with 1:1 meetings with teachers, personal project time, catch-up, additional mathematics for specific DP courses, Extended Essay support and After School Activities during extended break times during the school day.
- Whiteboards and projectors will be used to screen what is being shared from the teacher's computer, allowing equal access.
- All teacher resources and all student work will be shared digitally.
- We are updating our resources so that, in the future, students will be able to access the primary planning document, complete with hyperlinks to resources and detailed learning outcomes, from their Google classroom.

- Teachers will use wifi to connect microphones and cameras for clarity of communication.
- For lab or other demonstration work, teachers will demonstrate the steps using wifi cameras, to draw attention to details.
- There is an expectation that there is a balance in all lessons between the time spent upon whole class direct instruction, students learning in groups and individual time to complete tasks.
- Additional out of school-hours work is to be reduced by improving checks on progress via formative assessment, individual target and goal setting and fewer assignments as well as major summative.
- Teachers will offer revision, enrichment and one to one 'drop-in' sessions after work. See timetable below*

High School Timetable

Period	Time
Mentor	7:30am- 7:40am
1	7:40am- 8:15am
2	8:15am- 8:50am
Transition	8:50- 8:55am
3	8:55am- 9:30am
4	9:30am- 10:05am
1st Break/ ASA/Revision	10:05am- 10:55am
5	10:55am- 11:30am
6	11:30am- 12:05am
2nd Break/ ASA/Revision	12:05pm- 1:05pm
7	1:05pm- 1:40pm
8	1:40pm- 2:15pm

Learning Mentor Sessions

Students meet with their Learning Mentor (LM) in the mornings and once a week. During Blended Learning, the LM will convene a joint home/school session during one of the Learning Mentor Periods. All students should be checking in with their LM at that time. The Student Support team will continue to deliver our comprehensive ABA High School Advisory program in which students are scheduled weekly lessons. These follow a rotation focusing on different aspects of student academic progression and well-being:

- Social/Emotional Support
- Study Skills and Approaches to Learning (ATLs)
- The IB Core (Personal Project, Extended Essay, TOK and CAS)
- University and Career Guidance
- High School Assembly Time
- 1 to 1 interaction with Learning Mentors for individual review and target setting

Tracking Team

The High School Tracking Team (Alli, Ann, Denise, Guy and Simon) will meet every week with each member of the team taking the lead on a particular grade level. This is used to identify students who are not on track and intervene where necessary.

Assessment

Assessment, recording and reporting will continue. Where possible, key assessment tasks may be scheduled on campus.

Timings

HS students also enter by the Secondary School building between 7:15 am, and 7:35 am. Registration is recorded at 7:40 am.

At the end of the school day, students will be dismissed at 2.15 pm (physical distancing must be observed throughout) all teachers will manage/ reinforce this. Students must leave the campus immediately at the end of the school day.

Room Set-up

Classrooms to be set-up in consideration of 1.5 metres physical distance with an approximate maximum number of 16 students (depending upon the size of the room). Google Meet and Google Classroom will continue to be used so that students can access lessons, whether on campus or at home.

Study Hall set up in the SLH and Library for students with Study Periods Grades (Grades 11 and 12).

Library Access and Resources

Students will continue to request resources via the Click and Collect system, whether learning on campus or from home. Lockers will not be in use.

How will the Blended Learning Plan be implemented in Middle School?

Should the demand be more than 11 students per class on-campus, the Middle School student body will be split into two groups (A and B), and students will be on-campus for alternate weeks. Siblings will be placed in the same group to ease planning for families. MS students will follow the schedule outlined below as far as possible with masks, physical distancing and other safety precautions as required.

We anticipate there will be students who, for a variety of reasons, may not be able or wish to return to campus. These Distance Learners will be assigned to a group (A or B) and will remotely connect with their on-campus peers and classes - this will be by joining their 'live' class via Google Meet, allowing them to participate in the classroom.

Students should bring their device to school for use during on-campus learning. Learning engagements will continue to be accessed via Google Classroom, for both on-campus and distance learning.

MS Schedule

Block	Time
1	7:45 - 9:05 (1 Block)
Break	9:05 - 9:20 (Break)
Advisory	9:20 - 9:35 (Advisory)
2	9:40 - 10:50 (2 Block)
Break	10:50 - 11:35 (Break)
3	11:35 - 12:55 (3 Block)
Break	12:55 - 13:10 (Break)
4	13:10 - 14:30 4 Block

Feedback

Students and parents will continue to receive timely feedback around the development of Approaches to learning skills (ATLs) and subject group objectives.

MS Connects!/ Advisory - Tuesday (possibly virtual)

Tuesday is MS Connects! which focuses on the MS advisory program that supports our students socially and emotionally as well as fostering and cultivating relationships and developing our students' [Approaches to learning skills](#) (ATL skills), [IB Learner Profile attributes](#) and interdisciplinary learning.

Timings

MS students enter through the designated gate by the front entrance of the school (fire drill exit) between 7:15 - 7:45. Attendance is taken at 7:45. Students will be dismissed at 14:30 and will leave through the same gate they enter in the morning. Students are expected to follow physical distancing protocols. Students must leave the campus immediately at the end of the school day.

Room Set-up

Classrooms to be set-up in consideration of 1.5 metres physical distance (markings/ signage on floors). All lessons will be synchronous with students engaging in distance/online learning.

A camera will be set up, and a Google Meet will be open.

Library Access And Resources

Students will continue to request resources via the Click and Collect system, whether learning on campus or from home. Lockers will not be in use. Specific times will be allocated for collecting resources. Upon return, resources must be sanitised.

How will the Blended Learning Plan be implemented in Early Childhood and Elementary School?

Should the demand be more than 16 students per class in Grades 1-5 for on-campus learning, the student body will be split into two groups (A and B), and students will be on-campus for alternate weeks.

On-campus students will remain within their class group in their classroom space with their designated adult for the majority of the day, including outdoor breaks and specialist lessons, which in turn will reduce mixing with other students. Students will follow a regular school day schedule, as far as possible, with physical distancing, enhanced hygiene procedures and other safety precautions as required.

For those families who, for whatever reason, may not or wish not to return to our school campus, students will connect remotely to their class via Google Meet at scheduled times to participate in whole-class activities, and will receive work assignments via Seesaw. Where possible, a dedicated teacher will be provided to work support distance learners.

While our Early Childhood classrooms have an agreed capacity of 16 children physically distanced by a minimum of 1.5 meters, the total number of children using a classroom at any one time will be limited to 10 as a further precaution. Each group of 10 students will remain self-contained, thereby reducing their contact with other students in the school, including at outdoor break times. Other measures will be taken to maximise physical distancing in a manageable way for our youngest students.

Students should bring their device to school for use during on-campus learning. Learning engagements will continue to be accessed via Seesaw, for both on-campus and distance learners.

Arrival And Dismissal

The school day will have a “soft start” to enable students to arrive between 7.30, and 8.00 am depending on their family situation and their grade level. The day will start at 8.00 am for Grades 1-5, and at 8.15 am for EC and KG.

Early Childhood parents may drive into the car park in front of the EC entrance. The temperature will be taken while the family is in the car using a handheld thermometer. Elementary School students will enter by the front pedestrian entrance through a shared/cooled area with a thermal temperature camera.

Grade 1-5 students will be dismissed at 2.00 pm through the same entrance they enter in the morning. Parents will drive by with their children’s names displayed in the front window. Teachers will dismiss students through the pedestrian gate to get into their cars.

EC and KG students will be dismissed at 1.30 pm through the EC entrance. Parents will drive through the car park with their children’s names displayed in the front window. Teachers will dismiss students through the EC door to their parents’ cars.

EC and KG students who are new to ABA will receive an individualised schedule for starting school that will allow their parents to help them settle in and give them time to get to know their new environment.

Daily Schedule

For EC and KG, students will remain in their classrooms groups throughout the day. They will participate in PE and outdoor breaks by group. Other specialist teachers may attend their classrooms. Each cohort will remain contained and will not mix with different groups of children.

For Grades 1 and 2, students will remain in their classroom groups and will have scheduled outdoor PE and break times. Other specialist lessons will be provided, either in an appropriately distanced classroom space or outdoors where possible. Each group will remain contained as far as possible and will not mix with other groups of children, except for Arabic.

For Grades 3-5, the schedule will run to include specialist lessons, including PE (outdoors where possible), Music (in a physically distanced space), Library (using the Click and Deliver system) and Arabic. Students will remain mainly within their class group but maybe mixed for Arabic classes.

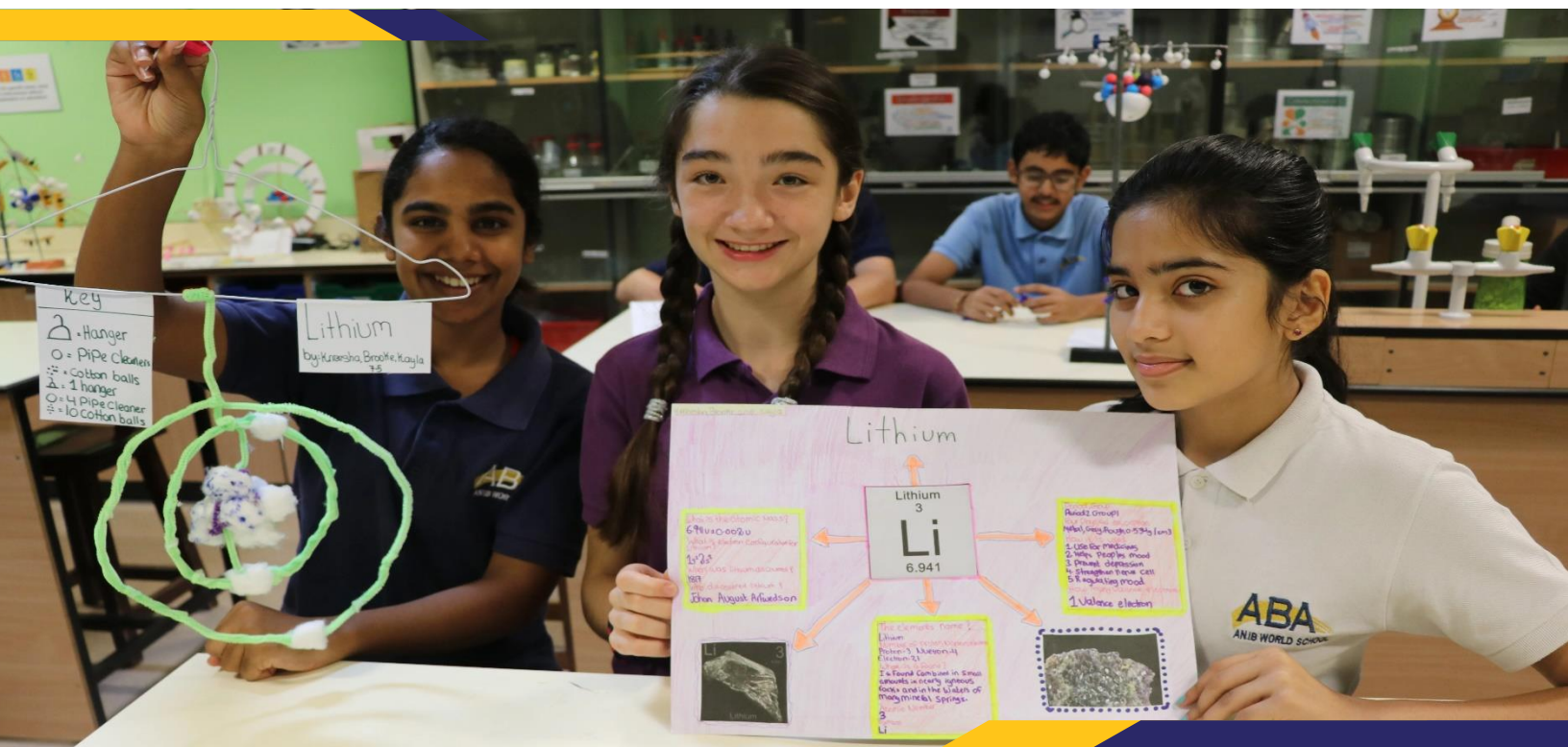
Students will need to bring a small backpack to school containing a snack, lunch, water bottle and device. These will be stored under their tables. The cafeteria will not be operating.

Safety Measures

Students in EC and KG are not required to wear masks, according to [WHO advice](#) and as directed by the Ministry of Health. Students in Grades 1-4 cannot be mandated to wear masks. However, if there is a health reason for an individual student to wear a mask (for example a parent has an underlying health issue), then we request a note from a doctor advising for a mask to be worn. Students in Grade 5 will be required to wear masks indoors at all times.

Classrooms are set up in consideration of a minimum of 1.5 metres physical distance, with tables and chairs appropriately spaced. In Grades 1-5, each student will have a designated table space with their own set of resources such as stationery, art supplies and educational resources. Students will be encouraged to remain in their table space as far as possible. Plexiglass table separators will be used where possible.

In EC and KG, students will be provided with a portable workspace (eg, table space, yoga mat) and may work together in small groups with appropriate physical distancing. Shared materials will be removed for cleaning after each use.



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Does my child need to wear a uniform?

All on-campus students need to adhere to the school dress code and wear uniform items. All off-campus students should wear their ABA shirt for online classes.

How is the school reducing social interactions on campus?

In addition to having a reduced number of students on campus at any time, we have put in many protocols to help students remain physically distanced. Typically we are working on a minimum of 1.5 metres in classrooms and 2 metres elsewhere on campus. We will also continue to use technology so that students can collaborate safely. There will be signage around the campus, reminding students to remain socially distanced and naturally staff will provide friendly reminders when needed.

Will attendance be taken?

Parents should follow the normal process if their child is absent. For High School, please email secondaryoffice@abaoman.org including the reasons for absence. For Early Childhood and Elementary, please email the class teacher and reception@abaoman.org, including the reason for absence. For Middle School, please email your child's advisor and secondaryoffice@abaoman.org.

Can my child come onto campus for ASAs if they were not on campus during the school day?

No, we are restricted to the number of students on campus, and this has to be managed carefully.

Will my child be taking part in PE classes while on campus?

Yes, physical activity is important for the health and well-being of students. We will have various protocols in place around physical distancing, shared equipment and the type of activity. Unfortunately, the swimming pool remains closed to students at this time.

Will my child have swimming classes any time soon?

The swimming pool will, unfortunately, remain closed to students until we are permitted to do so by the Ministry of Health. The main risk is around the use of the changing facilities and the proximity of children in this area.

Who do I get in touch with if I suspect my child or someone in our family has contracted the virus?

Before reopening the campus, we will publish protocols about the different scenarios we might face. In the case of a suspected or confirmed case, we ask that parents contact the school nurse (see the section below which provides contact details), the appropriate Principal and Head of School.

What steps are being taken to ensure proper hygiene procedures are being followed? Are there any guidelines that are being followed?

We will follow the guidance received from the Ministry of Health, including the cleaning of rooms every day after students have left and also through the day for frequently used surfaces. Also, students are expected to wash/ sanitise their hands routinely.

How are you ensuring proper ventilation in the classrooms?

Where possible windows and doors will remain open to provide ventilation, and also air conditioning units will be frequently cleaned.

Will my child share resources and materials with other children in the classroom?

Although we are unable to guarantee that this will never happen as we are unable to monitor all students at all times, we will do our best to ensure that resources are not shared unless they have been sterilised beforehand.

My child is anxious about returning to campus. What type of support can the school provide? How can I support my child?

In advance of the return to campus, we ask for parents to talk with their child about their return to school and discuss the wearing of masks (where appropriate), regular cleaning of hands and remaining physically distanced. Teachers and Councillors will, of course, support students upon their return. If a parent requires advice, then please contact the appropriate Councillor.

Will students in quarantine also receive social-emotional support?

Yes, our Nurse and Counselors are available to support.

If my child suffers from minor injuries/ illnesses, where will he/she be treated and by whom? Where will suspected COVID-19 cases be treated?

As normal, we will have a nurse treating students in our current health centre. The Elementary School cafeteria has been turned into a quarantine space. This is where we would separate any students who show symptoms of COVID-19 until a parent can collect them.

Should my child wear gloves on campus?

No, gloves, if not used correctly, can add to the risk. Instead, students should clean their hands frequently and not touch their faces.

What if I prefer for my child to learn through Distance Learning only?

This is fine, and we believe at the moment this is a personal choice for families. We will continue to support students through Distance Learning.

What should I do if my child is showing any symptoms of COVID-19?

You should contact the school nurse, appropriate Principal and the Head of School via email. Before students return to campus, we will publish protocols for different scenarios.

Will I be informed if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

Parents will be informed if there is someone who has tested positive and might have been in close contact with their child.

What if my child has underlying health issues?

We ask that as a parent, you seek advice from a doctor before they return to campus. Please contact our school nurse about individual situations.

Will my child be able to refill their water bottle?

Yes, next to the water dispensers will be hand sanitising stations to reduce risk. We ask that students use their water bottle only and sanitise their hands before using the dispenser.

Is it still permitted to carpool?

Although this is not recommended, we know that it may be unavoidable and is not something that ABA can manage. We ask for our community to take the precautions in terms of physical distancing and mask-wearing.

Can parents access the ABA campus?

As a general rule of thumb and as communicated by the Ministry of Health, during the period of Blended Learning, parents are not permitted on campus. If there are a small number of parents with particular roles such as Booster Club sales, then they may be on campus for a set amount of time. Meetings with teachers or other staff members will take place online. If a parent needs to come in person to the Business Office, then this can be by advance appointment only. Any parent doing this will have their contact details noted, temperature taken and must wear a mask at all times.

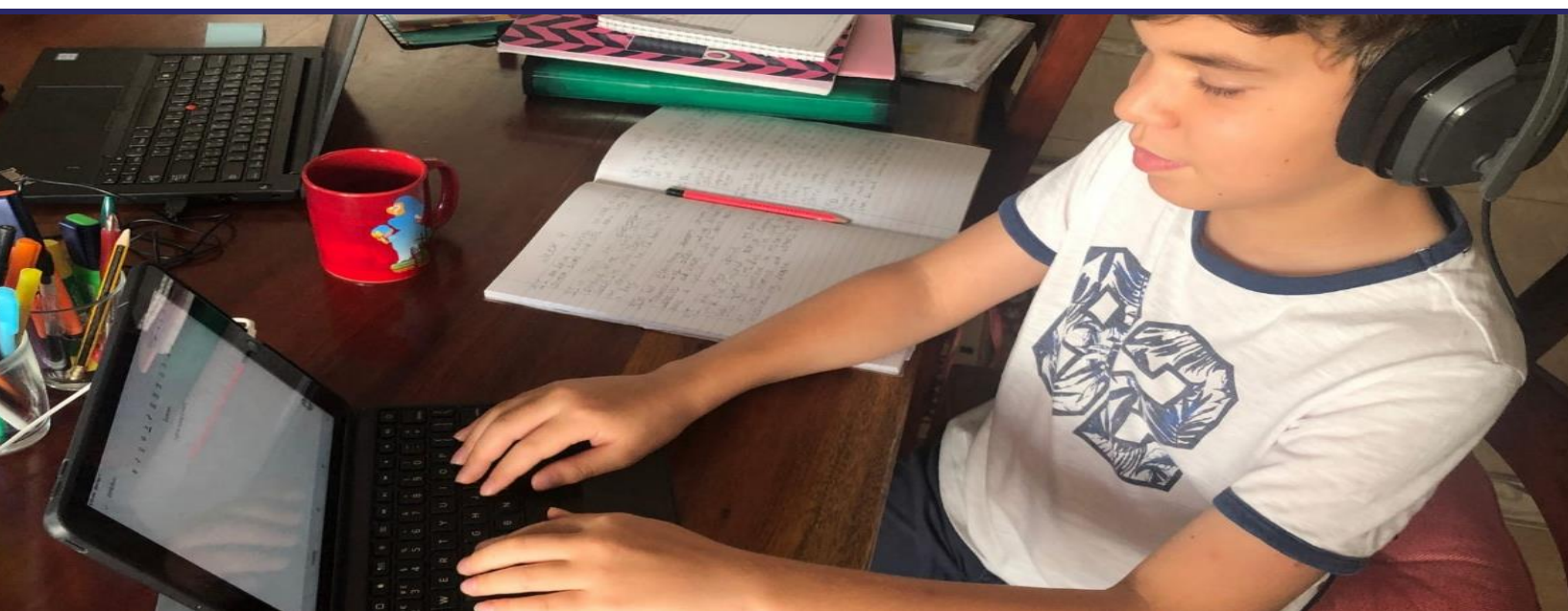
For payments, if you do not want to come to campus, you can make them directly with National Bank of Oman using: A/C No.: 1016 331823-001, SWIFT CODE: NBOMOMRXXXX. If you opt for direct remittance to NBO account, please inform us via our email id: businessoffice@abaoman.org.

What about field trips, travel and sports teams?

Unfortunately, during a period of Blended Learning, our risk status is medium. This means that all field trips and overnight travel will be postponed for all areas of our school. We will re-evaluate these opportunities when there is a change in our risk status.

What about Student Support Services during Distance Learning?

Our Student Support Services team will continue to provide support for diverse learning needs. This will include our Counselors providing information on transition (particularly for those new to ABA) and one-to-one online support for students and advice for parents.



WHO IS AVAILABLE TO HELP?

For queries about	Contact
Individual students, courses, resources, assessments etc.	The relevant teacher
Technology-related issues	helpdesk@abaoman.org
Personal or social-emotional concerns	The relevant counsellors: EC and ES: codriscoll@abaoman.org MS: canthony@abaoman.org HS: ahostetter@abaoman.org
University and college applications	dbarker@abaoman.org
Other issues relating to distance learning	The Principal or Assistant Principal from the relevant area of our school. Early Childhood and Elementary School scook@abaoman.org ebanatwala@abaoman.org Middle School kbowin@abaoman.org mbarker@abaoman.org High School swalker@abaoman.org gessex@abaoman.org
Health or medical concerns	nurse@abaoman.org
School fees and business matters	businessoffice@abaoman.org

HOW WILL ABA COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILIES DURING BLENDED LEARNING?

In normal times our preferred method of communication at ABA is face-to-face. However, during Blended Learning, we will use the channels listed below.

Channel	Audience	Description and Access
Email	Faculty, staff, parents and students	An email will be used for all major communications and announcements, including those from the Head of School and Principals. Faculty will also use email to communicate, although they will use other platforms to interact with their students as well.
Text Message	Faculty, staff and parents	We will use this to communicate specific, important and time-sensitive information such as school closure.
GSuite	Students across all divisions	Google GSuite (including Gmail, Docs, Classroom, Meet, etc.) will continue to be the platform used by all teachers. For video conferencing, we will use Google Meet.
SeeSaw	Early Childhood and Elementary School students	Early Childhood and Elementary School teachers and students will continue to use Seesaw and other apps they are already familiar with.
Google Classroom	Grade 5, Middle and High School Students	Grade 5, Middle and High School teachers and students should use their Google Classroom classes for sharing and assessing assignments as well as general communication for the whole class.
ABA Portals	Parents and students	The ABA Portals are accessible via www.abaoman.org . Through these Portals, users can access general school information, extra-curricular programmes, event listings, calendars, administrative messages, directories and statements of official school policy.
ManageBac	Middle and High School Students	Teachers and students use ManageBac to submit IBDP work and communicate on IB external requirements, like the Extended Essay.
ABA Public Website	General public	ABA will maintain general information on COVID-19 here: www.abaoman.org