

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, we will be welcoming our students to the start of the new academic year online September 15th. While we prefer welcoming our students physically in school, we are looking forward to welcoming them online and are excited to start the new school year. We have worked hard to ensure our students receive an exciting and engaging learning experience. We are rolling up our sleeves and are ready to go! However, at KAS we have a strong belief that students flourish with the strong partnership between school and parents.

We would like to thank parents who have completed the kg and elementary survey and provided us with valuable feedback. Around 50% of parents who responded to the survey said they would prefer a hybrid method to learning. This means students would come to school on some days of the week while the remaining days take place online at home. It is helpful that we now know approximately how our parents feel in this regard. This school is ready to accommodate such a plan should this be allowed. The survey also showed us that multiple families are of working parents and so to best accommodate working parents within our abilities and feasibility, the elementary department will be

- Sharing teacher instructed pre-recorded lessons per learning objective.
- There be the option of a morning or afternoon session.
- Teacher's live sessions will also be recorded and shared should you be unable to attend the live with your child.
- Teachers will be offering office hours one hour, twice a week in the evening to be available to parents or students who may have questions or need further explanation.
- Teachers will be setting individual time a week per student for formative assessment and general progress.

Please find below important details regarding the KG department.

General Information

- While distance learning teacher and parent communication will be through the Class Dojo Application.
- Each class will be divided into two groups – Group 1 and Group 2. That way, we will have a lower student to teacher ratio, which will enhance learning.
- To enhance interaction and learning, classes will be split into smaller groups with no more than 10-12 students. Students will be assigned to a morning or afternoon session. Please select your preferred session using the following link. This form should be filled no later than Saturday, September 5th. <https://forms.gle/J3XP9wsFMUMWwcBZ8>
- Please note once you have chosen a session time, you may not shift once online school has begun. Sessions will be similar in every way, the same teaching and assignments will be led by the same teacher.
- Along with live lessons daily, teachers will assign self-paced videos and activities throughout the week.
- Weekly newsletter will be sent as usual through Class Dojo.
- Attendance will be taken daily.

- **Learning Kits:** We will be providing a small learning kit for your child to use while online learning. This kit will include simple tools to support hands on learning during this time. Further information including pick up schedules and details will be sent to you by your child's teacher through Class Dojo. Upon collecting learning kits, returning students will also be able to collect their materials that were left in school from the last academic year.
- **Parent Orientation:** Parents will be invited to attend a live Zoom session with their child's homeroom teacher before the start of school. During the live, parents will get to know their child's teacher, learn about the schedule, applications used, daily routine and other necessary information for a start to a successful new year.
- RAZ kids is assigned as independent work for KG2 students only. Teachers will check on student progress weekly.

Schools Hours /Weekly Schedule

- As mentioned above, there will be two sessions morning from 9am-12pm and afternoon from 12pm-3pm. Your child will assigned to either a morning session or afternoon throughout the entire period of online learning.
- Each class teacher will be posting a class schedule to be followed weekly.
- Your child will be provided with daily live lessons in ELA, Math, and Arabic.
- Elective social classes of Music, PE, or Art are scheduled throughout the week. They are optional but recommended. These lessons will be considered as social meet ups where students can learn new skills while enjoying their time with their friends and classmates.
- Each child will be provided with individual time with his or her teacher weekly.
- Students will have sufficient breaks in between lessons.
- A detailed schedule per class will be sent to you before the start of school.

Learning and Communication Platform

Class Dojo

While distance learning teacher and parent communication will be through the Class Dojo Application. Parents will need to download and access Class Dojo application on your device or your child's device.

- Download the application or visit the website <https://classdojo.com/>
- Be sure to turn notifications on.
- You will be sent an invitation to Class Dojo to enter into your child's class.
- Class Dojo will be used for
 - o School and classroom announcements
 - o Weekly newsletter announcing learning goals for the week.
 - o Posting teacher made and/or pre-recorded videos.
 - o Direct parent-teacher communication through messages.
 - o Submitting student work or posting student created videos for evidence of learning.
 - o Sharing student work and special moments.

Zoom

- All live lessons will be via Zoom.
- Zoom meetings are live and will provide interactive time for the teacher to connect with their students.
- Zoom live lessons will have no more than 12 students to enhance engagement, management, and interaction.
- Parents (or any other support from home) are welcome to join the Zoom with their students, to observe and support with any technical issues.

Setting up for Success!

It is advisable and important that parents prepare students for a learning environment at home that is sustainable, and comfortable. Here are some tips for you to set your child up for a successful start.

- Start by discussing the start of the new academic year. Ask how they feel about learning online and what they should expect. Assure them that learning can still be exciting no matter where you are.
- Build a routine
 - Wake up at the same time each morning and sleep early.
 - Have a healthy breakfast.
 - Have a change of clothes. Students are required to attend their live classes in a collared shirt or polo to allow for a more formal school feel. They can even wear their old school uniform!
- Setting up a home school learning environment
 - Set up a calm working area with student desk or worktable and comfortable chair, free from distractions.
 - A working device (Laptop, PC, or Ipad) and good Internet connection.
 - Good lightening
 - A learning buddy! A favorite toy or stuffed animal for support.
 - Easy access to school supplies
 - Print the class schedule and hang it somewhere your child can easily refer back to/check.
 - Your child will need your assistance with any technical difficulties.
- Suggestion to set up a camera in your child/children's workspace so you can check on them if you are not home.
- Ensure your child attends live classes on time.
- Check Class Dojo daily.
- Ensure your child regularly completes their daily tasks.
- Take breaks and reward hard work.
- Be there for support, but allow space for errors for students to learn and grow from their mistakes
- Communicate with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.
- Make the time for some physical activities, arts and crafts.

KG Supply List

- 1 device for e-learning w/ webcam (tablet, laptop, desktop, etc.)
- Power plug/charge device

- Mouse (optional)
- Printer for the family
- Headset or headphones
- Stable and reliable internet access
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Pencil sharper
- A pair of scissors
- Glue sticks
- Scrap paper
- Colored construction paper
- Colored markers
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Small White board with white board markers
- White board eraser

Our KG team will continue to provide the utmost care for your children during this period distance learning. We thank you for doing your part by supporting your child's learning while at home and strengthening this home/school partnership.

Feel free to email the school, your child's teacher or the KG department coordinator at dinaeidan@kas.edu.kw for any guidance or support during this time.

KG Department