

# news

news from the trunk

Thursday, November 16, 2017



**MORNING ASSEMBLIES AT KAS**

# Superintendent's Message

## KAS Board News

The KAS Board of Governors approved at its last Board meeting that all tuition and school fees must be paid in U.S. Dollars for the 2018-19 school year. This policy is for all parents and school staff.

Mr. Gail Schoppert, a well known educator in international schools, will be working with our Board and school administrators this Saturday to help us to be an effective and efficient governing body in overseeing our school. Gail comes from the United States and has been the Superintendent or Head of several international schools. Gail has also worked for several years with the European Council of International Schools serving as a recruiter for school heads and for board training.

## Congratulations to MUN Students and Teachers

We were all very happy to hear about the great experience students and teachers who represented KAS at the MUN had this past week. Thank you to all staff who helped make this trip a success.

## Parent Seminar - November 23

Our next parent seminar will take place on November 23 in the KAS Library following the elementary morning assembly. The topic will be counseling students at KAS. Mr. Doug Dworak and Ms. Nicole Stacey, our school counselors will present information to parents. A question and answer time will follow their presentation.

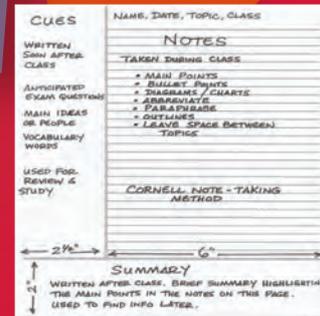
**Steve Alexander**  
KAS Superintendent

# Note Taking Strategies

By: Alaa Zaki  
Student Support Services

One of the essential skills that students need throughout their lives is note taking. Here are some strategies for the development of this skill, which were developed based on individuals' different learning styles.

**1. The Cornell Method or the Split Page Method: Based on two columns, one containing the keyword or concept and the other containing notes. A summary is included at the bottom of the page**



**2. The Outline Method: Very organized. Helps students recognize the importance of different facts and arrange them accordingly. A system of upper and lowercase letters and numbers can be used.**

1. Main idea
  - A. Subtopic
    - a. detail
    - b. detail

**3. The Bullet Point Method: Similar to the outline method but not as structured. Mainly capturing the key points.**

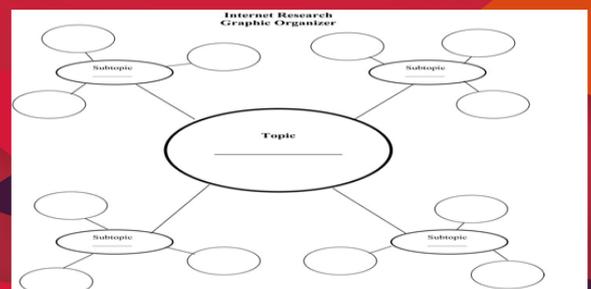
- Fact
- Fact
- Fact

**4. The Chart Method: Enables the student to quickly identify the facts and relate them to other information.**

CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3	CATEGORY 4
categories are based on the subject matter	for history subjects, it can be dates, events, people, places	for science, it can be people, theories, dates, processes	for math, it can be equations, formulas, examples

from Whisk app

**5. The Mapping Method: GREAT for visual learners. Begin by writing the main/ key idea in the center then other ideas spread out from there.**



REMEMBER, you do not have to write every single word that has been said. Keep your notes simple, use abbreviations, shorthand and symbols. "Note-Taking Methods". Massey University, 23 Aug. 2016, <http://owll.massey.ac.nz/study-skills/note-taking-methods.php>. Accessed 09 Nov. 2017.

## Letter from the Middle and High School Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

At this time, when we are all working on our self-study for accreditation, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our School's Mission and Vision.

Our mission and vision statements guide us to be the best we can be. The vision states the school's goal - where we hope to see it in the future. The mission provides an overview of the steps planned to achieve that future. Having a Vision and Mission Statement is so vital because it shows the overall purpose of our school and the importance of us all working together to achieve this.

### OUR KAS MISSION AND VISION

**Khartoum American School provides an outstanding learning environment to promote an open, inclusive, and student centered program. We are devoted to fostering educational growth and development for our internationally diverse student body.**

The Mission is supported through the KAS Vision of building the 4 Cs of:

#### Character

By helping students to develop self-discipline and a positive self-image, Khartoum American School encourages students to explore their potential and to develop a rich and broad understanding of today's world. Khartoum American School fosters in students a strong sense of personal commitment and dedication to their own learning.

#### Curriculum

Khartoum American School follows an American Curriculum based around internationally recognized standards. Our student-centered program offers a technology-rich and inquiry-based approach. Khartoum American School offers a program of study that allows all students to reach their potential.

#### Community

Khartoum American School actively pursues a sense of community characterized by students who are cooperative, communicative, productive and responsible. Students are encouraged to view themselves and their school as integral parts of the global community. Our community is a partnership of stakeholders who are actively engaged in the school and collectively shape its direction and ethos.

#### Citizenship

We promote global citizenship and the expectation of our students is to reflect upon their own world and the world around them and to develop the skills required to make positive changes worldwide. We encourage students to embrace the diversity present at Khartoum American School and to celebrate the fact that it makes us a richer school community.

**Our mission and Vision is our collective commitment that we have made to ourselves, to each other, and to students and families at KAS. Our vision and mission is not just a phrase, a line or a paragraph, it is something that we live every day. I am sure that you will all agree with me when I say that we are proud of our school.**

Have a great weekend!

**Susan Boutros**

Middle & High School Principal



### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### PTA FAIR

**Friday, November 24, 2017**

**From 3:00pm - 8:00 pm**

## Bringing Global Understanding to the Classroom

"These are tumultuous times," an oft used literary reference, seemingly most applicable to today. As we approach the third decade of the second millennium, the world seems to be shrinking as technology connects its people into a single global community. No longer can we ignore the refugee crises in Myanmar, Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan (UNHCR the UN Refugee Agency 2017) to name but a few, for their dramas play out across our phones, televisions, tablets, and laptops every day. Terrorists' acts occur daily somewhere on the planet. Threats from bully nations have us worrying about nuclear disaster, and denial of global warming leaves us wondering as this year of natural disasters continues to unfold across all borders. "Fake News!" has become a battle cry to lend doubt to our better judgements.

Yet, we are global citizens, and as educators it is our duty to arm ourselves with the truth. How do we help our students make sense of their world? How do we help them comprehend religious intolerances, prejudices against skin color, or the destruction of the earth's fragile eco-balance in the face of the extreme poverty of the world's developing nations and the avaricious lifestyles of the well established powers? A year ago I had to answer my students' plaintive "Why?" when asked about the US travel ban which included Sudan. I could only respond, "I do not know," and point out that this was not an opinion shared by all Americans. I brought to their attention the thousands of lawyers who went to the airports and provided invaluable pro-bono services to the many immigrants caught in the crossfire of political decrees. As those weeks pressed forward, my students and I continued the conversation, looking to judges declaring such orders as unconstitutional. This led to the discussion of checks and balances and the American Constitution. The students were witnessing the brilliance of the founding fathers when they created the three branches of government. We were having rich discussions of moral decision-making. We shared our opinions and listened to each other with great respect. We took time to understand individual experiences and talked about point of view. The students became interested in current events and knew that to make a difference they needed to be informed.

Yes, to be active members of the global community, it is important to talk about current events with our students and to look for the connections in their curriculum. In fifth grade, students look to the ancient past and make connections to the present. Understanding common themes in literature that highlight the human condition brings further insight into the human condition of today. The students marvel at the concept of Math being the one true universal language that humans have in common worldwide. Math is the great equalizer and can even be connected to the future as a means to communicate with potential new worlds. It is more important than ever to nurture our students' understanding and responsibilities as Global Citizens. That can only be done through meaningful discourse of the world as it is, and the connections we make through the curriculum. By having the conversation, we help our students develop empathy for their world. Through education, we provide them with the tools to excel as members of a global community.

**Jananne Healey**  
Grade 5 Teacher

### Saying of the Week

To have the **Bit Between Your Teeth** means to go about a task with such enthusiasm and determination that nobody can stop you. This term relates to the metal bar in a horse's mouth attached to the reins enabling a rider to steer and control the animal. This bar is known as the 'bit' and needs to be positioned at the softer back of the mouth where the horse can feel it. If the bit is caught further forward, between the teeth, the horse becomes insensitive to the rider's instructions and therefore uncontrollable. The expression dates back to the year 470 BCE and Greek culture when Aeschylus remarked, 'You take the bit in your teeth like a new-harnessed colt'.

**Minette van der Bijl**  
High School English Department