



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO MEROE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, EARLY DISMISSAL AT 12:00PM



Superintendent's Message

KAS Receives Re-Accreditation from the Council of International Schools

I want to share with the entire KAS community the exciting news that we have just received re-accreditation from CIS. I want to thank Susan Boutros for her determined leadership in taking us through this most important process. I also want to thank the steering committee, the rest of the KAS staff, parents, and students in this community-wide endeavor to improve our school. Congratulations!

Here is an excerpt from the CIS letter we received:

"The CIS School Support & Evaluation Services and its advisors have now completed their study of the report submitted by the October 2018 Evaluation Team and considered its recommendation with regard to your school's status within the accreditation process.

I am pleased to inform you that the Council of International Schools has decided to award re-accreditation to Khartoum American School with immediate effect: please note, however, that there is a follow-up Supplementary Report required to address Significant Areas that are matters in need of urgent attention to maintain the accredited status.

Warmest congratulations to you, your staff and the entire school community on achieving accredited status. In reaching its decision, CIS took into account the Evaluation Team's commendations which were based on evidence of excellent and effective alignment with the standards for CIS accreditation. In granting the award of accreditation, CIS felt that the commendations – or strengths of the school – far outweighed any areas in which the school was deficient. These strengths should be celebrated by the school community."

- Ed Maher, Director of School Support & Evaluation Council of International Schools (CIS)

Steve Alexander
KAS Superintendent

The Benefits of Play

It is through play that children at a very early age engage and interact with the world around them. Play is so important to a child's development that it has been recognized by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights as a right of every child. Every child deserves the opportunity to develop his or her unique potential. Research indicates that children learn best in an environment that allows them to explore, discover and play. Play is important to healthy brain development. Through their play, children learn many different skills, and play helps children to use their creativity while developing their imagination and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength.

Play allows children to create and explore a world they can master, conquering their fears while practicing adult roles, sometimes in conjunction with other children or adult caregivers. As they master their world, play helps children develop new competencies that lead to enhanced confidence and the resiliency they will need to face future challenges.

Play is a child's context for learning. Children practice and reinforce their learning in multiple areas during play. It gives them a place and a time for learning that cannot be achieved through completing a worksheet. Play provides rich learning opportunities and leads to children's success and self-esteem. Play is healthy. Play reduces stress. It is joyful and provides an outlet for anxiety.

Play can be both simple and complex. There are many types of play: symbolic, sociodramatic, functional, and games with rules. Play and learning go hand-in-hand. They are not separate activities. They are intertwined. Think about them as a science lecture with a lab. Play is the child's lab.



Suzie Twigt
MS/HS Social Studies/Basketball Coach

Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

The end of the semester is fast approaching and high school exams are just around the corner.

Please find below the high school exam schedule.

	Monday, December 17	Tuesday, December 18	Wednesday, December 19
8:30 – 10:00	Biology 9 US History 10 Pre-Calculus 11 Algebra 2 - 11 English 12	English 9 English 10 African Studies 11 Advanced Physics 12	Social Studies 9 Chemistry 10
10:30 – 12:00	African Literature 11 AP Statistics 12 AP Calculus 12	Algebra I (Gr.9) Geometry Gr. 9/Gr. 10 Algebra 2 (10) Physics 11 Comparative Govt. 12	(Make-up exams)

There will also be other exams, tests and end of semester assessments given to students during the next two weeks. I hope that our students will prepare well and organize their time and workload so as to reduce their stress level during this period. As we all know, a little stress around exam time can be a good thing, as it motivates you to put in the work but sometimes stress levels can get out of hand and often this does not lead to good results. I am sure that with good preparation our students will do well.

I wish all our students a very productive and successful end of semester!

Have a great weekend!

Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal

Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Using games in math is on the rise in many classrooms around the world. Using games for learning is important for many reasons, not just in math but in any subject area. Math games enhance student learning by engaging students and adding variety and fun to what is traditionally perceived as a boring subject. Students want to take part in the activities, and regardless of skill or knowledge level, they are still able to make meaningful contributions whether playing in a group or as an individual. Building a sense of play around math and math problems also encourages students to collaborate. Game are useful in teaching math because they heighten emotion, engagement, and attention.

Students nearly always smile and cheer when I tell them we'll be playing one, and often ask ahead of time if they can play their favourite, which varies from student to student. Often used as a warm-up or as a break, games such as "buzz", "moose", or "fraction war" and dice games are used to reinforce basic facts or a concept previously introduced. Games used at the end of a lesson, such as "Kahoot" or "jeopardy", are used to review the lessons in fun, non-threatening manners.

In addition to increasing engagement, playing games in math allows students with different levels of comprehension to participate and learn. Students with lower levels of skill can make guesses based on intuition and common sense. Students with higher levels of skill can use more sophisticated strategies like writing functions to model the relationships. This also means that the same game can be used to teach students at different grade levels by adapting which mathematical tools are introduced.

Kids enjoy playing games and having fun. Engaging students, combined with giving them the opportunity to play active roles in their own learning, turns a classroom into a more dynamic environment and gives students something to look forward to in math, and reminds them that these subjects aren't so boring after all.

Brian Baldwin
MS Mathematics Teacher

Meroe Trip 2018

On November 29th and 30th 2018 the 7th and 11th grade classes traveled and explored ancient Meroe as part of their social studies curriculum. Students set up tents, researched the history of the ruins, and told traditional African myths over the campfire as part of their African Literature class.



Grade 11:

Nadia: We learned that Meroe is a beautiful historical site to visit and it was great to experience it with my classmates.

Cecil: It was my first time to the desert and the experience was great. Plus, the view of the area from the top of the sand dune was amazing.

Abdelaziz: I learned that an Italian explorer Giuseppe Ferlini came to Meroe and destroyed the pyramids and stole gold due to the lack of protection at the site.

Grade 7

Lina: It was exciting going inside the pyramids and I liked the view at night

Natalie: The sunrise was beautiful and it was great to see such clear stars at night



Owen McMullen
MS/HS Social Studies/Basketball Coach

Saying of the Week

To be thrown in **The Clink** means to be locked away in jail. It is sometimes thought the clink is a reference to the sound of the irons and chains placed on a convict. In fact, The Clink is the name of one of the oldest prisons in England, located in the London borough of Southwark since the 13th century. The Liberty Of Clink was the name of the district in which the prison was located; it was south of the river and exempt from the jurisdiction of the City of London. In other words, it would make up its own rules. Originally owned by the Bishop of Winchester, The Clink had a fearsome reputation with punishments including boiling in oil, the rack, breaking on the wheel, being forced to stand in cold water until the prisoner's feet rotted, being slowly crushed under weights and starvation. The only way to avoid such treatment was to pay bribes and therefore The Clink provided a vast source of income for the Bishop of Winchester from the prisoners on the receiving end of its barbaric practices. Finally destroyed by rioters in 1780, The Clink is now a museum, built on the foundations of the original building and a fitting reminder of London life throughout the Middle Ages.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department