



WE ALL PLAY AT KAS

Superintendent's Message

Construction and Maintenance Work Ducer the Break

Every year during the summer break we work to improve our campus,. This summer we completed important upgrades along with cleaning and painting.

- We completed a major upgrade of our IT infrastructure system – this provides better internet access and speed for staff and students. included installing fiber optic cables and new more advanced equipment.
- Early Childhood classes were completely renovated and enlarged. New floors, ceilings, air conditioners, sinks, bathroom fixtures, and storage areas were completed.
- Creation of a new finance office and admissions office in the former nursery classroom
- Installation of a new state of the art secondary school Science Lab.
- A protective blue fence was erected around the cafeteria construction area. This will make sure students are protected and separated from this area.
- The KAS tortoise were moved to a new home due to construction

All of these projects were funded by the KAS capital fund

Future plans will include renovation of the pool area, upgrading the school entrance areas, driveway, parking areas and walkways around school. We also are also preparing to add new classrooms.

I encourage you to visit my office and discuss your concerns about these and any other issues.

Steve Alexander
KAS Superintendent

Early Dismissals for the 2018 - 2019 School Year



Dear Parents,

Last year the School Board approved **9 Early Dismissal Thursdays** so that KAS teachers have time throughout the year to collaborate and plan together. Teacher collaboration is one of the largest factors in student success as it ensures all teachers are working together on a common path for teaching and learning.

The Thursdays are:

- August 30th (first week back from Eid Break)
- September 27th
- October 4th
- November 15th
- December 13th
- January 24th
- February 28th
- April 18th
- May 9th

Please note these are in addition to early dismissal before major holidays (Winter Break & Summer Break)

Students will be dismissed at 12:00pm on these Thursdays and must be picked up from the front pick-up area.

We are very thankful for this time and I will provide you with updates throughout the year of the wonderful work our teachers are doing to ensure your children have an incredible year!

Dina Shalash
Curriculum Coordinator
dshalash@krtams.org

Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope that you have had a very enjoyable and relaxing summer with family and friends.

I am thrilled to welcome you all back to what is surely going to be another successful school year at Khartoum American School.

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome those families who are new to KAS and our new teachers. I am very confident that you will come to truly love our exceptional school community as much as we all do.

At KAS, we have had a very busy summer! Much planning and hard work has gone into preparing for a successful school year. We have completely upgraded our technology infrastructure and we are very happy to announce that we now have a new learning management system called Classe365 that will replace Engrade and Edmodo. Please check your email for your password and login information. There is also an application that you can download on your smart phones and iPads. On Classe365, you will find all the information that you need about your child's studies, assignments, assessments, and school activities, as well as other events and happenings. If you still do not have access to Clase365, please send us an email.

Please know that our doors are always open to our community. Feel free to call upon us if you have any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to seeing you all at Back to School Night, which will take place on Wednesday, August 29 at 6:00pm.

I am honored to be the Middle and High School Principal at KAS. It is truly a privilege to be part of a community where teachers, students and parents care for each other and strive to build positive relationships that support the academic social growth of all students.

Looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal

A Message from the SSS Department

Welcome to a new school year. As in prior years, the Student Support Services will offer Homework Help sessions in the library from 3:00-3:50pm on Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays for middle and high school students. The Homework Help sessions are staffed by middle and high school teachers and support staff who are available to help students to complete their assignments and study for tests. Every session will have a Math teacher and a variety of teachers from Student Support Services, English as an Additional Language, English, and Social Studies. Middle and high school students are encouraged to attend Homework Help every day, and also to meet their class teachers on the scheduled days for help in a specific class.

Middle and high school students attending Homework Help are expected to maintain appropriate academic behavior while attending the sessions. Students are required to sign-in on an attendance sheet, sit at a table, and work quietly and on-task for the duration of the session. Students are welcome to read silently if they finish their studies before the end of the session. Students can use this space to work collaboratively on projects and assignments, but must keep their conversation quiet and on-task to avoid disturbing others.

We look forward to working with your middle or high school student in Homework Help sessions this year.

Nicole Stacey
Student Support Services Coordinator

Preparing for Success



As a new school year begins, parents everywhere are working diligently to best prepare their children for a smooth and enjoyable switch from summer holidays to return to the classroom. Setting up a routine is key to ensuring your child acclimates to school life quickly, maximizes their time, and minimizes hassles.

1. Regular bedtime and waking time: It is recommend that children ages 3-5 years old sleep 10-13 hours a night, children 6-13 years old sleep 9-11 hours a night, and teenagers 14-17 years old sleep 8-10 hours a night. Set a bedtime for your children and stick to it so that they get enough sleep and are ready for a full day of activities. Establishing a bedtime routine (brushing teeth, bathing, storytime, etc.) can help children transition from their busy days into a more relaxed state that is conducive for sleep. Many children will fight bedtime-this is normal! Stay strong and eventually your children will understand that bedtime is non-negotiable.

2. Study time: Many teachers assign nightly homework to reinforce what is being learned in the classroom. Homework is also an opportunity for parents to learn more about that their children are doing at school. It is best that homework is done as soon as possible after the school day finishes, so that the children have time to relax, play, engage in hobbies, and spend time with their families. Creating a study nook and a daily homework time helps children understand that learning doesn't stop once they leave school. Please speak with your child's teacher if you are unsure of how much time your child should be working on school work at home. KAS has a homework policy outlined in the handbook to ensure that the students are assigned the correct amount.

3. Nightly set up time: Preparing school bags, clothing, and other materials for the coming day the night before helps both children and parents enjoy a more peaceful and orderly morning. With some initial guidance, children as young as kindergarteners can be given jobs to check their school bags and pick out their clothes. Children benefit from this kind of

responsibility and autonomy as it engages them more fully in their school life.

4. Healthy habits: Children need a nourishing and varied diet in order to perform at their highest capacity. Fresh fruit and vegetables, lean proteins, a variety of grains, and healthy dairy products provide everything your child needs to grow, learn, and play. A good rule of thumb is to keep anything that comes in a package (chips, cookies, candy, etc.) to a minimum and enjoyed only occasionally. Children begin to crave and desire the food they are given regularly. Let us fill their bellies with whole foods to feed their whole bodies.

5. Quality daily relaxation: We have full days here at KAS, where our students are expected to participate in a wide variety of experiences and activities. Just like their teachers and parents, they need downtime to reflect, destress, and participate in creative pursuits. By limiting screen time (phones, tablets, laptops, and TV) and providing books, toys, and hobbies that interest each child, we allow them the best kind of downtime, where their minds are in a state of restful engagement.

Let us make the 2018-2019 school year the best one yet! With daily routines, our children can find time for everything important and lead balanced, healthy, and happy lives.

Miriam Easterling
Kindergarten Teacher

Saying of the Week

Not enough room to **Swing A Cat** is a reference to small tight spaces. It is often thought the phrase originates from 17th century sailors needing space in which they could swing the cat o' nine tails but there is other evidence from two centuries earlier. Cat lovers read no further. In the 15th century, there was a 'sport' involving the swinging of cats (by the tail) into the air where they would become moving targets for archers at fetes, fairs and country festivals. Crowded festivals would be described as no room to 'swing the cat'

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department