



news

news from the trunk

Thursday, September 6, 2018



BASKETBALL SEASON AT KAS

Superintendent's Message

Khartoum American School – Board of Governors – 2018-19

The Khartoum American School, founded in 1957, is governed by a Board of ten members. KAS is closely associated with the United States Embassy in Khartoum and the U.S. Ambassador appoints one member to the Board. Eight members are elected by the parent body and the Superintendent serves as an ex-officio member.

KAS operates as a not-for-profit school. Regular Board meeting sessions are open to parents who notify the Superintendent one week prior to the meeting. Executive sessions are only for Board members.

The Board carries out its meetings democratically, using Robert's Rules as a guideline. The Board holds an Annual General Meeting every April or May where new Board members are elected. Board members serve two-year terms and are renewable -

At the AGM reports to parents on the status of the school are given along with a financial report. KAS carries out an annual audit. The Board aims for transparency, good communication and fair treatment to all in the community.

Khartoum American School – Board of Governors 2018-19

Mohamed Omer	Member
Dr. Mario Kamal	Member
Abdel-Rahman El-Mahdi	Member
Mubarak Ali Ibrahim	Member
Dr. Salma Mustafa	Member
Ynske Vandormael	Member
Murat Isen	Member
Ihav Ayoub	Member
Zulal Vincent	Member – U.S. Representative
Steve Alexander	Member – ex-officio

The KAS Board Policy Manual and a list of all meeting dates for the 2019-19 school year can be accessed at the KAS website. www.krtams.org

Steve Alexander
KAS Superintendent

Letter from the Arabic Language Department

Dear Families,

In the beginning, I would like to especially welcome this year's KG class and their parents who trust their children into our care. KGs are beautiful individuals who develop their talents, interests and their learning skills. In Arabic we set role models to help facilitate the learning process in the best possible way. We basically focus on play, movement and rhymed songs to help the KGs learn the basics of language sounds, as we focus on developing their communication skills in the first semester.

We would like to build connections between the children in Arabic class and life at home. Parents are kindly invited for their feedback as we all work together to enhance spoken of Arabic language as teachers in classrooms and you as parents at home. Family engagement helps children be successful, in school and in life at large. In our Arabic classes we focus on developing early Arabic language concepts such as:

- Express their feelings and ideas in Arabic; listening to and retelling stories.
- Making simple attempts at writing the alphabets; handling the pencil, tracing later in the second semester.
- Identifying symbols, letter shapes, colors and more in Arabic.

Sudanese and identity is also linked to the course and plays an important role.

I always enjoy working with our KGs and their beautiful innocent personalities.

Wishing you all a great year ahead!

Regards,

Ismail Adani
Arabic Language Teacher

Letter from the Middle & High School Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

We had our first successful early release Thursday last week! Our teachers had time to work in groups to discuss how to improve student learning. We are very proud of their collaboration and we are excited to see its impact in our classrooms.

Thank you very much for your support! As you know, we have 8 more early release Thursdays scheduled this year.

Please note that the next two will be back-to-back Thursdays:

- **Thursday, September 27th**
- **Thursday, October 4th**

These two sessions are the most important of the year as it is critical time for our teachers to prepare for our CIS-MSA Accreditation visit.

You can also find all these dates as well as other important dates on the Classe365 calendar or the calendar on our website.

We thank you in advance for your support as we prepare for this important visit.

Have a great weekend!

Susan Boutros
Middle & High School Principal

Collaborative Thursdays!

Dear Parents,

Thank you very much for support, as our teachers had their very first early release session last Thursday. The purpose of these sessions is to allow teachers the space to collaborate and gain new skills to improve learning at KAS. Who benefits most when teachers collaborate? Student



"Effective teacher collaboration is defined as engaging in regular routines where teachers communicate about classroom experiences in an effort to strengthen their expertise and try new things"

— ***Brownell, M. T., Yeagar, E. Rennels, M. S. & Riley, T. (1997).** / ****Davis, K. S. (2003).**

Teachers were able to share their units for the year and discuss how to reinforce concepts and ideas in specials and core subjects. Teachers were also able to discuss common rubrics and assessments for MS-HS students.



Dina Shalash
Curriculum Coordinator

Studying Successfully



As the students have returned from EID break, the 2018-2019 school year is in full swing. Students are engaging in their classes and setting academic goals for themselves. To facilitate this KAS has created Study Halls for seniors who are taking more than one Advance Placement class to provide an opportunity for them to do independent work for those classes while at school, and I am fortunate to proctor one of those sessions daily.

For the Study Hall the students enter the classroom, find a space, and get right down to work, periodically asking to visit another teacher to further their understanding or clarify a question. Some-time they discuss concepts or guide each other in their studying. Today two of the seniors were preparing for an AP World History assessment on early civilizations and were discussing the people from Papua New Guinea. As a former history teacher, I joined their conversation briefly. Others were working on AP Calculus problems and assisting each other.



This opportunity for study at school, where instructors are available, is teaching the students both how to structure their time successfully as a student and encouraging them to seek guidance in their learning as necessary. Plus they see each other as scholars who motivate each other to succeed. The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ACSD) and independent research by Dicken, Foreman, Jensen, and Sherwood (2008) have shown positive results for student success using tutored study halls.

Creating a culture of academic achievement is beneficial to all

Anne Scott
HS English and Art History



Good day KAS students,

I am so happy to see that you have joined D.E.A.R. People who read can travel through time and learn about the past, present and future of the whole universe. The modern world is filled with information, but sadly knowledge and insight are not very common. Reading will help you to change information into knowledge; this knowledge can be used to develop insight and wisdom and those are things we need desperately. Our beautiful blue planet is under assault: pollution, climate change, wars, refugees and a myriad of other problems. Your generation needs knowledge and wisdom to solve these problems. As you can see I am not just an ordinary worm, I am a recycled worm. That should give you a clue as to the things I value the most - reading and recycling. So, every evening, switch off all your electronics, crawl into bed and disappear in a book. You'll sleep better and become smarter in the process. Read on, look after the world and grow into the most spectacular generation this world has ever seen.

Benjamin Bookworm

PS. Feel free to expand my family by making as many bookworms as possible, using any recycled material, to display in your reading corners and the library.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department

Saying of the Week

When people are described as **Two Faced** it is suggested that they are hypocritical, prepared to share one opinion with a person and then a conflicting viewpoint with another. The inference is they have a separate face for each contrary opinion. Janus was a Roman god with responsibility for the gates of heaven. Legend tells us he had two faced, one in the usual position and on one the back of his head, enabling him to see in both directions at once. From that Roman legend grew the idea that anybody able to see two sides to an argument, and agree with both, must have two faces just like Janus. This extends itself to meaning any person who is able to say one thing to one person and a conflicting thing to another must also need two faces, like Janus.

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department