



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2017

We are excited to welcome all of our parents and students to a new academic year .

In particular, we are excited to warmly welcome 180 new students into our DAIS family.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST :

School Holiday— Islamic New Year— September 21st, 2017

Special Notice; 2017-2018 Calendar Change— Please Note: Due to Ministry direction the winter break will be January 28th to February 1, 2018. Students will return to school on February 4th, 2018. Please see school web-site.

Our School Continues to Grow

Since the opening of DAIS in 2010, the school has grown in leaps and bounds. On the first opening day our population was just over 200 students. There were more rooms empty than occupied and everyone knew each other. Growing enrolment has greatly increased our academic staff and need for increased classroom capacity. This academic year will find appropriately 880 students in our building. This will represent an addition of 130 students to the 2016-2017 school year. Classroom construction has taken place at the school. DSDC, our special needs centre, is now located on a newly constructed third floor. Resource rooms, therapy rooms and an area for life skills greeted our special needs population this September. Four additional regular classroom spaces will be completed by January 2018.

Parent Presentations

During the parent orientation meetings Mr. Chuck indicated that there would be a small series of meetings to inform parents about specific items that are taking place in the school. The following is a listing of presentations:

Wednesday September 27th, 2017 -School Accreditation—(6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M) The school will share the accreditation process. An outline of why accreditation is important and what is required to achieve accreditation standing. The program will share both academic and administrative expectations.

Wednesday October 4th, 2017— Teacher Planning - (6:00 P.M to 7:00 P.M.) This session will examine the planning cycle used at DAIS. The concept of “Blueprinting” will be shared with supporting examples of teacher work. Parents will have an opportunity to see how “assessment for learning” is integrated into all aspects of the teacher / student relationship.

Wednesday October 11, 2017—Data Informed Decision Making— (6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.)

The focus of this evening will be to share with parents how data informs decision making in the school. Examples of how comparative data is used to track grade and cohort groups of students will also be presented. Other groups that have been examined include comparing the results of boys vs. girls and National Students vs. Non- National Students. The importance of MAP testing will also be discussed

Update on Student Books

Elementary School—On Monday, September 17th, Science and Math consumable notebooks were distributed to the students. English and Social Studies textbooks will be distributed to parents once these American textbooks pass through customs. A text message will be sent to parents when these learning materials arrive at the school.

Middle and High School—Downloading of this material is taking place throughout this week. Each student will have the various learning supports placed onto their personal computers.

Elementary/ Middle School/ High School—Arabic support material has been distributed to Elementary Students. Middle schools students are receiving their learning material the week of September 16, 2017. Once the school receives the High School Arabic support material it will be distributed to the students.

Communications

If parents have questions about the school program or have a specific item they wish to discuss with their stage supervisor or class teacher please use the appropriate contact number.

Kindergarten	— 01027713776
Elementary	— 01024998052
Middle School	— 01098677733
High School	— 01000026734

School Advisory Council

DAIS will be establishing a School Advisory Council. This parent advisory group has been active in the past, but due to a number of Administrative reasons did not meet as frequently in the 2016-2017 academic year. This group is greatly valued by the school administration and will be reactivated for the 2017-2018 academic year. Meetings will take place every second month. Issues to be discussed will encompass matters related to policy, procedures, special events and charitable fundraising. The group will not be responsible for advocating for individual student issues. Topics related to individual families and students are considered confidential and will only be addressed by the school administration and the individuals directly involved in the matter of concern.

The Advisory Council will be composed of six individuals. One will represent each division (Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle School, High School). Two individuals will be members at large, representing all school interests. We are currently looking for volunteers to join and participate in the council. Parents who have experience in the school would be warmly welcomed. Parents who are recently new to the school are also encouraged to volunteer. Interested parties may email Ms. Rita, the assistant to Mr. Chuck (rita.nabih@daisegy.com). Within the email please provide your name, the number of years you have been with DAIS and the grade(s) your child(ren) are currently attending.

Student Late Policy

Research has proven that *'time on task'* is directly related to student achievement. Student attendance at school along with focused attention on the work, greatly increases student performance. Given our main goal is to support and increase student achievement, the number of times students were late for class was a great concern. With implementation of the student late policy in 2016-2017 DAIS found a dramatic drop in the number of students who arrived late to school and class. As in the past, the school will not accept students entering the building after 8:15 A.M.. Early dismissal of students will also be discouraged. Students who are late for school or class will be disciplined using a progressive approach. The following will be applied:

1. First Late—the student will receive a verbal warning.
2. Second Late— the student will receive a written warning and the parent (s) will receive an SMS.
3. Third Late—the parent will be invited to attend a meeting to review the situation.
4. Fourth late—the student will be suspended from the school for one day.
5. If a student continues to be late, then she/ he will be sent home for the day. Continued regular tardiness from school may lead to greater consequences.

If a family has an emergency occur, then they are asked to connect with the school to discuss the issue.

Middle School and High School—Student Laptops—Security and Responsibility

This academic year, all middle and high school students will be able to download books and support material directly onto their computer. The school has installed Wi-Fi and students will be accessing the internet on a regular basis. The increased use of technology for daily classroom assignments, lesson delivery, research, project work and assessment will demand students bring their laptops daily. This will certainly assist in strengthening student learning through the regular use of technology. This also raises the issue of student laptop maintenance and security. Although the price of laptops is decreasing, this decrease is relative. Personal computers and support devices are expensive. Security and who is responsible for these items is a concern. It should be noted that ***each middle school and high school student will be responsible for their own lab top computer.***

- Responsibility for care from damage and loss will rest with the student.
- DAIS will provide a locker to each student so they may store and lock their laptop when not in use.
- Students must bring a lock to school to ensure they can secure the locker they have been assigned.
- All laptops should be labeled or engraved with the student's name.