



## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2018

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

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

**School Holiday— Islamic New Year— September 11th, 2018— students do not attend school**

**Middle School Orientation Night (Science and Math)- September 12th -7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

**Middle School Orientation Night (English and Social Studies)- September 17th - 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

### Our School Continues to Grow

DAIS is growing. In 2017-2018 the building served approximately 850 students; in 2018 – 2019 we are expecting to serve just over 900 students. Currently our school capacity will allow for up to 1000 students. Given our rate of growth, you will notice that construction is taking place on our roof. The school has been given permission to add a third floor to accommodate future increases in student enrolment. The completion of this new space will be addressed through this school year. When completed DAIS will have added 10 rooms, 2 of these rooms will be available for use for 2018-2019.

### Parent Presentations—Curriculum Evenings

During the parent orientation meetings Mr. Chuck indicated that there would be a series of meetings to inform parents about our classroom program. The following dates were scheduled

- **Wednesday September 5th—7:00 P.M.— Kindergarten Curriculum Evening**—Parents were exposed to a quick overview of the program being presented in Kindergarten. An opportunity to meet the classroom teacher and explore the classrooms was also provided.
- **Monday September 10th—7:00 P.M.— Elementary Curriculum Evening**—Parents will be given the opportunity to receive a quick overview of the program being presented in Elementary School. Teachers will be presented an example of lessons and the classrooms will be open for parent viewing.
- **Wednesday September 12th—(Science and Mathematics)—Monday September 17th—(English and Social Studies) Middle School and High School Curriculum Evenings**—Parents will be provided with an overview of the program. Subject coordinators will be present to address questions. Representative subject teachers will also be available to provide an example of a lesson. Parents will

be given an opportunity to visit the classrooms that host subjects being highlighted during the evening.

### Future Curriculum Presentations

Parents are reminded that there will be future curriculum sessions for parents. These sessions will be specific in nature. They will focus on how lessons are developed and delivered in the classroom. The sessions will be no more than an hour and will provide an opportunity for parents to ask questions. The purpose of these sessions is not to ask questions about your specific child. Their purpose is to give parents a deeper understanding of how the American Curriculum is implemented at DAIS. Look to postings through SMS messages and the monthly newsletters concerning when these sessions will be taking place.

### Cilantro—Food Services has Arrive at DAIS

We are sure you have heard from your children that DAIS has replaced our food vendor. After a review of the service the school was receiving from our past vendor, the board made a decision to replace with a new agent. This decision was based on quality of service, food and the standards that were regularly maintained in the kitchen. The number of healthy choices being provided to our students was also a concern. Cilantro is a well known brand name in Cairo. Services provided by them come with a high degree of professionalism concerning food quality, service and healthy choices. Cilantro is located in two other schools, both have excellent reputations and have recommended Cilantro to DAIS. A few concerns about the variety choices and the pricing of the selections have been raised by some of our students and parents. As the year progresses we will receive feedback from our students and parents concerning the new service being provided to DAIS. Where possible, suggested changes will be considered. A review of the service will be completed at year end.

**School Advisory Council**

This group is greatly valued by the school administration and will be active during the 2018-2019 academic year. Meetings will take place every second month. Issues to be discussed will encompass matters related to policy, procedures, special events, services provided to the school 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. 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. All parents who have children registered in the school are welcome to apply to be a member of the school council. We are looking for parents who have been at DAIS for a number of years as well as those who are new to our school community. Interested parties may email Ms. Asmaa Abu Al Azm, the assistant to Mr. Chuck ([asmaa.abualazm@daisagy.com](mailto:asmaa.abualazm@daisagy.com)). Within the email please provide your name, the number of years you have been with DAIS and the grade(s) your child(ren) is 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. They may call the division cell phone.

**Communications**

If parents have questions about the school program or have a specific item they wish to discuss please contact the stage supervisor. If the stage supervisor cannot address your concern then she will connect you directly with your child’s vice—principal or class teacher. Please use the appropriate contact number.

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

**Staff Professional Development**

At DAIS we take staff professional development very seriously. There will be two major professional development sessions for DAIS this academic year. Both will be supported by visiting professors from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University, Faculty of Education. The first sessions will take place on **Sunday October 14 2018, students will not be attending school on this day.** Teachers will be receiving professional in-service. Follow up sessions will take place in March 2019. Supportive professional training will take place through the academic year via Skype or Face time. The focus of this year’s professional development will be ‘student writing’ and the effective use of ‘Google Classroom’ to support student learning. Professors will not only be providing in-service sessions for our staff outside of the classroom but will be working inside classrooms. They will be working with both students and staff. More information will be shared with parents as we move through the academic year.

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

All middle and high school students will be downloading books and support material directly onto their computer. The increased use of technology for daily classroom assignments, lesson delivery, research, project work and assessment will demand students bring their laptops daily. Student laptop maintenance and security is important. 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.