

Dear Parents and Students,

I am hoping that you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday with the family. It's my pleasure to welcome the returning and new families to the new academic year 2020-2021. Just like last year, Middle School academic team will continue to work collaboratively with parents and students to bring our students to the next level.

This newsletter is to share with you the following matters:

Virtual Learning:

- Based on the Minister of Education directives, we will start this academic year online.
- First day of school for student is Sunday, September 13th.
- School hours for students are from 8:30am – 2:05pm.
- There will be 6 lessons per day with 2 short breaks in between.
- Core and non-core subjects will take place during the online learning
- Students are requested to attend all lessons provided. Attendance and participation are graded.

Google Classroom:

- Google Classroom platform will be used for the virtual learning.
- Google Classroom is the main source of announcements (school and class), assignments, homework, class discussion and assessments.
- Students have to check it daily for updated information.
- Students must log in using DBS accounts ONLY. No personal emails will be accepted.
- Student will submit all assignments and assessments via Google Classroom.
- Students may communicate with the teacher via Google Classroom email system.
- Parents are not allowed to be a member of the actual Google Classroom.
- Parents may be part of the Guardian feature that Google offers. It will send email updates on your child's progress, class announcements, missing assignments, completed assignments and upcoming events/assignments.

DBS Google Accounts:

- Existing DBS students will use the same DBS google accounts they had last year.
- For new admissions, DBS google accounts will be sent by school secretary in September.
- It will take between 24 - 48 hours to activate these accounts after parents paid the first installment of the school fees.

Google Meets Interactive Sessions:

- Session links will be shared with students in order to attend the class.
- Students must log in using DBS student email account. No personal emails will be allowed to enter the class.
- Attendance will be taken daily and graded.
- Cameras **MUST** be on at all times during the interactive sessions.
- Students should be appropriately dressed for each session.

Resource Inclusion (RI):

- RI sessions will be held in the afternoon from 4:00 – 7:00pm based on a schedule provided by Ms. Nisrine according to your choice of sessions.
- RI students are requested to attend both sessions with the classroom teacher and with the RI teacher.
- These sessions are designated to help students academically and to answer their assignments' inquiries.
- Parents are encouraged to sign the RI renewal letter if they didn't yet.
- For more information or questions, please email Ms. Nisrine Hassoun at Nisreen.hassoun@dasmanschool.com.kw

Parent Portal

- Parents are requested to update their email address and phone numbers with the registrar's office in order to receive all communications from teachers and management.
- Parents may also email teacher via Google Classroom Guardian feature, through Plus Portal and directly via their school email address.
- Parents who updated their emails during the pandemic, are requested to inform the registrar's office of their new emails.

Timetables:

- Timetables will be sent to parents/students before we start the online learning.
- Timetables will include teachers' names and Google Classroom codes for quick reference.

Afternoon Help:

- It's a free service to provide students with academic support in the core subjects: math, English, science and Arabic.
- It will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:15pm – 4:00pm.
- This service is provided for both mainstream and LSU students.

Textbooks & Chromebooks:

- This year, most of the textbooks will be electronic versions.
- Dasman Bilingual School offers students the usage of Google Chromebook device that can utilize the latest operating system (Android) and support the installation of the most recent
- **Grade 8 students** are required to have a Google Chromebooks.
- **For grades 6 and 7**, they may use any device of their choice; however, it's highly recommended that they use Chromebooks.
- Students who are already using a Chromebook from school, can continue using it. All the e-books and new applications will be added to their devices automatically before school starts.
- Students who are using their personal devices need to install the applications which will be shared later with you.
- The proposed minimum configuration for Chromebook is given below. Chromebooks can be either purchased from school or students can bring their own Chromebooks that matches the minimum specifications below:

Minimum Specification

Type	Model	Brand	Capacity	Memory	Operating System
Chromebook	Any	Lenovo/Acer/HP	32 GB	4 GB	Android

Model and Configuration of Chromebook Sold by DBS

Type	Model	Brand	Capacity	Memory	Operating System
Chromebook	Spin 511	Acer	64 GB	8 GB	Android

Help Desk

- DBS ICT team is ready to help with any technical issue that students might face during the online learning.
- The Help Desk page will be active on school website before school starts. This page includes a form that parents/students can fill out (either in English or Arabic) with the problem they are facing. The ICT team will get back to you during school hours.
- Please stay tuned on social media for more announcements.

Communication:

If parents or students have academic related questions or concerns, kindly you are requested to email the classroom teacher and follow the order below:

Math	English
1- The subject teacher 2- Ms. Rima Nahlawi, the Math HOD at Reimana@dasmanschool.com.kw 3- Mr. Russell Gross, the Senior Coordinator at russellgr@dasmanschool.com.kw 4- Ms. Rihab Abdel Khalek at rihabak@dasmanschool.com.kw	1- The subject teacher 2- Ms. Katia Al Khadra, the English HOD at katia.khadra@dasmanschool.com.kw 3- Ms. Victoria McNair, the Vice Principal at victoria.mcnair@dasmanschool.com.kw 4- Ms. Rihab Abdel Khalek at rihabak@dasmanschool.com.kw

Science	LSU/RI
1- The subject teacher 2- Ms. Sharon Pereira, the Science HOD at sharonpe@dasmanschool.com.kw 3- Mr. Russell Gross, the Senior Coordinator at russellgr@dasmanschool.com.kw 4- Ms. Rihab Abdel Khalek at rihabak@dasmanschool.com.kw	1- The subject teacher 2- Ms. Nisrine Hassoun, the LSU/RI Coordinator at nisreen.hassoun@dasmanschool.com.kw 3- Ms. Rihab Abdel Khalek at rihabak@dasmanschool.com.kw

To book an appointment with the academic team please contact:

- Ms. Nabiha, MS secretary, at nabihaha@dasmanschool.com.kw / 22277377 Ext: 252 or 52226520
- Ms. Rose. MS receptionist at meryrose.kahkejian@dasmanschool.com.kw / 22277377 Ext: 103

Regards,

Rihab Abdel Khalek
Middle School Principal