VIRTUAL LEARNING GUIDE

Primary Years Programme

Middle Years Programme
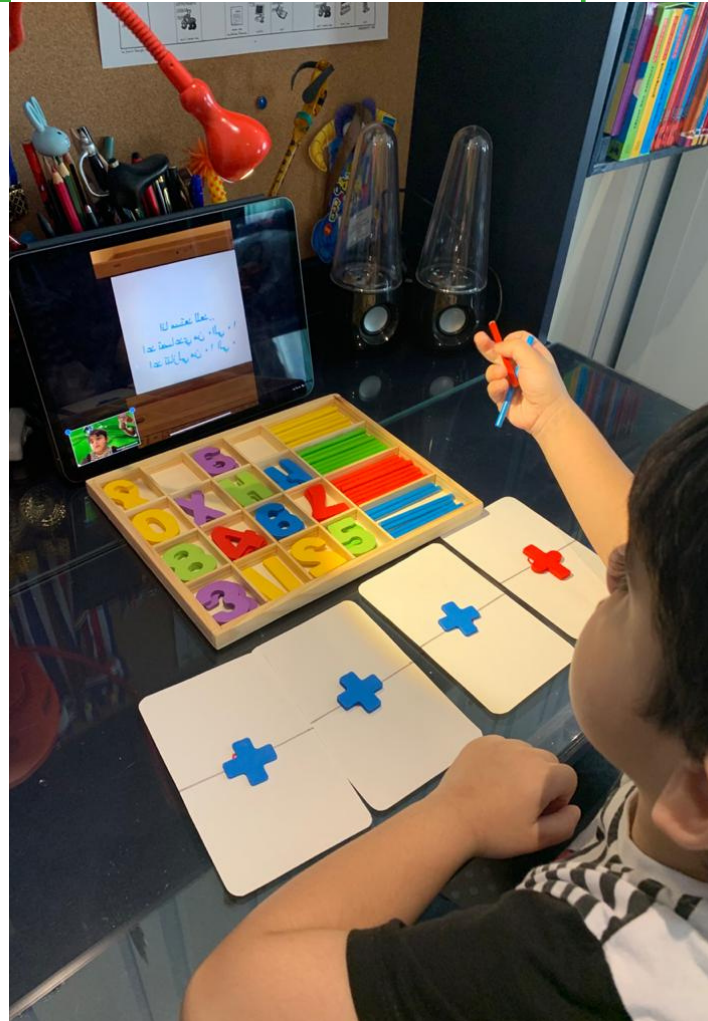
Live Chat

IT Support

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DAS MISSION AND VISION

Our Mission

Inspired by the principles of Islam, the mission of Dhahran Ahliyya Schools is to empower each student to be a compassionate, thinking, lifelong bi-lingual learner who makes a positive difference, locally and globally.

Our Vision

Our vision is to provide a world-class education with an Arab and Islamic identity through a pioneering learning community that is sustainable and socially responsible.

Our Motto

Each year we will be better than we were the year before.

VIRTUAL LEARNING AND THE IB LEARNER PROFILE

In spite of the challenges associated with the virtual learning, it offers students and teachers an opportunity to make the most of the experience. The IB learner profile is a key factor in continuing a quality educational process in this case.

COMMUNICATORS

Students consistently find new and innovative channels to communicate effectively in the school setting and in their community. Communication and collaboration create networks with others, particularly when certain conditions keep them from going to classes at school.

KNOWLEDGEABLE

Students can expand their insight and seek new areas of study. Being knowledgeable about their condition gives them a superior comprehension of the idea of the virtual learning environment and the capacity to manage issues emerging during virtual learning.

THINKERS

Students think of ways to tackle problems and discover solutions themselves, without face-to-face teacher supervision. Their capacity to perceive and interpret gives students more chances to overcome any difficulties and make strong decisions.

INQUIRERS

Students, with their hunger for information, psychological interest, and energy, can continue investigating and researching. Virtual learning does not stop them learning. They can still fulfill their hunger for information, in order to learn and adjust to changes and difficulties, and make the most of any situation.

PRINCIPLED

Students know about the pressing need to carry on learning to help the entire community. They understand the incredible endeavors of educators and schools to keep giving instruction, thus behave honestly and responsibly despite their teachers' physical absence. These students are also aware of their own obligations in this process and do not need to be reminded of them.

OPEN-MINDED

Students show a readiness to learn by means of applying virtual learning strategies, often in new and unfamiliar ways. They are open to benefit from others' experiences and expertise, accepting changes and innovation, and showing an understanding of new learning strategies.

CARING

Students can team up with other students and educators. These students will make every effort to help peers who need educational resources or technical support to continue with their learning

REFLECTIVE

Students can consistently reflect on the qualities and shortcomings of their performance. They consider what is significant about being a student and a global citizen.

BALANCED

A balanced student understands that being involved in virtual lessons should be balanced by getting some much-needed rest from the screen and doing physical exercise. Their ability to balance emotional and physical needs empowers them to be stronger in difficult conditions.

RISK-TAKERS

Students are not anxious about change and use abilities and adaptability as a shield against any troubles or difficulties. When face-to-face learning is not possible, risk-taker students develop new abilities and sharpen their current aptitudes to determine difficulties and to consider solutions.

Accordingly, students with learner profile attributes are bound to be more successful in virtual learning. Putting the student at the center of the learning process gives them the abilities and characteristics necessary to cope and make the best of the situation.

APPROACHES TO LEARNING SKILLS

AND THE SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL LEARNER

The IB focuses on Approaches to Learning skills (ATLs) which are a set of skills that prepare students to become successful individuals. Applying these skills in the context of virtual learning is a golden opportunity to put theory into practice and for students to become successful now rather than some later day. Here are some characteristics that are key to becoming a successful virtual learner:

INDEPENDENT STUDY HABITS

Reflection Skills: Students may pause and evaluate themselves periodically to see what study habits are working for them, what questions they may need answers to, and what factors are important for them to learn effectively.

SELF-MOTIVATION

Social Skills: Maintaining healthy relationships with family members and friends is a major contributor to staying uplifted and motivated.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Communication Skills: During video classes on Teams, students may ponder how to communicate clearly, be open-minded to new ideas, and listen respectfully and responsibly to others.

GOOD TIME MANAGEMENT

Self-management Skills: Students may contemplate how to complete online tasks by the due dates. They could create a calendar of upcoming important tasks and tests.

RESEARCH READINESS

Research Skills: Students may consider diversifying their sources while maintaining academic honesty and integrity in citing the work they used.

TECHNOLOGICALLY PREPARED

Self-management Skills: Student may coordinate with their families beforehand to set up a stable internet connection, as well as access to a laptop or computer according to the specification set forth in the IT Requirements.

ROLE OF PARENTS

As a result of the expanded autonomy and self-motivation required to get the most from virtual learning, parent involvement is commonly a key indicator of an effective virtual school experience.

Studies show that there is an immediate positive relationship between parent engagement and student achievement. This could likely be said for both face-to-face courses and virtual courses, however, the engagement with online classes is exceptionally clear. Basically, virtual learning work better when parents are closely involved in their child's learning. There are a few different ways that parents can contribute:

- Check IT requirements for online classes and ensure stable internet connection

- Familiarize yourself with the Teams virtual learning platform

- Set up a study space for your child with a desk and good lighting

- Guide your child in building a schedule

- Maintain continuous communication with your child's teachers

- Encourage, motivate, and provide support to your child

- Check the schedule and make sure your child is ready before the beginning of classes

- Contact school administration should you have inquiries or need support

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

ASSESSMENT POLICY

LANGUAGE POLICY
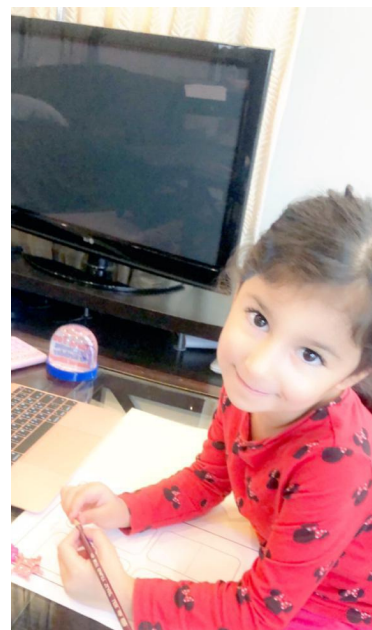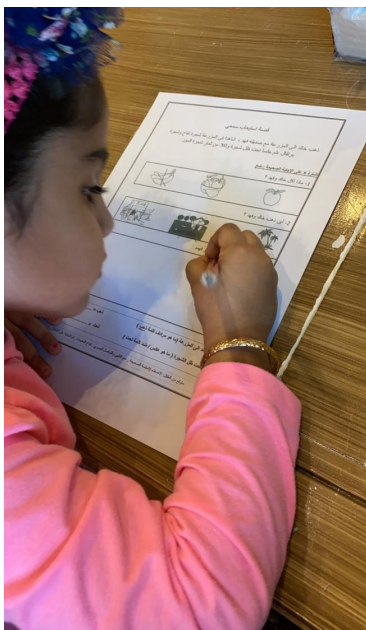
INLCUSION POLICY

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

STUDENTS' COMMITTMENT CODE

SCHOOL POLICIES

Click on the links for complete information on DAS' policies.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment of student learning is "the process of gathering and evaluating information on what students know, understand, and can do in order to make an informed decision about the next steps in the educational process." In education, learning assessment is an essential feedback mechanism, allowing students, teachers, and parents to understand what is being learned and where learning resources need to be focused. This will enable students to continue along their learning trajectory.

At DAS, a number of assessment types are utilized depending on the purpose. More information can be found in the Assessment Policy. When virtual learning is in place, DAS will be utilizing a combination of these 3 types:

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Formative assessments are interwoven throughout daily learning and provide teachers and students with useful, timely feedback on how well students understand and apply new concepts, skills, and knowledge. Formative assessments are also intended to inform teachers about the effectiveness of their practices by providing essential information regarding student mastery of skills. Further, they help us decide which students need additional support and what support is needed.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Summative assessments take place at the middle and end of every unit of learning across disciplines. They give the students opportunities to demonstrate what they have learned in relation to the intended standards. Summative assessments may include any combination of the following: acquisition of data, synthesis of information, application of knowledge, and processes that address multiple learning styles. A summative assessment can be a pen-and-paper test or a performance assessment task.

PERFORMANCE TASK

A performance task is any learning activity or assessment that asks students to perform to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding, and proficiency. Performance tasks yield a tangible product and/or performance that serve as evidence of learning. Some summative assessments are carried out in the form of a performance task.

All types of assessment are important to gauge student learning, however, the formative assessments are particularly essential because learning will take place outside of the physical classroom, and teachers and parents need to determine whether students are absorbing the content that is delivered to them in a virtual format.

PROJECTS

MYP PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Through the Middle Years Program (MYP) Projects, students experience the responsibility of completing a significant piece of work over an extended period of time. MYP Projects encourage students to reflect on their learning and the outcomes of their work – key skills that prepare them for success in further study, the workplace, and the community. For further info, please click on this link.

WEEK WITHOUT WALLS

Grade 11 in the Boys' Section participate in WWoW. There are several ways DAS students can benefit from this program:
- Working with a group for a shared purpose
- Cultivating generosity and empathy
- Learning budgeting skills
- Practicing personal management and organization skills
- Gaining respect for—and from—people who are different
- Responding responsibly to new challenges
- Experiencing life without luxury
- Exercising leadership
- Understanding global issues
- Preparing for university

SENIOR PROJECTS

The Senior project course prepares students for more effective academic and professional careers as it is mainly based on inquiry processes and critical thinking skills.

PROJECTS VIRTUALLY

- Students work in small groups under the supervision of the project mentor
- The Community Project is completed in groups of 3 students or less, whereas Personal Project and Senior Project are completed individually
- Project classes will be part of the weekly schedule
- School attendance policy is applied
- Digital copies of project guides will be provided by the project mentor
- Community Project and WWOW will plan for online community service projects and/or adhere to social distancing, when needed
- WWoW Students will plan for and organize online fundraisers to support their projects
- Project exhibition will be done virtually unless school resumes in the classrooms

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365

DAS is a Microsoft learning environment. Every student at DAS will have a school email, as well as access to Office 365 programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Forms, Teams, etc.).

STUDENT ACCOUNT

Student log in information will be sent to parents via SMS.

VIDEO CONFERENCING

DAS believes in the importance of teachers making a connection with their students as it makes for effective and lasting learning. Hence, in an effort to simulate a normal classroom environment during virtual learning, teachers will have their videos turned on during class time and students are expected to do the same, unless otherwise instructed. When session are recorded, students will be informed beforehand.
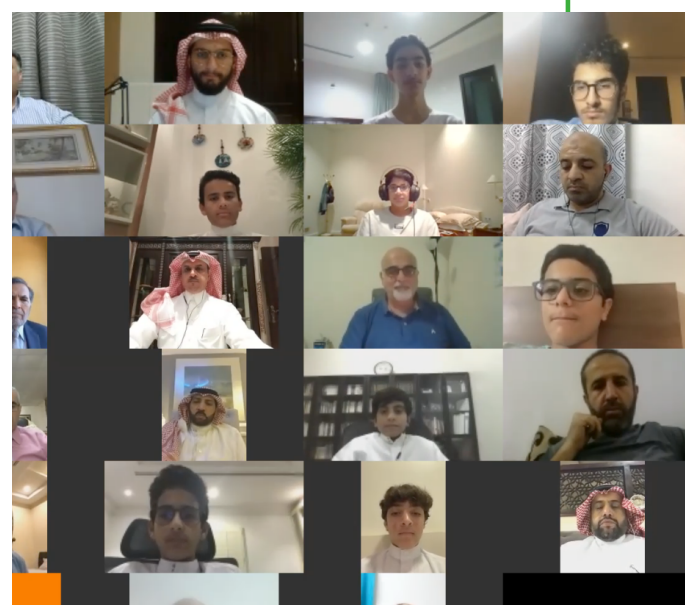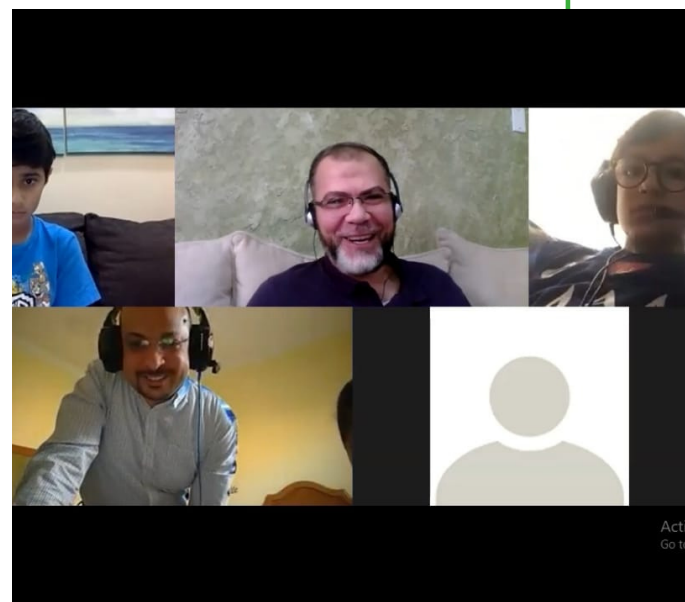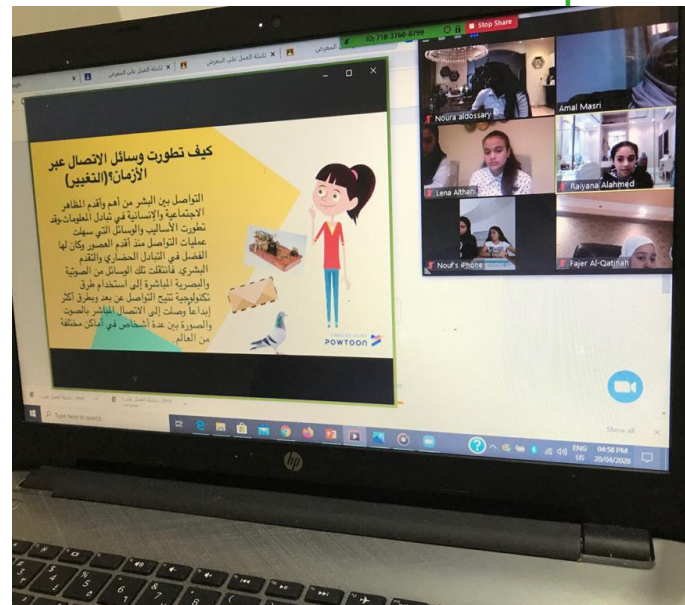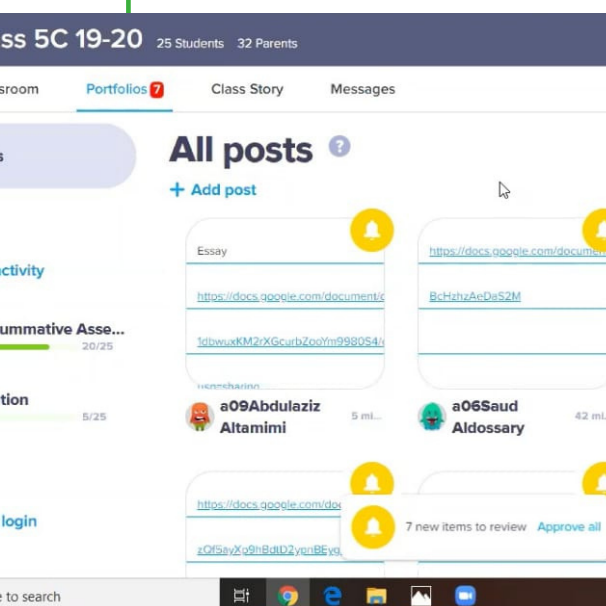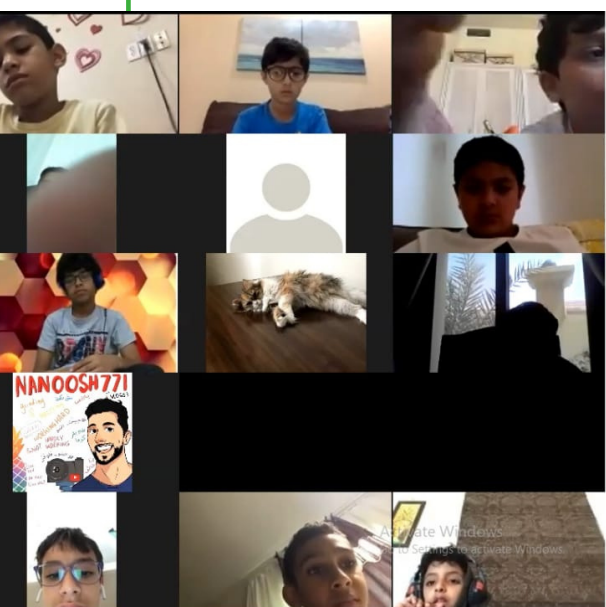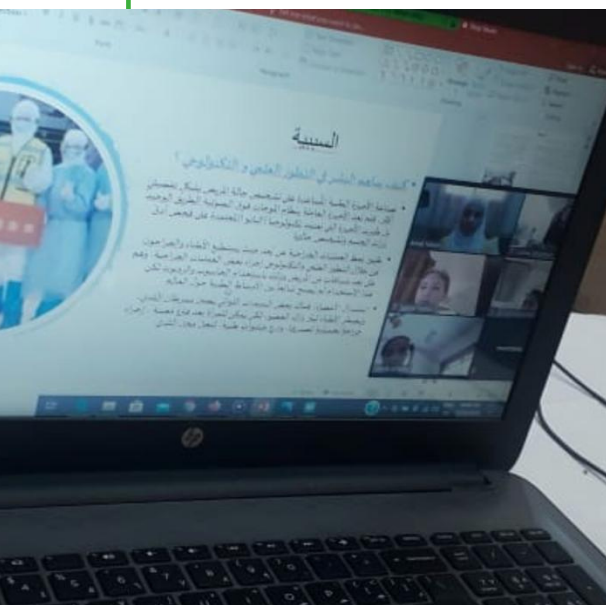
SYLLABUS

In each subject's Team, the subject teacher will post the syllabus for that subject.

STATIONERY LIST

For lower grades, the stationery list will be posted on the school website. For upper grades, in each subject's Team, the subject teacher will post the stationery requirements for that subject.

DRESS CODE

During virtual learning, students are required to wear semi-formal clothing that is suitable for a learning environment. Students are expected to wear decent, culturally-appropriate attire.

NETIQUETTE

Netiquette is a term that refers to a code of polite behavior on the internet. When learning virtually, it is important to apply these netiquette expectations:

- Read emails carefully to fully understand the message.
- After completing your response, read and reread it before sending it to catch any spelling, punctuation, or grammar mistakes.
- Humor or sarcasm must be clearly labeled as it may be easily misunderstood.
- Be appropriate when addressing your teachers and classmates.
- When asking for clarification, be specific in your question.
- Make sure you are using your full name when entering a video meeting or sending an email.
- Remember, typing in ALL CAPS signifies you are yelling.
- If writing your email while you are angry, wait before sending it and reread it to make sure it is appropriate.

IT REQUIREMENTS

As per our obligation to fulfil the requirements of the next phase strategy and to implement what we have started years ago to guarantee a successful digital transformation for our students, we emphasize the importance of providing computers or laptops for students in order to meet the virtual learning expectations.

KG TO GRADE 2

Students may use tablets and iPads, unless informed there is a need to have a laptop, in accordance with the variables of learning.

GRADE 3 -12

All students in grade 3 and above must own laptops with good quality features that include Windows 10 as the operating system with Microsoft 365. DAS will provide all students with Microsoft Office 365 accounts that will enable them to download the required software in their personal computers. Virtual learning requires laptops and that CANNOT be replaced with tablets and iPads.

Students must have laptops with the following key features:
- Intel (i3) or AMD class processor.
- 8GB RAM or higher.
- Built-in Mic and camera.
- Windows 10 (preferred), students may use a MacBook as long as Office 365 is installed.
- Endpoint Protection (Antivirus installed)

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

For virtual learning to be successful and enjoyable it is important to manage our time correctly. This applies to both students and teachers. Students sometimes do not know the appropriate time to contact their teachers or feel embarrassed to reach out. Teachers, too, are often contacted at all hours of the day.

To better manage the communication, teachers will specify virtual office hours during which they may be reached through Teams, whether by chat, audio call, or video call. The office hours will be posted by each teacher in the class Team.

Teacher emails are available in Teams, as well.

PowerSchool

DAS utilizes PowerSchool, an innovative tool intended to provide parents, students, and teachers with a platform to communicate student performance.

Students and parents alike are able to log in to the student's account using the username and password that was sent to the parents via SMS, along with the class schedules.

A list of all Principals' and Academic Coaches' emails is available at the end of this guide.

RESOURCES

DAS realizes the importance of having quality resources at the students' fingertips. Now more than ever, DAS provides students with a variety of digital resources for all grade levels.

For inquiries about log in information or access difficulties, please contact Mr. Sampath Kumar via
email: Sampath.Kumar@Das.sch.sa

PYP RESOURCES

Magazines
Brain POP
Brain POP Junior

E-Boos/Audiobooks
Raz Kids
I Read Arabic

Database/Websites
EBSCO

Learning Platform
Century Tech

MYP RESOURCES

Research Databases in General
EBSCO
Google Scholar
Microsoft Academic
Questia

Journals and Magazines
Microsoft Academic
JSTOR

Literature and Language
Google Books
Planet eBook
Classic Book Shelf
Page by Page Books
Amazon Audibles
Poem Hunter
Century Tech

Individual and Societies
Geography All the Way
Churchill Archive
History Pin
The Economist
The Guardian
The World Bank
The Washington Post

Science and Maths
Free Science
Open Culture
Free Tech Books
Mr. G Environment Systems
Century Tech

Visual Arts
Art Forum
Hermitage Museum
MOMA
TATE

PE and Health Education
BrianMac Sports Coach
Sport England

STUDENT COUNSELING

Virtual learning is a double-edged sword. When the need arises, it is a blessing that students, teachers, and staff are safe at home and learning is able to continue virtually. However, virtual learning does not come without its challenges. DAS understands the emotional and mental challenges that students may face and has made sure to address them and approach the learning process in a holistic way.

Students will be provided with weekly or biweekly virtual group counseling sessions that will be scheduled in their timetable up till grade 9. During these sessions, the counselor will follow the SECOND STEP curriculum that focuses on social emotional learning strategies appropriate to each grade level.

Counselors will send home-link activities for grades 1-5 that we encourage parents and family members to work on with their children at home.

All counselors will have specific office hours that will be communicated to parents, who can also contact the counselors directly via email:

> For more information on student support at DAS, click on this link.

ACADEMIC COACH FOR STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT AND STUDENT COUNSELING
Saarah Alsunaid
Saarah.al-sunaid@Das.sch.sa

GIRLS SECTION
GRADES 1-3
Nora Sehali
Nora.AL-Sehly@Das.sch.sa

GRADES 4-5
Haya Alereji
Haya.Alarji@Das.sch.sa

GRADES 6-8
Huda Alghamdi
Huda.Alghamdi@Das.sch.sa

GRADES 9-12
Laila Qassab
Laila.ALQassap@Das.sch.sa

BOYS SECTION
GRADES 3-5
Emad Elawny
emad.elawny@Das.sch.sa

GRADES 6-7
Ahmed Alhourani ahmed.alhourani@das.sch.sa

GRADES 8-9
Ahmed Balbied
Ahmed.Balbied@Das.sch.sa

GRADES 10-12
Osama Alshamrani
Osama.Alshamrani@Das.sch.sa

COLLEGE COUNSELING

College counseling at DAS helps students stay on top of class selection and graduation requirements. It also prepares them for college life and requirements as early as possible (The Four-Year-Plan for college admission and preparedness).

COLLEGE COUNSELING VIRTUALLY

1. Online Open-Days will be offered to parents to meet with the counselor and inquire about their concerns and be updated about the latest news and arrangements.
2. Specialized college counseling sessions will be offered for various purposes, such as application platforms and requirements.
3. Direct and continuous interaction will be established between students and parents with the college counselor for any concerns through the means clarified below.
4. Specialized college counseling websites, YouTube recommendations, and online materials will be suggested by the college counselor.
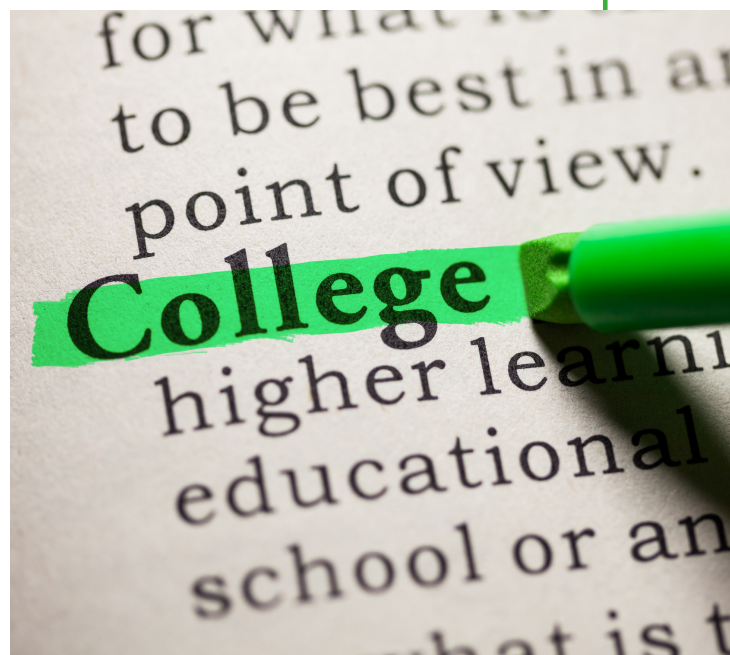
MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

To ensure the highest level of professionalism and productivity, DAS offers the following means to get in touch with the college counselor:

- Email Boys Section:
  mohammed.elmelegi@das.sch.sa
- Email Girls Section:
  nafeesa.raheemuldeen@das.sch.sa
- Direct phone calls and WhatsApp groups (Boys Section):
  Mr. Mohammed Elmelegi:
  +966507813759.
- Specialized websites and pages that will be shared with the students and parents.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR VISITING THE SCHOOL

It is the Safety and Health Committee's priority to ensure the safety of the entire school community; including students, staff, parents, and visitors.

To that end, the school has placed precautionary measures, depending on the current circumstances:

1. Reducing the numbers of people entering the school, as much as possible.
2. Following social distancing measures, such as maintaining 1.5 meters between individuals, washing hands, wearing masks.
3. Taking the temperature of anyone entering the school.
4. Forbidding anyone to enter the school without a mask.

FAQ
FOR STUDENTS

FAQ
FOR PARENTS

WILL STUDENTS USE ZOOM?

DAS is a Microsoft learning environment and the approved method of video calls is through Microsoft Teams.

MAY I VOLUNTEER?

Mothers interested in volunteering may do so in-person and virtually. Please contact Ms. Samia Aldossary at samia.al-dossari@das.sch.sa

HOW CAN I JOIN THE PARENTS TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)?

The PTA operates in-person and virtually. Please contact the PTA member Ms. Mona Bamasoud at msby8888@gmail.com

WILL SENIOR/PERSONAL/ COMMUNITY PROJECTS/ WWOW CONTINUE?

DAS believes in the importance of these programs in building students' character and enforcing the mission and vision of the school for students to become an active and positive force in the community, while maintaining every precaution to ensure the safety of our students during these times.

WHERE CAN I FIND MY STATIONERY LIST?

The stationery list for lower grades will be posted on the school website, whereas the upper grades will be posted in your class Team.

WHERE CAN I FIND MY SYLLABUS?

The syllabus will be posted in your class Team.

WHAT DO I DO IF I DON'T SEE MY CLASS ON TEAMS?

Please contact the IT department at the WhatsApp Support number: +966138198779 or the live chat from 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

I AM LOGGED OUT OF MY ACCOUNT. WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

Please contact the IT department at the WhatsApp IT Support number: +966138198779 or the live chat from 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

GIRLS SECTION PROCTORS

KG - BRANCH BUILDING
Bothaina Alromaih
0138198725
bothina.al-romaih@das.sch.sa

KG - MAIN BUILDING
Hajar Aljamiah
0565330351
hajar.aljamiah@das.sch.sa

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Deemah Alkhathlan
0506469734
Deemah.Alkhathlan@Das.sch.sa

GRADES 3-5
Aisha Albluchi
0591712254
Aisha.AL-Baluchi@Das.sch.sa

GRADES 6-9
Atheer Alharkan
0543677652
Atheer.AlHarkan@Das.sch.sa

GRADES 10-12
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Sumaya.Alkhelb@Das.sch.sa

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0559417227
Thanaa.Qulasy@Das.sch.sa

PROCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

BOYS SECTION PROCTORS

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Ahmed.Alsayed@Das.sch.sa

GRADES 8-9
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ali.alshamrani@das.sch.sa

GRADES 10-12
Islam Abduljaleel
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ISLAM.ABDULJALEEL@DAS.SCH.SA

DAS Staff Directory

School Phone Number
+966-13- 8198700

The phone extensions for DAS staff is available at this link.

PRINCIPALS AND ACADEMIC COACHES' EMAILS

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COUNSELOR OF TRAINING
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PRINCIPALS AND ACADEMIC COACHES' EMAILS

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Dr. Maheshwaran Balaraman
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