

PARENT NEWS

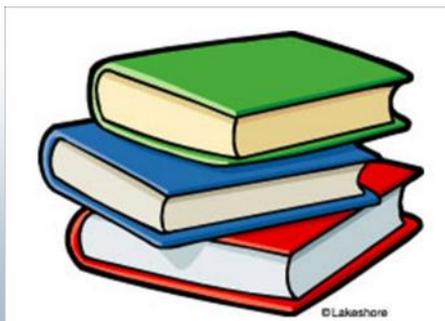
Middle East International School

NOVEMBER 2019

Book Fair—

November 13 (7-2 p.m.)

November 14 (7-8 p.m.)



As many of you may know, MIS is renewing our accreditation. Why? First, it is mandatory. Second, we know that we cannot prepare students for the world we live in, but rather we must prepare them for a multitude of possible futures. We must respond to the global, digital world we live in where learning can happen anywhere, any time. And, we must be true to our statements of being student-centered where students and adults are authentically engaged in their learning.

You may know some important facts about our staff:

- All staff who teach students are licensed educators in their respective countries.
- All staff are required to be attested by the Ministry of Education and MoFA.
- 36 teachers hold a master's degree; there are 3 staff with PhDs.
- Our staff comes from 20 different countries.
- Each have experience in the American curriculum; more than half have been with us 10 years or more.
- Teaching skill is not determined by nationality. Rather, it is experience and continually growing in the art of teaching with a desire to serve students.
- Teachers work with students from around 50 different nationalities

I hope you will talk with teachers about the journey they are on as learners and give them your heartfelt encouragement and support. Learning can be a challenge. But, I know our dedicated, professional staff invest in their learning because they know that they are leading the way for students.

Regards,

Dr. Sue Borden
Head of School



FINAL EXAMS

Over the course of last year and through summer, we have been thinking a great deal about final exams for our middle school students.

With some research and thought, we will be changing the percentage of the final grade that exams count for. This will be in Grade 6 and 7 ONLY.

Grade 6: Final exams will be 20% of the semester grade.

Grade 7: Final exams will be 25% of the semester grade.

We feel that students coming from the middle school have little experience preparing and taking exams. The scaffolding of exam weight will allow four exam periods to learn how to prepare before the full weight of 30% is applied, Grades 8-12.

MIS is:

- Internationally accredited by AdvancED and a NEASC Candidate
- Nationally accredited by QNSA
- Licensed to operate in Qatar
- Providing the American curriculum based on the Common Core Standards
- Welcome all nationalities

Upcoming Events

October 31

End of Quarter 1

November 14

Early Dismissal @ 12:30 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

First Quarter Report Cards Distributed

**MAP results with report cards

December 5

Early Dismissal @ 12:30 p.m.

December 12

National Day celebrated at school

December 18

Winter Break Begins

January 5

School Resumes

**The MS/HS Exam Schedule will be published in December.

Points of Pride

- 50% of high school students are taking an AP Class, college courses
- 49% of teachers have their masters degree; all teachers have a bachelors (in education) degree
- Our staff includes teachers from the UK, Columbia, Burkina Faso, Ukraine, USA, Canada, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Kenya, Pakistan and Jordan

Being Accredited

Being accredited shows the staff and school's commitment to education excellence. Like students, staff should always be engaged in growing and developing professionally. I've heard the analogy, "Would you want your doctor to operate on you the same way she did ten years ago?" The answer is obviously, "No." In education, although there are some tried and true methods, our field continues to change and our continuous improvement as adults drives how well students achieve.

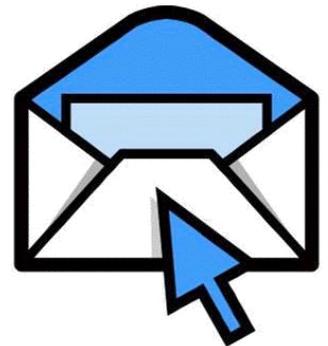
Email

As a part of our service to you, we provide our correspondence via email. **Please make sure that we have your updated email.**

If you do not receive anything from us, please check your child's book bag for something requesting your email, or send us an email at aki@misqatar.com with your child's name and grade.

When we have your email, you receive:

- Lesson Plans through One Drive
- Monthly Newsletters
- Special Announcements
- Event Updates
- Community Opportunities



Parent-Teacher Conferences

November 14 our staff will be available for Parent-Teacher Conferences. In order to help organize conferences, we offer them at different times.

Kindergarten Conferences will be held from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Elementary Conferences (Grades 1-5) will be held from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Middle School Conferences (Grades 6-8) will be held from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

High School Conferences (Grades 9-12) will be held from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

There are many teachers who teach across the sections. These teachers work three hours so that they cross over both the elementary and middle/high school times.

Arabic, French and Arabic for non-speakers as well as Islamic Studies teachers can be found in the auditorium on this evening.

Please see the articles in the newsletter for information on having a great conference.

High School Opportunities

As students build their college resume at MIS, there are many opportunities for them to participate in. Here is a list of the current opportunities in the high school. Many are offered in the middle school as well. More are added each month.

- ◆ Robotics Club
- ◆ College Fairs—weekly at high school lunch
- ◆ Germany Trip—meetings happening now
- ◆ USA Trip—meetings happening now
- ◆ Student Council—elections held
- ◆ National Geography Bee/Bowl—Spring 2020
- ◆ Qatar Olympics—starting after International Athletics
- ◆ Model United Nations—starting now
- ◆ National Astronomy Olympiad—starting now
- ◆ Scientific Book Forum
- ◆ Qatar Debates—starting now
- ◆ SEHHA
- ◆ Farm Your Community
- ◆ Odyssey of the Mind
- ◆ Destination Imagination
- ◆ National Day Program (Qatari students)—November
- ◆ Arabic Poetry (Future Writer's Contest)
- ◆ Qatar Scientific Research Foundation
- ◆ Quran Competition
- ◆ Choir and Band Club—meets Sunday and Wednesday from 2:15-3:30 p.m. with Ms. Anna



Water Bottles

Please ensure your child has a water bottle each day.

Facebook = MIS1994

Investing in MIS

We have been making some investments as the school year continues! Here are some new additions in September and October:

- New library software system
- New beanbags, rug, and shelves for the library
- New lunch tables
- New majilis seating areas for students

OCTOBER

Students of the Month

Kindergarten—Jury Eslam Aly Sayed Ahmed Aboutaleb

Grade 1—Ali Tarek Samy Elsaid Aboelkhair

Grade 2—Phoebe Cielo Barbudo

Grade 3—Pietra Leite Lemes

Grade 4—Ghazal Ramy Al Badour

Grade 5—Malak Mohamed Ahmed Hagag

Grade 6—Juliana Renee Dela Cruz Miclat

Grade 7—Yamin Bassam Shafiek Abu-Khalil

Grade 8—Mohammad Hesham Alghouthani

Grade 9—Luzienne Knoll Mitz Sevilla Calsado

Grade 10—Sadaf Aftab Ahmed

Grade 11—Czarina Kyla Gutierrez Ramos

Grade 12—Reem Nabil Abdelkawy Elshabasy

Thank you to these outstanding students for being role models socially and academically for their peers. They helped us start our school year in a very positive way!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Roles in the Parent-Teacher Conference

Parents:

Learn about their children's progress in school

Recognize the teacher as someone working on your child's behalf each day - respect them.

Seek solutions collaboratively

Participate in developing an action plan, if needed

Clarify how you will communicate with the teacher

Teachers:

Show examples of student work and examples of expected levels of performance

Ask questions about what the parent sees the student struggling with

Gain insights into their student's home and community lives

Gain an understanding of parent perceived strengths and needs

Share ideas for supporting student learning at **home**

Together:

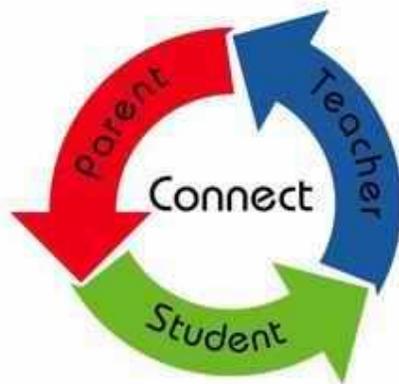
Develop new strategies collaboratively to support student learning at school

Ensure clear, future communication directly from the teacher to the parent



facebook

MIS1994



Website:

www.misqatar.com

Student Council

Representatives

~ Middle School ~

President: Adam Talha

Vice President: Dana Mohammed Abu Humeid

Secretary: Ghaya Gasmí

Treasurer: Kyle Zyric Reolizado

Sports Coordinator: Tasneem Yasir Ali

Activity Coordinator: Dave Stanley Arthur Lasono

**Cultural Literacy: Lei Francesca Cuaderno
Mariano**

**Grade 6 Representative: Gregory Zach
Fernandez Ybanez**

**Grade 7 Representative: Raghad Mohammed
Abu Humeid**

Grade 8 Representative: Leen Musa AlNamari

Top 10 Questions to Ask

1. How is my child doing socially?
2. How is my child doing emotionally?
3. What academic progress have you seen?
4. What do you think my child is good at?
5. Is my child at grade level?
6. Is my child doing their best?
7. Does my child need any extra help?
8. How can I help?
9. Can I share a concern?
10. How can I contact you?

Teacher Feature:



Growing up from an economically challenged family, at an early age, Ms. Gemalyn Magno-Ronquillo or simply “Ms. Gem” as her colleagues and students fondly called her, had put premium in earning a degree. Determined and focused as she was, she graduated *Cum Laude* at Central Luzon State University in the Philippines with the degree of Bachelor in Secondary Education, English and Guidance & Counseling as major and minor, respectively. Also, she

completed her academic requirements in Masters in Educational Administration at Bukidnon State University.

Soon after her graduation in her bachelor’s degree, she started her teaching career as an English Teacher and Supervisor at the Accelerated Christian Education School (International Individualized Curriculum). Having hurdled the Philippine *Licensure Examination for Teachers* (LET) on that same year, she was welcomed by a college institution called *The Colleges of the Republic* as an instructor where she taught English, Philosophy and Social Science. After a couple of years, she was a devoted ESL teacher for Korean students at another state university, and she was also employed as an English teacher in a computer learning center.

At MIS, Ms. Gem teaches English in the Middle School Department. She takes pride in the fact that she was one of the eyewitnesses of MIS humble beginnings. With her loyalty, she is now on her 10th year in this prestigious school.

Thank you Ms. Gem for bringing your experiences and skills to MIS and serving our students with passion each day!

How do we use MAP testing?

The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) is given to all students in Grade 1-11. We use MAP to:

- Measure ourselves nationally and internationally
- Show you the growth of your student
- Determine Honors sections
- Determine Gifted and Talented Programming
- Determine part of eligibility for overseas travel
- Advise students about their readiness for Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- Measure how students who have been with MIS for multiple years look as compared to students starting with us after attending other schools.

After School

What happens after school? After school is when remedial class and college classes (AP) are held. In addition, our clubs like Music/Band are happening. We ask students to leave quickly because learning continues in the building. And, of course, teachers who are not teaching may be in meeting to learn or work with parent needs.

Please help us by picking up on time so that our teachers can focus their efforts on the learning and needs after school.

Student Council

~ High School ~

Students have a plan for the year which includes charity fundraising, football tournaments, house competitions, chess tournaments, and much more.

They share their events through student announcements read in class, Facebook, and on their bulletin board.

Student Council President:

Sean Michael Lasono (Grade 12A)

Vice President: **Mohammed Tariq (Grade 12A)**

Secretary: **Sara Omar Ibrahim (Grade 12A)**

Treasurer: **Gusti Faturahman Rais (Grade 10A)**

Events Coordinator: **Amira Alaswadi (Grade 11A)**

Sports Coordinator: **Abdulla Waleed Duwaisan (Grade 12A)**

Sports Coordinator: **Mariya Kezdekbayeva (Grade 11A)**

Events Coordinator & Grade 9 Representative: **Odai Adel Elfeghieh (Grade 12A)**

Events Coordinator & Grade 10 Representative: **Noah Arthur (Grade 12A)**

Birthday Reminder—Elementary

For our parents, if you feel you must send something for a birthday, please email the homeroom teacher at least 3 days in advance. The teacher will share the schedule and guide you toward a time that is best for all students.

Birthday treats dropped off at all other times will be at our discretion. Usually, we will save them for the last 10 minutes of the day.

Please understand that a birthday celebration with 25 students involves cleanup and organization outside the normal routines. It also involves lost learning time. We have 300+ elementary students and we want to work as a team.

In addition, the Ministry always encourages healthy foods and we have to consider food safety when sharing in school.

In honesty, the school strongly prefers that celebrations with food are outside of school.



Discipline Techniques for Preteens

Is your little one turning into a messy pre-teen with every passing day? Has he/she been reacting arrogantly, disobeying instructions? If you nodded along in agreement, here are effective discipline techniques for your pre-teen.

Have house rules—Set the rules for your house and make sure he/she understands and follows them. Keep it clear that contributing to the household chores is not a choice.

Rewards work wonders—Have a behavioral contract with your little one and reward them with extra privileges or gifts of your time, if they abide by those rules and are disciplined.

Use If....Then....Else Statement—They are old enough to understand the action-consequence relation, so start using 'If...then' statements that will outline the consequences of any unacceptable behavior. This will also help them to learn self-discipline.

Be a role model—Pre-teens learn from what they see. So, make sure you lead a life that serves as a worthy role-model. Keep your calm even under stressful situations.

Use the calm approach—Make it a practice and an unwritten rule at home that things get done only when you're calm. Also make sure you practice this and don't lose your cool when they are not following any of the rules you've laid.

School Fees

Thank you to the vast majority of our parents for paying school fees by the deadline. We very much appreciate your diligence!

If you have not paid your school fees, a late fee is applied beginning on November 1, 2019.

Student Council Representatives

~ Elementary ~

Ralph Jacob Miciat (3A)

Ryan Butler (3B)

Ward Nashat Alrabadi (3C)

Mazen Abdelmoneim (4A)

Ahmad Khalid Safa (4B)

Ronald Renz Ajoc (5A)

Stephanie Calsado (5B)

Kinan Sami Barqawi (5C)

Ask your student about "Soctober," Book Character Day and Teacher Appreciation Week—events developed by our students for our community!

Standards-Based Grading at KG and Elementary Levels

A standards-based report card emphasizes learning instead of earning marks.

For example, when young readers first learn to read, they learn the difference between pictures and words. Next, they learn that words in English go from left to right and top to bottom. Then, they learn many sight words. And, finally, they can read a sentence. Moving through each step to becoming a reader means mastering a new standard. Standards help you know what your child is learning and what they need to learn next.

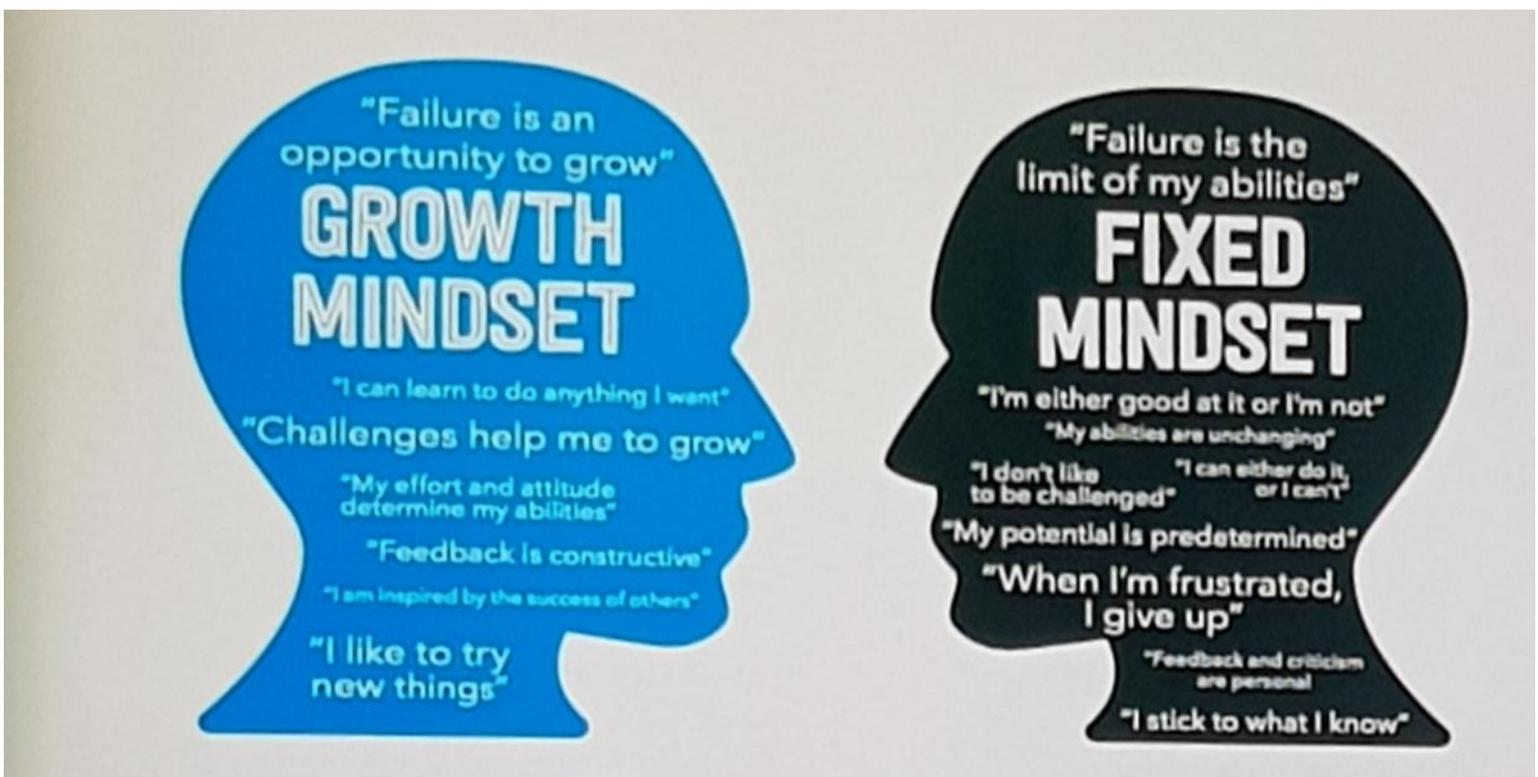
Each quarter, we will provide students multiple opportunities to practice, attain, and demonstrate proficiency on the standards. In a standards-based classroom, the focus is on a student's performance over multiple opportunities beyond the grading and averaging of tests and quizzes. Hence, the report card will accurately communicate achievement of learning standards to students, parents, and educators.

Through the identification of clear standards, a student's knowledge and skills will be measured on a continual basis, stretching students to perform at their highest level of potential. Teachers will collect evidence of a child's achievement through careful observations, examination of the students' work, discussions, projects, performance tasks, quizzes, and tests. Teachers will record information about each child's progress on a frequent basis, analyze and compile that information, and finally use the data to evaluate each child's progress toward attainment of the standard. Therefore, the grade for each semester will communicate a student's progress as compared to where we would expect him/her to be at that moment in time.

Social/emotional development grades will be reported separately from proficiency grades. They are an integral piece of the report card as they reflect the degree to which a student demonstrates behaviors in the areas of effort and work ethic, attitude and decision making, as well as preparedness for learning.

Standards have been developed for the core subjects in Grades 1-5 for each quarter. The purpose of these are to assist students and parents in understanding what the specific learning expectations are for students to be considered proficient at each grade level in each skill area at each quarter. These learning expectations may grow or increase as the school year progresses and more content/skills are introduced.

If you have questions regarding standards-based report cards, please email me at susan.borden@misqatar.com.



Grading Your Work

As parents, you know that the school will provide you with several reports on your students progress throughout the school year. But, we also thought it might be interesting to have you reflect on the start of the year for our working relationship. ***Give yourself one point for each of the things you are doing to work with the school and see how you do.***

I have emailed the teacher with any questions, comments or concerns before contacting the principal.

I know my child's attendance.

Early dismissal days are in my personal calendar to pick up my child at 12:30 p.m.

I know school starts at 7:15 a.m.

I have logged into One Drive to see lesson plans.

I read the first three parent newsletters.

I have looked at the school organizational chart in the Student-Parent Handbook.

I have read the Parent-Student Handbook.

I ask questions to learn new information.

I have Parent-Teacher Conferences in my personal calendar.

Give yourself an A+ if you scored answered "yes" to all ten questions.

Give yourself an A- for "yes" to nine questions.

Given yourself a B if you answered "yes" to 7-8 questions!

And, for anything else, we are here to support you. Please contact your child's teacher with questions.



SEPTEMBER

Students of the Month

Kindergarten—Andrea Macey Caringal Carza

Grade 1—Osama Anas Ebo

Grade 2—Omar Ahmed

Grade 3—Besan Sami Barqawi

Grade 4—Fdy Mohsen Faheen Abou Yousef

Grade 5—Nayef Mohammed Shams

Grade 6 - Yehya Sayed Abdelmoniem

Grade 7—Michela Faye Paderas

Grade 8—Merryl Ibrahim Hadadin

Grade 9—Muhammed Alief Rama Aditya

Grade 10—Menna Khaled Mohd Maamoun Elsaid

Grade 11—Angela Bacus Armamento

Grade 12—Feras Mohamed Abbas Radwan Hussein

Thank you to these outstanding students for being role models socially and academically for their peers. They helped us start our school year in a very positive way!

Phones at School

The use of a device is part of our vision. But, with that said, phones are only used at school for work in class when a teacher requests them. Or, students can use their phone to contact you—the parent.

High school students have the privilege of using them during their lunch as well for surfing and communication.

Please monitor your students phone use by checking their accounts occasionally. And, as always, remind students that nothing is private on the internet.



Re-Enrollment

Re-Enrollment for 2020-2021 starts in **February**. Please ensure that you take care of this promptly in order to retain your student's seat at MIS!



Core Values

Responsibility, Integrity, Community, Empathy

Notice

All students in Grades 1-12 must pass the grade level prior to starting a new grade level for the following school year.

If your child has failing grades during the year, please be in contact with the principal regularly.

All schools in Qatar have deadlines for inputting pass or fail for all students set by the Ministry of Education.

We will meet these deadlines as it is our responsibility.

Once entered, the pass/fail is not able to be changed.

Please ensure that you are well aware of any deadlines set. Help your student understand that these deadlines are vital to their success.