

# PARENT NEWS

Middle East International School

OCTOBER 2019

## Welcome New Students!!

The majority of our 830 students have arrived and settled into the routines of school. This year, we processed approximately 270 admission requests. From this, 180 students were accepted including our 45 newest KG1 students. As of early September, the top nationalities at MIS are:

Egyptian= 22%	Jordanian=14%	Qatari=11%	Pilipino=8%
Syrian=5%	Sudanese=5%	American=4%	Pakistani=4%

**We want to welcome all of the new students and their families to our diverse community! Thank you for making MIS your choice and continuing your child's education with us.**

It is normal and typical for international schools to have a 20% turnover of students and ours is about 10-15%. We know that about half of the students who leave return to their home country and the other half select a new school—not at all unusual in a large school of 825.

Several grade levels are now closed for admission as we are full and as we work hard to keep class sizes 25 or less and provide teacher assistants in the lower elementary. We pride ourselves on continuing to be a diverse, international representation of Qatar striving to be competitive in the international community.

Re-Enrollment begins in February 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year. Early re-enrollment guarantees a seat. Re-enrollment forms will go home to all parents when we begin this process.

### School starts at 7:15 a.m.

Being on time helps students develop lifelong habits for the world of work and ensures a smooth, organized start to their day. This is important as young learners build habits of working and learning in classrooms. **Being on time means arriving at about 7:00 a.m. so that there is time to put books and lunches down before class.**

### School Ends at 2:00 p.m.

Please pick your children up on time.



## Why is being accredited important?

Being accredited shows the staff and school commitment to 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 drives how well students achieve.

### Website

[www.misqatar.com](http://www.misqatar.com)

### Facebook

MIS1994

### Core Values:

Responsibility, Integrity,  
Community, Empathy

# October

## October 3

**World Teacher Day!**

## October 10

**Early Dismissal at 12:30 p.m.**

## October 18-26

**Fall Break Week**

## October 31

**Book Character Day**

**KG and Elementary only**

**End of Quarter 1**

## November 14

**First Quarter Parent-Teacher Conferences**

## 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.

When we have your email, you receive:

- Lesson Plans
- Newsletters
- Special Announcements
- Event Updates
- Community Opportunities

## Save the Dates

Our school calendar is filled with wonderful events we hope you, as parents, will join! Please watch the upcoming newsletters for specifics.

- November 21—International Day
- December 12—Foundation Day/Qatar National Day
- February —Sports Day at various levels (school day events)
- March 26—Academic Night (evening events)
- June—Elementary, Middle and High School Recognition Events (school day events)

This is, of course, in addition to parent-teacher conferences, and more information will follow.

## Parent Survey

Please watch for our Parent Survey **coming in late October**. Surveys are a way for you to give us feedback on how we are doing as well as valuable suggestions to improve our services.

Over the past three years, we have made the following changes that were (in part) suggested in parent surveys:

- Addition of kindergarten Arabic (KG2)
- Enhancing technology in classrooms (desktops in elementary)
- Elementary music program

## Our Staff

This year we welcomed new staff to our MIS family. Each brings outstanding credentials in the area they are working in. As parents examine schools, they often ensure the school is licensed and accredited (as we are). But, another quality to look at is whether teachers are teaching in their area of certification or if they have a teaching background. **Each of the new members of our staff (and 100% of the current, veteran staff) are teaching in their area of certification.**

Like our students, our new staff comes from all over the world including: Philippines, Columbia, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, and Great Britain!

Thirty-four percent of our current staff have their master's degree and there are three PhDs on staff. All other staff hold a bachelor's degree in the appropriate area.

Our staff is experienced with 57% of teaching staff having 5 or more years at MIS.

# Attending a College Preparatory School

Attending MIS means attending a college preparatory school. How is this different than a typical American school?

- ◆ First, students take a course sequence beginning in Grade 8 which only about 10-15% of American students take. It involves taking the math and science sequence a year in advance of the typical American student.
- ◆ Second, starting in kindergarten, the curriculum is advanced and accelerated at each grade level in order to prepare students for the advanced sequence.
- ◆ Third, the expectations for students to develop independent work habits, responsibility, and integrity are much higher.
- ◆ Fourth, students are expected to devote all 180 days of instruction to doing their best. Planning vacations during scheduled school days, ending the school year early, or starting breaks early is not acceptable as we have to maximize learning time and students truly need the time to complete all learning.
- ◆ Fifth, as a college preparatory school, our accreditations hold the staff to a high standard. This includes their individual licenses and preparation for classes, upholding the standards, and dedication to improving their craft.
- ◆ Sixth, it means that students can take college courses on our campus before they graduate.



## Water Bottle

All students should have a water bottle for use in PE and throughout the day. The school provides several water dispensers throughout the building. However, students should be filling a water bottle and drinking regularly. This helps the body and brain function at its best!



## Extra Help?

Because your student is enrolled in a college-preparatory American curriculum school, they may sometimes need extra help. Specifically, we see in our new enrollments a general weakness in math as they join us from other schools.

How can they get extra help?

- #1 Ask the classroom teacher for a specific time for specific help.
- #2 For middle school students, teachers offer remedial assistance during the student lunch.
- #3 Ask the teacher for a recommendation of a strong student in their subject who may be able to assist.

For our students in Grades KG2-Grade 5, **automaticity** is needed. At home, parents can drill with flashcards the addition, subtraction, multiplication and simple division facts. This will help future math achievement!



For other questions, please consult your classroom teacher.

# DEADLINE:

All student fees are past due.

A sincere thank you to the parents who have already paid their fees. We appreciate that you have taken care of this so that we can continue to provide your child the very best.

## For Information

Each year, MIS must declare whether students pass to the next grade or not. Students who fail several classes cannot be promoted to the next level. MIS will, of course notify you in an ongoing manner if your child is in any danger of failing classes or the grade level.

It is important to note that students MAY NOT start the next grade level without finishing the previous grade level.

For middle and high school students, this means finishing any makeup well before school starts.

Although this impacts only a small number of students, it is very important to take note of.

We notify all families because just as the students have deadlines for makeup work, the school has deadlines for declaring whether a student has passed or failed.

## Books

If you have not received your students books, please check with the Accounts Office. Payment must be made prior to the school issuing books. Books are here.

## Email Problems

If you are not receiving our emails, please **check your SPAM**.

This can be the problem.



Additionally, if you have given us your work email, the **company may have filters** in place that do not allow us to send to you at work.

Finally, if you are still not receiving, send us an email at:

[aki@misqatar.com](mailto:aki@misqatar.com)

This will open the channel between your email and ours. Your personal emails are preferred.

## USA Trip Planning

### Continues

Mr. Jimmy will be leading the trip to the USA/Chicago and Wisconsin.

The trip is organized by our staff and students were provided an itinerary at the first meeting. Students must have money deposited on/before December 1, 2019 so that the school can pay expenses on time.



Students must obtain their own visa, if needed.

Flights are included in the total cost and will be purchased at group rates. Students must travel to and from USA with the group.

Please email Mr. Jimmy for additional information:

[Jimmy.Jose@misqatar.com](mailto:Jimmy.Jose@misqatar.com)

## Germany Trip Planning Continues

Ms. Lottie met with students regarding the USA trip and provided them an outline of the trip and costs.

The trip is organized by CAS. Students must have money deposited on/before December 1, 2019 so that the school can pay CAS on time.

Students must obtain their own visa, if needed.



Flights are included in the total cost and will be purchased at group rates. Students must travel to and from Germany with the group.

Please email Ms. Lottie for additional information:

[Lottie.Ruhle@misqatar.com](mailto:Lottie.Ruhle@misqatar.com)

# Why is having a license important?

Each and every school in Qatar must have a license to operate. A school without a license cannot issue a report card. So, it is possible that a child could study the entire school year and a parent could pay fees, but in the “system” it would look like the child sat at home.

Our license was renewed this summer and a copy of the license is displayed.

The license expires July 15, 2021. So, we are good through next year until renewal.

MIS has maintained a license for 26 years to serve families.

Please help all parents in Qatar by ensuring they check for a proper license at their schools.

## One Drive Folders

Did you know that, apart from subject folders, One Drive has a COMMUNICATIONS folder?

This folder contains monthly newsletters, school calendar, parent open house presentation, principals' letters, and more as the year goes on.

## Top Nationalities at MIS

MIS prides itself on being international and having a diverse student and staff population. We believe that by working together, we are a strong school community! This year, students from the following countries represent the enrollment at MIS:

1. Egyptian students
2. Jordanian students
3. Qatari students
4. Filipino students
5. Sudanese/Syrian students
6. American/Pakistani students



## Teacher Feature:



*“The aim of the teacher should be to build character, human values, enhance the learning capacity of children through technology and build the confidence among children to be innovative and creative which in turn will make them competitive to face the future.”*

- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam (Late President of India)

Ms. Susan George, graduated with a major in Zoology from the University of Kerala, and earned her Masters in Zoology from the very well renowned Mahatma Gandhi University in Kerala. Being a top student in English for the district board examinations urged her to pursue a Masters in English Literature. Ms. Susan also earned her bachelors in education from Annamalai University in India.

She began her career as a lecturer in her home country. In 1989, she joined a prestigious Indian School in Qatar as a science/biology teacher. Ms. Susan has held various positions in the school including department head, academic council member, science club advisor, discipline advisor, examiner for Gulf Board and Central Board of Secondary and Senior Secondary Education, India. She has also organized and participated in many professional workshops, science fairs and various co-curricular and extracurricular events at school level and in Qatar.

In 2008, she came to Qatar as a biology teacher and in 2012, she joined MIS as an honors biology teacher and is now teaching honors, regular and AP biology classes along with serving as the Science Coordinator.

Ms. Susan brings her wealth of experience and thorough knowledge of how students learn best to our teaching setting. She strongly believes in teachers' dedication to their profession. With her valuable long years of experience and expertise, she still believes that teaching is a process of learning from your students, colleagues, parents, and the community. Her teaching doctrine is to bring an open mind, a positive attitude, and high expectations to the classroom each day and she lives this faith every day in every lesson.

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# MAP Testing

Starting at the end of September, your child will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®). We give students MAP tests to determine your child's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year. The test also measures your child's progress from year to year in the areas of math, reading, and language. Students from around the world take the MAP test and we can compare our students with native English speakers and many other countries.

Your child will take the tests on a computer during the regular school day. These tests are not counted toward the student grades at MIS, but are used to determine honors courses at high school.

For more testing information please see the following links:

## A Parent's Guide to MAP

<https://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2016/06/Parent-Guide-to-MAP.pdf>

## Parent Toolkit

<https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/>



## What is a Reading Level?

If your child is in elementary school, elementary teachers completed an important reading assessment in early September. This assessment tells us the reading level of your child.

It is important to know the reading level so that you can ensure the child is reading books at their level. Books that are too hard will frustrate the child and they may give up. Books that are too easy do not help the child grow.

You can email your teacher to learn the reading level.

As a general guideline, MIS expects students to read at the following levels:

Levels A-C are about kindergarten.

Levels D-J are about Grade 1

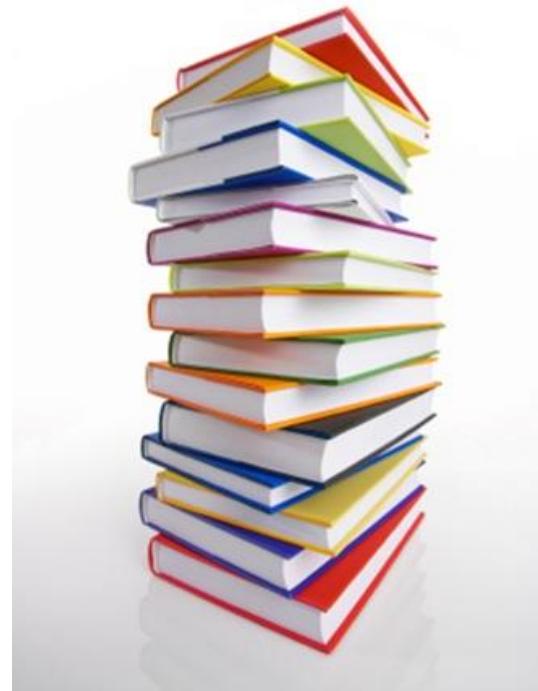
Levels J-M are about Grade 2

Levels M-P are about Grade 3

Levels P-R are about Grade 4

Levels R-Z are about Grade 5

A reading level changes throughout the school year, but it is important to be in the range of the grade level.



**Reading at home, for pleasure, is the best way to grow as a reader. Practice, like in any sport or activity, makes you better at something!**

**And, we know children must read at their "just right" level.**

# Meet the School Counselor

Asiya Ateeq continues with us as a school counselor. She has experience working in international schools with elementary through high school students in both India and Qatar.

She believes in supporting mental health through various types of counselling and behavioral modification techniques as well as personality development seminars.

Her role is to identify and develop effective coping strategies related to depression, anxiety, examination fear and interpersonal-intrapersonal relationships. She has achieved positive results with hands-on experience and use of reality therapy, cognitive / behavioral and student-centered therapy. She emphasizes confidentiality, and is unconditionally positive towards each individual in order to encourage respect and acceptance. She will help our students see what they have in common is greater than their differences.



You can contact Ms. Asiya at: [asiya.ateeq@misqatar.com](mailto:asiya.ateeq@misqatar.com)

## Helping Children Cope with Transitions

Children report that moving schools or starting classes can cause great anxiety. When parents, students and teachers collaborate, more opportunities for growth along with smooth transition are sure to happen.

### LET STUDENTS TAKE CHARGE OF THINGS GRADUALLY

As the child grows up, start assigning tasks to him or her. Let them be independent slowly and steadily and encourage them to do small tasks like clean up after themselves, maintain their school bags and handing you any communication the teacher sent home. Students should be able to do this by the end of Grade 1. Starting with these small tasks helps children become independent and efficient, and it also increases their self esteem in the long run.

Plus, you will be raising a child who does not need an adult for every small thing, but rather a child who can and does parts of a daily routine as per his/her ability. After this small independence grows, you would soon hear, "Mom, let me help you!" with more of the chores.

### DO NOT EVER GIVE UP ON YOUR CHILD, NOT ON HIS FACE

Whenever you feel the child is not able to do a thing well even after many tries, saying 'forget about it,' or 'leave it' just worsens the case. A child should never feel that something is too big to bother them, but that every problem has a solution, some problems we can deal with alone and in some asking for help is good.

Break large tasks into small steps. For young children, (KG-Grade 2) give tasks one at a time leading to the completion of something big. For example, teach a bedtime routine by asking a child to go brush their teeth. Do this for one week. Then, ask them to brush their teeth and change into pajamas. Do this for a week. Finally, ask them to brush their teeth, change into pajamas and climb into bed. Celebrate their ability to follow a 3-step direction by sharing a good book, turning out the lights, and letting them fall asleep knowing you love and care for them!

Build independence in gradual steps!

# Independence

# How Can I Make the School Year Successful?

Good communication! Good communication involves two or more people. You, your child and the teacher must be involved. Share with your child that you support the teacher and have high expectations of them this year!

- **Ensure your child attends school each and every day! We have very few early dismissal days.**
- **Talk with the teacher first. Teachers are your best resource for information about your child.** Ask lots of questions!
- Try to understand the teachers expectations. Our teachers are highly qualified and are certified specific to their grade level. They know how young children develop and have expectations for students' study skills, organization and academic skills.
- **Work with the teacher** as a partner to establish organizational skills for students—This starts by being responsible with simple things like books and pencils in Grade 1.
- Understand your child's current progress and how that progress will translate to a grade.
- Please do not expect a response on the weekend. Teachers need time with their families too!
- Please understand teachers do not give their personal contact information. The school requires all teachers to use their school email.
- Email your child's teacher often!

## If Communication is Key, Where do I Find...

**Email Addresses for all Staff**...Please check the website. Email for all staff are listed as a link in the upper right corner called Quick links.

**Lesson Plans**....By now, you have received a link to One Drive. Please use the link to access all the lesson plans related to your child. We do not send hardcopies or individual emails; we count on parents to use their link and email account! Your link to One Drive is good all year...use it again and again.

**Grades**...The best source for a current update is the teacher. Otherwise, report cards are provided four times each year in hard copy.

**Attendance Information**...Email your child's principal for any concerns with attendance. The principal emails can be found on the leadership team page of the website and through the link to all staff emails in the upper right corner of the website under Quick links.

**School Calendar**...Check the website. It is in the upper right corner under Quick links.

**Early Dismissal Dates**....Check the website. Early Dismissal dates are listed on the school calendar.

**General Information**...Check the newsletter. The current and past issues of the newsletter are all on the website.

**Tuition Payments/Financial/Books/Busing**...Stop by the Accounts Office during business hours on school days (7:00-2:30 p.m.)

**Admissions**...Check the website for the admissions packet and talk with Ms. Katrina.

# Advanced Placement

Our Advanced Placement (AP) Courses offer students the chance to take college courses at MIS. These are not honors courses, they are college courses.

Students should expect difficult work that requires extra time and effort. And, students are expected to take the AP Exam offered by College Board near the end of the semester.

MIS has 147 students (65% of high school) taking:

AP Psychology

AP English

AP Microeconomics

AP Macroeconomics

AP Physics

AP Calculus

AP Chemistry

AP Biology

AP Environmental Science

AP English Literature and Composition



## First of the College Visits

MIS invites many universities to talk with high school students. These events are open to all high school students, primarily during the lunch/recess break. The events are shared in the high school student announcements and usually held in the auditorium.

In addition to the regular visits during the lunch/recess break, Ms. Tessy, Academic Guidance Counselor serving the high school, partnered to create College Week. College Week offered workshops on important topics like writing the admission essay and exposed students to colleges from around the world. Thank you Ms. Tessy for creating this event in partnership with other local international schools!

## The Middle and High School Brain

Here are five interesting facts about the teenage brain shared by neurologist, Dr. Francis Jensen.

1. Teenage brains and adult brains are not the same. Teenage brains make connections much easier and so, they learn much quicker.
2. The brain is not done developing until the mid-late 20's. The brain is the last organ in the body to fully mature. So, think about the young man who grows a lot between age 10-25. His brain is also growing from a young boy to adult.
3. Teenagers are not more resilient than adults. In fact, teenagers are more sensitive to stress. In adults, the stress hormone makes adults calmer. In teenagers, the stress hormone make teenagers more anxious.
4. The IQ of teenagers continues to change. Although many people think IQ is fixed at a young age, it is not.
5. Teenagers are not naturally lazy. First, the extraordinary growth happening causes them to be more fatigued. Second, teenage bodies release melatonin later in the evening (11 p.m.) than adults (8-9 p.m.)



# Counselor Corner

Academic Guidance counseling plays an important role in the high school. This part of the newsletter is specific to getting students ready for college and university.

That preparation should start in Grade 8 and 9. The following is important information for you!



## Top 12 Questions to Ask Your Guidance Counselor

1. When should I start my college prep?
2. How do I find a college or university that is best for me?
3. What's the right high school schedule for me?
4. Should I take the ACT or SAT?
5. Do I need SAT Subject Tests and AP Exams? Which ones should I take?
6. How do admission officers view extracurricular activities within an application?
7. What do admissions officers look for in an application essay?
8. Who should I ask to write my letters of recommendation?
9. What should I expect in a college interview?
10. Will applying Early Decision or Early Action give me a leg up?
11. What should I do when I visit campuses?
12. How does the financial aid application process differ from the admission process?

## Updates for October

- October 14 CESI Graduate School of Engineering, France  
October 15 Deadline for AP Fees  
October 16 PSAT Test @ 8:00 a.m.

## Why take the PSAT on the October 16 at school?

- 1. Good scores can indicate performance on the SAT:** The PSAT is a good way to familiarize yourself with the structure, content and process of taking the SAT and get a sense of how you'll perform on the actual exam. Your score can show you which subjects you may not be particularly strong in, regardless of your grades in related classes.
- 2. Doing well can provide a big confidence boost:** Test anxiety and a fear of the unknown can have a negative impact on students taking the SAT for the first time. However, if you've already done well on the PSAT, you'll be at a distinct advantage. Additionally, the PSAT is a tool many colleges and universities use to identify students they think may make a good addition to their student body and who may be deserving of scholarships. These scores are a way for colleges to be more selective in their recruitment process, and having schools express interest in you and recruit you to apply can also increase confidence.
- 3. Scores can lead to National Merit Scholarships (if you are an American Citizen):** The National Merit Scholarship Corporation uses these scores to qualify semifinalists who are then considered for National Merit Scholarship competition. Recognition by the National Merit program provides a monetary award and can often be leveraged to secure additional scholarships.

Note: **Grade-wise checklist and PSAT test practice booklets are available at the counselor's office—please make sure your child picks up a copy!**

# 5 Questions Every Student Should Be Asking University Representatives

1. What are you looking for in an applicant?
2. What sets your university apart from other universities?
3. What are the scholarships available for international students?
4. What is student life on campus like? Is there accommodation on campus?
5. How do you support students after graduation?

## SAT Testing

SAT Testing fills up quickly. Here are the local dates.

Test Date	SAT Available	Early Registration via Representative	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes
October 5, 2019	Yes	August 21, 2019	September 6, 2019	September 24, 2019
November 2, 2019	No SUBJECT TEST ONLY	n/a	n/a	n/a
December 7, 2019	Yes	October 23, 2019	November 8, 2019	November 26, 2019

## How Does MIS Compare Internationally?

From our MAP testing, we know how we compare internationally. Below, highlighted in green are areas where our students performed better than the worldwide norm. Highlighted in yellow are areas where we performed within one standard deviation of the worldwide norm. We are competing internationally very well.

MATH	OUR SCORE	NORM
2	186	186.4
3	192.7	198.2
4	201.2	208.7
5	212.7	217.2
6	216.1	222.1
7	218.3	226.1
8	233.6	229.1
9	239.6	232.2
10	241.2	231.5
11	236.5	234.4

READING	OUR SCORE	NORM
2	177.2	184.2
3	192.7	198.2
4	198.4	203.6
5	208.5	209.8
6	209.8	214.2
7	212.8	216.9
8	221.5	219.1
9	223.6	221.3
10	226.9	221.0
11	226.6	222.7

LANGUAGE	OUR SCORE	NORM
2	--	184.9
3	190.4	196.8
4	201.3	204.4
5	212.1	209.7
6	213.1	213.9
7	213	216.5
8	224.2	218.1
9	226	219.7
10	228.5	219.7
11	229.8	222.1