

School Reopening Circular-2 - KG to Grade 12

Dear Parent,

Hope you are keeping well and having a rejuvenating summer break.

We are glad to inform our parent community that our school readiness plan has been approved by KHDA and we are diligently preparing for the safe and responsible reopening of our school. As we get ready to welcome our students and staff back to school, we would like to share with you the key features of the educational model proposed from 30th August'2020 onwards.

Please be assured that the plan outlined prioritizes the safety of all students, staff and the entire school community.

Kindly note that the school provides all parents the option of sending their children to school or continuing with 100 % remote learning from home.

The key details of the blended model for reopening on 30th August are as follows;

Revised School Timings:

- KG - 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 noon.
- Morning Shift: Grades 1-12 : 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 am in school and 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Afternoon Shift: Grades 6-12 : 01:00 p.m. to 05:00 pm in school and 8 am. - 10:00 a.m.

Students of a class will be divided into Set A and Set B. On a rotation basis Set A and Set B will be in school for face to face learning. In this blended model of learning the student will be coming to school two or three times a week. Set A and Set B will come to school on alternate Thursdays in addition to the two days.

In case students opting for face to face to learning in a class is less, then they can come to school on all five days. Staggered breaks will be provided to ensure social distancing and safe use of washrooms Kindly note that students who choose to continue Distance learning from home will need to attend the sessions via remote learning.

Covid protocols

- All students and staff will be screened for elevated body temperature prior to entering school buses or school premises. Entry will be denied if the body temperature is higher than normal.
- It will be mandatory for all staff and students (except KG students) to wear face masks at all times while they are in school.
- Kindergarten students will come to school in stable groups of 10 and Grades 1 to 12 in stable groups of 15 students on alternate days.
- Seats for students will be arranged at a distance of 1.5 m in the class rooms.

- Distance Learning mode will be followed for all students on Thursdays.
 - Signages are being placed all around the school building to indicate the movement, direction and distancing at 2 metres.
- Dispersal of students including Own Transport will also be monitored so that the students maintain social distancing
- Parents and visitors will be discouraged from entering the building. In unavoidable case(s), meetings will be scheduled through prior appointments in a staggered manner in the dedicated space on the ground floor, which will be sanitized after every meeting.
 - Visitors and parents will be screened using an infrared thermometer by trained personnel.
 - No activities will be held in shared spaces. Assemblies, events and contact games will remain suspended.
 - Daily clean up and sterilization of all areas and surfaces of the school premises and effective sanitization post completion of each day will be conducted and cleaning processes will be in-line with Dubai Municipality guidelines for schools.
 - All students are required to carry their own personal sanitization kit - wet wipes, hand sanitizer, face mask + extra face mask.
 - Canteen will remain closed till further notice.
 - Water dispensers / coolers have been put out of service.
 - No sharing of food and stationery will be permitted.

Curriculum and Delivery

Kindergarten

The classes will begin at 7:30 am and all the 7 prime areas of EYFS will be catered to. All learning groups will be stable groups that will stay together in the same class in line with the KHDA guidelines of social distancing and minimum group movement.

Grades 1 to 12 (Morning Shift)

The classes will begin at 7:30 am with staggered timings for break. All learning groups will be stable groups that will stay together in the same class in line with the KHDA guidelines of social distancing and minimum group movement.

The optional subjects like Hindi, Malayalam Urdu, Islamic Education and Value education will be delivered through distance learning from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in order to avoid movement and mingling of students.

All students of phase 4 who opt for remote learning are required to come to school for completing the laboratory sessions as per schedule. Also, it is mandatory to be present for the written assessments in school as a practice for the Board Exams.

Grades 6 to 12 (Afternoon Shift)

The classes will begin at 01:00 p.m. with staggered timings for break. All learning groups will be stable groups that will stay together in the same class in line with the KHDA guidelines of social distancing and minimum group movement.

The optional subjects like Hindi, Malayalam Urdu, Islamic Education and Value education will be delivered through distance learning from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. in order to avoid movement of students.

All students of phase 4 who opt for remote learning are required to come to school for completing the laboratory sessions as per schedule. Also, it is mandatory to be present for the written assessments in school as a practice for the Board Exams.

Assessment

Irrespective of the mode of curriculum delivery, it is mandatory for students of phase 3/4 to attend all pen and paper examinations in school. Students are expected to attend school for the duration of the examination.

Transportation and Bus Protocols:

- All students and staff will be temperature checked and monitored for health concerns before boarding the bus.
- All buses will maintain the 50% capacity restrictions and every child using the bus will be allotted designated seats
- Own transport students will be seated in designated areas in the school that are sanitized regularly.
- Dispersal will be staggered and students will walk to board the buses, following strict distancing of 2 metres between students
- All bus drivers and conductors will be trained regarding the protocol and precautionary steps.
- All buses will be sanitized at regular intervals.

Parental engagement

- All meetings will take place online, unless there is a critical need for one to one meeting which will take place on an appointment by email and will be approved beforehand.
- Only one family member or a guardian will be allowed to enter the school facility for drop off/pick up his/her child.
- One designated area will be maintained for drop off and pick up during allotted timings with no interaction inside the school. There will be no access to the rest of the school facility by family members and visitors.

Wellbeing

As we embark on the new model of blended learning the wellbeing of all stakeholders will be top priority at GMS as always. Activities, campaigns and Counseling sessions will be held throughout the academic year to ensure mindfulness, wellbeing and welfare are addressed.

As we know that the world around us is changing, we are trying to mold our students through life skill activities, career guidance via in-class, webinars to face and conquer challenges through resilience. The faculty at GMS is prepared to face all obstacles to ensure our students and parents wellbeing is taken care of in all aspects however possible.

Health and Safety officer

Mr. Gafoor is the designated Health and Safety Officer responsible for the overall implementation of the Health and Safety protocols. All staff will be provided with the required training to follow the health and safety protocols. We will conduct **DIGICONS** with parents and **GET READY** sessions for parents and students in the last week of August to have a clear understanding of the health and safety protocols to be adhered to and its effective implementation. The circulars for the same will be sent out by next week.

Kindly review the questions in the **FAQ section** in the website for further information.

Mail your queries to gm@gmsdubai.ae

We seek your utmost cooperation to ensure that all members of the school community remain safe, protected and well-informed as we return to school after the long break.

With best regards,
Gulf Model School
Dubai