

Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada)

# Parent Orientation Booklet

2024 – 2025 School Year



## **Our Administration Team**

### **Principal**

Mr. Danny Berry

### **Vice Principals**

Mr. Fraser Green (Grades 7-12)

Ms. Kim Jackson (Grades K-6)

### **Admissions Coordinator**

Ms. Sarah Antoine

[admissions@agsgrmmr.sch.ae](mailto:admissions@agsgrmmr.sch.ae)

**Telephone: +971 (2) 644 4703**

[agsadmin@agsgrmmr.sch.ae](mailto:agsadmin@agsgrmmr.sch.ae)

**<https://www.abudhabigrammarschool.ca>**

## First Day of School

The first expected day of school for students will be **Monday, 26 August 2024**.

The school will be open for staff on Monday, 19 August 2024.

## School Bus

School buses will be available for the school year. Bus service will start the second week of school. Instructions will be sent out via whatsapp regarding instructions for bus sign-up.

Please note, our bus boundary for pick-up/drop-off is 19th street (Al Saada Street in Mushrif Area). We **do not** have routes beyond that neighborhood.

## Holidays & Early Dismissal

We follow the Ministry of Education holiday announcements unless otherwise communicated to you by the school.

The last Friday of every month is a Professional Development Day for Staff. There are no classes for students on these days.

## Typical Day at School

### o Arrival

- ✓ **7:30 am** – Gates open at this time.
- ✓ **7:53 am** – The gates close at this time for the compulsory student assembly. The reading of the Qu’ran and National Anthem are played at this time. Classes begin at **8:00am**.  
**\*Please do not drop your child off before 7:30am, as there is no supervision before this time.**

### o Dismissal

- ✓ **2:15 pm** – KG to 2 Dismissal
- ✓ **3:15 pm** – Gr. 3 to 12 Dismissal
- ✓ Fridays- **11:45** for KG1 to grade 12
- ✓ Please be on time to pick up your child. There is no supervision after dismissal.

*\*After School Care is available for grades KG1-Gr2 for a small fee. This usually starts the second week of school.*

## Breaks

- ✓ 2 x 25-minute breaks to eat, relax, and play outside.

### o After School Activities

- ✓ Two eight week sessions; one beginning in October and the other beginning in January.
- ✓ Available to students in Grade 1 to 12.

## Learning Resources & Assessments

### o Textbooks

- ✓ Used as a supplemental resource. Students do not have textbooks to take home.

### o Technology

- ✓ Every student from Grade 4 to 12 is provided with a Google Education account and AGS email address.
- ✓ Students from grades 4-6 are provided Chromebooks during class time and students in grades 7-12 are on a one-to-one program with their own Chromebooks purchased through the school.
- ✓ KG to Gr 3 classes have access to iPads and software/Online subscriptions; include Math Makes Sense (Math Curriculum), RAZ Kids, BrainPop and more!
- ✓ Technology is available at AGS and in the Classroom; iPads, Chromebooks, and SMARTboards as well as Video Filming equipment to serve certain high school courses.
- ✓ **Use of a personal phone is not permitted to be used during school hours.**

### o Homework

- ✓ Homework is not routinely given, especially in the lower grades. Teachers will assign homework, as necessary.

### o Assessments

- ✓ Take place in a variety of ways: presentations, projects, assignments, tests, etc.
- ✓ Only Gr 9 to 12 students sit for formal exams.

## Report Cards

Students receive a Nova Scotia report card three times a year – November, March, and June. In June, students also receive an ADEK report card. Following the November and March report cards, there are Parent-Teacher Interviews.

## Communication

There are many ways that we communicate with you, to keep you updated on what's happening at school and in the classroom.

The school relays important and urgent information via WhatsApp. In order start receiving messages please complete the following steps:

- **Save this number to your mobile: +971 503979103**
- **Please send the following details and message to the number listed: student name, current grade, and the following message: "Please add me".**

In September, you will receive the School Calendar. It has important dates and events marked; such as Curriculum Night, Early Dismissal, and Parent Teacher Interviews. You are encouraged to come to all of these events and see what our students are doing at school. Parent involvement helps students stay interested and motivated to learn, as well as fosters cooperation and teamwork with teachers.

You can find important dates and other information on our website, <https://www.abudhabigrammarschool.ca>, Class Dojo our Facebook page, 'Abu Dhabi Grammar School – Canada – Official' - [www.facebook.com/Abu-Dhabi-Grammar-School-Canada-Official](http://www.facebook.com/Abu-Dhabi-Grammar-School-Canada-Official). This page will also share photos and dates of upcoming events and activities.

Every month, a school newsletter is made available on our website and Facebook page.

Teachers use Class Dojo (K - Gr 3) and Google Classroom (Gr 4 -12) to communicate and share information. Access to this will be shared with you at the beginning of the school year.

If you would like to make an appointment with a teacher, you can either call the school, send them a message, or speak to the teacher directly. Please remember, a teacher's main focus during the day is on their students so they will be unable to meet with you without an appointment. Please do not try to speak to your child's teacher during arrival or dismissal when their attention should be on their students. Appointments can be scheduled in the morning or after school, at a time that is mutually convenient.

If you plan on visiting the school during school hours, please make sure you sign in and get a visitor pass from security.

## **School Uniforms**

The school uniform supplier is: **Zaks**

Mushrif Mall      +971 (2) 222 1141  
sales@zaksstore.com  
<https://zaksstore.com/shop/ags/en/>

The AGS uniform includes the following:

- ✓ white polo shirt
- ✓ black trousers
- ✓ round neck PE t-shirt
- ✓ PE shorts or track pants (navy blue)
- ✓ Tartan Bermuda shorts or skort (KG – Gr 2)

Zaks have tailors available to make adjustments to the uniform pieces, please see customer service for customization.

Students must have an appropriate PE uniform and shoes on PE day. PE uniforms are not to be worn, other than PE day.

Please note, there are also four different House Team Shirts available at the uniform shop. Each student will be assigned to a 'House Team' by

their teacher in September. Students are invited to wear their House Shirts every Friday to encourage school spirit.

## School Lunch & Healthy Eating

Ensure your child has a **healthy lunch and snacks with plenty of water every day**, and limit the amount of sugar.

The cafeteria is available for students from Grade 3 to Grade 12. It has a selection of hot and cold food items that vary day to day, as well as milk, juice and water.

Please consider the environment and opt for reusable water bottles and lunch boxes. Do not send glass bottles to school with your child.

*AGS is a nut-smart school. Do not send any food to school that contains nuts, including Nutella. Fizzy and/or caffeinated drinks such as Pepsi, Mountain Dew or Sprite, are not allowed.*

## What you can do at home: All Ages

- o All children should read every night – for a minimum of 20 minutes.
- o Register your child in a sport or a summer camp during the holidays to keep them active and engaged.

### WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH



#### A FRUIT

Include a piece of whole fruit or 1/2 cup sliced fruit/berries for a natural lunch box treat and to boost fiber and key nutrients.

#### A VEGETABLE

Don't forget veggies: crunchy raw ones like carrots & peppers, leftover cooked ones, or leafy salads. Aim for at least a 1/2 cup serving.



#### A PROTEIN FOOD

Include protein-rich foods, such as sliced turkey or roast beef, boiled eggs, chicken, tuna salad, tofu, beans, lentils,

#### A CALCIUM SOURCE

Make sure kids get enough calcium each day by packing milk, yogurt, cheese, kale, tahini, or tofu made with calcium sulfate.



#### WHOLE GRAINS

Prep sandwiches on whole wheat bread, pack leftover whole grain pasta, brown rice stir fry, or barley soup for more sustained energy.

#### A DRINK

Kids need to hydrate, so give them water and milk rather than soda and juice. A reusable water bottle is a plus.



- o Make learning fun; find ways to use mental math, reading and writing while you are together – make lists, write letters, read signs, calculate costs at a shop, follow recipes.
- o Playing is learning too and it is beneficial to give your child a chance to relax and play with their siblings or friends. This develops social skills and builds healthy relationships. Being physically active is also an essential part of developing a positive approach to learning.

### **What you can do at home: KG – Gr 2\***

- o Cook and bake together - count veggies and measure ingredients.
- o Do puzzles of all kinds.
- o Sort things (laundry, cutlery, toys, shells, keys) in various ways (colour, size, shape, lustre).
- o Put on puppet plays.
- o Play word games such as Twenty Questions.
- o Sink and float various objects in a pan of water.
- o Play counting games and recite counting poems and songs.
- o Dance, sing, move!
- o Provide access to computers/apps that provoke active thinking.
- o Read aloud with your child - talk, play and manipulate sounds, letters and words.
- o Talk with your child often about what they have learned through play – how to share, learning from their friends, how things work, etc.

\*From *Let's talk about... Learning through Play*, Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Public School Program. For the full pamphlet, please go to [https://www.ednet.ns.ca/files/curriculum/LTA\\_Play.pdf](https://www.ednet.ns.ca/files/curriculum/LTA_Play.pdf)

- ✓ AGS, including the Admissions and Accounts Departments, will be closed over the summer holiday. However, if you have an urgent inquiry:
  - o There will be a receptionist at the main office from 9 am to 1 pm.
  - o The school will open for all staff on Monday, 19 August 2024.
  - o Accounts Department: [mtibrahim@agsgrmmr.sch.ae](mailto:mtibrahim@agsgrmmr.sch.ae)