



Dasman Model School

KG / Elementary Department Newsletter

From: Andy Mirhaj (KG / Elementary Principal)

To: Parents of KG/Elementary Students

October 21, 2007

Dear Parents,

I hope you enjoyed the Eid Al-Fitr Holiday with your friends and family. As mentioned in my first newsletter, we have made several changes to the academic set up of the Elementary Department in our continuing goal of providing the best education for our children. In this newsletter I would like to highlight some of these changes.

Grading Scale

The grading scale for grades one through five has been changed. The reason we changed the grading scale this year was to align it with our Middle/High School grading scale. This will make the academic transition to the Middle School for our students smoother. Furthermore, our new grading scale is now in line with the grading scales of most schools in the United States. The new grading scale is as follows: A+ (97-100%), A (93-96%), A- (90-92%), B+ (87-89%), B (83-86%), B- (80-82%), C+ (77-79%), C (73-76%), C- (70-72%), D+ (65-69%), D (60-64%), D- (55-59%), F (below 55%). As you can see, the new grading scale is considerably higher than the scale we used in the past.

Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. It is important to use a variety of assessments in order to have a complete picture of what a student knows and can do. Traditionally assessment has relied heavily on tests and exams. Research has shown that very little learning takes place when students cram information in order to pass a test. This year we have shifted the focus from tests to class work. As a result, tests are worth 30% of the final grade in all subjects, while class work is worth 70%. In English, 'class work' includes graded material completed in class, writing, projects, spelling/vocabulary, and homework. Teachers will indicate test dates on the monthly newsletters.

Student Planners

Students in grades three through five have been given a 'Student Planner' or 'Homework Diary' to record their homework. Please sign your child's planner on a daily basis and make sure your child brings it back to school. Teachers will check your child's Student Planner to make sure you have signed the planner.

Report Cards

This year the school year has been divided into two semesters. Each semester is graded separately and a final grade is given in June of the two semesters combined. The first semester is from September 16 to February 5. The second semester is from February 6 to June 22. A comprehensive report card will be given to all students at the end of each semester.

Interim Reports

Half way through each semester we will send home Interim Reports. These reports are not as comprehensive as report cards. Interim Reports only focus on English, Math, and Science. All Interim Reports must be signed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher. The first Interim Report will be sent home on November 26th.

Academic Concerns

Teachers will monitor your child's academic progress at school and notify you if your child is struggling at school. If you have any concerns about your child's academic performance, please call the Elementary Office at 243-0607 (extension 233) to schedule an appointment to meet your child's teacher(s). When teachers and parents work as a team and support one another, children benefit academically.

School Website

I am pleased to inform you that this year we are using our school website to disseminate information about our department. Our school website address is www.dasmanschool.com.kw. You will find school-wide news and events on our homepage. Below are some important URL's (website addresses) related to the KG/Elementary Department.

www.dasmanschool.com.kw/kgnews.html → KG Newsletters

www.dasmanschool.com.kw/elemnews.html → Elementary Newsletters (Grades 1-5)

Please note that you need to download the free Adobe Acrobat software in order to view the newsletters. The software may be downloaded for free at www.adobe.com. Please visit our school website regularly as it is updated on a regular basis.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,


Andy Mirhaj