

newsCAST

The Newsletter of Collegiate American School

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GENERAL

ELEMENTARY

MIDDLE & HIGH

Message from the Head Principal

This past week, Collegiate American hosted an accrediting team from the Council of International Schools (CIS). A rigorous process that we believe will have a positive outcome. The team of eight (VT) met with self-study groups which reflected on practices at the school. Additionally, groups of varying stakeholders were collaborated with to gather evidence and gain a comprehensive view on the practices at the school and correlate what the self-study reported. Accolades need to be given to all involved in this process as it was very in-depth and challenged us as practitioners. The VT submits their report to CIS and fact checking within their organization takes place on multiple levels. Final recommendation goes to the CIS Board which communicates the findings to the school. We anticipate our final rating in approximately six weeks.

Are you aware that KHDA has a US division that explicitly looks at practices and curriculum implementation of American curriculum schools in Dubai? This division ensures that schools are following American curriculum. During the DSIB inspection process inspectors with specialization in US curriculum are utilized. Last year, the US division of KHDA provided expectations schools needed to meet. One mandate was to identify a state in regards to curriculum alignment. Common Core State Standards provide a framework, individual states then work on curriculum utilizing the framework and unpack the standards for implementation.

At Collegiate American, we took this task very seriously as we want to ensure that we meet the best needs of our students in an international setting. Our Curriculum Coordinator began the task of analyzing state curriculums. Collegiate American has begun to utilize Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and exploring C3 for Social Studies. One of the parameters KHDA has communicated with schools is that you may not omit parts of the selected state curriculum but you may enhance it. With this in mind, the list of ten recommended by Dr. Haag was narrowed down to three by the Senior Leadership team. We carefully reviewed the curricula from varying lenses and made recommendations. We also asked our teachers and parents to do the same.

Recently, we have selected the state of New York for alignment. We have considered that the rollout of this needs to consider student readiness, teacher professional development and planning and parent training. We were very impressed with the site Engage NY <https://www.engageny.org/>.

For the next academic year, our focus will be on ELA. If you preview the units, you will see rigor, high vocabulary focus which will benefit our multi language students and the resources selected offer cross cultural connections and perspectives. Teacher resources provide support for ELL, SEN and also higher order thinking to challenge our able and willing student population.

As we complete our final accreditation/inspections, we will then be working on the rollout of this curriculum in the upcoming year. We are excited about this program and know it will assist with our overall school goals.

The final piece of news I have is that of a personal level. Collegiate American parents who were present last year knew that I was diagnosed with a type of cancer called Hodgkin's Lymphoma. After six months of treatment, I was deemed in full remission. This past December, I was informed that I relapsed with this disease and began a new salvage treatment protocol quickly after the holidays. I requested faculty and staff remain focused on the busy weeks that came ahead of us with the accreditations. Now, my physical appearance had begun to change due to the course of treatment as well as my attendance at events has been limited due to the need to be in a sterile environment as often as possible. Please be confident that we have planned out how to proceed with the next few months until I can reach remission again. Our parent company, Innoventures has been extremely supportive as has my Collegiate American family. My treatment has three phases. I am now completing Phase I. I know that I can count on all of you as our stakeholders to support the school in this time. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

This sums up current events at school. We now are leading up to the final weeks prior to spring break to focus on the NEASC accreditation and KHDA inspection. Our confidence from the CIS team visit allows us reflect on next steps and items we would like to focus on during our KHDA inspection. Looking forward to seeing you all at CASPA International Day and other school events.

Best regards,

Ms. Tammy.

Dear Families,

A couple of weeks ago a long list of students and teachers were honored at our assembly for having PERFECT ATTENDANCE for semester 1. That is an impressive accomplishment! When you see them around campus, please commend their effort to be at school! Do you want to do better about your commitment to attendance? Learn more from the following points taken from www.attendanceworks.org.

School success goes hand in hand with attendance. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school. Start building this habit in preschool so they will know right away that going to school on time, every day is important! Good attendance will help your children do well in school, college and at work.

- Your children can suffer academically if they miss *10 percent of the school year* or about 18 days. That can be just one day every two weeks, and that can happen before you know it.
- Some absences are unavoidable. We understand that children will get sick and need to stay home occasionally. The important thing is to get your children to school as often as possible.
- Sporadic absences, not just those on consecutive days of school, matter. Before you know it – just one or two days a month can add up to nearly 10 percent of the school year.
- If too many absences occur, it is still a problem whether they are excused or unexcused because they represent too much lost learning time in the classroom.
- Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Studies show many children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade can struggle academically in later years. They often have trouble mastering reading by the end of third grade.

What can you do?

- Families should avoid extended vacations that require your children to miss school. Try to line up vacations with the school's schedule. The same goes for doctor's appointments.
- For younger children, you can set a regular bedtime and morning routine. Make sure they get 9 to 11 hours of sleep. You can lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- For older children, you can help them develop homework and bedtime routines that allow for 8 ½ to 9 ½ hours of sleep. Make sure that when the lights go out, so do the cell phones, video games and computers.
- Get to know the teachers and administrators. With younger children, make sure you introduce your child to teachers before school starts and keep in touch with the teachers. For older students, school officials can help you stay on top of academic progress and social contacts to make sure your child is staying on track.
- Above all, set an example for your child. Show him or her that attendance matters to you and that you won't allow an absence unless someone is truly sick.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WITH PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR SEMESTER 1

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------|
| Olivia | Azar | PK B |
| Jason | Harb | PK A |
| Madina | Sawani | PK A |
| Charles | Kostoff | KG 1A |
| Sunho | Sen | KG 1A |
| Maria Jana | Abanilla | KG 1 B |
| Darcy | Pinheiro | KG 1B |
| Michael | Urban | KG 1B |
| Sofia | Syed | KG 1C |
| Dana | Eldeeb | KG 1 D |
| Corentin | Le Gall | KG 1E |
| Xenia | Ummels | KG 1F |
| Walid | Attal | KG 2 B |
| Miyu | Kikuchi | KG 2 B |
| Marc | Tannous | KG 2 B |
| Siwoo | Kang | KG 2 C |
| Jad | Benkirane | KG 2 D |
| Alvaro | Del Corral | KG 2 D |
| Danielle | Rose Magsino | KG 2 D |
| Addison | Beck | KG 2 E |
| Jihyo | Kim | KG 2 E |
| Dylan | Lee | KG 2 G |
| Sungyeon | Park | KG 2 G |
| Minaz | Hussein | GR1 B |
| Oliver John | Carr | GR1 B |
| Naya | Altamimi | GR1 C |
| Bryan | Kupczyk | GR 1C |
| Morgan | Mikkola | GR 1C |
| Ryotaro | Sakai | GR 1C |
| Chris | Tannous | GR 1C |
| Felicia | Bolourchi | GR1 D |
| Layann | Attal | GR1 D |
| Nikita | Veretekha | GR 1D |
| Nabil | Azar | GR1 E |
| Woojin | Jung | GR1 E |
| Reuben | Welander | GR 1E |

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| Amira | Moarrefi | GR 2A |
| George | Daoud | GR2 A |
| Jimin | Kim | GR2 A |
| Loullwa | Bayoumy | GR2 A |
| Akif | Aliyev | GR2 B |
| Ayesha | Al Daboos | GR2 C |
| Leopold | Del Corral | GR2 C |
| Daniel | Lee | GR3 A |
| Katerina | Miskova | GR3 A |
| Siwoo | Lee | GR3 A |
| Tara | Florjanic | GR3 A |
| Chiara | Gottschalk | GR3 B |
| Nathan | Lee | GR3 B |
| Halima | Hussein | GR3 B |
| Reza | Hassanzadeh | GR3 B |
| Valentin | Maricou | GR3 B |
| Seo Yun | Won | GR 3B |
| Abderrahmane | Djendou | GR3 C |
| Bilel | Chtioui | GR3 C |
| Dania Ariesha | Zainudin | GR 3C |
| Arvin | Nuzzo | GR3 D |
| Bruke | Fekadu | GR3 D |
| Seohyun | Lee | GR3 D |
| Yewon | Cho | GR3 D |
| Putu Diva | Suryawan | GR 3D |
| Muhammad Tariq | Halimi | GR4 A |
| Yesol | Kim | GR4 A |
| Walid | Al Hussein | GR4 B |
| Muhammad Ashraf | Halimi | GR4 C |
| Yassin | Hendi | GR4 C |
| Bruno | Villacinda | GR5 A |
| Mohamed Aziz | Chtioui | GR5 A |
| Reitaro | Yamaguchi | GR5 A |
| Saif | Al Daboos | GR5 A |
| Seo Jin | Won | GR5 A |
| Siyoon | Lee | GR5 A |
| Yulia | Sinitsyna | GR5 A |
| Abdallah | Djendou | GR5 B |
| Fatimah | Mohammed | GR5 B |
| Lucas | Villacinda | GR5 B |
| Nadia Fariesha | Zainudin | GR5 B |
| Seojin | Kim | GR5 B |
| Tural | Aliyev | GR5 B |
| Yasmin | Hussein | GR5 B |

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS WITH PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR SEMESTER 1

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rhonda Hearn | Early Childhood Coordinator |
| Vaanya Alwani | KG 1C Teacher |
| Frosoulla Anastasiades | KG 2A Teacher |
| Jasmine Daz | KG 2C Teacher |
| Tamela Slick | Grade 3C Teacher |
| Maureen Rau | Grade 3D Teacher |
| Troy Davis | Grade 4A Teacher |
| Mohamed Moghazy | Islamic Teacher |
| Diah Younes | Arabic & Islamic Teacher |
| Momina Khattak | ELL Teacher |
| Charlotte Tonga | Music & Movement Teacher |

The International Benchmark Tests (IBT): The International Benchmark Tests are designed to give a benchmark of your child's performance compared to the participating countries in the world and in the region. Students in grades 3—10 will be able to see their potential for learning, identifying their strengths and weaknesses on skills and concepts related to their class level. Questions are interesting and thought provoking, and encourage students to develop the skills related to problem solving, data interpretation, reasoning and critical thinking in the global context. These tests are administered once a year in November.

Notes from the Middle and High School

The theme this week is high expectations. It is only through the highest of expectations that our students will be able to reach goals that we as parents wish for them. In that light, all of our grade 10 students and interested grade 9 students will travel to DIA to take the **PSAT** test on Tuesday, March 1. This will be the first opportunity for our students to practice for the very important SAT which will help to determine their university choices in a few short years. Please encourage your high school student to get a good night's rest and to take the test very seriously. The grade 10 teachers and Ms. Sophia have provided study materials for the students. Ask them if they feel ready!

Congratulations to Honor Roll students!

Speaking of expectations, well done to the students who achieved our Honor Roll for Semester 1:

RED = 3.00 – 3.49

WHITE = 3.50 – 3.79

BLUE = 3.80 and above

S1 Middle School Honor Roll - January 2016

Grade 6

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|------|
| Carl Knauer | 06 | 3.41 |
| Abdullah Allawala | 06 | 3.47 |
| Livna Tenenbaum | 06 | 3.51 |
| Valentina Aguilar | 06 | 3.56 |
| Ziad Abo Shahba | 06 | 3.74 |
| Amina Hafeed | 06 | 3.76 |
| Adriana D. Binti Aladin | 06 | 4 |
| Prisha Rajvansh | 06 | 4.02 |
| Gaeun Kim | 06 | 4.1 |

Grade 7

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|------|
| Ayman Nabil Bin Aladin | 07 | 3.03 |
| Mounia Moudjeber | 07 | 3.14 |
| Danny Dantas Doerga | 07 | 3.16 |
| Carlos Herrera Castanos | 07 | 3.34 |
| Amanda Nuzzo | 07 | 3.44 |
| Lea Khalil | 07 | 3.74 |
| Patrycja Kupczyk | 07 | 3.92 |
| Hassan Baroudi | 07 | 3.95 |

Grade 8

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|------|
| Henrique Santos | 08 | 3.06 |
| Leyla Cay | 08 | 3.36 |
| Sultan Almuhairi | 08 | 3.4 |
| Ebba Skoog | 08 | 3.41 |
| Jun Kim | 08 | 3.64 |
| Gabriela Da Cruz Lima | 08 | 3.87 |
| Julie Azba | 08 | 3.97 |
| Iza Florjanic | 08 | 4.15 |

S1 High School Honor Roll – January 2016**Grade 9**

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|------|
| Tibaud Le Maout | 09 | 3.09 |
| Amir Hossein Ayazi Hashjin | 09 | 3.19 |
| Chan-Hyuk Yim | 09 | 3.24 |
| Ella Ruuska | 09 | 3.31 |
| Sofia Herrera Castanos | 09 | 3.36 |
| Genovese; Arianna | 09 | 3.4 |
| Ibrahim Saeed | 09 | 3.4 |
| Amir Issagali | 09 | 3.5 |
| Maria Zambrano Rojas | 09 | 3.66 |

Grade 10

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|------|
| Juliette Maricou | 10 | 3.05 |
| Alanis Binti Aladin | 10 | 3.22 |
| Syarifah Zaibounnissa | 10 | 3.29 |
| Nathalia Awada | 10 | 3.4 |
| Joud El Dweiri | 10 | 3.45 |
| Christina Jisto | 10 | 3.5 |
| Carmen Rengifo | 10 | 3.71 |
| Radhika Kalra | 10 | 3.76 |

These students will be awarded at our Sunday morning assembly on February 28.

“Moving Up” Day

On March 1 while our grade 10 students are away at the PSAT test, we will take the opportunity to “Move Up” the middle and high school students. Grade 5 students will spend the day in grade 6 following a grade 6 schedule and taking grade 6 classes. Grade 5 students are permitted to bring their electronic devices on this day. Students in other grades will also move up one level, with grade 8 students getting to experience high school for the first time.

High School Scheduling Update

Students and parents met on Monday, February 15 to finalize student course choices for the IB program.

The Groups are listed below. If you have a grade 10 student and could not attend, please get in touch with Mr. Powell or myself as soon as possible.

| Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 | Group 5 | Group 6 |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| English Language and Literature HL/SL | Arabic B HL/SL French B HL/SL Spanish Ab Initio SL | Business & Management HL/SL History HL/SL Global Politics HL/SL | Biology HL/SL Chemistry HL/SL | Math SL Math Studies SL | Visual Arts HL/SL And additional course from Group 3 or 4 |

Remember that in order to get the full IB Diploma a student must take one course in each group, with 3 Higher Level (HL) and 3 Standard Level (SL) courses. In addition, students are required to take Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and to complete the four-thousand word Extended Essay. All IB courses run for 2 years, for both grade 11 and grade 12. More information can be found at: <http://www.ibo.org/benefits/>

As you know, all students accumulating the 22 credits at Collegiate American School will receive an American diploma. Scheduling information regarding the American curriculum courses will be available in the coming weeks. It is an exciting time of building the high school program at CAS!

Robert G. Haag

Secondary School Principal