

EDUCATION

FEATURED PRINCIPAL

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COLLEGIATE AMERICAN SCHOOL



What are your principles and values when it comes to running the school?

A student spends most of their weekdays at school, so it must be an inviting knowledge hub to meet the needs of its student body, yet also academically rigorous to challenge students and arm them with 22nd century skills which would help them in competitive markets.

As the school leader, I highly prioritise being available on campus and becoming an active participant in learning, teaching and activities so that I'm aware of the school's different facets.



We practice an open-door policy, allowing any stakeholder to come and discuss their specific needs regardless of their role in school.

What inspires you when it comes to managing and improving the school environment, and encouraging students?

Students: they inspire me every day. You'll often find me engaged with students, discussing their feedback on initiatives, the future or congratulating them for their efforts working on a project or competition. I'm particularly synergised when I see the spark of mastering a concept or connection during the learning process.

What do you think is the best way to deal with a student discipline incident and the communication process with the parents?

One of the Collegiate American School's values is integrity. Students are coached to be honest about every incident that takes place. They need to understand that integrity is key and that all humans make mistakes, but must reflect on them and accept the consequences if warranted. Students are often asked what consequence they feel is appropriate for their actions. Depending on the severity of the incident, multiple options are available to communicate to the parents. I personally try and

rely on the student to inform their parents in my presence, in addition to following up, as it adds to the student's ownership of their behaviour. A student should leave a situation with dignity and reflect over their future actions.

What aspect of your school are you most proud of?

During the past two years, Collegiate American School has gained great momentum in terms of student achievement. We've been validated in our practices by multiple inspection and accreditation agencies. Our American curriculum spans global citizenship and is enhanced with technology for our learners.

Our inclusive practices make it a safe learning environment for all. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme has provided another level of opportunity for our Secondary students. The school's success, as commended in inspection notes, speaks of the tremendous progress it has made in a short period of time. Next year is exciting, we have our first



graduating class of a dynamic group of students.

What are your thoughts on technology-based learning vs. more time outdoors?

Collegiate American School has brought in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) to its offerings this year and students have responded very positively. Our technology classes include programming, robotics and virtual/augmented reality, among others.

Technology is vital to the skills needed for the future, but a balanced approach needs to be deployed and taught. Our curriculum provides opportunities to learn through technology in alternative areas such as the organic garden or experiential learning trips to provide the balance we believe is needed.

How do you see the recent school fee hikes and how has your school adopted them?

We're pleased to announce that Collegiate American School will not increase its fees despite this growing trend in Dubai. Sibling discounts have also been increased. It's important that children stay in the same school to build their academic confidence and we believe in our product as a school.

