

The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Boys



أكاديمية الشيخ زايد الخاصة للبنين

الاعتزاز بالماضي. الإعداد للمستقبل.
Honoring the past. Educating for the future.

KG Parent Handbook

2016-2017





Our Vision of KG:

Our mission is to provide a learning environment that promotes cognitive development, academic, physical, and social skills. Students will be exposed to basic literacy and math skills. This is achieved through purposeful play, hands-on exploration, reading, and writing activities that focus on each individual's abilities. Our students will complete two years of KG education in order to be academically ready for grade 1.

At the end of KG students will be able to:

- Communicate effectively in English
- Understand basic math and literacy concepts
- Have Social skills to play, negotiate, and communicate with others
- Understand and appreciate the community and the culture of the UAE
- Be confident, risk-takers and effective problem solvers

The classroom:

KG classrooms are structured to support students' independent and group work. There are number of centers for students to engage in learning activities such as: math, reading, writing, play-dough, cutting, arts & crafts, block, water & sand, IT-IPad, and role-play centers. Each center is updated, based on the current unit. Activities and manipulatives are chosen specifically to develop learning objectives linked to the curriculum and content knowledge.



The curriculum:

KG's curriculum is formed by units of study, some of the units include My Family, Heritage, Transportation, Community Helpers, etc. All of the units focus on developing knowledge and understanding of specific concepts along with basic skills. Each unit of study addresses a number of standards from the **Common Core Massachusetts Curriculum** and the **Next Generation Science Curriculum**, which focus on developing specific math/English skills, and science concepts.

Homework:

Homework is sent every Thursday. It consists of one literacy and math exercise. Please have your child complete the exercise independently, as scribbles and marks are extremely valuable to understand your child's development.

A Typical Day in KG1 & KG2

Students will have the following learning blocks on a weekly/daily basis:

- Literacy- whole group lesson, and small group activities
- Writing and Storytelling workshop – whole group lesson, whole/small group activities
- Math-whole group lesson, and small group activities
- Science-whole group lesson, and one exploration center
- Social Studies-whole group lesson, and whole/small group activities
- Gross Motor- one lesson that involves developing specific skills e.g. balance, coordination and flexibility etc.



- PE- physical education lesson
- Arabic-whole group lesson, and small group activities
- Islamic- whole group lesson
- Snack time and Free play



Arrival and Dismissal:

KG times are from **7:45am to 12:30pm**. All parents are expected to drop-off and collect their children on time.

Supervision will be provided in the KG reception for students arriving at 7:30. Please be aware that no adult is supervising the main entrance before this time.

Supervision will be provided until 12:45 after school. Please ensure your child is collected on time.

Buses are available within the island. Please see administration to inquire about this service.

The Premises:

All KG classrooms are located on the same side of the building. All sharing the outdoor learning spaces, indoor playground, outdoor playground, and KG reception/waiting area. The outdoor area next to each classroom is used to set up centers for students to learn and practice concepts. The indoor playground is used for Free Play, and the outdoor playground is used for Gross Motor development. Each KG classroom has two washrooms, one for boys and one for girls. KG students receive all lessons in their homeroom and only visit the gym during their weekly PE lesson.

Assemblies:



KG students participate in a weekly assembly every Thursday. During this assembly different classrooms are able to perform and “Star of the Week” awards are given to students excelling in different areas.



Uniform and Snack

- All students are expected to wear the Sheikh Zayed Academy uniform every day.
- All students should wear the Academy’s Gym clothes and Gym shoes once a week when their PE lesson is scheduled. See homeroom teacher for information.
- Most activities require exploration with different materials; expect to find stains from time to time on your child’s uniform.
- An additional change of clothes is required on the first day of school. These clothes will be kept in your child’s locker in case of an accident.
- Backpacks or lunchboxes are expected to be small and to fit in the locker. Trolley bags are **not** allowed.
- Snack: We encourage parents to send healthy foods including, bread, cheese, veggies, fruit, yoghurt, egg, rice, or pasta. Beverages- water bottle, milk (no strawberry/chocolate flavored), natural juice. The following snacks are not allowed: Nutella sandwiches, sugary drinks/snacks, chocolates, and cookies. We care about educating our children to have a healthy diet in order to grow strong!



Parental involvement and communication

- **Newsletter-** You will receive a weekly newsletter through e-mail and through My Learning describing weekly learning goals, activities, and other news.
- **End of Unit Reports-** A weekly individual report and a class summary will be sent home to inform you of your child's progress at the end of each unit.
- **End of Term Reports-** A report card with termly grades will be given to parents during conferences at the beginning of each term.

Parents are encouraged to e-mail teachers at any time and / or to schedule a meeting to discuss questions or concerns. Appointments can be made at the main reception and the meetings can be scheduled within the same week. Parents are also encouraged to speak to the Early Years Coordinator if a teacher is unable to assist.

Medical Needs:

Please inform the Nurse, classroom teacher, and the Early Years Coordinator if your child has a medical condition or an allergy.

Supporting at Home:

We strongly suggest that you read to your child every night in their first language, Arabic and / or English. Reading to your child once a day, engaging in conversations and allowing your child to express himself / herself through drawing, painting, or play-dough will support the development of Early Literacy Skills at school.

We also encourage you to count objects, identify shapes, colors, and letters around the home or in the environment, and to allow your child to engage in physical play at home or outdoors.

Birthdays and Celebrations:



- During school wide celebrations (National Day, Flag Day, etc.), we invite you to share food and drinks with the classroom. We ask that you check with your child's teacher for any allergies.
- Parents will be notified if their presence or participation is requested.
- Birthday celebrations, food and cakes are **not** allowed as a school wide policy. Feel free to share "gift/goodie bags" for all students to acknowledge a birthday. Parents who bring balloons, cakes, and other foods to celebrate a birthday will be turned away.
- Parents and family are not allowed in the classroom during learning hours. If you would like to come into the class environment, we invite you to do so shortly during drop-off or at pick-up times.



Fieldtrips:

KG Students will take at least one trip each term. Some of the trips might include The Heritage Village, Emirates Zoo, Mushrif Park, etc. Parents will be expected to complete and sign a permission slip authorizing their child to attend for each trip. Food, clothing, and fees for each trip will be specified by the teacher through a newsletter or e-mail. A small number of parent chaperones will be invited to attend for each trip. Teachers will provide you with this information.

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First week of School:

The first day for **KG2** students is **Sunday, August 28, 2016**. Children will only attend between **8:00am and 10:00am on their first day**. Then, from Monday the 29th of August, children will attend 7:45-12:30pm.

Children in **KG1** will begin attending school on **Monday, August 29th** and will either attend **7:45-9:45am** or **10:30-12:30pm** as shown on the front of this handbook. **This arrangement will continue up to and including Thursday the 8th of September**. This will allow teachers to get to know students in smaller groups and will allow children to ease into the school routine slowly and become familiar with the new environment.

We look forward to having your family become part of the Sheikh Zayed Academy Community!