

DIRECTOR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 25th, 2021



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20-21 Issue 3/4 Striving for accuracy ● Thinking Flexibly ● Persisting ● Respect ● Empathy ● Self-Discipline

Message from the Director

Dear BIS Community,

I hope this message finds you well as we head into spring break. This month marks one year that we have been working through the challenges of COVID-19. As many of you know, the time after spring holiday really tends to “fly-by” until we hit summer! So far, we have done very well as partners: staff, families and students. I look forward to finishing this school year strong. All schools want their students to succeed. However, schools can only make a lasting difference when we have a true partnership with school and home on the same page. Thank you all for partnering with us to work together to achieve our goals.

We are well underway with our CIS accreditation process and school improvement process. Our initial report to CIS will be submitted shortly as we continue our self-study process. International accreditation is extremely important to BIS because it ensures our entire community that we are meeting international standards and providing a quality education to our students. To learn more about our accreditation journey, please click the [link](#).

Please enjoy reading this newsletter as it has some important updates regarding our school. Wishing you all a fantastic break and looking forward to seeing you back on zoom on Monday, 5 April.

FAWSEC Board of Directors

As most of you know our previous Board Chairperson, Dr. Mohammed Al-Fares, is now the Minister of Oil and Higher Education and had to resign from his post from FAWSEC Educational Company. The FAWSEC Board of Directors appointed a new Board Member. Please click [here](#) to view the Board Member Bios and leadership roles.



Ms. Ghada Khalaf

Board Chairperson



Ms. Hessa Amin

Chief Executive Officer
of FAWSEC Educational Co.



Dr. Yasmine Al-Saleh

Owner's Representative



Ms. Dalia Al Mufarrej

Board Member



Mr. Tariq Al Samerraie

Chief Executive Officer
of FAWSEC Holding Co.

BIS Reunification Plan

As per the news release from the Ministry of Education that the students will return to schools for the school year 21-22. We would like to inform you that BIS campus is ready to welcome students back on campus. The safety of our children, staff, and BIS community is paramount. This served as the core principle combined with the guidance and direction from a myriad of research, which anchored our consideration around the possible return to the school campus. This enabled us to map the way forward and develop the enclosed guidelines for our reunification plan, which will ensure that this process is as smooth as possible yet flexible enough to accommodate the complexities of each school level's needs. Our reunification plan includes details from arrival on campus, lunch and hallway routines to pictures showing our campus safety and enhancements. Please note that our plan will be in a draft form as we learn more information and updates from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. Please click [here](#) to view the latest draft Reunification Plan.

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BIS Reopening Plan – Nurse Perspective

Reopening the school campus for students requires many precautionary measures to secure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff through providing a healthy and safe school environment. Please click [here](#) to view our BIS Reopening Plan – Nurse Perspective, which will be updated again prior to the start of the school year.

BIS Calendar SY 20-21

Please click [here](#) to view the updated calendar for SY 20-21 which provides parents with important dates, such as the last day for students and report card distribution. Parents can download a PDF version or view it from our website.

Summer School/Camp

BIS is seeking approval to run a summer camp this year. This is a great opportunity to catch up on subject matters and get ahead in others, as it is an especially invaluable option in a year that has been full of disruptions. We will communicate with the Ministry of Education to get an approval to do summer school/camp on the BIS campus. We will update all parents if we get approval from the Ministry. Stay tuned!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thank you for attending and signing up for our last parent-teacher conferences for this school year. We appreciate you taking the time to meet with our teachers and administrators and we hope that our conferences were able to provide you with some valuable insight into your child(ren)'s progress in school. We look forward to our continued partnership throughout the remainder of the school year. We had an amazing turnout. Your involvement and engagement is needed and appreciated.

MAP Growth Testing

We would like to inform you that we will be doing the second round of MAP testing for this school year in the 4th quarter. We have been communicating with the MOE to allow us to do these assessments on campus to ensure the credibility of students' answers. We are waiting for the approval, otherwise we will do them online like we did in the fall of 2020. The results from these assessments allow us to better support each individual student by highlighting strengths and area for growth, and enables teachers to better tailor their teaching and learning program accordingly. The school will send an update when more information is available.

Ramadan Hours for Students & Staff

Please note that the school hours for all students during the Holy Month of Ramadan:

KG: 10:30 am – 12:20 pm, which will begin on Monday, April 5, 2021 (KG classes will be combined into one session).

ES: 9:45 am – 1:40 pm, which will begin on Monday, April 5, 2021.

MS/HS: 9:30 am – 1:35 pm, which will begin on Sunday, April 11, 2021.

More details will be sent from your school level administration about our Ramadan schedules.

The school hours for our staff will be from 9:00 am and end at 2:00 pm, which will begin for KG/ES staff on April 5, 2021 and on April 11, 2021 for MS/HS staff.



Dates to Remember

March 28 – April 4: Spring Holiday.

April 4: Professional development for staff (no school for students).

April 5: BIS resumes from Spring Holiday.

Ramadan hours will begin for KG/ES staff and students.

April 7: Packets pick-up day – more details to follow.

April 11: Ramadan hours will begin for MS/HS staff and students.

Update Emergency Contacts

Please call our school at 2205-2822 if your phone number or emergency contact information changes at any time during the school year.