



أكاديمية جيمس الأمريكية - أبو ظبي  
GEMS American Academy - Abu Dhabi



P R O S P E C T U S



GEMS  
— SCHOOLS —

Learn. Aspire. Be.



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# The GEMS Difference

## Founded on 48 Years of Trust

Trusted for over 48 years, GEMS believes that every child is precious and must have the best opportunity to excel. Based on this belief, GEMS' vision is to provide opportunities to continually enhance and enrich the lives of our children and the communities of which they are a part.

Our growing international network of quality schools today provide a holistic education to nearly 70,000 children from 125 countries, and is delivered by over 5,500 education professionals drawn from over 60 countries around the world.

## Largest Global Provider of Private Education

GEMS operates a growing international network of over 75 schools spread across 7 countries, including the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, India, Qatar, Germany, Libya and Jordan. With the growth of GEMS Schools around the world, families are provided with the opportunity to transfer from one GEMS School to another when moving from country to country.



## Exceptional Teachers

Trained to create vibrant learning environments, GEMS teachers are at the very heart of GEMS Schools. As one of the world's largest providers of private K-12 education, GEMS is able to recruit the very best education professionals from around the world. GEMS employs a team of 5,500 education professionals and staff who ensure that the highest standards of learning and teaching are met and exceeded.

Ongoing training and continuing professional development programs ensure that GEMS teachers remain at the forefront of educational thinking and practice.

## Academic Excellence

Academic results in GEMS Schools are consistently high with students achieving well above national averages for equivalent examinations. American standardized achievement scores consistently place our elementary schools in the upper 90th percentile rankings in math and language arts among other U.S. and international schools. Average I.B. Diploma scores rank in the top 85% percentile among all international I.B. schools.

## Enviably College Admission Record

GEMS students have gained admission to some of the world's most prestigious universities including New York University, Boston University, Columbia University and Yale University in the US, McGill and University of Toronto in Canada, the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge and University College of London in England and RMIT University and Monash University in Australia, to name a few.

## Multi-Curricular Expertise

GEMS' expertise covers a broad range of curricula including:

- The National Curriculum for England
- The Indian curricula: CBSE and CISCE
- The International Baccalaureate Programme
- Accredited American Curriculum
- The Ontario (Canada) Curriculum
- A variety of national curricula

## Values Based Education

All GEMS Schools provide a solid academic foundation and a rich extra-curricular program that are supported by four core values.



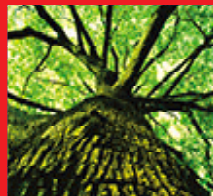
### World Citizenship

*Empowering students with a global and local perspective.*



### Universal Values

*Accepting that we are all different, recognizing that we are all the same.*



### Leadership Qualities

*Developing each student's individuality and discovering their potential.*



### Forward Thinking

*Developing skills for the future.*

## School Choices

Unique both within the region and beyond, GEMS has developed school models that meet the needs of any community, anywhere in the world. Through a variety of schools and curriculum GEMS provides families with a world of choice.



### **Innovative Learning Environments**

GEMS continually innovates to create learning environments that break traditional boundaries. This philosophy of continuous innovation influences the design of each new GEMS school and guides ongoing improvement in our existing schools.

### **Research and Development**

GEMS is committed to continuous development and innovation, driven by a constant dialogue, both formal and informal, with parents. Uniquely, GEMS schools benefit from the sharing of best practice across the network, aimed primarily at enhancing the standards of learning and teaching.

### **Quality Assurance**

The GEMS quality assurance program ensures that the highest possible standards of education are maintained in every GEMS School. GEMS Schools use a rigorous self-evaluation program alongside external accrediting agencies such as CIS, NEASC, IB and Ofsted to ensure that teaching standards are high and students are provided with learning opportunities that are matched to their specific needs. Continuous improvement is the key focus. Schools are supported through:

- Learning and teaching workshops
- A professional development program for teachers
- Whole school reviews by the GEMS' professional team

### **Eminent Advisory Board**

GEMS Advisory Board of eminent educationalists provides ongoing advice and support to GEMS Schools. Members of the Advisory Board have served in senior administrative, teaching or advisory capacities to governments and prominent education organizations and have influenced educational thinking globally.

### **Key members of GEMS Advisory Board include:**

**George Walker** - Former Director General of the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), Switzerland

**Sir Michael Tomlinson, FRSA** - Formerly Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for Schools (UK); introduced the 14-19 Education Reform in the UK

**James Sabben-Clare** - Headmaster of Winchester College, UK

**Nick Stuart** - Former Director General, Schools Policy, he devised the 1988 Education Reform Act and Education Act 1993 in the UK

**David Woodhead** - Former National Director, Independent Schools Information Service, UK



### **School Choices**

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### **Parents as Partners**

GEMS believes that parents are an integral part of the school community. GEMS' Parent Relations Program supports the positive interaction between school and home, encouraging parents to participate in the education process. All GEMS Schools are designed to provide high standards of service to ensure that every experience at a GEMS School is a positive one.

The GEMS Parent Relations Program includes ongoing communication between school and home, regular parent-teacher communication, parent forums and focus groups, coffee mornings and information seminars.

### **Commitment to Community**

GEMS Schools are committed to the communities they serve through the long-term provision of high quality education, continued enhancement of facilities, infrastructure and teaching methodology. Students in GEMS Schools are also taught the values and responsibilities needed to become active members of the local and global community.

# A High Quality Education



GEMS American Academy – Abu Dhabi (GAA) offers the international children of Abu Dhabi an enriched American curriculum taught by a highly qualified staff primarily from North America and select internationally trained teachers. We believe that the diversity of our student body provides the foundation for creating involved global citizens in our rapidly changing world. We make the effort to appreciate our similarities and celebrate our differences.

Building an inclusive and caring community is integral to our work. As we develop each child's personal feelings of safety, competence and self-worth, we emphasize the development of caring and respectful attitudes towards others.

An atmosphere of trust enables children to question, to take risks, to collaborate, to assume responsibility for independent work and to pursue individual interests.

We believe our commitment to advocating, teaching and respecting a diverse student body from cultures throughout the world fosters peace, justice and global understanding.

We teach to the needs of the individual child and know how to use a variety of methods, strategies, and instructional techniques to help them succeed. This also helps us understand their appropriate fit into the curriculum. We strive to look at curriculum, instruction and assessment as an integrated whole.

## Accreditation Plans

GEMS American Academy – Abu Dhabi is applying for accreditation with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in the United States and the Council of International Schools (CIS) in 2009-10.

### School Fees (Subject to Ministry Approval)

Grade Level	Tuition Fees
Kg 1	AED 25,000
Kg 2	AED 38,000
Gr 1 – 6	AED 53,700

# Unique Educational Approach



Our approach is guided by respect for children's individual differences, by recognizing their inherent capacity for growth, and by a commitment to plan activities and environments that shape learning and provide opportunities for student success.

We provide a wide range of learning opportunities for our students and encourage them to be active participants in their educational plan.

Technology is not simply taught as a "stand alone" class; rather every effort is made to incorporate technology as an information gathering tool in subject areas.

Students have the opportunity to excel as individuals and work as members of a team. In their studies and daily lives, our students are encouraged to explore their interests and strengths and to develop their own distinct, individual personalities.

We challenge our students and inspire them to expand their way of thinking. As our students begin to truly believe in themselves and their abilities, they develop the skills to succeed in school and life.

## Hopes and Dreams Program

"Hopes and Dreams Day" is a collaborative program designed to address the individual academic and social needs of each student. Information is gathered through student and parent surveys and conferences. On "Hopes and Dreams Day", parents have an opportunity to share information with teachers about their children and participate in goal setting for the year.



## Student Recognition

Throughout the school year we seek opportunities to recognize and celebrate students' achievements. Merits, subject awards, effort certificates, trophies, and medals ensure that students have a tangible reward for their efforts and achievements.

## Individual Attention

Students receive individual attention, helping them to realize their potential. This is done through a variety of activities that include individual assessment and the establishing of personal targets, the use of learning support assistants, and when appropriate, differentiated work. GAA has defined educational standards and parameters and requires that students are able to successfully achieve them within the limits of the program. No special education programs are available.

## Target Setting

GAA is at the forefront of educational practice in the way it uses the information from diagnostic individual, group and teacher criterion referenced tests to set attainment targets for each student and to track their progress on an individual basis. This strategy provides a powerful motivation for students and helps them learn the importance of working towards specific goals. Parents and teachers are also provided with a realistic basis for assessing the progress and achievement of each student at the "Hopes and Dreams" conferences each year.

## Service Standards

Parents and students receive priority attention in an interactive and friendly environment that promotes open communication between school, parents and students. Front line personnel are available to provide information and assistance to parents and to make each interaction with the school a pleasant one. We hope parents let us know how we are doing in this area!

# Parent Relations

## Partnership in Learning

Our American curriculum program of studies and extra-curricular activities are successful because of our partnership with parents. Parents, students, and teachers establish and share a vision to create a plan for accomplishing goals that help students grow and develop their talents and abilities.

The GEMS American Academy Parent Association (GAPA) provides valued energy and support to enrichment events and in welcoming new families to the school. An elected group of involved parents will help host numerous events throughout the year. All parents are automatically members of the Association and are welcome to attend all Parent Association meetings, usually held on a weekly basis.



# Curriculum



GAA offers an enriched American curriculum with an international perspective for students in Kindergarten through Grade 6. The curriculum is based on U.S. national standards (McREL) and best practice research.

The core program lays emphasis on Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Elementary students also receive instruction in Health, Physical Education, Library, Computer Technology, Art, Music and Arabic Culture. Muslim students are required to attend Islamic Studies in the UAE.

Instructional objectives are clearly defined in all subject areas, but academic expectations are flexible enough to both support and challenge each individual learner. Homework is an important part of the educational process as a means of reinforcing and reviewing the daily classroom lessons. Instruction in all areas encourages students to grow as creative thinkers, critical reasoners and effective communicators. Technology, with Internet access in classrooms and specialist rooms, is integrated throughout our program.

Academically, the school prepares students to meet the challenge of a university education. Beyond academics, GEMS American Academy – Abu Dhabi strives to instill in all students a positive attitude toward lifelong learning, an appreciation for cultural diversity, with higher thinking and problem solving skills necessary to be successful in their future endeavors.

# Elementary School



Our Kindergarten Program begins with 4-year olds in Kg 1 and 5-year olds in Kg 2 (as of September 15th of the year of application) and places an emphasis on the development of a positive self-concept, appropriate socialization and readiness skills. The foundations are created for a happy and successful school experience. Students are taught fundamental skills in reading and mathematics in an active and stimulating environment.

Curriculum for students in Grades 1 through 6 emphasizes basic skills in all subject areas and introduces higher level skills to challenge students and stimulate their interests. The curriculum fosters the concept that learning should be enjoyable and rewarding throughout the students' lives.

From Kindergarten to Grade 6 a continuous progress approach is used in the core curricular areas of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The Social Studies program takes advantage of our international setting by studying countries and cultures from around the world. Our curriculum is essentially a traditional American program, but takes advantage of our internationalism within.

GAA students are provided opportunities to demonstrate their many talents, communication skills and leadership qualities through curricular and co-curricular activities. Teachers encourage and assist students in becoming active learners, integrating their ideas, feelings and experiences into the instructional program. Students are encouraged to accept responsibility for their conduct, thereby enhancing their feelings of self-esteem and self-confidence.

# School Facilities

Conveniently located in the heart of Abu Dhabi on Najda Street (6th) between 9th (Passport Road) and 11th, GAA provides state-of-the-art facilities for student life and learning. The U-shaped campus centers around a purpose-built, child-friendly courtyard with plenty of space to run and play. An outdoor artificial turf field can be used by either PE classes or at recess and is seldom empty!

With 24 classrooms, each with its own computer mini-lab in the hallway for research and differentiation activities, grade-level groups are kept together for a community feel. With an interactive Promethean Smartboard in each classroom, students can look forward to interactive and engaging lessons using the latest technology.

A newly constructed specialist building hosts our library center, art suite, dedicated computer lab and Arabic studies room upstairs, while a cafeteria downstairs provides eating space for more than 200 students at a time. Athletic facilities include a large gymnasium with built-in seating for 100. Two more covered outdoor play areas for the younger grades finish the facility's child-friendly focus.

If you would like to visit the school and see our facilities, please contact the school to arrange an appointment!



# School Programs



The core curriculum is enriched with a number of other programs to provide a well-rounded education for GAA students.

## Computer Technology

The school utilizes computers that are connected to the school's Local Area Network (LAN) that delivers data to classrooms to enhance student learning and provides Internet/Intranet access for students and staff.

Children can access computers in the library, mini-labs, computer lab or in their regular classrooms. Our Technology Curriculum begins with the premise that technology instruction is best used as a tool to support our core curriculum. Beginning in Kindergarten, students create and communicate their ideas, analyze information in different formats, and display ethical and responsible use of technology. Numerous exploratory, elective and programming classes in technology are designed to help prepare students for the 21st century.



## Library

The enjoyment of reading and learning is fostered at GEMS American Academy – Abu Dhabi. The library selects and maintains appropriate material for research projects and a wide selection of leisure books. The library also offers computers with Internet access for students and teachers. The students are instructed in the necessary skills to locate information in a library and in utilizing reference materials.

Our library continues to expand as new books and resources are added regularly to expand student interest and availability.

## Physical Education

GAA's comprehensive physical education program emphasizes both physical and social development. Physical education is a continuous process to motivate each student to make wise choices. Through this program, students will demonstrate an understanding of sportsmanship, cooperation, respect for and acceptance of self and others, self discipline and confidence. Concepts of safety, knowledge of rules and game strategies, and the promotion of a lifelong physical fitness program are emphasized. GEMS American Academy – Abu Dhabi provides a wide variety of physical experiences using diverse equipment and facilities. Related programs include:

- Activity days
- Walking/running programs
- Intramural programs & tournaments
- Sports Day



## Arabic Cultural Studies & Islamic Studies

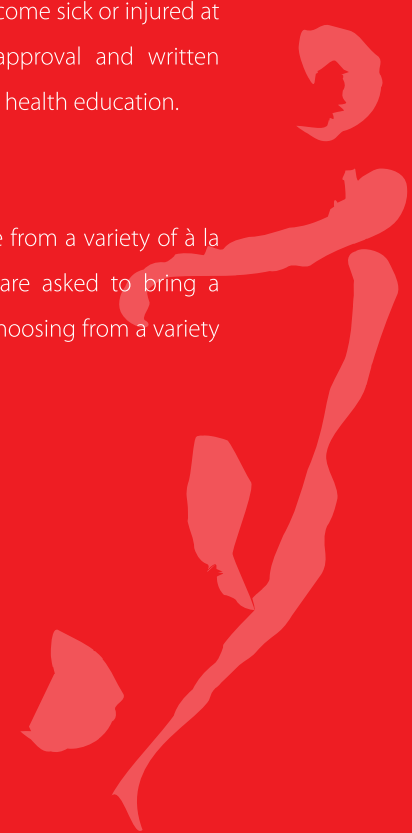
Arabic Language and Culture instruction is provided for all elementary grade students from Kg 2 through Grade 6 . Students learn basic conversational patterns in Arabic that can be applied in everyday situations. Students also learn about the culture and customs of our host country by experiencing music, food, games, art and literature from that culture. Arabic Language is differentiated for native and non-native speakers, but as our program is designed for a diverse community of non-Arabic speakers, Arabic is not offered as a comprehensive program. Islamic studies is mandatory for all Muslim students in the UAE.

## Health Services

A fully qualified and registered nurse is on duty to attend to students should they become sick or injured at school. The nurse can administer prescribed medication based upon parent approval and written instructions and will also coordinate required health screening and participate in health education.

## Lunchtime

An optional hot lunch program is available at the school. Students may also choose from a variety of à la carte items to supplement lunches from home. All elementary grade students are asked to bring a nutritious mid-morning snack and a water bottle to school each day in addition to choosing from a variety of beverages that are available. Tuition fees are exclusive of cafeteria service.



# Creative Expression



## Music

GEMS American Academy – Abu Dhabi believes that music plays a major role in society as a means of self-expression and cultural enrichment. Knowing and practicing the art of music is vital to the lifelong development of a child's mind and spirit. The school's music program includes creating music through rhythm, listening to and analyzing music, understanding music in relation to history and culture, learning to read music notation, the care and use of a variety of instruments and participating in performances.

## Art

All students from Kg 2 onwards receive regular instruction in art. Students learn by creating art (studio/production), responding to and making judgments about art (criticism), acquiring historical and cultural knowledge about artists and their works (history), and understanding how people justify judgments about art objects (aesthetics).

## Drama

The Elementary Program incorporates drama skills into their everyday class activities and presentations. Assemblies give students an opportunity to showcase talent and gain public speaking skills. A school-wide goal is to host events that permit all students the opportunity to perform on "stage" during our weekly assemblies.





# Languages

## World Languages

In international education, long-term language learning plays a key role in preparing students for a world in which international, multilingual and multi-cultural connections will be ever present. Parent groups are welcome to propose language enrichment support as after school activities for interested students as GAA will provide classrooms as we are able.

## English Language Learner (ELL)

The language of instruction at GAA is English. In order for students to fully participate in the school's instructional programs, students are required to have English language proficiency. Students may be admitted without such proficiency provided they satisfy all enrolment regulations and qualify for GAA's ELL program, subject to availability of space, as a mandatory fee for service program of AED 3,750 per year. In addition to their scheduled ELL classes, students are required to follow a regular English language instruction schedule. A limit is placed on the number of ELL students per classroom. In order for ELL students to fully benefit from this program, parents are encouraged to support the English spoken at home.



# After School Activities Program

Participation in extra-curricular activities are valued enrichment to an already rigorous academic program at GEMS American Academy – Abu Dhabi. Through participation in these events, students enrich their school days.

In addition to physical development and the exploration of interests, students learn the thrill of challenge and competition, the importance of concentration, the spirit of teamwork and a sense of accomplishment.

GAA provides a rich extra-curricular program that supports its students' all-round development, providing opportunities for students to develop talents and explore new interests. Activities include both individual pursuits and team building activities for students. Students may choose from a wide variety of activities.



## Enrichment Opportunities to Explore can include:

Soccer • Spanish • Reading Club • Tennis • Art Club • Dance • Choir • Basketball  
• Volleyball • Swimming • Drama • Gymnastics • Karate • Computer Club • Board  
Games • Book Club • Chess Club • Language Clubs • Math Club • Floor Hockey



### School Fees (Subject to Ministry Approval)

Grade Level	Tuition Fees
Kg 1	AED 25,000
Kg 2	AED 38,000
Gr 1 – 6	AED 53,700





# Dedicated Team of Education Professionals

All of our teaching staff are highly qualified and professionally trained. Committed to high standards of quality and service, they are capable of creating motivational learning environments for children. Most of our teachers and administrators are from the United States or Canada.

Our ongoing program of professional development ensures that the strategies, methods and resources used reflect the standards of best practice from around the world. Our training programs are subject to stringent evaluation for quality assurance purposes and are continually updated to ensure that high standards of teaching and learning are maintained.

As part of our teaching philosophy, our teachers:

- Actively engage students in their own learning
- Systematically develop students learning skills so that they become increasingly independent
- Use assessment for learning techniques to help students to reflect on what they know and to set targets for the future
- Use stimulating activities in well planned lessons
- Create a purposeful atmosphere that promotes effective learning

# Education Support Services

## Testing Program

Students in Grades 3 through 6 participate in a standardized testing program measuring academic achievement and ability (Iowa Test of Basic Skills). More extensive testing is available by referral.



SCHOOL ACCREDITATION IN PROGRESS  
(2009-10)



NEASC ACCREDITED BY THE NEW ENGLAND  
ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES



CIS ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL  
OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS



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