



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2018 - 2019 SCHOOL YEAR



RESPECT | HONESTY | RESPONSIBILITY | COMPASSION

Welcome to the Elementary School



Identity Statement

The American School of Doha is an independent, U.S. accredited, college preparatory school, committed to providing educational excellence, through a standards-based, internationally enriched American curriculum, serving a multicultural student body.

Mission

The American School of Doha is committed to the intellectual and personal development of our students, inspiring and empowering them to become positive, active global citizens.

Vision

ASD is a future-focused community where learning is...
collaborative
fun and engaging
extended beyond walls
creative to foster innovation
sustained by responsible practices
data-informed and evidence-based
authentic, solving real-world problems
encouraged in a technology-enhanced environment
ASD is...where students are encouraged to extend their
own learning

Our Values

Respect • Honesty • Responsibility • Compassion

ASD Values

Respect

Respect is a cornerstone value, which every person at ASD must display.

How do people display respect at ASD?

There are many ways to show respect. It is very important to listen and to try to understand the other person's opinion and point-of-view. Students can show respect to teachers by arriving to class on time with all the needed equipment (notebook, calculator, textbook, etc.) ready to participate in class and learn. Students can be respectful of the school by adhering to the ASD values of Respect, Honesty, Responsibility and Compassion.

Honesty

Honesty is expected from each person at ASD. Students display honesty by doing their own homework, submitting their own work for assessment and bringing to the teacher or school administration information about dishonest acts. Students who are dishonest will receive the appropriate consequence from the high school administration.

Responsibility

ASD students must take responsibility for their actions and behave appropriately at school and school events. A main goal for high school is to help students become caring responsible citizens ready to make a contribution to society. Students display responsibility by doing their homework, coming to class on time, picking up after themselves and finding ways to make a positive contribution to the school and the community.

Compassion

ASD students need to be compassionate to the needs of others. Students can display compassion by helping new students feel welcome, by respecting the opinions and ideas of others and by volunteering time to a community service project. Students can display compassion by helping a classmate understand the homework - not allowing the classmate to copy the work, but by explaining the work so s/he is better able to understand the concepts being taught.

It is very important that every ASD student and staff member displays the ASD values on a regular, daily basis. If everyone works towards these values, ASD will continue to be a wonderful place to learn and grow.

The American School of Doha

Your story begins here...

Deeply embedded at the heart of the elementary program are the school values of Respect, Honesty, Responsibility and Compassion, which lay the foundation for nurturing and developing students in their voyage to becoming lifelong learners.

Through the core curricula subjects and a balanced specialist program, students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5 receive an enriched education, which strives for academic excellence and overall student success.

The elementary school is comprised of two schools, lower elementary (Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 2) and upper elementary (Grades 3 - 5). The elementary program caters to children starting at 4+ years of age in Pre-Kindergarten to 10+ years of age in Grade 5.

While the Pre-Kindergarten school day runs from 7:55 am - 12:30 pm, students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 have a full school day, which ends at 3:00 pm, punctuated with small breaks for snack and recess, as well as a longer lunchtime break. Students may bring lunches from home, or starting in Grade 1 purchase food and enjoy eating in the elementary cafeteria.

On Tuesday afternoons students are dismissed at 12:30 pm, in order to provide faculty with the opportunity to participate in PACT (Professional and Collaborative Time).

Students engage in core curricula schooling in homeroom settings under the tutelage of qualified, dedicated educators; as well as receiving specialist subject instruction in physical education, music, art, library and information technology.

Elementary School Class Sizes

Pre-Kindergarten - 15

Kindergarten - 18

Grades 1 and 2 - 20

Grades 3, 4 and 5 - 22

Guidance counselors work closely with both students and teachers to promote school values and life skills.

Course Descriptions

Literacy

The foundation of our literacy program is built upon the English Language Arts AERO/Common Core Plus Standards and Performance Indicators. These standards emphasize the key areas of: reading, writing, listening and speaking, and language foundations.



Our curriculum honors learners by being responsive, providing choice, establishing goal-setting, and promoting self-reflection. Instruction is differentiated to make learning experiences accessible and engaging.

Pre-Kindergarten students are immersed in a print-rich learning environment where they explore the exciting world of language. They develop their oral language through meaningful play and by interacting with books. Students view themselves as writers by expressing their own ideas through pictures and words.

Regarding Kindergarten through to Grade 5, a balanced literacy approach provides authentic reading and writing experiences with targeted instruction. At the core of balanced literacy is the reading and writing workshop. The workshop model offers all students explicit instruction, an opportunity to work at their independent levels, timely feedback, and collaborative interactions.

Further literacy experiences include: daily read-alouds, shared reading, interactive writing, and word study.

Ultimately, the goal of the literacy program is to build upon the enduring understanding that pleasure is derived from rich literacy experiences as students develop essential lifelong skills.

The Elementary Literacy Coordinator works closely with teachers to provide continuous professional development, curricular support, and guidance with the planning, delivery, and assessment of literacy units.

Mathematics

Elementary mathematics is based on building conceptual understanding. Students learn the concepts through the use of manipulatives and drawings in order to make sense and construct their knowledge. Students are encouraged to think of multiple strategies to solve problems and explain their thinking both in written and oral form.



Students work collaboratively to develop knowledge and extend their learning based on their individual readiness levels and needs. Teachers act as guides by modeling written explanations and asking effective questions to lead students to clear, concise, and efficient ways to solve problems.

Common Core State Standards guide our teaching. They include both:

Practice Standards

Make Sense of Problems, Reason and Construct Viable Arguments, and Model Mathematics.

Content Standards

Counting and Cardinality, Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Number and Operations in Base Ten, Number and Operations – Fractions, Measurement and Data, and Geometry.

The Elementary Mathematics Coordinator works closely with teachers to provide continuous professional development, curricular support, and guidance with the planning, delivery, and assessment of math units.

Science and Social Studies

The elementary science curriculum has been designed using the Next Generation Science Standards. The standards are based on three Dimensions: Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas and Crossing Concepts.

Through these Dimensions students develop an understanding of how to think and work like a scientist and engineer; ask questions or solve problems, plan and conduct investigations, analyze and interpret data, construct explanations and design solutions, develop models and communicate information.

The social studies program is transitioning from the American Education Reaches Out (AERO) Standards to the new College, Career and Civic Life (C3) Standards.

The C3 framework is structured on an Inquiry Arc and is comprised of four Dimensions: Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries, Applying Disciplinary Concepts and Tools, Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence and Communicating Conclusions and Taking Informed Action.

Students will be developing skills in how to ask rich questions and develop robust investigations, consider multiple perspectives, solutions and consequences, make evidence based claims and communicate and take informed action on their knowledge.

Both programs have shifted to an authentic and rigorous curriculum based on an inquiry approach. They aim to develop a future of globally aware scientists, engineers and social scientists.

The Elementary Science / Social Studies Coordinator works closely with teachers to provide continuous professional development, curricular support, and guidance with the planning, delivery, and assessment of science / social studies units.

Technology

Utilizing technology as a teaching and learning tool is at center stage with a strong focus on technology integration in the core curricula areas. Students also develop their information technology skills, and understanding of digital citizenship in computer lessons taught by the IT Integrator and specialist teachers, through the use of mobile labs; laptops, iPods and iPads.



Starting in Grade 3, each student has a school email account and enrollment in PowerSchool Learning, through which information pertaining to curricula documents, homework, discussion boards, and other student resources can be accessed.

Media literacy is complimented by the development of library skills, instructed by the Elementary Librarian.

Specialist Programs

Concerts, swimming galas, and Fine Arts Week, to name a few, highlight the unique specialist program we have in place.

Music, Art, and Physical Education are taught by a team of specialized teachers, in a resource rich environment, including art rooms, a kiln room, outdoor pools, fully equipped gymnasiums, and music rooms.



Modern Standard Arabic is offered to students who are native speakers of Arabic starting in KG. Students in Grades 1 and 2 all have the opportunity to attend instruction in the following world languages: Arabic as a Foreign Language, Spanish as a Foreign Language, and Modern Standard Arabic (eligible students only).

An English as an Additional Language Program is in place for non-native speaking students who require further exposure to English.

Furthermore, an Intervention and Learning Support Program serves students who would benefit from additional instructional support, to better enable them to cope with the demands of the academic program. Though the school offers additional instructional support, it is important to realize that the school does not offer a special education program.



School Trips and Activities

School trips, at every grade level, are planned to support the instructional program and extend classroom learning. The school also seizes opportunities to integrate both national and international events that take place in the host country as they arise.

After school activities (ASA) are offered to students in Grades 1 - 5 throughout the year. Students in Grades 2 - 5 are also able to take part in an after school sports program, which provides them with the opportunity to work within a team and compete against other schools.

Special Events

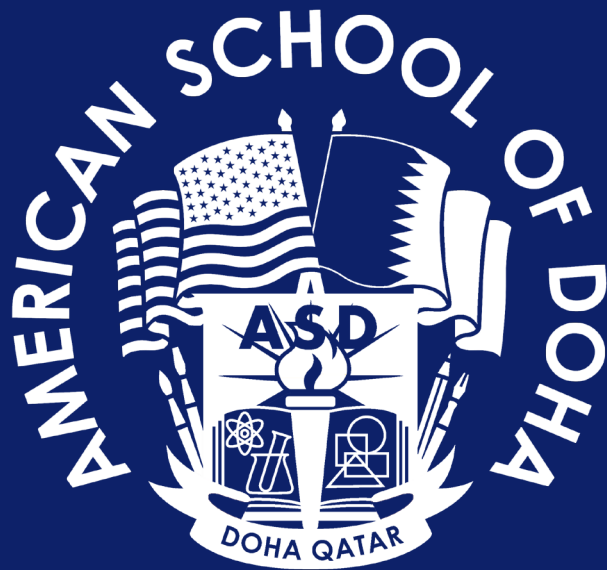
During the course of the year, Principals conduct special sessions with the students, to celebrate various holidays and events such as Thanksgiving, Qatar National Day, and Earth Day.

In addition, learning celebrations are held throughout the year at every grade level. Special events such as Halloween Carnival, International Week, Qatar Sports Day, and Friendship Festival serve to enrich students' overall school experience and promote much welcomed community involvement.

Learning is celebrated regularly through events such as concerts, writing celebrations, Poetry Week, Reading Week, three-way conferences, and numerous specific grade level events.

ASD is proud of the high level of parental support and involvement it has maintained throughout the years, and places great emphasis on home school connections and parental partnerships in student learning.





AT THE HEART OF LEARNING

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#ASDoha

