

The OFFICIAL Newsletter of Ignite School

## Welcome Back

Dear Parents:

Welcome to October! It is hard to believe that we are already four weeks into the school year. It has been amazing to watch everyone come together to ensure that the beginning of the school year has been a huge success. Our staff and students have been spending time developing a strong foundation within the classroom while balancing being in a blended classroom environment.

Now that the school year is fully underway, we would like to take this time to thank all of you for your patience and understanding as we have all been getting acclimated to the first few weeks. We realize that this new learning environment is challenging and we appreciate all of the feedback that we have received from parents. We are consistently working to make sure that our students have the best learning environment possible.

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher or building level principals. The best way to contact them is via their email addresses [principal.es@igniteschool.ae](mailto:principal.es@igniteschool.ae) or [principal.ms@igniteschool.ae](mailto:principal.ms@igniteschool.ae). They will get back to you as soon as possible.

We appreciate your support of Ignite School.

Educationally,

Scott Poloff



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## School News

### COVID-19 Guidelines

The school is still continuing to adhere to the COVID-19 regulations that have been put into place by KHDA, DHA and Dubai Municipality. As changes are presented to us, we will continue to keep you updated.

### MAP Testing

*Students in grades KG2—Grade will begin MAP testing October 6th through November 5th. A daily testing schedule will be sent out to all parents from the building level principals via ALMA. It is important for students to be in attendance on the days they are testing.*

Ignite School Parent Association

The Ignite School Parent Association is still looking for more members. If you are interested in being more involved at the school, please reach out to the Association President, Mr. Rabie Akela at [me@rabieakela.com](mailto:me@rabieakela.com). Also, please take a few minutes to review the website at <https://sites.google.com/igniteschool.ae/parents>

## Curriculum

At Ignite School we follow the New York State Learning Standards. In the United States, when you teach from the learning standards you don't teach from the textbook everyday. The student's textbook serves as a resource to enhance the overall curriculum.

In education, there are many resources used to enhance the daily curriculum in each subject. Some of these resources include interactive journals, on-line learning applications, daily writing portfolios, student textbooks and workbooks. So what this means is that every page in a workbook or textbook will not always be completed or read, and that is ok. These blank pages do not mean our students are not learning or the teacher isn't teaching. It just means that the teacher has used another tool in order to teach the lesson. This is something that you will see as students are working from home and using the different on-line applications.

Reading is one of the most important skills that we work to develop with our students. On page 3 of our newsletter is some important information on how you can engage your child to read more.

## Arabic Department

This year at Ignite School, all of our students in KG1 - Grade 7 will be participating in the study of Arabic Language 5 days a week.

For students in KG1 and KG2, this will be done through the Arabic B Curriculum. This will allow for students who are fluent in both English and Arabic to be successful in the classroom and build on their overall language skills, as they are able to make the connections to both languages.

If you have any questions about our Arabic Department in general, please contact our Head of Arabic, Dr. Marwa Lazek via email at [dr.marwalazek@igniteschool.ae](mailto:dr.marwalazek@igniteschool.ae)

Shukran

## SPOTLIGHT

School Nurse - Ms. Rinu

### HEALTH GUIDELINES TO BE FOLLOWED

**If you fulfill any of the following criteria, we strongly urge that you stay home and do not come to the school.**

- If you feel sick, or if you show any of the COVID-19 symptoms. This includes fever, excessive coughing and a runny nose or congestion.
- If you have traveled internationally during the 14 days prior to the onset of the symptoms
- If you have been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case within 14 days
- If you are residing in a community setting where COVID-19 cases have been detected
- If you have Influenza like illness without history of travel or known COVID-19 exposure.
- If you have been told by a medical professional to quarantine/isolate or have taken and are awaiting results of a COVID - 19 test, please do not come to the school. Students are required to inform the school clinic or their home room teacher..
- If you feel sick in any way, please remain at home and seek medical guidance for further management including conducting COVID-19 PCR test. You may also opt to study/work from home.

## ALMA

This year, all important school information will be communicated via our ALMA Platform. There is no specific application for ALMA, but you can open the website and save it to your computer or mobile device.

If you have not received any communication for the school via ALMA, please email the school's IT Department ([it.support@igniteschool.ae](mailto:it.support@igniteschool.ae)) as soon as possible. This is a major communication piece, connecting the teachers and school with parents. If you are not on ALMA or checking your email daily, you might miss something important happening at school. Also note that we only use one email address per family. If you are not receiving the emails, please check with another family member who is on your child's registration application.

<https://igniteschool.getalma.com/>

## From the School Counselor - Ms. Crystal

Each month students will learn a different character trait. Character traits are important because they help achieve goals, get along with other people, and gain acceptance in society.

### October's Character Trait - Cooperation

Cooperation - The ability to work together to reach a common goal, despite possible differences.

#### Video Resources

Grades KG, 1st and 2nd

That's Cooperation- Sesame Street

<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/sesame-thats-cooperation/thats-cooperation-sesame-street/>

Together We Can Get It Done- Sesame Street

<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/sesame-song-together/song-together-we-can-get-it-done-sesame-street/>

Grades 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th

The Magic School Bus Takes a Dive

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6o5wgy>

#### How Can I Help at Home?

<https://www.kidsintransitiontoschool.org/5-tips-for-teaching-cooperation>

## Dates to Remember

October 4th - 9th - School Pictures

October 6th - November 5th - MAP Testing

October 8th & 15th - Wear PINK Days

October 10th - World Mental Health Day

October 18th - 22nd - Fall Break - No School

October 27th & 28th - Halloween Dress Up Days

November 1st - 5th - NEASC Foundations Visit

November 3rd—UAE Flag Day

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to know the need of every student, collaboratively creating a student-centered, sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment that fosters leadership, social cohesion, creativity, responsibility and ambition providing a catalyst for abilities of lasting relevance to emerge.

## Vision

At Ignite School, our vision is for all young people to experience that learning has lasting value beyond their life at school.



## Reading, the key to your child's future!

Reading is one of the most important skills that your child needs to develop in order to be successful in school. Not only will good reading skills help your child get good grades, but children that have healthy reading habits have larger vocabularies, longer attention spans, and are better problem solvers. The more time that your child spends reading for fun outside of class, the better prepared they will be for learning in school.

**Here are some ways to encourage your child to spend more time reading.**

1. **Create a comfortable reading corner.** Place some floor pillows and a small library of books in a designated area in your house.
2. **Travel with books.** Encourage your child to bring a book with them on long road trips or family vacations.
3. **Read as a family.** Set aside time during the day for every family member to select their favorite book and read together in the same room.
4. **Ask questions.** Ask your child about what they are reading often. Ask them to make predictions about what they think will happen in the story. Ask them to create a new story with the same book characters.
5. **Make bed-time "book time".** Make reading a part of your child's night-time routine. You can even take turns reading aloud to each other.

It is our hope that these tips will help your child develop a love of reading that will stay with them throughout their lives.

The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go.

-- Dr. Seuss

