



Circular No.AUS/2019-2020

18 June 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

Hope you are safe and healthy.

We continue to pray for those among us whose loved ones are fighting this virus at the moment and those whom have lost loved ones for other reasons also.

Assessments and Student Reports

AUS is in the final stages of assessments for this academic year. It is important for students to stay focused and use the available opportunities to exhibit their best work. This will provide teachers the necessary evidence to give the best marks possible for Term 3 that will also impact on the final promotion marks for this year.

As the final assessments are completed our teachers and administrative staff are in the process of preparing the **student report cards that will be shared with students and parents before the end of the academic year on 2nd July.**

Please make sure to clear any pending fees to avoid any risk of your child/ren not receiving the final student report card/s or Transfer Certificate/s.

Start of the New Academic Year

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on nearly all industries – including the education industry here in the UAE. By God's grace the current indications are that AUS will be able to open successfully for a very similar number of **students on Sunday 30th August 2020 as per the KHDA approved calendar and dependent on KHDA regulations and guidance.**

All the appropriate steps will be taken to keep everyone safe as they join school again according to the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Education, KHDA and the health authorities. At the moment, no-one knows what will be allowed in terms of the number of students attending school when schools recommence in August, but rest assured that AUS will be ready for whatever scenario will be required at that stage. We are all carefully optimistic about new and innovative ways that learning can be impacted even more effectively than previously.

Illumnus Learning Management System

Much research and work has gone into developing a new learning management system (LMS) that will be unique to AUS from the start of the new academic year. The system is called **Illumnus** and will be accessible on desktops, laptops, tablets and smart phones. It will raise standards significantly in terms of swift and effective communication with students and parents regarding curriculum, assessment and administrative aspects in a digitally safe environment. It will replace the Google Classroom and Zoom platforms and keep everyone safe from the digital dangers that may occur in open platforms. The teachers are trialling the software at the moment and students and parents will receive their personalized login details, God willing, in the first week back in school in August.

Own Devices

Due to the nature of the education environment after the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that technology will play an integral part in school and as part of any Distance Learning programs in the future. The Digital Learning surveys we've conducted across the school so far suggest that more than 75% of our students already have their own devices that allow them to learn and work independently from others in the household. Please make sure to prioritize providing each child with his/her own laptop or tablet by the time that the new academic year starts in August. This will be very important for our students to get the best value of what will be provided in AUS in the future.

Please stay safe during this last stretch of our academic year!

Leonard Murphy
Principal

