

Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada)

Parent Orientation Booklet

2025 – 2026 School Year



Our Administration Team

Principal

Mr. Patrick Savage

Vice Principals

Ms. Kim Jackson (Grades K-6)

Mr. Jeff Green (Grades 7-12)

Admissions and Academic Support

Ms. Sarah Antoine

admissions@agsgrrmmr.sch.ae

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<https://www.abudhabigrammarschool.ca>

First Day of School

The first expected day of school for students will be **Monday, 25 August 2025**.

The school will be open for staff on Monday, 18 August 2025.

School Bus

School buses will be available for the school year. Bus service will start the second week of school. Instructions will be sent out via whatsapp regarding instructions for bus sign-up.

Please note, our bus boundary for pick-up/drop-off is 19th street (Al Saada Street in Mushrif Area). We **do not** have routes beyond that neighborhood.

Holidays & Early Dismissal

We follow the Ministry of Education holiday announcements unless otherwise communicated to you by the school.

The last Friday of every month is a Professional Development Day for Staff. There are no classes for students on these days.

Typical Day at School

o Arrival

✓ **7:30 am** – Gates open at this time.

✓ **7:53 am** – The gates close at this time for the compulsory student assembly. The reading of the Qu’ran and National Anthem are played at this time. Classes begin at **8:00am**.

***Please do not drop your child off before 7:30am, as there is no supervision before this time.**

o Dismissal

✓ **2:15 pm** – KG to 2 Dismissal

✓ **3:15 pm** – Gr. 3 to 12 Dismissal

✓ **Fridays- 11:45** for KG1 to grade 12

✓ Please be on time to pick up your child. There is no supervision after dismissal.

**After School Care is available for grades KG1-Gr2 for a small fee. This usually starts the second week of school.*

Breaks

- ✓ 2 x 25-minute breaks to eat, relax, and play outside.

o After School Activities

- ✓ Two eight week sessions; one beginning in October and the other beginning in January.
- ✓ Available to students in Grade 1 to 12.

Learning Resources & Assessments

o Textbooks

- ✓ Used as a supplemental resource. Students do not have textbooks to take home.

o Technology

- ✓ Every student from Grade 4 to 12 is provided with a Google Education account and AGS email address.
- ✓ Students from grades 4-6 are provided Chromebooks during class time and students in grades 7-12 are on a one-to-one program with their own Chromebooks purchased through the school.
- ✓ KG to Gr 3 classes have access to iPads and software/Online subscriptions; include Math Makes Sense (Math Curriculum), RAZ Kids, BrainPop and more!
- ✓ Technology is available at AGS and in the Classroom; iPads, Chromebooks, and SMARTboards as well as Video Filming equipment to serve certain high school courses.
- ✓ **Use of a personal phone is not permitted to be used during school hours.**

o Homework

- ✓ Homework is not routinely given, especially in the lower grades. Teachers will assign homework, as necessary.

o Assessments

- ✓ Take place in a variety of ways: presentations, projects, assignments, tests, etc.

- ✓ Only Gr 9 to 12 students sit for formal exams.

Report Cards

Students receive a Nova Scotia report card three times a year – November, March, and June. In June, students also receive an ADEK report card. Following the November and March report cards, there are Parent-Teacher Interviews.

Communication

We believe that strong communication between school and home helps students thrive. There are many ways we keep you informed about what's happening at school and in the classroom.

The school sends out important and urgent updates by email from **AGS Admin Community (no-reply@agsgrmmr.sch.ae)**. Please note that this is a no-reply address.

To receive emails from the AGS Admin Community, please send an email to **tshaji@agsgrmmr.sch.ae** and **ylulu@agsgrmmr.sch.ae**. Include the following information in your message:

- Student's full name
- Grade
- Father's mobile number
- Mother's mobile number
- Both parents' email addresses

This will register you to begin receiving important school messages.

If you need to get in touch with us, here are your options:

- General inquiries: 02 644 4703 (**including reporting absences or changes to pick-up arrangements**)
- Admissions: admissions@agsgrmmr.sch.ae
- Principal, Mr. Pat Savage: psavage@agsgrmmr.sch.ae

In September, you will receive the School Calendar, which includes key dates such as Curriculum Night, Early Dismissal days, and Parent-Teacher Interviews. We strongly encourage you to attend these events—they are a great way to stay involved in your child’s learning and connect with the school community. Your participation makes a big difference!

You can also stay up to date through:

- Our website: www.abudhabigrammarschool.ca
- Facebook page: *Abu Dhabi Grammar School – Canada – Official – [Visit page](#)*
- Class Dojo (Grades K–3) and Google Classroom (Grades 4–12) – login details will be shared at the start of the school year.

Every month, we post a school newsletter on our website and Facebook page, highlighting key events and updates.

Teachers use Class Dojo and Google Classroom to communicate with parents and share important class information. However, teachers are not expected to check messages during the school day, as they are focused on teaching and student supervision.

If you need to report a student absence or notify us of a change in pick-up arrangements, please contact the school office directly by phone or email (see contact information above).

If you’d like to meet with your child’s teacher, you’re welcome to:

- Call the school

- Send a message via Dojo or Google Classroom
- Speak to the teacher in person after scheduling an appointment

To respect classroom time, we ask that you do not approach teachers during arrival or dismissal unless you've arranged to meet. Appointments can be scheduled for before or after school, at a mutually convenient time.

School Uniforms

The school uniform supplier is: **Zaks**

Mushrif Mall +971 (2) 222 1141
sales@zaksstore.com
<https://zaksstore.com/shop/ags/en/>

The AGS uniform includes the following:

- ✓ white polo shirt
- ✓ black trousers
- ✓ round neck PE t-shirt
- ✓ PE shorts or track pants (navy blue)
- ✓ Tartan Bermuda shorts or skort (KG – Gr 2)

Zaks have tailors available to make adjustments to the uniform pieces, please see customer service for customization.

Students must have an appropriate PE uniform and shoes on PE day. PE uniforms are not to be worn, other than PE day.

Please note, there are also four different House Team Shirts available at the uniform shop. Each student will be assigned to a 'House Team' by their teacher in September. Students are invited to wear their House Shirts every Friday to encourage school spirit.

School Lunch & Healthy Eating

Ensure your child has a **healthy lunch and snacks with plenty of water every day**, and limit the amount of sugar.

The cafeteria is available for students from Grade 3 to Grade 12. It has a selection of hot and cold food items that vary day to day, as well as milk, juice and water.

Please consider the environment and opt for reusable water bottles and lunch boxes. Do not send glass bottles to school with your child.

AGS is a nut-smart school. Do not send any food to school that contains nuts, including Nutella. Fizzy and/or caffeinated drinks such as Pepsi, Mountain Dew or Sprite, are not allowed.

What you can do at home: All Ages

- o All children should read every night – for a minimum of 20 minutes.
- o Register your child in a sport or a summer camp during the holidays to keep them active and engaged.
- o Make learning fun; find ways to use mental math, reading and writing while you are together – make lists, write letters, read signs, calculate costs at a shop, follow recipes.

WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH



A FRUIT

Include a piece of whole fruit or 1/2 cup sliced fruit/berries for a natural lunch box treat and to boost fiber and key nutrients.

A VEGETABLE

Don't forget veggies: crunchy raw ones like carrots & peppers, leftover cooked ones, or leafy salads. Aim for at least a 1/2 cup serving.



A PROTEIN FOOD

Include protein-rich foods, such as sliced turkey or roast beef, boiled eggs, chicken, tuna salad, tofu, beans, lentils,

A CALCIUM SOURCE

Make sure kids get enough calcium each day by packing milk, yogurt, cheese, kale, tahini, or tofu made with calcium sulfate.



WHOLE GRAINS



Prep sandwiches on whole wheat bread, pack leftover whole grain pasta, brown rice stir fry, or barley soup for more sustained energy.

A DRINK

Kids need to hydrate, so give them water and milk rather than soda and juice. A reusable water bottle is a plus.



Source: Mom's Kitchen Handbook

- o Playing is learning too and it is beneficial to give your child a chance to relax and play with their siblings or friends. This develops social skills and builds healthy relationships. Being physically active is also an essential part of developing a positive approach to learning.

What you can do at home: KG – Gr 2*

- o Cook and bake together - count veggies and measure ingredients.
- o Do puzzles of all kinds.
- o Sort things (laundry, cutlery, toys, shells, keys) in various ways (colour, size, shape, lustre).
- o Put on puppet plays.
- o Play word games such as Twenty Questions.
- o Sink and float various objects in a pan of water.
- o Play counting games and recite counting poems and songs.
- o Dance, sing, move!
- o Provide access to computers/apps that provoke active thinking.
- o Read aloud with your child - talk, play and manipulate sounds, letters and words.
- o Talk with your child often about what they have learned through play – how to share, learning from their friends, how things work, etc.

*From *Let's talk about... Learning through Play*, Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Public School Program. For the full pamphlet, please go to https://www.ednet.ns.ca/files/curriculum/LTA_Play.pdf

- ✓ AGS, including the Admissions, will be closed over the summer holiday. However, if you have an urgent inquiry:
 - o There will be a receptionist at the main office from 9 am to 2 pm.
 - o The school will open for all staff on Monday, 18 August 2025.
 - o Accounts Department: mtibrahim@agsgrmmr.sch.ae, sahmed@agsgrmmr.sch.ae will be open from 9am to 2pm.