



مدرسة أكاديمية جيمس الأمريكية أبو ظبي الخاصة
GEMS American Academy
ABU DHABI



School Prospectus

GEMS
EDUCATION

We see **genius**
in every child



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GEMS Education

Committed to quality education, GEMS Education is a pioneering education company that owns and operates a global network of award-winning international schools. For more than 60 years, we have been a trusted choice for families in the Middle East. With the privilege of educating more than 250,000 students globally, our 20,000+ teachers dream big, push boundaries and make a difference to families every day.

Our students excel across multiple dimensions, garnering global recognition with more than 1,550 international, regional and national awards. What truly matters to us is the confidence our students feel when they walk out of our doors and into

the world to build a better future. In the last four years, GEMS has enjoyed some of the best university acceptance rates of any international school. Our students have been accepted into 1,050 universities in 53 countries. We're proud to say that includes 66 of the world's top 100 universities, including, but not limited to, Harvard University, Stanford University, Yale University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of California Berkeley. Today, more than 20,000 GEMS alumni are changing the world.



A Warm Welcome to Our School

Welcome to GEMS American Academy - Abu Dhabi. We invite you to join us on a journey. This journey begins when a child and family join our school community, but it does not end with graduation. This is a journey of exploration and growth, where exceptional teachers and world-class facilities support the fullest development of every child's potential. All the richness and rigor of the subject-area disciplines are here to be discovered, and a wide range of extra-curricular experiences allow

young people to pursue individual interests and gain the confidence to make their unique contributions to the community. Along the way there are support systems for every student, whether their challenge is learning English for the first time or learning to swim. At GEMS American Academy, student and family join an international learning community that inspires engagement, conviction, and high achievement.

Welcome to the Journey of a lifetime!



Established in 2007, GEMS American Academy - Abu Dhabi Khalifa City A campus was inaugurated in 2011 by President Bill Clinton, the 42nd President of the United States of America. As a member of the GEMS Education network of award-winning schools, the Academy cultivates student engagement, innovative programming, and broad use of digital technologies that accelerate learning. GEMS American Academy - Abu Dhabi is accredited by two accreditation agencies, the Council of International Schools and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In addition, GAA is authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization to offer the Primary Years Program and the I.B. Diploma.



Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, we develop the whole child in a happy, play-based learning environment through the Primary Years Program (PYP).

Through inquiry, we provide student-led learning in an engaging and collaborative process where children learn at their own developmental pace through the International Baccalaureate (IB) learner profile, attitudes and concepts.

In an environment that promotes exploration, innovation, respect, fun, differentiation and creativity, our students become internationally minded global citizens who are able to communicate, reflect and interact effectively with the world around them.

Come join our team on a journey of learning and discovery.





Elementary School

During Grades one through five, we continue our nurturing environment while increasing academic rigor. Our trans-disciplinary and concept-driven curriculum ensures the application of basic skills within challenging contexts. Our Elementary Program, enriched by specialist instructors in Art, P.E., Drama, Arabic and Music - promotes intellectual,

creative, physical, emotional and social development. Activities that are varied and engaging during these formative years help students grow into intelligent, interesting, and compassionate student scholars who are well-prepared for the academic demands of our Secondary Program.



Middle School

Our Middle School Program includes grades six, seven and eight. This program structure includes subject-specific teachers to ensure highly qualified instruction in every area of the curriculum. The introduction of elective courses allows students to begin to explore their interests in more depth. Additional world languages are added to every student's

course of study. As our middle school students are maturing into adolescence, we provide a supportive program for their organizational, social, and emotional needs. Individual progress of students is monitored closely to prepare them for the academic rigor of High School.

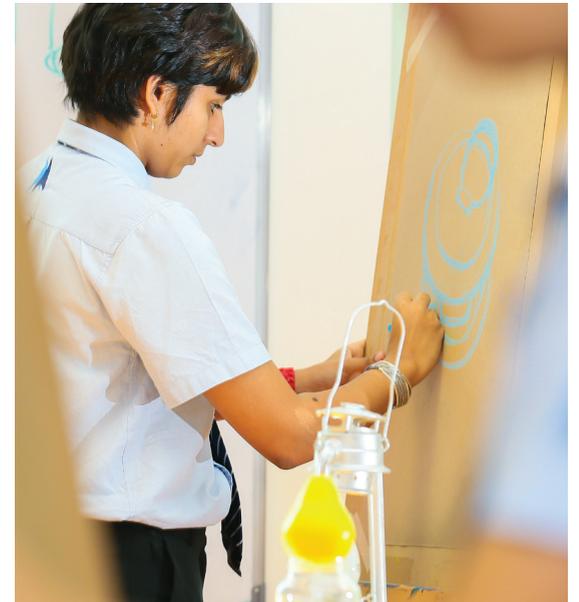




High School

Our four-year High School Program combines a rigorous academic core and rich elective and extra-curricular offerings, engaging students' expanding intellectual capabilities and preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of college. All students select a pathway of courses to earn a high school diploma that is accredited by the New England

Association of Schools and Colleges and the Council of International Schools. In addition, promising scholars may pursue the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma. Personalized college-counseling services are available to every student as they approach the college application process.



MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Our core value of "Forward Thinking" is strongly reflected by our Math, Science and Technology programs. Our professional certified teachers prepare students for a world of innovation. Dedicated mathematics instruction classrooms utilize modern technology solutions that allow for cutting-edge mathematical modeling and simulations. The Academy's science laboratories are equipped with modern equipment exceeding international standards.

SOCIAL STUDIES AND LANGUAGE

Our core value of "Global Citizenship" is strongly supported by our Social Studies, English and World Languages departments. Our professionally certified teachers help students develop the skills necessary to communicate effectively in multiple languages and understand the world around them. With English as the primary medium of instruction, GAA Abu Dhabi helps every student reach high levels of academic language proficiency. Our English Language Learning team supports students whose mother tongue is not English. In addition to English, our World Languages program helps students develop communication skills in multiple languages. Since GAA Abu Dhabi is located in the host country of the United Arab Emirates, Arabic language instruction is a valued part of our curriculum for all students. While continuing English and Arabic instruction, our secondary students choose between Spanish and French for a third language of instruction.





Learning Resources

Two libraries dedicated to Elementary and Secondary School, directed by professionally certified teacher-librarians, house a collection of over 25,000 volumes in both print and electronic resources. In addition, the system is equipped with modern computers and e-readers for student use. The libraries, while mostly in English, contain a growing collection in Arabic, French, Spanish, Korean, Russian and many other languages. First language experience is one of our themes. Information and Communications Technology is embedded throughout the Academy: purpose-built computer laboratories, data projectors, electronic white boards, and staff laptop computers. Students access the high-bandwidth wireless-networks with a full spectrum of desktop and mobile computing devices.

The Arts

At GAA Abu Dhabi, the Arts are an integral part of the core curriculum. Our dedication to an arts-rich education is exemplified by our world-class facilities supporting all four of the arts disciplines: Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts.



Dance: GAA Abu Dhabi dance studio includes wall mirrors, dance bars, and wooden floors. This dedicated space for movement education allows for dance instruction to be integrated into the core curriculum. In addition, our dance studio is also used regularly for after school dance classes.

Drama: The Academy has two purpose-built facilities to support the theatrical arts. Our black-box theater allows for a full-time dedicated drama classroom and a unique location for small productions. The GAA Abu Dhabi auditorium, with complete front and backstage facilities, hosts our major theater productions for over 500 audience members. Our digital video-broadcasting suite, with green screen animation technology, allows students to apply their dramatic skills. All of our drama facilities have state-of-the-art digital lighting and sound systems.

Music: GAA Abu Dhabi has a wide range of modern, purpose-built music education facilities. Our general music classrooms, each equipped with digital pianos, allow our professionally qualified music teachers to ensure that each student develops musical literacy. Our instrumental classrooms allow our older students

to practice the skills necessary for instrumental ensembles. The Academy is also equipped with state-of-the-art digital music facilities. In our music technology laboratories, students use digital keyboards connected to sound processing computers to create pieces of original music. Our music recording studio, with professional digital recording equipment, allows individual students and small ensembles to make professional musical recordings. The Academy's auditorium, with a professional sound control room and seating for over 500, is our premier venue for musical performances, and students in all our grades become comfortable performing for audiences of parents and peers.

Visual Arts: The Academy's purpose-built arts rooms provide the necessary space and facilities for cultivating the visual imagination and aesthetic standards of the artist in every student. Our professionally qualified art teachers, many practicing artists themselves, support and inspire student creativity. While student art is regularly displayed throughout the school, our annual GAA Abu Dhabi Art Exhibit showcases select pieces from all grade levels.

Physical Education and Athletics

GAA Abu Dhabi has a wide range of purpose-built facilities to support our quality physical education and athletics program. Our physical education instructors are professionally certified teachers. Our double gymnasium, with a large collection of physical education equipment, supports basketball, badminton, indoor soccer, and other indoor sports. Our indoor fitness rooms provide equipment for our older athletes to expand their training options. Our four outdoor tennis/sport courts, full-size soccer field, and multiple climbing playgrounds allow for a wide variety of outdoor sports and recreation.



The Academy is also equipped with a full-size competition swimming pool and a shallow pool for young learners. Competitive sports opportunities begin in 2nd grade with youth soccer, and we encourage students to take on the commitment and discipline of more intensive athletic opportunities by joining Varsity and Junior-Varsity teams.

Enrichment

At GAA Abu Dhabi, we consistently enrich the curriculum in many diverse ways. During the school day, frequent experiences include guest speakers, field trips, and expert performances. Enrichment also extends beyond the school day through school-based athletics, expeditionary learning opportunities, and after school activities. Competitive school athletic teams include swimming, basketball, soccer, volleyball, baseball, softball, badminton, cross-country, and track. Our unique partnership with eSports extends our competitive athletic opportunities with professional coaches from throughout the city. Celebrating our heritage, our learning, and our accomplishments makes the Academy an exciting place to learn. Cultural celebrations range from National Day to International Day with the always popular International Food Festival. Curricular celebrations include Science Fair, Math Pi Day, Sports Day, Literature Month and more. These experiences cultivate breadth of perspective, personal initiative, and leadership skills. Our students actively participate in regional events including the Abu Dhabi Arts Festival, Abu Dhabi Choral Festival, and various athletic leagues.





Learning Community

GAA Abu Dhabi embraces all members of our learning community: students, staff, parents, family members, local community members, and colleagues through our wide variety of professional networks. Our parent engagement program invites parents into our lobby, welcomes them to spend time at our parent café, encourages them to participate in our very active parent association, and engages parents as partners and volunteers. Our diverse student population includes Americans, Emiratis, and students from over 80 different nationalities. Our school lobby proudly reflects this diversity with large flags from our host country, the United States of America, and additional flags for each additional nationality in our school. Our commitment to "Universal Values" is brought to life within our learning community. Spend time in our school and we expect you will discover what we call the GAA Abu Dhabi "Culture of Kindness."

A Full-Service School Community

GAA Abu Dhabi aspires to offer the very best experience for all members of our school community. The Academy's campus is kept welcoming, safe, and protected at all times by our professional security team. Our school business services, conveniently located at the entrance of the school, include professional staff members in reception, admissions, and accounting to meet your various needs. Our Transportation services provide families with a convenient and professional option that is comfortable and safe for students. Our food services offer convenient options that are both healthful and appetizing. Our Health Clinic, operated by highly-trained professionals, is open for extended hours to meet the medical needs of our entire school community. We have also formed partnerships with other organizations to bring additional services directly into our school campus. At GAA Abu Dhabi, we hope you enjoy our full-service school experience.



The Future

The journey in GAA Abu Dhabi explores the richness of all the disciplines of study, guided by talented and inspiring teachers, utilizing world-class facilities and resources. The adventure includes challenges, supports, core subjects, and enriching opportunities. The exciting international learning community helps our students prepare for the next step on their journey: admission to top universities throughout the world.

Graduating GEMS students have been accepted by some of the most prestigious universities and colleges around the world. GEMS students have gone to 12 out of the top 15 universities in the world and 36 of the top 50 universities in the U.S. In the last six years alone, GEMS students have won over 900 international and regional awards for academics, sports and the arts.

But the value of a GAA education extends far beyond preparation for college. Today we know that the keys to adult success and happiness are qualities of character: resilience, integrity, caring, leadership, perseverance, and "grit." Our commitment to the development of the whole child--fostering growth in knowledge, skills, and character—is what lies at the heart of our educational program at GAA.





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