



GIS NEWSLETTER

5 May 2020

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Heads-up

Students in Grades 1-4 have been attending school since 27 April and seem to have adjusted to new routines. We expect to receive some information regarding the remaining grade levels this Thursday afternoon. Once the information is released, we will plan for more students to return to GIS. Our main challenge is space and depending on how many students return to school, we may need to make significant adjustments, e.g. some classes may be asked to attend school on alternate days. We will keep you informed.

Admission to Grade 1 starting in August 2021

This is a reminder that we are currently accepting applications for children that will start Grade 1 in August 2021. If you know someone that is interested, you may want to advise them to submit an application as soon as possible as there are only a few places left. Please note that applications submitted before 1st May could not be accepted.

Teaching MYP during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Like our lessons, our MYP staff also meet on-line. Nearly every week we share on-line approaches that are working well, and discuss students who are raising concerns. How might our collective experience benefit your child in MYP?

- In general, subjects are being taught at a much slower pace, using tiny steps with a focus of important assessment deadlines. For example, Grade 9 has just commenced their Personal Project, the biggest task of their careers.

Every week students have been given a small target to meet. They are preparing for their first Personal Project meeting with their mentors, next week.

- A big part of the MYP Approaches to Learning is about developing self-reliance (E.g., *Create plans to prepare for summative assessments (examinations and performances); Set goals that are challenging and realistic; Plan strategies and take action to achieve personal and academic goals*).

Students who have been part of IB curriculums for longer are generally coping well. They are usually present in on-line classes, they are comfortable about responding, and work is being completed.

- Social media is an insidious destroyer of time directly. More concerning is the effect of even a few minutes of use on concentration. Every tiny alert will break a student's focus. During this home-learning period, we have been aware of this distraction, particularly with some younger students. It is very difficult for children to avoid when they have to be on devices to learn, but perhaps knowing that high functioning people usually control when they choose to be available for others, may help.

We can support students who have approached us for help (for example, by setting even smaller goals for individuals), but they need to be honest. Just because their laptop is open, are they truly 'present' in class?

Some further reading for your reflection:

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/oct/14/the-lost-art-of-concentration-being-distracted-in-a-digital-world>

<https://sciencenordic.com/denmark-efficiency-multi-tasking/why-looking-at-social-media-at-work-disrupts-your-concentration/1431733>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/apr/24/italy-home-schooling-coronavirus-lockdown-what-weve-learned>

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School support contact details

If you have any questions about the matters below, please contact the relevant person:

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