ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES
2016 - 2017 SCHOOL YEAR

RESPECT  I  HONESTY  I  RESPONSIBILITY  I  COMPASSION
Welcome to where it all begins...

Deeply embedded at the heart of the elementary program are the school values of Respect, Honesty, Responsibility and Compassion, which lay the foundation for nurturing and developing students in their voyage to becoming lifelong learners. Through the core curricula subjects and a balanced specialist program, students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5 receive an enriched education, which strives for academic excellence and overall student success.

The elementary school is divided into two schools, lower elementary (Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 2) and upper elementary (Grades 3-5). The elementary program caters to children starting at four years of age in Pre-Kindergarten to 10+ years of age in Grade 5. While the Pre-Kindergarten school day runs from 7:55am - 12:30pm, students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 have a full school day, which ends at 3:00pm, punctuated with small breaks for snack and recess, as well as a longer lunchtime break. Students may bring lunches from home or purchase food and enjoy eating in the elementary cafeteria. On Tuesday afternoons students are dismissed at 12:30pm, in order to provide faculty with the opportunity to participate in PACT (Professional and Collaborative Time). Students engage in core curricula schooling in homeroom settings under the tutelage of qualified, dedicated educators; as well as receiving specialist subject instruction in physical education, music, art, library and information technology. Class sizes range from fifteen in Pre-Kindergarten, 18 in Kindergarten, twenty in Grades 1 and 2, to twenty two students in Grades 3, 4 and 5. Guidance counselors work closely with both students and teachers to promote school values and life skills.

ASD’s Mission, Vision & Objectives

Mission
The American School of Doha is committed to the intellectual and personal development of our students, inspiring and empowering them to become positive, active global citizens.

Vision
ASD is a future focused community where learning is... collaborative fun and engaging extended beyond walls creative to foster innovation data-informed and evidence based authentic, solving real-world problems encouraged in a technology-enhanced environment ASD is...where students are encouraged to extend their own learning.

Course Descriptions

Literacy
In an aim to foster meaningful literacy instruction, students are engaged in a variety of language experiences that focus on developmentally appropriate skill acquisition in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. A strong emphasis is placed on literature appreciation, with students involved in literary discussions in literature circles, class novel studies and daily teacher read aloud. Utilizing Readers’ Workshop, educators are able to instruct students at their readiness levels and individualize literary teaching and learning experiences to best meet varied student needs. Through Writers’ Workshops, all students are engaged in daily writing experiences, ranging from the very emergent writing forms in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, to more developed ranges of written expression in Grades 1 - 5. The Elementary Literacy Coach provides ongoing program support by fostering best literary teaching and learning practices in the area of language arts.

Math
The elementary math curriculum is delivered through an inquiry based approach, whereby students mathematical practices to engage in in-depth, hands-on investigations in the areas of: number sense, computation and estimation, geometry, measurement, problem solving, patterns, functions, and algebra, statistics, data analysis and probability. The Elementary Math Coordinator works closely with teachers to provide continuous professional development, on-going curricular support, and guidance with the planning, delivery, and assessment of math units. Students work collaboratively to construct mathematical understandings and extend their learning based on their individual abilities and needs. A strong emphasis is based on communicating understandings and sharing strategies with others.

Science and Social Studies
The elementary school facility is home to one indoor science lab and an outdoor science lab. The Elementary Science Coordinator is responsible for facilitating science teaching and learning experiences and coordinating the overall program. Science and Social Studies topics are explored and taught through an inquiry based approach; whereby students are involved in constructing knowledge by engaging in hands-on experiences and making connections between new learning experiences and prior knowledge. Teachers facilitate in the process of developing the skills of continually questioning, analyzing, and reflecting upon learning throughout topic exploration. Such inquiry-based programs effectively cater to the typical broad range of student needs in any given classroom and provide room for enrichment opportunities. Social Studies skills are similarly developed in practical activities with topic related literature integrated within the language arts program.
Technology
Utilizing technology as a teaching and learning tool is at center stage with a strong focus on technology integration in the core curricula areas. Students also develop their information technology skills in computer lessons taught by specialist teachers, through the use of mobile labs; laptops, iPods and iPads. Each student has a school email account and enrollment in a NESA Virtual School class web page, through which information pertaining to curricula documents, homework, discussion boards, and other student resources can be accessed. Media literacy is complimented by the development of library skills, instructed by the Elementary Librarian.

Specialist Programs
Concerts, swimming galas, and Fine Arts Week, to name a few, highlight the unique specialist program we have in place. Music, art, and physical education are taught by a team of specialized teachers, in a resource rich environment, including art rooms, a kiln room, an outdoor pool, a fully equipped gymnasium, and music rooms. With the exception of Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, students receive foreign language instruction in either Spanish, Arabic as a Foreign Language, or Modern Standard Arabic. An English as a Second Language Program is in place for non-native speaking students who require further exposure to English. Furthermore, a Learning Support Program serves students who would benefit from additional instructional support, to better enable them to cope with the demands of the academic program. Though the school offers additional instructional support, it is important to realize that the school does not offer a special education program.

School Trips and Activities
School trips, at every grade level, are planned to support the instructional program and extend classroom learning. The school also seizes opportunities to integrate both national and international events that take place in the host country as they arise. After school activities are offered to students in Grades 1 - 5 throughout the year. Students, in second to fifth grade, are also able to take part in an after school sports program, which provides them with the opportunity to work within a team and compete against other schools.

Special Events
During the course of the year, Principals conduct special sessions with the students, to celebrate various holidays and events such as Thanksgiving, Qatar National Day, and Earth Day. In addition, learning celebrations are held throughout the year at every grade level. Special events such as Halloween Carnival, International Week, Action Unlimited Day, and Friendship Festival serve to enrich students overall school experience and promote much welcomed community involvement. Learning is celebrated regularly through events such as portfolio day, concerts, writing celebrations, poetry week, reading week, three way conferences, and numerous specific grade level events. ASD is proud of the high level of parental support and involvement it has maintained throughout the years, and places great emphasis on home school connections and parental partnerships in student learning.