



December 14, 2020

Dear IPS-J Families,

So far, this semester has been challenging, busy, and quite different. We have always known that the school community's effectiveness depends on parents, students, teachers, and administrators' ability to trust each other and work together! This has been greatly reinforced by the pandemic. As we close the 2020 year, below please find some highlights that we would like to share with you.

KHDA Approval to BL Modification

As we are preparing for Semester 2, we are pleased to let you know that we received KHDA's approval to offer full day Kindergarten face-to-face program from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (NOTE: parents who wish to send their KG children for 3 hours have the option to do so) and to increase the face-to-face instruction for grade 1 to 12 students as well as Early Release Day on Tuesdays. And of course, we will continue to offer our Distance Learning program. More information on the implementation/schedule will follow in January 2021.

KG Remodeling

To ensure we have enough space to offer a full day KG program in semester 2, we received approval from Al Arabia to add four more classrooms in the KG section over the Winter Break.

Staff Changes:

It is with regret to inform you that Ms. Zahira AL Naji has decided to retire at the end of Semester 1. Throughout her career, Ms. Zahira embodied dedication and hard work as she led the Arabic Department successfully for many, many years! As a matter of fact, she has been serving the Al Ittihad family for over 40 years! It is with mixed feelings to say goodbye to such a professional, highly knowledgeable, and caring educator. Please join me in wishing Ms. Zahira all the best for her well- earned retirement!

We are happy to announce that Ms. Eman Irshidat has accepted her new role as the *Acting Head of the Arabic Department* for grades 6 to 12. Ms. Eman has been working closely together with Ms. Zahira over the last few years and has built a strong working relationship with her Arabic staff in her role as a teacher leader and coach. We are confident that she will lead the Arabic department successfully and congratulate her on the promotion.



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Looking back on this semester, I am deeply thankful that we have been diligently working together and supporting each other in our pursuit to make IPS-J as safe as we possibly can. At the same time, our focus continues to be on learning and teaching to meet each student's unique developmental needs. This cannot be accomplished without the right staff, who have been the driving force to keep the school functioning at the level it has. I wish to thank all of my staff for their flexibility, creativity, resilience, patience and underlying passion for putting our learners as their first priority.

Alongside our staff, I also want to thank you, our parents, and our students for working with us collaboratively, and for giving us the time and support needed to serve our learners in a safe and purposeful manner.

Wishing you all a safe, fun-filled, and relaxing Winter Break and we are looking forward to seeing you back on campus on January 3, 2021.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Connie & Senior Leadership Team