Updates on IES Plan for a Safe Return to School

August, 10, 2020

Assalaamu Alaykum

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We recognize the challenges and anxiety that this uncertain time can bring to parents, but we would like to assure you that the IES administration is open to parental feedback and is doing everything possible to put your kids first in the plan that follows.

Clarification and amendment to the switch between learning modes:

The reason behind offering the E-Learning mode with enhancement was based on parent survey results. This was designed similar to most school boards offering a fixed online platform. Once resources get allocated, it would create a logistical challenge in switching the mode of learning. We chose to offer this platform to keep the onsite numbers low as a precautionary measure while the ratio gets distributed to the two platforms.

Based on the parental feedback we have received so far with regards to concerns on restrictions in switching of learning modes, we made a slight change to the E-learning program and have decided on remote learning integration. This will allow students to access their respective class from home through live-streaming during teacher instructional time as they would in a traditional classroom setting. With this type of remote learning option:

- There is no risk of cancelling an online platform based on student numbers
- This setup provides classroom live streaming during teacher instructional time only
- There is also flexibility to move students for medical reasons from one learning mode to the other
- No interruption to student learning while moving from one mode to another
- Learning expectations will vary depending on grade level
- Students can attend online or onsite based on parental discretion

With this onsite and online mode, parents will choose a default onsite or online mode by submitting the commitment form shared on August 7th. If you choose to move your child online on a certain day/week there is flexibility. However, if parents need to move their child from online to onsite, there will be a sign up before a certain time based on the onsite open spots availability for the day. Details will follow.

The full class can be accommodated on 1m distance however, as a safety precaution, we also want the number to be lower in a practical sense. Therefore, we still require parental commitment to either the In-Person or online option.

We recommend that you make your choice based on the current safest mode of delivery for your family rather than based on the ability to switch later. This will be another form of a final confirmation of your child/rens registration. Significant work is involved in establishing the organizational structure for onsite and online learning, hence IES requires parents to indicate their intent and then apply for transfer to onsite mode if needed. In the transitioning between these two modes of learning, no student will lose a spot. We are committed to the parents who have entrusted their children's education to us.

Please note that if you choose the online option, it will be for the duration of the Covid-19 situation. When the situation normalizes, we will return to onsite classes.

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We would like to reiterate that we do need parents to submit the commitment form for the Academic Year 2020/2021 by **Friday, August 14th, 2020**. Please click on this link to fill out the form: https://forms.gle/f2p9RWiFVu7t1J178.

Online segments for each class

Segment 1- Prep and discussion
Segment 2- Live classroom instruction *(Please note: The PTZ cameras for live streaming will track only the whiteboard and the teacher during instructional time.*
Segment 3- Independent offline work/remedial work

Quick Technology Updates:
- PTZ cameras mounted in each classroom auto tracking only the teacher and the whiteboard making content live and engaging for students
- Wireless Microphones for teachers to relay clear instructions to students
- Workstations with monitors in each classroom for teachers and teacher support to ensure students have logged into their virtual classroom community (peers and teachers)
- Canvas Education - In this Learning Management Systems (LMS) students know what tasks they have to complete and where they can interact with the course and the teacher. It is student friendly for grades K-12.
- New Dell touch 2 in 1 Chromebooks for all students from grades 6-8
- Serviced Chromebooks for all students from grades 1-5

What does CANVAS LMS offer?
Benefits for parents:
- Intuitive and user-friendly interface
- Transparency for parents by pairing them with their children's view of modules
- Availability of two parental portals: Canvas App and Web Browser access
- Canvas Parent App includes notifications regarding their child's account (missing assignments, levels, grades above or below a threshold).
- Web browser access provides parents with email notifications for the same type of information.

Benefits for Students:
- Single sign-on: Canvas allows students to access their Google accounts for single sign-on capabilities.
- Consistency: The " Integrated Calendar" enables the students to see all subject tasks deadlines assigned by the teachers.
- Collaboration: It allows for discussion boards and connects with the School Google Suites account for all the students. Students also can participate in group work, peer grading through the Canvas LMS platform.
- Grades: Students can include hypothetical grades and view their final grade percentage throughout the term.
- Attendance recording and time spent on each class module

We are sharing a brief outline of our Health and Safety Plans. We are also in the process of compiling FAQ's for parents which will be shared soon and updated periodically In sha Allah.

Sincerely,

IES School Administration