

WELCOME TO DUBAI AMERICAN ACADEMY

Dear High School Students and Parents,

Welcome to the high school at Dubai American Academy. We are pleased that you have selected DAA as your school and believe you have made an excellent educational choice. We provide a diverse, challenging academic and activities program that creates opportunities for all students. Our “culture of kindness” sets us apart from other schools in a very special way.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with important information that will help you become more familiar with all aspects of the high school program. Please take the time to read through the handbook together and if you have questions or concerns please come to us for clarification.

We recognize that the high school years are essential in building a foundation for happiness and success in life. Our enthusiastic, caring and highly qualified professional staff provides students a safe and stimulating environment in which to learn. We believe that it is important to create a program that is balanced and rich in core academic and co-curricular activities. We strive to provide students a stage upon which they may excel in activities that involve leadership and global understanding. We strongly promote a culture that fosters positive self-esteem and a sense of belonging by celebrating the achievement and success of each student.

I look forward to getting to know all of you, students and parents, in the coming year. A school’s success is positively influenced by a cooperative partnership between students, parents, and school; please accept my sincere invitation to play an active and productive role in this partnership by engaging in the learning process.

Sincerely,

Scott Schaffner
High School Principal

GEMS CORE EDUCATIONAL VALUES

Dubai American Academy is a GEMS managed school. Commitment to the core educational values of world citizenship, universal values, leadership qualities and forward thinking is aimed at helping realize their full, all-round potential.

WORLD CITIZENSHIP

Students in GEMS managed schools learn about the world and the people in it from an early age, developing an awareness of different cultures and countries. By exploring the world they become socially, culturally, economically and environmentally aware and learn about their responsibilities as world citizens. They learn to adopt a global perspective and understand how they can make a difference in the global community.

UNIVERSAL VALUES

Our Universal Values Program helps students develop the values, principles and ethics that are respected, admired and accepted in all cultures around the world. Students are taught healthy social attitudes and a spirit of humanity, providing them with the ethical foundation and solid social skills to guide them through life.

A variety of activities and experiences based on the understanding of universal values teach students to make positive contributions to others, their schools and the community.

LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

From an early age, our education programs encourage students to explore and question, to seek solutions, make informed decisions and solve problems. They learn to demonstrate tenacity and to express themselves confidently.

Through the development of these skills and others, our Leadership Programs are aimed at developing each students' own individual potential for leadership – either as a motivator of others or of themselves, discovering and excelling in their own specialist area.

FORWARD THINKING

Dubai American Academy is committed to creating a 21st Century Learning Environment. To make that vision a reality, DAA follows the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) model where each students brings a laptop to school and uses that tool to learn, explore, and inquire each day.

In addition to the various Information and Communication Technology (ICT) classes offered, the 21st Century Skills of communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity are developed throughout the curriculum and across disciplines. Information, media and technology skills are essential for students to be successful in the 21st Century and DAA will continue to strive to be a leader both locally and regionally as a model 21st Century Learning Environment.

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1.0 DAA MISSION/PHILOSOPHY/GOALS/FACILITIES

1.1 MISSION:

Dubai American Academy provides an outstanding college preparatory program in the English language to students from around the world. Success is not only measured by academic achievement but also by the mark that each student makes on the lives of others. Our staff teaches and inspires excellence in academics and life-long learning skills by continually reviewing and building an enriched American curriculum, promoting student achievement, modeling kindness and integrity while nurturing a desire to learn.

1.2 PHILOSOPHY/BELIEFS:

- An atmosphere of trust enables children to question, to take risks, to collaborate, to assume responsibility for independent work and to pursue individual interests.
- Our commitment to advocating, teaching and respecting a diverse student body from cultures throughout the world, fosters peace, justice and global understanding.
- We believe that the diversity of our student body provides the foundation for creating involved global citizens in our rapidly changing world. We make the effort to appreciate, embrace and celebrate our differences.
- Our approach is guided by respect of children's individual differences, by recognizing their inherent capacity for growth and planning activities and environment which shape learning and provide opportunities for student success.
- We recognize that each student learns differently. We provide a wide range of learning opportunities for our students and encourage them to be active participants in their educational plan.
- We explore, as much as possible, all the cultures that this world has to offer and at the same time not only investigate our differences but also realize our common oneness.
- Our students are encouraged to explore their interests and strengths and to develop their own distinct, individual personalities in order to inspire them to expand their way of thinking.

- We believe that quality education is provided through building bridges of trust, communication and common goals between the home and school.
- Students have the opportunity to excel as individuals and work as members of a team.

1.3 GOALS:

- We strive to achieve excellence in education within the limits of available resources.
- We accept primary responsibility for attending to the intellectual and academic needs of each student.
- We promote the desire for life-long learning in our students.
- We give priority to the development of an outstanding teaching staff, well-balanced program and a safe and efficient physical learning environment to ensure student success.
- We encourage self-expression within the limit of our school standards of personal conduct. All members of the community are expected to respect the rights of others and to acknowledge responsibility for their own actions.
- We strive to develop a global perspective and promote international understanding.

1.4 FACILITIES:

DAA moved to the current, purpose-built facility in May of 2001. It is located in the Al Barsha district of Dubai off Sheikh Zayed Road. The air-conditioned facilities include 50 classrooms, an assembly area, six computer labs and a library media center. A gymnasium/swimming pool complex and auditorium/amphitheater/cafeteria complex were constructed in 2002. A new state of the art facility for the entire elementary school was completed in 2005.

2.0 CAMPUS SECURITY

DAA guidelines for safety and security are detailed in a Security Manual that is used by all DAA staff to ensure uniform, orderly and timely responses to emergencies. Advisors teach emergency procedures for building evacuation and relocation to a safer area of the school. Drills are practiced so that students know the appropriate responses in emergency scenarios.

3.0 HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

3.1 GOALS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL:

Through an enriched American curriculum combined with the IB Diploma Program, DAA will:

- Provide a varied program of experiences and a firm academic grounding in English, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, Foreign Language, Physical Education, Health, Technology and the Arts;
- Enable students to gain an understanding and appreciation of the UAE and cultural diversity found in the DAA student body;
- Encourage learning by discovery through activity-oriented instruction enabling students to reach their full potential;
- Enhance students' abilities to make sound independent decisions through classroom activities and active involvement in a variety of school activities;
- Encourage students to explore interests and ideas independently in and outside of the classroom;
- Assist students, to understand their own needs, decisions, attitudes and behaviors.

3.2 ORGANIZATION:

3.2.1 BLOCK SCHEDULING:

DAA follows a rotating block schedule. Some of the reasons for following a block schedule are:

- To increase the time that students spend in quality learning situations.
- To encourage the use of a variety of instructional models.
- To provide for more in-depth exploration of a topic.
- To improve school climate and decrease stress on teachers and students.
- To accommodate different learning needs.
- To focus on fewer subjects at one time.
- To broaden higher order thinking skills by manipulating information and ideas.
- To allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of concepts and content through alternative assessment.
- To facilitate substantive conversations with one another and with their teachers.
- To learn valuable research and organizational skills.

8 DAY ROTATING SCHEDULE

Time	Period	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
7:45 – 7:55	Homeroom								
7:55 – 8:00	Passing Time								
8:00 – 9:25	Period 1	A	E	D	H	C	G	B	F
9:25 – 9:50	Break								
9:50 – 11:15	Period 2	B	F	A	E	D	H	C	G
Downstairs	Upstairs								
Lunch 1	Period 3	C	G	B	F	A	E	D	H
11:15 – 11:45	11:20 – 12:45								
Period 3	Lunch 2								
11:50 – 1:15	12:45 – 1:15								
1:15-1:20	Passing Time								
1:20 – 2:45	Period 4	D	H	C	G	B	F	A	E

Please note on Tuesday's schedule below students must leave campus at 1:45 PM, in order for Teacher Professional Development.

TIME	PERIOD
7:45 – 7:55	HOMEROOM
7:55 – 8:00	PASSING TIME
8:00 – 9:10	PERIOD 1
9:10 – 9:30	BREAK
9:35 – 10:45	PERIOD 2
DOWNSTAIRS	UPSTAIRS
LUNCH 1	PERIOD 3
10:50 – 11:15	10:50 – 12:00
PERIOD 3	LUNCH 2
11:20 – 12:30	12:05 – 12:30
12:30-12:35	PASSING TIME
12:35 – 1:45	PERIOD 4

3.2.2 THE HIGH SCHOOL HOMEROOM PROGRAM:

Student learning encompasses much more than academic grades printed on a report card. As such, Grade Level Advisors will, in coordination with high school counselors, monitor and enrich the social, emotional and interpersonal growth of all of our students.

High school students are placed in groups under the supervision of a homeroom teacher. This homeroom group provides students with a sense of belonging as well as a sense of community. Homeroom is also intended to help empower students to develop lifelong leadership skills.

The homeroom teacher acts as advocate and first line advisor for his or her students. The main aim of homeroom is to provide students with a caring individual who is readily accessible, who will monitor the student's educational progress, encourage the student to participate in service opportunities, and serve as a liaison between the school and the home.

3.3 CURRICULUM:

3.3.1 THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

Students enroll in courses according to graduation requirements, the student's abilities and interests, and previous educational experience. Students earn credit, by semester for the successful completion of courses. A minimum of twenty-two (22) credits are required for graduation.

The following subjects must be successfully completed. Each year's performance achievement will be reviewed to ensure all students will eventually meet graduation requirements.

Course	DAA High School Graduation Requirements	ACT/SAT College Recommended Credits
English	Four (4) credits	Four (4) credits
Social Studies	Three (3) credits	Three to Four (3-4) credits (US History, World Geography/History)
Science	Three (3) credits	Three to Four (3-4) credits (General/Physical/Earth Science; Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
Mathematics	Three (3) credits	Three to Four (3-4) credits (beginning with Algebra 1)

Foreign Language	Two (2) credits	Two to Three (2-3) credits
Physical Education/Health	Two (2) credits	
Fine Arts	Half (.5) credit	
Electives	Four and half(4.5) credits	

While most courses are one academic year in duration, courses are divided into two distinct semesters for grading purposes, and credits are awarded by semester. **It is strongly recommended that all students be enrolled in at least seven courses each semester.**

DAA requires 50% of the graduation credits to be earned in the Junior/Senior years at DAA for newly enrolled local/national students.

Each student is required to document 25 hours of community service for each year enrolled in grades 9-12 at DAA. Homeroom teachers will monitor students' progress towards completion of required hours. Once completed homeroom teachers will notify CAS supervisor.

3.3.2

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM:

3.3.2.1 WHAT IS THE IB DIPLOMA?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a two year Diploma program designed for students aiming at College or University. Students take six academic subjects, three at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. In addition, they have to complete a program of co-curricular activities, to complete a course investigating the nature of knowledge, and to produce a piece of personal research. The aim of the program is to develop critical thinking while encouraging an international perspective.

3.3.2.2 WHAT ARE IB CERTIFICATES?

A Student wishing to gain maximum benefit from the IB should enter the full Diploma program, as it is designed to achieve a balance of disciplines and levels. However, it is possible to take the external examination in individual subjects. In these cases the student will be awarded an IB Certificate recording the level of achievement in those subjects. Higher Level courses may be regarded as "honors" or "advanced" courses and may allow credit and/or advanced placement at some colleges and universities if the examination result is good.

3.3.2.3 HOW DOES IB FIT IN WITH THE DAA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA?

At DAA it is possible to qualify for a DAA High School Diploma at the same time as working for an IB Diploma as long as

certain graduation requirements are met. Many DAA High School courses follow the IB syllabus and credit is given with grades being recorded on a student's DAA transcript in the normal manner.

3.3.2.4 EXAM FEES:

All year two IB courses, including TOK, are subject to an external fee determined by the IBO. This fee is due during the first quarter of the second year of the course. The school will assume that a student intends to sit for IB exams unless notice, in writing, is received by the IB Coordinator by December 1 clearly stating the contrary, and any monies paid by DAA will be liable.

4. ASSESSMENT:

The aim of the assessment at DAA is to:

Provide a positive, continuous and supportive mechanism that promotes and improves student learning and achievement, guides instruction and practice, and evaluates program as well as instructional effectiveness.

3.4.1 GRADING PROCEDURES:

Semester examinations are required for Grades 9 through 12. At the end of the first and second semester, DAA sets aside time for semester examinations or appropriate summary assessments. A special exam schedule with lengthened exam periods is created for these exams. Students will take no more than two exams per day.

First semester exams will cover all the material taught in the first semester. Second semester examinations at the end of the year will cover all second semester material and may cover concepts, topics and information from the entire year's work.

Semester grades are determined using the following formula:

- Semester work – 80%
- First semester assessment – 20%
- First semester grade – 100%
- Semester work – 80%
- Second semester assessment – 20%
- First Semester (Second Semester) Grade – 100%

3.4.2 Absence During Exams:

If a student is absent for *any* exam - including in-class and end-of-semester exams - they must bring a doctor's note in order to be excused for this absence. When a doctor's note is presented to the attendance secretary the student will be allowed to make up the exam.

Should the student and/or parent not provide a doctor's note justifying the absence, the teacher can decide how, when and/or *if* a make up is to be given.

In order for a student to be successful, **they must attend school when exams are taking place**. The Administration realizes there may be exigent circumstances from time to time, and encourages parents to contact the administration as early as possible in order to apply for a waiver of this policy.

3.4.3 REPORT CARDS:

Teachers post progress reports for all students. At the end of each semester a full report card will be sent home electronically. We encourage parents to contact teachers if they have questions or concerns about student progress.

Achievement grades are given in each class. Grades are assigned using letters as symbols as follows:

<u>LETTER GRADE</u>	<u>GRADE POINTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
A+	4.4	98 – 100
A Outstanding Achievement	4.0	93 – 97
A-	3.6	90 – 92
B+	3.4	88 – 89
B Good Achievement	3.0	83 – 87
B-	2.6	80 – 82
C+	2.4	78 – 79
C Satisfactory Achievement	2.0	73 – 77
C-	1.6	70 – 72
D+	1.4	68 – 69
D Unsatisfactory Achievement	1.0	63 – 67
D-	0.6	60 – 62
F Failing	0	Below 60

CODES

CRDTS	-	Course Credits
GPA	-	Grade Point Average
NG	-	No Grade
I	-	Incomplete

IB classes may be graded using an IB scale if and when appropriate.

3.4.4 ALTERNATIVE GRADING:

GRADE ELIGIBILITY

NG To be eligible for a “NG” grade the student must have been placed in a class past the midpoint of the marking period or have been absent from school for an extended period of time due to an illness.

I If, due to legitimate extenuating circumstances, a student cannot complete the required work for a specific marking period, the teacher may enter an “I” as the grade for the report card. The student has a maximum of ten (10) school days from the last day of the previous marking period to complete all incomplete work.

The teacher determines the exact number of days within the ten-day limit. **If the work is not made up within the specified time limit, incomplete work will receive a failing grade and the marking period grade will be computed.**

Students will not be eligible for the honor roll or have their GPA computed until all “I” grades have been completed.

3.4.5 ACADEMIC PROBATION:

If a student is performing below a 2.0 GPA for a semester, and is not on track for graduation s/he will be placed on academic probation. During the following semester focus will be placed on improving academic performance. Students may be asked to withdraw from DAA if they are not on track to fulfill graduation requirements.

If a student is placed on Academic Probation, he/she could be excluded from co-curricular participation (sports, clubs, etc).

3.4.6 PROMOTION/RETENTION/NON CONTINUANCE

Students in grades 9-12 are promoted based upon the completion of a specific number of credits. The minimum number of credits required for promotion is:

FROM GRADE

9 to 10	6 credits
10 to 11	12 credits

11 to 12	18 credits
Graduation	22 credits

Students failing to meet the academic and / or behavior expectations of DAA may be required to leave at any time during the academic year as deemed appropriate by the Principal in consultation with the Superintendent.

3.4.7 ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONOR ROLL:

The High School strives to recognize students' accomplishments throughout and gives awards for overall scholarship and achievement.

To encourage academic excellence, an Academic Honor Roll is maintained at DAA. A Grade Point Average of 3.33 qualifies a student for Academic Honors, 3.70 qualifies a student for High Honors, and 4.0 for High Honors with Distinction.

3.4.8 PROGRESS REPORTS/CONFERENCES:

We describe student progress in many ways, both formally and informally. Progress reports are posted along with semester report cards and two parent/teacher conferences during the year are used to report and discuss each child's academic, social and emotional progress. Informal conferences, e-mail correspondence and telephone conferences are encouraged whenever teachers or parents have concerns. The principals and the counselors are available for conferences by appointment and someone from the high school office may phone to schedule an appointment.

We encourage regular home and school contact, and ask that parents begin any communication with the person most closely related to the subject. In addition parents may feel free to call or visit the High School Office and share suggestions or concerns with us. Please see section **Questions? Whom to Call First?** for communication advice

4.0 BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES

4.1 PHILOSOPHY/RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

4.1.1 PHILOSOPHY:

We believe that all students should have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential. We believe our teachers must guide students, as they become progressively more self-disciplined, responsible learners, able to work independently and cooperatively. We will provide a positive learning environment that is developmentally responsive to the social and academic needs of students. This environment, both in and out of the classroom, encourages a wide range of learning experiences. We

encourage close collaboration and partnerships with students, parents, and faculty. The collective goal is learning.

4.1.2 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The following is a statement of responsibilities and rights. **It is through mutual acceptance of responsibilities that rights exist.** A right exists only to the extent that there is a responsibility on the part of others to respect that right.

1. EVERY STUDENT HAS A RIGHT **to relevant education.**
EVERY STUDENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY to:
 1. **take materials to class**
 2. **complete and turn in assignments on time**
 3. **give every task their best effort**

2. EVERY STUDENT HAS A RIGHT **to be safe and secure in the school community.**
EVERY STUDENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY **to respect the security of others and deal with conflict in an appropriate manner.**

3. EVERY STUDENT HAS A RIGHT **to expect reasonable and socially responsible behavior from others.**
EVERY STUDENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY **to treat themselves and others with respect by speaking and acting in a socially responsible manner.**

4. EVERY STUDENT HAS A RIGHT **to a positive learning environment.**
EVERY STUDENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY **to follow class rules by:**
 1. **being seated by the time class starts**
 2. **listening attentively**
 3. **following directions**
 4. **giving others an opportunity to learn**
 5. **remaining in class until dismissed by the teacher**
 6. **moving through the buildings in an orderly manner**

5. EVERY STUDENT HAS A RIGHT **to be part of a school of which they can be proud.**
EVERY STUDENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY **to take pride in the school by helping maintain the campus, the buildings, and all materials and equipment.**

6. EVERY STUDENT HAS A RIGHT **to his/her good name.**
EVERY STUDENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY **to respect the reputation of others.**

4.2 HIGH SCHOOL DISCIPLINE:

We believe that a positive academic and social climate is necessary for student learning. We also believe that responsibility for establishing this climate is shared by each student, faculty member and parent.

We value having students follow reasonable rules, and it is important for students to understand their purpose. Part of the learning process involves making decisions and sometimes making mistakes. However, we expect that students will learn from their mistakes and demonstrate growth.

RESPECT YOURSELF **RESPECT YOUR SCHOOL** **RESPECT OTHERS**

4.2.1 DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

Behaviors may include:	Possible consequences may include:
Category A:	
Dress Code violation	Students will be required to call home for correct clothing to be brought to school, (if in violation of the Dress Code.)
Being unproductive in Study Halls	Students will receive, a warning (if unsupervised, and when more than one warning is given, it will result in student getting a supervised study hall)
Interfering with others learning	Student will receive a warning/phone call home.
Homeroom / class tardy	
Misbehaving on school buses	
Inappropriate use of language	
Inappropriate display of affection	
Inappropriate use of mobile phone	
Littering	

Chewing Gum	
Category B:	
Repeat of Category A behaviors	Detention: 1-3 days
Unexcused absence from homeroom or repeated tardiness to homeroom	
Inappropriate behavior	
Unexcused absence from class	
Attendance Probation	
Violation of technology appropriate use policy	
Academic Dishonesty	Zero on assessment and contact with parents
Category C:	
Repeat of Category B behavior	In School suspension 1 day Loss of extracurricular participation
Direct defiance to faculty or staff request	
Lying	
Deliberate damage to property of others	
Inappropriate language to faculty or staff	
Leaving campus without authorization	
Skipping school	
Category D:	
Repeat of Category C behavior	In School Suspension 1-3 days Loss of privileges Loss of extracurricular privileges Behavioral/Academic contract Campus Exclusion
Theft	
Physically threatening comments or gestures	
Harassment / Cyber-bullying	
Smoking on school grounds or at school functions	
Fighting	
Category E:	

Repeat of Category D behaviors	Out of school suspension 1-3 days Possible expulsion Possible suspension from school activities for the next season
Altering or tampering with school records	
Category F:	
Repeat of Category E behaviors	Out of school suspension Recommendation of expulsion
Possession of drugs or alcohol	
Physical attack on a faculty or staff	
Gross or flagrant violation of school guidelines that	
Endangers the reputation of the school, other students and/or faculty	
Possession of weapons or dangerous objects	
<p>Please note that this chart is merely intended as a reference tool and does not supercede any policy contained within this handbook. Any violation and consequence(s) thereof are decided upon by the HS Admin Team, and when appropriate, the Superintendent.</p>	

4.2.1 DAA COUNSELING OFFICE POLICY ON REPORTING DISCIPLINARY INCIDENTS TO UNIVERSITIES

Dubai American Academy Counseling Office supports students throughout their college application process and in doing so we support students when answering questions with regards to disciplinary history. As members of the National Association of College Admissions Counselors the DAA counselors are obligated to report disciplinary infractions. These questions are asked in the secondary school report which is sent to each university as part of the application.

4.3 Detention/Suspension/Expulsion:

Disregard of rules and regulations in this handbook may result in detention, suspension or expulsion.

- **Detention** may be during school hours or after school hours. The teacher will require detention in his or her classroom, or students may be assigned to detention in the high school office. Detentions referred to the high school office are recorded. After three detentions, the parent is called. This may result in **Suspension**.
- **Suspension** can be in or out of school and the student is responsible during the period of suspension for obtaining and completing the assignments given during the period of absence from classes.
- **Expulsion** may be the consequence for serious and/or repeated infractions.
- Any behavior or activity done out of school that is illegal or bring disrepute to DAA may result in **suspension** or **expulsion** from school.

4.4 SCHOOL RULES:

1. **LEAVING CAMPUS:**

Students are to remain on campus at all times during the school day. If students must leave because of illness, the school nurse will call the parents. Students will not be allowed to leave the campus gates without approval from the high school office.

2. **DAMAGE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY:**

Students will be charged for all school property that is lost or damaged.

3. **TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES:**

Textbooks are provided to all students on a loan basis. Students are held responsible for books checked out by them and must pay for lost or damaged books. Students will also be charged for deliberate damage (including writing and graffiti) to books. High School students supply their own notebooks, paper, pencils, pens and other school supplies. IB Students may be required to purchase texts. A graphic calculator is also required.

Lost text books should be reported to the Teacher Resource Center Clerk as soon as possible. The student will be charged the cost of the book plus 50% shipping, processing and handling costs. Once a receipt for payment from the accountant is handed to the Teacher Resource Center Clerk, the book will be replaced.

4. **P.E. CLOTHING:**

Each student must have a change of clothes and shoes for P.E. as per the uniform requirements.

5. **LOCKER:**

Each student has a locker allocated to him/her upon arrival at DAA. The student is issued a lock which must be used at all times. If a lock is lost or misplaced the student is required to purchase a new lock from the office. **Students should not keep any valuable items in the locker as DAA**

will take no responsibility for any valuables, money, mobile phones, games, etc. that are lost at school.

6. **MOBILE PHONES:**

These items distract from the learning environment and are not to be used during school hours at DAA. Mobile Phones may not be used during school hours. Phones out, and in use, during school hours will be confiscated and turned into the Principal's PA. **DAA assumes no responsibility for replacing these items if brought to school.**

1st Offense: Kept until the end of the day.

2nd Offense: Kept until the end of the next school day.

3rd Offense: Kept for 5 school days and must be collected by a parent at the end of the bond period.

4th Offense: Kept in bond until the end of the semester and then will be collected by a parent. Honesty letter will be signed.

The above consequences will include weekend time periods and always include phone plus SIM card.

If parents need to contact a student during the day they can call the relevant PA and if a student needs to contact a parent during the day they can make a call from the office.

7. **BULLYING/FIGHTING/PHYSICAL AGGRESSION**

DAA does not tolerate intimidation or bullying of any kind. Offenses may result in suspension, or if repeated, in expulsion.

8. **DISCRIMINATION:**

DAA does not tolerate discrimination. All students will be treated respectfully regardless of gender, ethnicity, abilities, etc. Likewise students are expected to treat all adults with respect.

9. **CANDY, CHEWING GUM AND CARBONATED DRINKS:**

Candy and carbonated drinks are not permitted for sale in the cafeteria as per UAE Law. Students are discouraged from chewing gum.

10. **POOL/GYMNASIUM SAFETY:**

Students are expected to abide by all pool and gym safety procedures explained by adults and supervisors.

4.5 **SUPERVISION BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL:**

Upon completion of their scheduled classes and after school sponsored activities students are expected to leave the campus **promptly**.

4.6 **ALCOHOL / DRUG POLICY:**

The use of drugs (controlled substances) and alcohol is injurious to student health and to a healthy school environment. The possession, use, sale or distribution of drugs or alcohol on school property, on school provided transportation, at school sponsored or chaperoned functions, by students is prohibited and is a grave infraction which will not be tolerated. The following policy extends, but is not limited to conventions, sports events, mini courses, dances, and other social functions as well as extra-curricular activities. Violation of this policy will result in the following:

ALCOHOL:

FIRST VIOLATION:

- Suspension from school and all school activities for a period of at least five school days and/or until a Parent /Administrator conference takes place.

SECOND VIOLATION:

- Minimum suspension from school and all school activities for a period of not less than five school days.
- A conference between the parent(s) or guardian(s) and the concerned school administrator(s).

If any violation of the alcohol policy is deemed of sufficient magnitude, (as sale of alcohol to others, distribution of alcohol to younger children, etc.), if the violation takes place in the context of a history of other violations of school policy and rules, and/or in the event that the School determines that it is in the interest of the school as in cases where there is a clear threat of legal action by the Government or where there is a clear threat to the life and safety of the students or others, the student may be expelled from the school.

If a student should be in violation of this alcohol policy on a school trip or sporting event, there will be further consequences, i.e. suspension from school activities for the next season.

DRUGS:

FIRST VIOLATION:

- The UAE Government has a severe policy regarding drug use or possession of drugs.
- DAA will not tolerate student possession or use of drugs.
- Indefinite suspension from school and all school activities until due process is finalized with probable expulsion from school.
- A conference between parent(s) and the school administrator(s) concerned.

TOBACCO:

- The possession, use, sale or distribution of tobacco is prohibited and will result in suspension. Repeated offenses will result in expulsion.

4.7 DAILY UNIFORM:

A uniform including a tie is required in all GEMS Schools.

DAILY UNIFORM:

1. Regulation light blue shirt, fully buttoned.
2. Regulation dark blue slacks for boys.
3. Regulation dark blue skirts (knee length or longer) or slacks for girls.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INTENTIONAL ALTERING OF A SCHOOL UNIFORM IS NOT ALLOWED
4. Regulation dark blue tie with logo (seniors not included).
5. All Black shoes.
6. Black leather belts for slacks for boys.
7. Regulation cotton sweatshirt with school logo. (Seasonal Wear)
8. Regulation cotton sweater with school logo. (Seasonal Wear)
9. Seniors have the option of wearing Senior Polo Shirts.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) UNIFORM:

1. Regulation Dubai American Academy athletics shirt.
2. Regulation blue shorts.
3. Swimming suit (personal suits are fine – one piece tank type suit for girls).
4. Athletic shoes with non-marking soles and heels.

DRESS CODE:

During school hours and while in school uniform the following rules apply:

- No excessive make up is allowed.
- Students with pierced ears may wear one pair of studs or tiny hoop earrings.
- Except for tasteful highlights, students are not allowed to dye their hair outrageous colors. Check with building principals for guidelines.
- No body piercing.
- No tattooing.
- Non regulation outerwear may not be worn in school; it should be kept in lockers.

DAA may not require uniforms while participating in after or out of school activities or on designated special dress days. However, students should be properly dressed in a manner that is not offensive to our host country. These rules will apply:

- No tight clothes.
- No spaghetti strap shirts.

- No exposed mid-drift.
- No offensive logos or expressions on clothing.

The Principal's judgment will be final. The Principal may request a student to return home for the purpose of changing clothing. Our policy is: **Wear clothing that is respectful to one's self as well as to others.**

4.8 **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Honesty in schoolwork requires that students do their own work. Students are expected to give credit to ideas, language, or thoughts which are not their own. To take ideas, writing, or thoughts from someone else and pass them off as one's own is **PLAGIARISM** and is a violation of academic honesty. This can occur with print or non print sources, such as the internet. DAA regards acts of academic dishonesty as a serious violation of the community's trust. Students who commit academic dishonesty will face serious consequences. If the offense is repeated a student could be asked to leave the school. Any violation or suspicion of violation will be reported to the Principal immediately.

4.8.1 **HONOR CODE FOR GRADES 9-12:**

All students are expected to sign the DAA Honor Code with the expectation of parental support.

DUBAI AMERICAN ACADEMY HONOR CODE:

The program of studies at Dubai American Academy offers a quality education that not only ensures knowledge, but also cultivates the virtues of honor, courtesy, and perseverance. Of these virtues, honor is perhaps of greatest importance, for it is personal integrity that will influence and finally determine many of our actions and beliefs. To help advance the development of such values, an Honor Code has been established for all students in grades 9 – 12 at Dubai American Academy. This code applies to all classes and activities at Dubai American Academy and exists to uphold and reinforce values that are central to the school's educational philosophy.

Malpractice, or cheating, includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

DEFINITIONS:

PLAGIARISM – submitting words or ideas that are not your own without acknowledging the original author. This includes copying another student's paper, report, lab book, or assignment in whole or in part and submitting it as your own to a teacher or examiner. A superficial change of wording, structure, or conclusion is not sufficient to turn aside the charge of plagiarism.

COLLUSION – permitting another student to submit your paper, report, lab book, or assignment in whole or in part as their own work, either to a teacher or an outside examiner. This includes permitting another student to copy your work, and failure to report that malpractice of which you are aware to either a teacher or an administrator in the school. A superficial change of wording or structure or conclusion is not sufficient to turn aside the charge of collusion.

EXAMINATION MALPRACTICE – using cheat sheets or other prohibited items during either a class examination or an external examination; looking at another student’s paper during either a class examination or an external examination; providing another student either at DAA or elsewhere with questions or answers from an examination you have taken and the other student has not; exchanging old or current exam papers, reports, notebooks, etc. without your teacher’s expressed permission.

THEFT – stealing notes, notebooks, reports, lab books, or other work from other students to use as your own or to transmit to any other user.

TECHNOLOGY MALPRACTICE – any misuse or abuse of technology including infractions of the school technology acceptable use policy.

It is recognized that the DAA program of studies and the IB program can be demanding and rigorous. While students are encouraged to study together and to discuss their work, ethical conduct is expected at all times.

Alleged offenses against the honor code will be investigated by the teacher or teachers involved along with school administration. If malpractice is established, a first offense against the honor code will result in a grade of “F” for the assignment or exam, with no possibility of make-up. Parents will be notified and the incident will be documented in the student’s file. A second offence, regardless of the date, will result in a grade of “F” for the course in that quarter. Further offenses may result in the student being asked to find another educational setting to complete his/her studies. If the malpractice involves work submitted to IB for external assessment, procedures set forth in the IB Vade Mecum will be followed, and the investigation will be directed by IBCA, Handbook of Procedures (Cardiff). In the case of internal investigations, the student will have recourse to appeal to the Superintendent; the conclusion of any external investigation by IBCA is final and without appeal.

4.8.2 DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES FOR VIOLATION OF THE HONOR CODE:

All students are responsible for understanding the Honor Code and what is expected of them. Violation of the Honor Code will be tracked over the

school career at DAA. If there are any questions about what constitutes a breach of the Honor Code they should be brought to the teacher.

An Honor Committee may be called to assess the consequences for a breach of the Honor Code. The Honor Committee consists of: an administrator, the student’s advisor, the student’s choice of teacher.

	Consequence
First Breach of Honor Code	F on assignment (no possibility of make-up) Letter and contact with parents Incident documented in student’s file
Second Breach of Honor Code	Zero on assignment Student referred to the office Letter and contact with parents Placed on Behavioral Probation In School Suspension 1 up to 5 days
Third Breach of Honor Code	Zero on the assignment Letter and contact with parents Suspension 5 up to 10 days Withdrawal from school recommended as school may move for expulsion

Be sure to refer to section 4.2.1 in this Handbook: DAA Counseling Office Policy on Reporting Disciplinary Incidents to Universities

4.9 ACCEPTABLE INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY:

Access to the school network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Access is available only for **educational** and **administrative purposes**. DAA’s technology resources are to be used in accordance with this Acceptable Use Policy, (AUP), and all users will be required to comply with its regulations. Non-compliance will result in disciplinary action. The following guidelines are intended to help users understand appropriate use. The school may restrict, suspend, or terminate any user’s access to the school’s computer systems upon violation of the AUP.

This policy applies to all technology at DAA, not just computers and equipment in IT labs. This applies to all the facilities including the Theater and the Gym.

ETHICAL CONDUCT:

It is the responsibility of all users:

- to recognize and honor the intellectual property of others.
- to comply with legal restrictions regarding plagiarism and the use and citation of information resources.

- to restrict the use of DAA's technology resources to the mission of the school; the use of computer systems for personal use unrelated to the mission of the school or for private gain is prohibited.
- to help maintain the integrity of the school network and equipment; deliberate tampering, or experimentation is not allowed.

It is a violation to modify and/or copy any protected system files, system folders or control panel files without prior approval of the Network administration or IT Coordinator. The use of non-DAA Proxies or VPNs inside the school is also prohibited.

EDUCATIONAL USE:

Users are responsible for the ethical and appropriate use of their network accounts:

- School related files are the only files to be saved in folders provided to you by the school. Storing commercial software, music, and/or games or hidden files to your folder is not permitted.
- Saving to the hard disk drive of a school owned computer is granted only by permission of instructor (for students) or IT Coordinator (staff).
- Playing commercial or online games is not permitted unless approved by the school.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS:

Users should respect the rights of others using the technology resources by:

- Using assigned workstations, if required by teacher.
- Always logging off of workstations.
- Avoiding any deliberate attempts to disrupt network performance or interfering with the work of another user.
- Leaving equipment and rooms in good condition for next user/class.
- Cleaning and maintaining common areas used for laptops.

RESPECT FOR SECURITY:

Accounts on the systems at DAA are considered secure, although absolute security of any data cannot be guaranteed. Teachers can be provided access to student files for instructional or evaluative purposes.

- Use only your account/password. It is a violation to give access to your password to any other user.
- Reading, modifying or removing files and/or mail owned by other users is not allowed without prior approval by the instructor or IT Coordinator.
- Any attempts to transmit software designed to compromise the operation or security of the network is prohibited.

RESPECT FOR PROPERTY:

SOFTWARE INSTALLATION:

Software may only be installed on the school information systems (including all individual workstations) with prior approval from the IT Coordinator.

SOFTWARE COPYRIGHT:

- The only software, other than students' projects, to be used on the school's computers are those for which the school owns a valid license.
- Licensed/copyrighted software is not available for borrowing and may only be used at other sites with approval of IT Coordinator.
- Copyrighted software shall not be downloaded from the Internet or further transmitted in any form without compliance with all terms of a preauthorized licensing agreement. Infringement or violation of U.S. or international copyright laws or restrictions will not be tolerated.
- Any attempts to circumvent the licensing control or the copying of software from the network without the IT Coordinator's permission is prohibited.

HARDWARE:

- Report equipment problems immediately to instructor/tech assistants/Network Administration/IT Coordinator.
- Leave workstations and peripherals in their designated places.
- Keep work areas neat and clean and free from food and drink.
- Any attempts to move, repair, reconfigure, modify or attach external devices to existing information and network systems without the Network administration and/or IT Coordinator's permission is prohibited.
- Borrowing of school hardware is not permitted unless email authorization has been given from the IT department.

AUDIO VISUAL HARDWARE:

- If a person checks-out or borrows a piece of audio visual equipment, they are responsible for replacing it or repairing it if it is lost or damaged. All equipment must be properly signed-out and documented.

INTERNET/WORLD WIDE WEB USAGE:

Internet access is available to all students and teachers at Dubai American Academy. We believe these communication links offer vast, diverse and unique resources to both students and staff and their availability outweighs any possible access to information that is not consistent with the educational goals of DAA. Expected standards of conduct include:

- The acknowledgement that access to the Internet is a privilege and not a right.

- Respect the use of copy written materials.
- Respect the rights and privacy of others.
- E-mail is allowed during school hours only in connection with a classroom assignment.
- Downloading of unauthorized programs is not allowed.
- Compromising the security of the school in any manner is unacceptable.
- Respect the values and ethics of the local host culture.

A violation of the above standards and any others included in the Acceptable Use Policy will result in a denial of access and possible further disciplinary action.

Secondary school students are welcome to use the Computer Labs after 2:45 – 3:30 for educational purposes as stated in the AUP. We cannot accommodate elementary students after school without parental supervision.

The school will use available monitoring and blocking software to filter objectionable materials on the Internet.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- All users are prohibited from accessing portions of the Internet that do not promote the instructional mission of DAA.
- All school web pages are subject to initial approval of the administration. All school web pages should reflect the mission of the school and adhere to the DAA Web Page Guidelines.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT:

ALL users must follow all policies even while using their own personal equipment. Watching DVD's, Movies, TV Shows, etc while at school is prohibited unless the media has been checked-out from the school library.

Private (Ad-Hoc) networks are prohibited within the school network unless users get permission from the IT department.

CYBER-BULLYING:

This involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others.

Students will be held accountable for Cyber-Bullying, even if it occurs off-campus during the school year and negatively impacts the academic environment at DAA.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATIONS:

First violation: Denial of access to Network and/or Internet for one week.

Second violation: Meeting with IT Director and Division Principal, denial of access to Network and/or Internet for one month, and possible detention.

Third violation: Meeting with IT Director, Division Principal, denial of access to Network and/or Internet for remainder of the year and possible suspension. This means that the user will not be allowed to have personal equipment, of any kind, on campus for the year.

Please NOTE this means MP3 Players, IPods, phones and any other device.

4.10 ATTENDANCE/WITHDRAWAL:

4.10.1 SCHOOL HOURS:

Grades 6 - 12	7:45 a.m.	-	2:45 p.m.
After School Activities	3:00 p.m.	-	5:00 p.m.

4.10.2 ABSENCES:

Students are expected to attend school every school day. Good attendance is essential if the student is to be successful. Faculty can best help students learn when students meet this expectation. Failure to be in attendance 85% of scheduled classes at school may result in loss of academic credit. **Students who have more than 5 absences per class per semester will be placed on attendance probation and may be at risk of losing class credit.** Parents must provide written reasons for absences from school.

If a student is sick, he/she is responsible for any and all missed assignments. The student should also phone a friend to get any important notes and assignments from classes missed.

If a student plans to be away for some reason, he/she must give the school written notice at least one day before the absence. It is the student's responsibility to complete all work he /she has missed.

Students travelling outside of the country on school sponsored trips need not report to school until 11 hours after the plane lands. If students are travelling within the UAE, they should report to school not later than 10 hours after arrival back at school.

It is the responsibility of the Teacher /Administrator in Charge of the trip to advise students at the airport for international trips, or at school for local trips, of the expected arrival time at school the following day. The trip administrator should also inform the HS/MS office of expected arrival times of students.

Absence or tardiness after this designated time will be considered unexcused and may result in a student being unable to participate in activities the following day.

In order for a student to participate in an after school activity (ECC, MESAC, sports practices and matches, ASA's, MUN, clubs etc) they must be in attendance the last 2 classes during the school day.

DAA High School students are not permitted to participate in or attend a High School activity on a day they are absent from school. In order to participate in an activity, High School students must be present or, if late to school, be present by 12:00 noon on the day of participation. The only exceptions to this procedure will be made by the Principal.

4.10.3 TARDIES:

4.10.3.1 HOMEROOM:

Students are expected to be in homeroom on time. If a student arrives late in the morning, he/she is expected to have a parental note. **The student must report to the High School office before going to class so that the Principal's PA may remove the students name from the absent list and give them a tardy slip.** Unexcused tardies will result in detentions in the high school office.

Students whose absence or tardiness to homeroom exceeds 5 times per semester will be placed on homeroom attendance probation. These students will receive an after school detention each time they have further unexcused absences or tardies.

4.10.3.2 CLASS:

Students more than ten minutes late to class are guilty of cutting class and consequences will be issued as per guidelines.

4.10.4 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

If a student skips a class, his/her parents will be informed and the student will receive up to 3 days detention. Repeated skips will result in suspension from school and a conference with parents. Teachers are not required to provide make up assignments or tests for skipped classes.

4.10.5 PLANNED ABSENCES OTHER THAN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:

It is the school's philosophy that attendance in class is of primary importance. There are times, however, when an absence is unavoidable. In such cases, the parent is responsible for contacting the school.

Assignments and examinations often cannot be given in advance and will have to be completed upon the student's return. These absences are included in the 85% attendance policy.

Please note that attendance during exams is mandatory and students will not be allowed to miss an exam barring an emergency.

4.10.6 WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES:

1. Parents should notify the Principal and Registrar's office and the student should notify his/her teachers as far in advance as possible (at least a two week notification is needed) of the withdrawal date.
2. The registrar will issue a withdrawal form. The form will be taken by the student to his/her teachers, library, teacher resource center (TRC) and returned to the registrar. The registrar will notify parents in the case of outstanding fees. The Principal is also notified of any outstanding fees. Transfer certificates will be handed to parents once all outstanding fees are settled.
3. Parents who wish to hand carry their children's records may do so. However, they should notify the school of their intentions to do this and ample time must be given to assemble records. Hand carrying of transcripts at the end of the year may be delayed due to scoring of exams. In that case, transcripts and/or records will be sent to the new school or to the parents. Parents should leave their forwarding address and a stamped envelope at the earliest possible date. Records cannot be released until all outstanding fees are paid.

5.0 STUDENT SERVICES

5.1 LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER SERVICES:

Located in the middle of the second floor of the school, the Library Media Center provides collections of books, magazines, online databases, DVD/VHS videos, sound recordings and VHS/DVD equipment. Networked computers are available for teacher and student use. Various areas provide study space for individual and groups.

The library's collections continually grow to support the curriculum and encourage teenage reading, listening and viewing. Professional journals and books assist teachers in curriculum design and development. In addition to worldwide newspapers available from online databases, the library subscribes to local newspapers and magazines. Students and staff identify books, DVDs, AV, online resources and evaluated websites through the library catalog. This is available from every computer in the school. A broad range of reference books

cover both general and specific topics. On-line, full-text databases provide articles from newspapers, magazines & books, evaluated websites and multimedia.

Classrooms are equipped with a range of audio/visual technology including CD/DVD/VHS facilities, overhead projectors and interactive whiteboards. Digital still and video cameras are available for use by students and staff from the TRC.

A Library Media Specialist and two Library Assistants help students. Students attend library workshops which are linked directly to assignments. Students learn to define their information need, locate information from a wide range of resources, including the Internet, and evaluate the source of information.

Students, parents and teachers are welcome to enjoy our facilities during the following times:

Sunday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Students are welcome to use the Library Media Center after 2:45 for homework, research, reading and thinking. Due to meetings, etc., the Library may occasionally close at 3:00.

5.1.1 LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER EXPECTATIONS:

Respect others by talking softly.

Eat and drink in the canteen.

Ask for help to find what you need.

Do be conscientious with library materials and facilities.

5.1.2 LIBRARY MEDIA GUIDELINES:

1. All students are welcome to come into the Library Media Center at any time to use the resources and borrow books. Teachers also bring classes into the Library Media Center.
2. Students in grades 6-12 can check out 4 books for two weeks. Renewals may be requested prior to the book's due date. However, if items are requested by another student or faculty member, the items must be returned.
3. Return or renew books and other items by the due date. Reminder notices will be sent on a regular basis for long overdue

materials. Materials that are long overdue will be considered lost and after several reminders, an invoice will be sent.

4. Report cards and transfer certificates will not be issued unless all books and fines are cleared. Students who withdraw early also must return library materials so their clearance form can be signed.

5. Damaged books: If the damage makes the book unusable, the cost of the book plus a processing fee will be charged. The student will not be allowed to checkout library materials until the amount has been paid. Damaged books remain the property of Dubai American Academy and will not be returned to the student or parent.

6. Lost books: Report lost books as soon as possible to the librarian so the item can be re-ordered. The cost of the book plus a processing fee will be charged. If the book is found within six weeks of payment, the amount paid will be returned if the book has not already been purchased.

7. Parents are welcome to use the library. Please see library staff to register and enjoy our many resources.

5.2 INTERNET ACCESS AND USE: (SEE ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY)

5.3 GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES:

The goal of High School Guidance at DAA is to create an environment that will help each student:

- Develop self-insight and self-understanding as he/she progresses through school
- Develop an understanding of the worth and dignity of others

Objectives of High Guidance services at DAA are:

To help students:

- Select and enter school courses and activities
- Develop an understanding for various career and university opportunities
- Select and capitalize on educational opportunities beyond high school
- Participate meaningfully in the opportunities of the school
- Develop interpersonal relationships
- Transition to the high school upon entry to the school
- To help teachers:
- Understand the students for whom they are responsible
- Understand and utilize the services of the guidance program
- To help administrators:
- Understand the characteristics of the school's student population
- To help parents:
- Understand their children's educational progress

- Understand the opportunities available to their children
- Understand and utilize the services of the guidance program

5.4 SCHOOL NURSE SERVICES:

The Health Office responsibilities include, administering first aid, treating minor ailments, health education, maintaining health records, updating vaccinations and medical information, and liaising with the Dubai Health Authority.

The Department of Health and Medical Services requires that the following completed forms be kept on file to enable us to care for your child effectively. These forms must be completed and returned to the Health Office directly, prior to your child starting school.

- Health Information Form
- Medical Consent Form
- Immunization Record – a copy is required

The school should be informed immediately of any change in telephone numbers to enable us to contact a parent or guardian in the event of sickness or accident. In the event of both parents being out of the country an alternative contact number **must** be left with the Health Office and with the Registrar.

Sickness at school: When a student becomes ill during the school day and feels the need to go home, the student must go to the Health Office to discuss his/her poor health issue with the nurse. The best course of care will be decided. If it is determined that the student should go home, the nurse will contact the parent/guardian as well as inform the teachers. It is expected that the student's parent / driver collects the student within an hour's time of receiving the nurse's phone call. A student may go home via taxi as per parent request to the nurse.

Sickness at home: A sick child cannot learn effectively and is unable to participate in classes in a meaningful way. Keeping a sick child home prevents the spread of illness in the school community and allows your child the opportunity to rest and recover. If your child is sick and unable to attend school please inform DAA.

School Medical Examinations: The Dubai Health Authority requires that students in selected grades undergo a school medical by our school physician. If you prefer your private family physician may conduct your child's medical exam and then submit the report to the Health Office for your child's record.

Medications: If your child is taking any regular medications during school hours, (long or short term basis), kindly give these medications to the Health Office to be administered by our nursing staff to your child. Students are **not permitted** to

keep medications with the **exception** of personal inhalers to prevent/treat asthma attacks and Epipen's for students with life threatening allergies.

5.5 DAA High School Special Education Needs (SEN) Program

DAA realizes that many of our students not only learn differently but have their own unique academic abilities. A traditional classroom learning environment may not meet the needs of these Alternative Learners placing them within an at-risk population for academic success. To address the needs of our High School SEN and Learning Support Alternative Learners, the administrative staff, counselors and teachers recognize the importance of implementing the following academic support:

- A block of extra study time built into their schedule
- Access to Peer Tutors for any subject
- Assistance with homework, essay reviews and study preps
- Implementing exam, homework and project accommodations as required by the student's educational evaluation and their ILP
- Assistance with organization, time management and study skills
- Continued advocacy for student needs with regard to SAT, IB and other mandated University admissions testing

Our main priority at DAA High School is to provide all at-risk students, SEN and Learning Support, with the best quality academic support possible for their success.

5.6 FOOD SERVICES:

An external vendor provides the food service program at DAA. The school has worked closely with the vendor to establish a program that meets the needs of the students and employees. Standards for these services are in compliance with Dubai Municipality guidelines.

Students have a short break at mid-morning to enjoy a snack.

Out of respect for the religious and cultural values of our host nation, and in compliance with UAE law, pork products are not allowed at any in-class, after school, or school-wide events.

5.7 LOST AND FOUND SERVICES:

Lost and found items are kept in the MS stairwell near the music rooms. Students are encouraged to check this frequently. Watches, jewelry and glasses

are usually kept with the Principal's PA for the first week. Any unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of the school year

5.8 BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES:

Bus transportation to Dubai American Academy is available through both private and our own school bus service. Information about bus services is available at the reception area. **Parents are in no way restricted to the use of this service and are welcome to investigate alternative transport services should they desire. Reservations for bus services remain a contract between the family and that bus service provider, not DAA.**

BUS BEHAVIOR RULES

Established rules ensure safety on the buses. Parents are advised to review these rules with the child.

1. ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEATBELT.
2. Put away pencils, markers, rulers and any sharp or pointed items.
3. Keep arms, legs and head inside the vehicle at all times. Keep windows closed.
4. No changing seats while the bus is moving or parked at traffic signals and without asking the monitor/teacher once on route.
5. Do not throw anything while on the bus.
6. Do not distract the driver. Please keep voice volume down. "Quiet voices inside. Loud voices outside."
7. No music players, video games or electronic items without earphones.
8. Stay away from control panels, automatic doors, etc. as injury can occur.
9. Place trash in the bin, please, or take it with you.
10. No eating on the bus. Eat a snack or have something to drink before getting on the bus.
11. Keep the aisles clear.
12. Foul Language, bullying or any behavior that would not be tolerated while at school is not tolerated on the bus.
13. No smoking.

Student infractions and their consequences are at the discretion of the private bus company and/or school administrator.

All HS Disciplinary Rules are in full effect while a student is riding a school bus. HS students are asked to keep in mind that they often ride the buses with younger students and therefore need to be mindful of their language and behavior.

6.0 ACTIVITIES

6.1 PHILOSOPHY:

In a school such as DAA, the faculty and staff attempt to provide students with many opportunities to develop their particular interests and abilities. This association with students who share the same interests allows for camaraderie that fosters an increased sense of purpose and a feeling of belonging outside of the classroom. Athletics, school government, class organizations and special interest clubs provide a hands-on opportunity for students to learn and participate in leadership skills.

All clubs and organizations are expected to participate in a service project each year. Clubs and organizations also sponsor social events at which students develop acceptable social behavior and manners. Student pride and school spirit promote good citizenship that carries over to future community involvement and citizen participation.

Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of after school activities and advisors attempt to minimize scheduling conflicts.

6.2 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

The school offers a wide range of activities outside school hours. These range from athletics to yearbook, badminton to volleyball, ceramics to sailing and many others.

Some activities are very popular while others are more selective. The programs offered vary seasonally, as well as from year to year depending on supply and demand. A few of the more specialized clubs require a fee such as scuba diving or ice skating, but most are provided within the school framework at no extra charge.

The success of each activity depends very much on the enthusiasm and commitment of the student and their parents. Students are encouraged to attend at least one activity per term. This aspect is particularly applicable to students in grade 11 and 12 where time is devoted to extramural pursuits and credit is granted to meet CAS requirements for the IB Diploma program.

6.3 MIDDLE EAST SCHOOLS ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE (MESAC):

Dubai American Academy is a member of MESAC. The MESAC philosophy is dedicated to coordinating a range of superior sporting and fine arts activities

through inter-school collaboration. There are currently 6 member schools in UAE, Oman, Qatar and India. Participants in MESAC tournaments benefit in many ways apart from competing in their particular activity. When MESAC events take place outside of Dubai student participants stay with host families from the host school for the duration of the MESAC event and this is reciprocated when DAA host MESAC events.

Students taking part in MESAC events, as with other extra-curricular activities, should realize that it is a commitment. The tournaments are scheduled a year in advance and once committed; students must follow through with a sometimes demanding training program. This is usually over about an eight week period, with the possibility of traveling throughout the UAE for warm-up competitions on one or two weekends along the way. Experience has shown the MESAC events are very popular and enjoyable. The school has laid down eligibility criteria for students taking part in MESAC events as it is considered a privilege to be selected. Students and parents are required to sign an Ethics Code of Conduct and an Activity Handbook outlining the criteria for extra curricular involvement.

MESAC AND ECC CALENDAR 2013-2014:

September–mid November

*Volleyball:

- Varsity Boys
- Varsity Girls
- Junior Varsity Boys
- Junior Varsity Girls
- Under 14 Boys
- Under 14 Girls

*Swimming:

- Varsity
- Junior Varsity
- Under 14

*Varsity Academic Games

*Junior Varsity Academic Games

Mid November – mid February

*Tennis:

- Open Boys
- Open Girls

*Senior Fine Arts

February–April

*Track and Field:

- Varsity
- Junior Varsity
- Under 14

*Softball:

- Junior Varsity Boys

Mid November – mid February

*Soccer:

- Varsity Boys
- Varsity Girls
- Junior Varsity Boys
- Junior Varsity Girls
- Under 14 Boys
- Under 14 Girls

*Basketball:

- Varsity Boys
- Varsity Girls
- Junior Varsity Boys
- Junior Varsity Girls
- Under 14 Boys
- Under 14 Girls

*Cross-Country:

- Varsity Boys and Girls
- Junior Varsity Boys and Girls
- Under 14 Boys and Girls

- Junior Varsity Girls

- Varsity Girls

*Baseball:

- Varsity Boys

*Badminton:

- Varsity
- Junior Varsity

*Forensics

* All events listed are MESAC events with the exception of U-14 teams

*Listed in red are all of the ECC events in which DAA participates.

Eligibility: U-14: Limited to those students who are under fourteen (14) years of age as of September 1st of the school year of participation.

Junior Varsity: Limited to those students who are under sixteen (16) years of age as of September 1st of the school year of participation.

Junior: (Fine Arts) Limited to those students who are in Grades 8-10 in the school year of participation.

Varsity: Limited to students whose twentieth (20) birthday will fall on any day after September 1st of the school year of participation. A student may **not** participate after graduation from the twelfth (12) grade.

Senior: (Fine Arts) Limited to those students who are in Grades 9-12 in the school year of participation.

Code of Ethics for Players:

The school requires athletes to:

- Conduct themselves (on and off the playing field) with honor, dignity and integrity at all times.
- Treat opponents as honored guests and fellow team members with respect.
- Be responsible for their studies/homework and maintain their academic eligibility requirements.
- Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and be a positive role model in and out of the classroom.
- Commit themselves to hard and dedicated practice, to the team and to their coach.

The game requires athletes to:

- Dedicate themselves to practice and training, and maintain a high level of fitness.
- Be punctual to all contests and practices; there is no room for excuses on a team.
- Be fair, honest and sportsmanlike at all times; no matter what the cost.
- Accept the decision of the official without question.

Sportsmanship demands that athletes:

- Recognize and applaud honestly and whole heartedly the efforts of their team or opponents regardless of race, color or creed
- Give opponents full credit when they win and congratulate them on their success, regardless of your disappointment.
- Play hard at all times in spite of all hardships; good teams never give up, quit, complain or argue with their teammates, coaches, officials or fans.
- Support and encourage their team members on the playing field, as a fan, in the hallways of the school, in the classroom, and in the community.

Code of Ethics for Parents and Fans:

The school expects parents and fans to:

- Conduct themselves as mature role models, supporting the team in a positive manner.
- Respect the decisions made by the game officials and tournament personnel.
- Cheer for their team whether they are successful or not successful and use phrases that are positive and uplifting.

- Never “boo” the visiting team or cheer when the opposition makes a bad play or performs poorly.
- Recognize outstanding performances on either side of the playing court

The athlete expects parents and fans to:

- Support the players, team, and coach regardless of the outcome of the match.
- Cheer in a positive manner at all times during the game.
- Not interfere with the coaching, officiating or practice routine of any team.
- Support the athletes with enthusiasm and composure.

6.4 ELIGIBILITY:

In order to be eligible to participate in student activities such as Athletics, the Arts festivals, treks, student council, drama, MUN, etc., or to be a class officer; a student should maintain at least a C (2.0) semester grade point average and have no F (failing) grades.

Questions regarding participation may also occur if a student is involved in academic dishonesty, violates the disciplinary code or is excessively absent from school. The school is aware that each student has a specific set of needs – some excel academically, athletically or artistically. The purpose of the School’s eligibility policy is not to deny students the opportunity to participate in an area where they excel due to poor academic performance. Rather, the goal is to review each student’s case and to make a decision based on input provided by the professional and personal counsel of the student’s teacher and parents. The principal will then make the decision for eligibility based on what is in the student’s best interest.

6.5 STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

The high school student government is an organization dedicated to providing leadership opportunities for students, providing services to the school and community and making the lives of students more enjoyable. The organization serves as a link between students and teachers, organizes social activities, and assists the greater school community in various events and activities throughout the year. Students from grades 9-12 are eligible to serve on the student government. Students are elected by their peers to serve as class representatives or members of the executive council. Together with the staff and administration, the student government has created eligibility requirements for students wishing to serve on the student government. It is considered a privilege to be selected, and students involved with the student government are leaders who demonstrate the qualities of exceptional and successful students.

7.0 HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

7.1 Academic Reporting

DAA uses an online system for all reporting needs. All parents and students will be given access to this system within the first week of school. If a student is continuing at DAA, their access will remain the same until the graduate or withdraw. Online courses are different in each division based-on academic requirements. Online courses, and homework postings, are not the same as Academic Reporting. Academic Reporting is private between the family and the school. Online courses are collaborative environments for teachers, students and parents.

7.2 NEWSLETTER:

Communication between parents and school is a high priority at DAA. Parents will receive notices throughout the year about school events as well as the **Spots**, a school-wide weekly newsletter sent by email. Information is also available on our website at www.dubaiacademy.org and Edline.

7.3 BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT:

In September, a Back-to-School Night is held to introduce parents to classroom expectations, a description of the year's curriculum, grade level policies on homework and other details of the functioning of each class.

8.0 PARENT SUPPORT AT HOME AND SCHOOL

There are many ways in which parents can support the school program and their children both at home and in school.

8.1 APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PRINCIPAL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, IB COORDINATOR AND COUNSELORS:

While you are always welcome in the High School, if you would like to discuss a specific issue, **it would be advisable to contact the appropriate secretary to schedule appointments with the Principal or Counselors.**

8.2 LEGAL STATUS OF STUDENTS:

All students attending DAA are required by the UAE Law and DAA Policy to live with their parent/s or legal guardian throughout the school year.

8.3 EXTENDED PARENT ABSENCES:

DAA students should always have proper home supervision by a parent. IF, DUE TO AN EMERGENCY, YOU WILL BE OUT OF TOWN AND YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE UNDER YOUR DIRECT SUPERVISION, PLEASE SEND A FORMAL LETTER TO LET US KNOW WHO WILL HAVE GUARDIANSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES.

8.4 DUBAI AMERICAN ACADEMY PARENT ASSOCIATION (DAAPA):

DAAPA supports the development of a sense of unity among parents, faculty, administration, students and staff by cooperating in different capacities to enrich the lives of the students and guide parents toward a better understanding of the aims, policies and philosophy of Dubai American Academy. The achievement of these aims relies upon the cooperation of every parent. All parents of students enrolled in Dubai American Academy are members of the Parent Association.

8.5 SHARING EXPERTISE:

Teachers welcome parental expertise on topics related to the curriculum. Parents willing to be guest speakers or to share collections and artifacts should inform the classroom teacher of their areas of interest. Parent presentations at assemblies are greatly appreciated.

8.6 HOMEWORK:

Homework is designed to be an extension of the learning in the classroom. Some students may take more time than others. If your child is struggling with assignments, contact the teacher for suggestions. Student study guides are posted online.

The High School strongly suggests that parents set up a regular, designated time and place for children to do their homework. Such procedures reinforce study habits learned in school and promote concentration. Encourage your child to be responsible about completing assignments and bringing them to school when they are due

Homework in the High School is given for many reasons:

- a. To reinforce learning through further practice and application of material.
- b. To develop sound independent study habits.
- c. To enrich learning through independent study, individual research and experimentation.
- d. To enable students to complete assignments.
- e. To preview new units of study.

9.0 QUESTIONS? WHOM TO CALL FIRST?

DAA Telephone : 347-9222
DAA Fax Number: 347-6070

When a parent has a concern regarding a teacher, the HS administration will direct the parent to speak with the teacher first. By open and honest dialogue between teacher and parent, most issues will resolve themselves in a mutually beneficial manner.

Other School Related Issues:

General	Receptionist
Career/College	Counselor
After School Activities Program	Athletics Director
Back to School Night	Principal's Secretary
Curriculum/Accreditation	Curriculum Coordinator
Facilities Usage	Superintendent's Secretary
Finance/Tuition	Accountant
Health	Nurse's office
Bus Transport	Administration Officer
Activities/Calendar	Superintendent's Secretary
Spots Newsletter	Communications Officer
Parent Association (DAAPA)	DAAPA representatives