



KHARTOUM AMERICAN SCHOOL ELEVENTH MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE KASMUN XI

Superintendent's Message

Dear KAS Community,

If you have a Middle School or High School aged child I am sure you will have heard them discuss excitedly KASMUN. Khartoum American School Model United Nations (KASMUN) is in its 11th year and Wednesday evening was the opening ceremony.

This student led and run events allows real world application of the skills of diplomacy, critical thinking, teamwork and leadership. When I consider KAS' vision of character, curriculum, community and citizenship it is hard to think of an activity that better fulfils this vision than MUN.

We were happy to have American Charge D'Affaires Shukan present to give the speech as guest of honor at the opening ceremony. The speeches from students were equally impressive and a sure sign of high minded debates we can expect for the next few days.

Best wishes,

Bridget Davies

KAS Superintendent
bdavies@krtams.org

Welcome to Deborah Tyler, Grade 3 Teacher, joining us from New Zealand.



KAS UPCOMING EVENTS

February 19-21: KASMUN

February 25: Board Meeting

February 26: Parent Teacher Conference

February 27: Grade 8 Ecology Trip to Uganda

February 29: Middle School Basketball (Boys at KICS, Girls at KAS)

March 5: Parent Seminar - Eureka Math

March 7: Junior Basketball & Senior Soccer at KICS

March 11: Science Fair

March 13-21: Spring Break

Attendance and Student Achievement

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn. The relationship between student attendance and student achievement is so firmly established that it is the primary rationale for maintaining high quality attendance data. Yes, the effectiveness of teachers is the strongest school-related determinant of student success,¹ but chronic student absence reduces even the best teacher's ability to provide learning opportunities. Nothing can be more disruptive to a teacher than a tardy student who clumsily opens the door during a lesson, or a parent coming in to pick up a child before school ends.

Do school absences have an affect on children's achievement? There is definitely a connection between school attendance and achievement, because if students are not in the classroom they are missing instructional time that cannot be made up. Simply put, school attendance is key in determining student success.

Any absence, whether excused or not, denies students the opportunity to learn in accordance with the school's instructional program, but students who miss school are sometimes further excluded from learning opportunities as a consequence of chronic absenteeism or tardiness. Tardy students disrupt classroom routines as they are busy unpacking and the teacher is trying to conduct a lesson. 5 minutes each day, 5 days a week represents 25 minutes of lesson missed each week. 25 minutes of lesson is half a period. In 36 weeks (one school year), 900 minutes of instructional time will be lost amounting to 18 lessons in the school year gone due to tardiness.

When students improve their attendance, their chances for academic prospects and graduation increase. A student who attends school regularly is more likely to keep up with her daily lessons, assignments, take quizzes and tests on time. Research indicates that a student's regular attendance is one of the greatest factors that influence her academic success.

Benefits for attending school regularly include: achievement, opportunity for older students to learn about college and scholarship, exposure to the English language, and being part of the school community.

What can you do as parents?

- Follow the school's guidelines and attendance policy, check homework,
- Take an active role by being involved with your child's daily experiences,
- Stay updated on school events,
- Try to limit the time your child misses school by keeping in mind your child's schedule when organizing family events,
- Promote good health by ensuring that your child eats a balanced diet,
- Help your child get to school on time everyday,
- Promote the importance of education, and
- Reinforce important behavior patterns by modeling reliability, being on time, as well as good time management skills.

Ashika Chapman
Special Education Needs Coordinator

A Message from the Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

What's Going On in Elementary?

This school year is moving along at a good pace. The first semester has come and gone and we are fast approaching the end of the third quarter. There have been many exciting activities this semester such as Sudan Days, International Day and the Sudan National Spelling Bee. The teachers and administrators here at Khartoum American School are hard at work, continuing to provide a variety of experiences for the students and parents. Here are a couple of things to look forward to as we approach the end of the school year.

Field Trip - Teachers have been encouraged this year to provide the students with learning experiences outside of the classroom. On Thursday the 19th the fourth grade and kindergarten class will be heading to Magdi's farm for a field trip. Both classes have been learning about plants and the plant cycle. They will be exploring different plants and parts of a plant. They will enhance their knowledge of the life cycle and what plants need to survive. This field trip will also tie into their next unit of animals.

Parent-Teacher Night - Coming up next week on the 26th of February we will have our parent-teacher conference. This will allow teachers and parents the opportunity to discuss the learning growth of the students and expectations for the child's future learning. By staying engaged in your child's education you will be setting them up for success. Please make sure that you schedule a time for conferences through the link teachers have sent out using Classe365.

Reviewing Curriculum - The elementary teachers have been putting in some hard work behind the scenes by developing and updating the way we report progress to the parents, and combing through the standards to make sure they are aligning with what we are teaching. We have also been actively searching and discussing a change in resources to help us teach our language arts more effectively.

ASAP - Next week will be the last week of the 3th quarter afterschool clubs. The teachers have been thinking hard to provide the student with new and exciting ways to give students learning experiences outside of the classroom. Some of the new clubs have been computer club, international diversity, and rising stars. We have had parent volunteers come in and sponsor clubs this quarter as well. We will be having a soccer competition on March 2nd for those students involved in the soccer club this quarter and will be having a karate and gymnastics competition as well. Those that have signed up for the swim team have been doing dry-land training and will see their growths when the swim pool reopens (it should be opening very soon).

Parent Seminars - Throughout the year there have been several parent seminars that ranged from digital citizenship to our school's vision, mission and child protection. The next parent seminar is going to focus on the elementary math and the resource known as "Eureka Math". This seminar will be presented by myself and will discuss what Eureka math is, what a

lesson will look like, and ways that parents can assist their child in being successful in math.

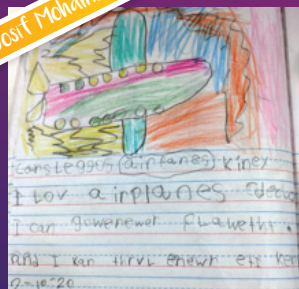
These are some of the things that the elementary team has been working on trying to create a quality learning environment for the students. We look forward to seeing you at parent-teacher conferences and other upcoming events. Your involvement as a parent in your child's education is just as important as the teachers commitment to teaching for the students educational growth and development.

Jeremy Albright

Early Childhood & Elementary Principal

Students in first grade are writing many times throughout the day to express their ideas and interests. They are writing with a purpose through stories, poems and lists. Grade 1 students can print clearly and leave spaces in between their words. They are able to write simple but complete sentences while beginning to understand when to use capital letters and periods. First graders write with invented spelling as well as correct spelling. No two writers are the same; we celebrate all capabilities!

Yosif Mohamed



Sophy Kim



Gabriella Hawn



Janet Albright
First Grade Teacher

Give Them Choices to Own Their Learning

"Khartoum American School provides an outstanding learning environment to promote an open, inclusive, and student-centered program. We are devoted to fostering educational growth and development for our internationally diverse student body."

Today I wanted my article to focus on how we apply student-centeredness in our practice.

What does student-centered mean?

Student-centered means changing the traditional way of teaching (the teacher-centered way) and putting the students in the center of learning. Students should own their knowledge and be a part of the process of learning itself.

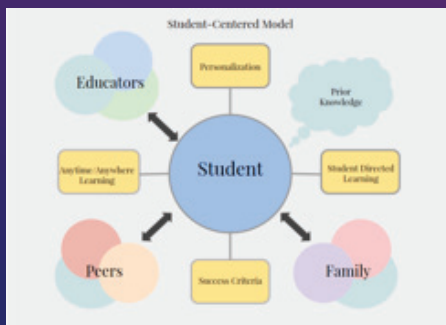
In this article, I would like to share one of the methods that I used with my AP Macroeconomics students.

As you may know, the AP classes use college-level materials that are difficult for most high school students. I picked some of the hardest modules from the past two weeks and asked the students to teach them to their classmates. I grouped the students into three groups, assigned each group two lessons and asked them to come and teach the class as a group. They were in charge of dividing the lessons among themselves, giving each student in the group a part to prepare and teach. They were also responsible for choosing the method of presenting their experiences and creating activities that could engage the learners in understanding the content and developing questions to assess the other students' understanding. I shared with the students a grading rubric.

The three groups have done excellent work and went through a life-long learning experience for sure. Here are some points I wanted to highlight from this experience:

- The students experienced how important it is to prepare themselves before they teach others, which put them in the teacher's place and made them acknowledge and respect the effort I usually put in teaching them.
- They tackled difficult topics ahead of time and then recognized which areas needed more focus and concentration.
- The level of engagement was very high, and the activities they created were very creative.
- I actually learned some ideas from them.

Overall, student-centeredness will enhance student learning and make their voices and choices essential elements of their educational process.



Egbal Mohamed
Technology Coordinator

12th Grade Students English Class

On Sunday, February 16th, Mr. LeMay's English 12 class, which is currently reading Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela and studying the civil rights movement in the U.S. and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, had a distinguished guest. Dahlia El Roubi, the director of media and communication for the prime minister of Sudan and a parent of former KAS students, came to discuss the ongoing Sudanese Revolution in the context of those historical movements. To complement the 12th graders' studies about peaceful protest around the world, El Roubi spoke to them about the strategies, tactics, and resources used in Sudan's recent revolution. She spoke to them about the importance of organization and playing to strengths.

Ms. El Roubi described to the students the timeline of events from 2011 to 2020 in Sudan and how knowledge played an important resource in the revolution, both nationally and internationally. She talked about the importance each protestor played in the revolution. The students asked why the protestors chose a peaceful route instead of an armed one. "We've had armed resistance, but the stronger resistance would be the non-violent resistance," said El Roubi "because armed resistance shows that you don't have patience for the process to take place."

Divya Ghetia and Leen Kilani
Grade 12 Students

Saying of the Week

Many everyday phrases are nautical in origin— "taken aback," "loose cannon" and "high and dry" all originated at sea—but perhaps the most surprising example is the common saying "**by and large**." As far back as the 16th century, the word "large" was used to mean that a ship was sailing with the wind at its back. Meanwhile, the much less desirable "by," or "full and by," meant the vessel was traveling into the wind. Thus, for mariners, "by and large" referred to trawling the seas in any and all directions relative to the wind. Today, sailors and landlubbers alike now use the phrase as a synonym for "all things considered" or "for the most part."

Minette van der Bijl
High School English Department