



أكاديمية جيمس العالمية – أبوظبي  
**GEMS World Academy**  
ABU DHABI



**GEMS**  
EDUCATION





## Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide every child with a first school experience that is joyous and meaningful. Our program of inquiry feeds each child's natural curiosity and desire to learn so that children develop deep understandings, skills and dispositions necessary for accepting diversity and embracing change.

We educate every child to take a positive worldview and accept the responsibilities of citizenship and environmental stewardship.

## Vision Statement

To be the school of first choice among families seeking a top-quality international learning experience for their young children.







## **A Community of Learners**

Each member of our community shares a concern for children and is highly committed to both school and individual student success. Together, we create and sustain a 'culture of kindness' keep children safe and provide memorable experiences.

## **Social and Cultural Integration**

We are a proud learning community with mutual respect and tolerance at our core. We are committed to relationships among and between all members that support the School's Mission and encourage dignity and respect. We recognize the importance of our host country's language and culture and promote these at all times. Through Service initiatives, our students learn something of the challenges faced by all humanity and come to appreciate their ability to make a difference.

## **A Challenging Curriculum**

Our curriculum is developmentally appropriate, challenging and engaging. Our learning standards are a result of a blending of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program and the Commonwealth of Virginia Standards of Learning USA. Our program is values-based and holistic (inclusive of social, emotional, moral, linguistic, cognitive, physical and aesthetic outcomes). The development of our Program of Inquiry is the result of a collaborative effort by grade level teachers and in coordination with the Primary Years Program Coordinator.

## **Inspirational Teachers**

Our teachers are well-qualified and most have both national and international experience. Each demonstrates content and process expertise and a commitment to engaging students and inspiring quality learning outcomes. We provide specialist teachers in Music, Physical Education, Technology, Art, Media Literacy, Arabic, and Islamic Education, so that our classroom teachers can focus on the core curriculum of Language Arts (English), Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Learning Support and English Language specialists support classroom teachers and work directly with students who need a greater amount of individual attention.

## **Facilities and Resources**

The GWA-AD campus provides a safe and stimulating Early Childhood learning environment. Our facilities fully support student performance in regular classrooms as well as specialized subject areas and include ample space for play. Technology is widely used as a powerful teaching and learning tool.

## **Accountability**

Teachers, administrators, students and parents work together towards achieving our educational goals and all are accountable for student learning.



## **GEMS World Academy – Abu Dhabi aims to:**

- be a joyous place of learning
- provide a living, vibrant heart to our learning community
- provide students with the essential understandings of self and the surrounding world as well as skills necessary for future success enjoyment
- develop each individual to his/her own full potential
- encourage personal, social, spiritual, emotional and moral development
- cater for the individual needs of all students
- promote equal opportunities

for students in every area of school life

**GWA-AD's learning environment is designed to bring individuals, families and cultures together in the pursuit of intercultural appreciation and mutual understanding.**

### **Instructional Methods**

We believe in the power of child-centered and activity-based learning for young children. We know that 'choice' personalizes learning and invites the assumption of responsibility. Kindergarten Interest areas make these outcomes possible while providing opportunities for small group and one-to-one instruction. Learning is most often organized through Inquiry in our elementary classrooms – a pedagogy rich with opportunities for personalizing learning while building cognitive and communicative skills.

### **Learning Support**

GEMS offers a range of specialized services, which not only support schools in their day-to-day operation, but are designed to ensure that all our schools remain at the cutting edge in all areas.

For students who need help and support in areas of learning, or who indicate gifted and talented capability, individual education plans will be developed for each to achieve their individual growth targets.

### **Curriculum**

GWA-AD is fully accredited by the International Baccalaureate Organization to teach the Primary Years Program. All students at all levels are taught through traditional subjects although always with an emphasis on trans-disciplinary and Inquiry Based Learning. The curriculum at GWA-AD is organized by subject area and balanced by a broad range of age appropriate inter-disciplinary studies, including additional program expectations, Co-curricular activities, sports and clubs.





Meeting friends at the start of the day



Lessons begin with Homeroom teacher



Enjoying recess on the field



Specialist classes throughout the week



Learning together for Unit of Inquiry



Wide range of after school activities







## Facilities

GWA-AD facilities are designed to provide a holistic, broad and well balanced education, ensuring that there are many opportunities for success for all students.

In addition to the general teaching and administrative spaces, GWA-AD has two playgrounds, shaded games field, music room, IT lab, library, art room, gymnasium, movement room, climbing wall, health clinic and a cafeteria.

## Parent Engagement

We recognize the critical importance of a three way partnership among teachers, students and parents. We share so that parents are informed and empowered. We help parents build capacity to engage in their child's learning through monthly workshops and a Keynote Speaker series. Children enjoy the very best chance for success when the adults in their lives commit to working together with that end in mind.

## Involving the Community

The community involvement program aims to develop strong relationships within the community at large and with specific stakeholders simultaneously raising the school's profile in the community. Students learn the importance of a community, both locally and on a wider scale, and learn to develop relationships and understand its importance beyond school and home.

Community involvement encourages students to be aware of the diverse and varying needs of society and individuals around them. We endeavor, also, to inculcate in our students awareness about social issues and create a sense of purpose and responsibility among them.





## **GEMS Education** – a long term commitment to quality education

### **Why the 'GEMS' name?**

We value and cherish our children in school just as they are at home by providing individual care and attention. We re-enforce that each child:

- has special talents
- has limitless potential
- is unique - there is no other child exactly the same in the entire world.

We value parents' trust in allowing us to provide the education and care that will enable their children to grow,

learn and be ready for a bright future.

### **Why a 'GEMS Education'?**

For over 50 years, GEMS Education has approached its educational offering from a unique perspective.

We believe that a quality education is about Ad Vitam Paramus - 'preparing for life'. The GEMS approach to learning is one which focuses not only on academic excellence but also in helping students develop their character, creativity, values, personal leadership and the spirit of enterprise necessary for them to achieve their full potential as global citizens and leaders of the future.

We believe that a high quality education, with an international outlook, is critical in an increasingly competitive global environment. 'Globalization' maybe the catch-cry of today but we have acknowledged its impact for decades, and prepared our students accordingly.

GEMS Education's multi-faceted approach to learning prepares students for the rigors of higher learning and equips them with the skills and versatility they require for professional employment.

GEMS values-driven education is expressed through our four core values which are woven into every curricula offered by GEMS Schools and are at the core of our DNA. They are not symbolic, we live and breathe them. We encourage independent learning, empowering students to take on responsibility. Through our values our students become confident, tolerant, resilient people of integrity, capable of both leadership and compassion. Through our CSR initiatives, GEMS students also develop a social conscience. They are taught the values and responsibilities needed to become active members of the community, something which the modern world is desperate for.

### **GEMS Core Values include:**

**World Citizenship** - Empowering students with a global and local perspective.

**Universal Values** - Accepting that we are all different, recognizing that we are all the same.

**Leadership** - Developing each student's individuality and entrepreneurial spirit in order to discover their potential.

**Forward Thinking** - Developing skills for the future, our educational programs help students to become flexible thinkers who are able to question existing thinking, adapt and creatively meet the demands of the future.

### **Academics**

Over the last four years alone, GEMS students have been accepted into 980 universities in 48 countries. Graduating GEMS students have been accepted by some of the most prestigious universities and colleges around the world. GEMS students have gone to 66 out of the top 100 universities in the world. Over the past ten years, GEMS students have won over 900 international, regional and local awards for Academics, Sports and the Arts. Furthermore, all our schools significantly exceed all national and international benchmarks in student outcomes.





## Philanthropy - Schools with a conscience

Through GEMS four core values GEMS schools are heavily focused on philanthropy. They are schools with a conscience. Each has their own charitable activities that fall under the Varkey GEMS Foundation.

Students are taught the real meaning of compassion.

For every student enrolled at a GEMS School, one hundred underprivileged children will be impacted. The Foundations aim is to support 10 million children globally.

## GEMS International Schools

The sheer diversity of nationalities in GEMS International schools provides students with a unique international understanding through interaction and by studying and experiencing other cultures and belief systems. This global cross cultural experience is extended further through a special initiative where GEMS students are linked, via video-conferences, to students in non-GEMS schools around the globe.

GEMS provides education to students in Europe, Africa, North America, Asia and the Middle East. Many GEMS parents are aspirational, career minded professionals so the GEMS network of schools provides parents with the opportunity to transfer their children from one GEMS school to another as their circumstances change.

Through our global network of award winning schools GEMS Education is providing a high quality holistic education to over 142,000 students from

151 countries. GEMS employs over 11,000 education professionals, specialists and staff from 80 countries.

## Education Expertise

GEMS has selected a team of world renowned educators to ensure it delivers global best practice in the field of education. These include leaders who have excelled in education reform, curriculum development and teaching and learning practices. They are unequalled in international experience and include individuals who have established schools all over the world.

All GEMS teachers have access to the GEMS Professional Development programme which is one of the largest, most comprehensive in-house programmes of its type in the world. Over 150 senior academics are trained in international accreditation, inspection methodologies and school self-evaluation.

## Advisors

GEMS Education is supported by a network of eminent, international advisors which include world leaders and experts who are “game – changers” and influencers on the global stage. GEMS Education has strategic partnerships with the Clinton Global Initiative, the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, the World Economic Forum and Microsoft.

## Parent Engagement

GEMS is also leading the world by becoming the first educational organisation of its type to introduce a parent engagement strategy into all its schools. International research is clear. The biggest single reason a child does well in their education is when their parents take a real, active and consistent interest in what they are learning in school at home. Research suggests that a parent who is actively and consistently engaged with their child can add the equivalent of two to three years of extra education to that student over a school career. When parents are engaged children get better grades, have fewer discipline problems and are more likely to be successful in their lives.

## History

GEMS first school was founded in 1968 by educators and it was run by educators. It was a school that defined our approach to education. It was an approach built around listening to the community and tailoring our schools to the community's needs. 50 years later the company has seen a remarkable expansion from a family run business to a multi-national company with global reach and reputation. GEMS Education is making private education accessible to communities all around the world.





**World Citizens. World Families. World Academy.**

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