

2022 - 2023 SCHOOL PROFILE

ABOUT GAAQ

GEMS American Academy Qatar (GAAQ) is part of the GEMS Education family, a network of international schools that offer students the highest standard of education. As a GEMS Education school, we embody the GEMS core concepts of leading through innovation, pursuing excellence, growing by learning and global citizenship.

GAAQ is a highly-rated American curriculum school in Qatar that operates under the Ministry of Education (MOE) as an international school. Fully-accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and certified by College Board, our academy, located in Al Wakra, offers a rigorous American curriculum from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 to our multicultural student body. In addition to U.S. Common Core standards-based academics that culminate with Advanced Placement (AP), we also provide a robust set of extra-curricular activities (e.g., after school clubs and sports teams) to support the development of the entire child.

Our balanced educational program places a strong emphasis on academics while incorporating the arts, athletics, community service and a wide range of learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom. Our curriculum is deepened through child-centered learning and our teachers strive to foster the development of each student's unique talents and abilities. At GAAQ, we firmly believe that education is about overall student development (academic, social, emotional, physical and cognitive learning).

ABOUT GEMS EDUCATION

Committed to quality education, GEMS Education is a pioneering education company that owns and operates a global network of award-winning international schools. For more than 60 years, we have been a trusted choice for families in the Middle East. With the privilege of educating more than 250,000 students globally, our 20,000+ teachers dream big, push boundaries and make a difference to families every day.

Our students excel across multiple dimensions, garnering global recognition with more than 1,550 international, regional and national awards. What truly matters to us is the confidence our students feel when they walk out of our doors and into the world to build a better future. In the last four years, GEMS has enjoyed some of the best university acceptance rates of any international school. Our students have been accepted into 1,050 universities in 53 countries. We're proud to say that it includes 66 of the world's top 100 universities, including, but not limited to, Harvard University, Stanford University, Yale University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of California Berkeley. Today, more than 20,000 GEMS alumni are changing the world.

2022 - 2023 STUDENT BODY Enrollment: 1205

Early Years (PK – KG1)
Elementary (KG2 – Grade 5)
Middle School (Grades 6 - 8)
High School (Grades 9 - 12)

Nationality Distribution

17%	American
16%	Qatari
8%	Egyptian
6%	Canadian
53%	Other (67 remaining nationalities)

56%	Male
43%	Female

100%

Students admitted to colleges and universities since our first graduating class in 2019

4

Awards won for our Eco-Club's environmental sustainability initiatives (FEE Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, Qatar Green Building Council's School Sustainability Award, 2nd Place - 10th Annual THIMUN Global Act with Impact and THIMUN Qatar Youth Service Award)

90

Years of combined diverse experience with our American-led leadership team

20

Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered through College Board for the 2022 - 2023 school year

71

Nationalities within our student body

2nd

Average rank in highest parent satisfaction score out of 45 GEMS Education schools in latest survey

1

One of a few schools in Qatar to offer the rigorous AP Capstone Diploma program

EXTRACURRICULAR & AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (ASAs)

PK & KG1

Even though there are no ASA opportunities for PK and KG1 students, our teachers work to enrich the learning environment in classrooms as well as outside our school walls. Classrooms are well-resourced to match child interest and exploration. Additionally, we have safe and secure nap rooms and dedicated play areas. Once they are comfortable in their classrooms, the teacher will introduce them to the greater school building and they will also attend field trips off-campus to explore Doha's beautiful parks and beaches in connection to their units of study.

ELEMENTARY

KG2 - Grade 5 students offer choice activities after school where students can interact within a variety of no-cost multi-age group activities including, but not limited to: multi-sports, cultural dance, arts and crafts, sketching and cartooning, reader's theater, singing, eco-club, STEM activities, calligraphy and more! Please note that ASA offerings are subject to change each academic term. Also, students enjoy regular, off-campus field trips to various locations as an extension of learning in the classroom. Some popular locations include, but are not limited to: Al Bidda

Park, Baladna Park, Purple Island Mangroves, Qatar National Library, Qatar National Museum, Museum of Islamic Art, Carrefour, Msheireb Museum, Bin Jelmood House, KidZania and more!

UPPER SCHOOL (Middle School and High School)

Students in Grades 6 - 12 have a plethora of ASAs, extracurricular activities and student enrichment opportunities to engage in. In Upper School, students can participate with organizations or initiatives that are local, regional or international. Throughout history, our Upper School students have been affiliated with opportunities including, but not limited to: The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN), Qur'an Recitation Competition, GAAQ Student Council, Doha Medical Conference Review, Qatar Green Building Council, Cambridge University, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, Visual Arts Creators Exhibition and the Inter-school Battle of the Bands competition. Additionally, students can participate in a variety of no-cost, multi-age group ASAs offered by the school.

COURSE LISTING

PK & KG1

Learning Centers
Whole Group Work
Library
Read Aloud
Small Group Work
Art
Music
Physical Education (PE)
Arabic - KG1 Only (Native and Non-Native)
Islamic - KG1 Only (required for all Muslim students)

KG1 & KG2

Reader's Workshop
Writers Workshop
Phonics
Learning Centers
Library
Read Aloud
Small Group Work
Science
Social Studies
Art
Music
IT
Physical Education (PE)
Arabic (Native and Non-Native)
Islamic (required for all Muslim students)

Grade 1

Reading
Shared Reading/Writing
Writers Workshop
Readers Workshop
Interactive Writing
Phonics
Read Aloud
Arabic (Native and Non-Native)
Islamic (required for all Muslim students)
IT
Art
Music
Physical Education (PE)
Math
Social Studies
Science
Qatar History

Grades 2 - 5

Shared Reading/Writing
Writers Workshop
Reader's Workshop
Phonics
Read Aloud
World Languages (for Non-Native Arabic students)
Arabic (Native and Non-Native)
Islamic (required for all Muslim students)
IT
Art
Music
Physical Education (PE)
Math
Social Studies
Science
Qatar History

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 6 - 8 English
Grades 6 - 8 Math
Algebra I (Grade 8 - high school credit course)
Grades 6 - 8 Science
Grades 6 - 8 Social Studies
Arabic (required for all Arab nationalities)
Art (optional)
Applied Music (optional)
Drama (optional)
Information Technology (optional)
Islamic Studies (required for all Muslim students)
Spanish (optional)
French (optional)
Physical Education (optional)
Qatar History (required)
Study Skills (optional)
Entrepreneurship (optional)

HIGH SCHOOL

English
English Language Arts I - IV
AP English Language and Composition

Math

Algebra I - II
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
Statistics
Geometry
Pre-Calculus

Science

AP Environmental Science
Environmental Science
AP Biology
Biology
AP Chemistry
Chemistry
AP Physics I
Physics

Social Studies

AP European History
European History
AP Human Geography
Geography
Modern World History
Qatar History (required - Grade 9)
AP Psychology
Psychology
AP Seminar
AP Research
Research (Grades 11 - 12)

Fine Arts and Student Choice

AP Drawing
AP 2D Art and Design
AP 3D Art and Design
Art I
Applied Music I
Band I - III
AP Computer Science Principles
Information Technology I - II
Islamic Studies I - IV (required for all Muslim students)

Physical Education

Physical Education
Coaching I - II (Grades 11 - 12)

Global Languages

Spanish I - IV
Spanish for Native Speakers and Heritage Speakers
AP Spanish Language and Culture
AP Spanish Literature and Culture
French I - II
Arabic I - IV (required for all Arab nationalities)

ATHLETICS

Elementary School

As part of QPPSSA (Qatar Private Primary Schools Sports Association), GAAQ competes with other schools throughout the year in a variety of sports such as:

- Track & Field (Indoor & Outdoor)
- Soccer
- Cross Country
- Basketball
- Swimming

Upper School

As part of QUESS (Qatar United English Speaking Schools), GAAQ competes with other schools along the year in a variety of sports:

- Volleyball
- Netball
- Soccer
- Track & Field
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Table Tennis

SOP (School Olympic Program)

Supported by the Qatar School Sport Association and the Qatar Olympic Committee, GAAQ is proudly taking part in the SOP for the current year. With competitions from Grades 2 - 12, athletes represent GAAQ in a variety of sports that are typically celebrated in the Olympics such as:

- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Taekwondo
- Fencing
- Track & Field
- Swimming

Mascot and Colors

A red and navy flying raptor represents our GAAQ philosophy - flying high. Raptors are birds of prey (like eagles, hawks, falcons and ravens) that are notable and historically valued in Qatar, especially the falcon. We are proud to belong to the GAAQ Raptor family. GO RAPTORS!

CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION STANDARDS

Grading Scale

AP courses are considered the most rigorous, college-level coursework within the American curriculum. Please note that there is no additional weighting for these courses.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point Average
A	90 - 100	4.0
B	80 - 89	3.0
C	70 - 79	2.0
D	60 - 69	1.0
F	0 - 59	0

Minimum Graduation Requirements

At GAAQ, a minimum of 24 credits are required for graduation. One credit (1.0) is awarded for the successful completion of each full year course with a minimum mark of "D" or 60%. Students enroll in courses according to graduation requirements, abilities, interests and previous education experience. Every student who fulfills minimum graduation requirements will be eligible to graduate from GAAQ with an American High School diploma.

Minimum Requirements	Required Courses
4.0 Credits	English Language Arts (ELA)
4.0 Credits	Mathematics
4.0 Credits	Science
4.0 Credits	Social Studies
2.0 Credits	Fine and Performing Arts
2.0 Credits	World Languages
2.0 Credits	Physical Education and Health
2.0 Credits	Student Choice Electives
40 Hours	Community Service

THE AMERICAN CURRICULUM AT GAAQ

PK & KG1

The PK and KG1 classroom environments are designed with learning through play. With the play-based learning centers, students engage with their peers to learn skills in four main categories: social/emotional, physical, cognitive and language development. The social/emotional stage helps promote independence, self-confidence and self-control. Through various centers such as dramatic play, block building, toys and games, art, looking at books and drawing/writing, sand and water play and discovery tables, students get to interact with each other practicing social skills and emotional regulation. Our teachers are guides and coaches before, during and after social encounters so that students can gain skills that will benefit them along their learning journey. We know that when students have key social emotional skills, they are better prepared for academic learning in elementary school.

KG2

In our KG2 classrooms, we begin academic skill building through the introduction of our programs - Readers Workshop, Writers Workshop and Everyday Mathematics. These programs allow hands-on learning which builds upon student independence and engagement in learning. Readers Workshop begins with students learning letter sounds, 'snap' words that appear in predictable text, reading pictures and retelling simple stories. Then, we progress to blending letters sounds to make words, matching pictures with the words on the page and decoding text. In Writers Workshop, we begin with student drawing and telling the story they have created, using inventive spelling to label pictures they have drawn. Next, we move on to touching and telling the story they want to write, understanding that each word has a place on the paper. Students also practice stretch words to hear each sound of the word which eventually advances to traditional spelling through Grade One. In Everyday Math, students play many games and use manipulatives to have hands-on experiences with objects that they sort, count, bundle, understand patterns and implement basic geometry. Students build number sense through 20 and can count to 100. Math concepts are learned through experiences and play. All the while, teachers are continuing to work with students to develop learning behaviors that will serve them when they walk up the stairs for the first time to Grade 1.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades 1 - 5)

Our approach, which is centered on developing the whole child, includes a rich diversity of academics, language, physical education, fine arts and music education. The GAAQ community developed the core values which focus on competencies that students will use their entire lives (leadership, respect, innovation, purpose and tenacity). These values are woven seamlessly into daily learning. We strive to use a cross-curricular approach called Problem-Based Learning

(PBL); this allows students to learn concepts, content and skills while applying them to real-world situations.

GAAQ's elementary students experience the American Common Core standards-based curriculum which is full of choice and opportunities for students to explore while developing academic skills. We count on teachers to provide highly-engaging cross-curricular lessons that promote the love for learning and challenge students to take risks and learn from mistakes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 - 8)

GAAQ follows the American Common Core Standards and students experience the full breadth of academic offerings in math, English, social studies and science taught by a team of teachers who are solely dedicated to working with students in middle grades. We utilize College Board's Springboard curriculum which directly aligns to the rigorous standards of Common Core and challenges students to develop independent thought and to think critically and creatively. This comprehensive curriculum lays the foundation for students to successfully take on more specialized course work in grades 9-12, including a wide range of Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

We pride ourselves on the cultural diversity of the school as this is reflected in the language program. Our middle school students are able to study French or Spanish as a foreign language, preparing them for the requirements of high school, and helping them become knowledgeable global citizens. We are also very proud of our high-performing Arabic team, who are consistently lauded with praise from the Ministry of Education of Qatar.

Arts and athletics are also an important part of the middle school program at GAAQ. These elective courses allow students to explore different areas of their choosing. From team sports in Physical Education, learning to play an instrument in band, coding in IT, drawing and painting in Visual Arts and performing a monologue in Drama, our middle students are offered a well-rounded and exciting educational experience.

At GAAQ we believe in teaching the whole child. Our Student Support team works tirelessly to ensure all students receive the individualized attention they need to be successful. Our burgeoning advisory program, and dedicated middle school counselor, directly address the social-emotional needs specific to young people in grades six through eight. We work closely with the 5th grade team to ensure that students are ready for the new challenges they'll experience in grade 6. Middle school is a crucial transition period for students between primary and high school where they grow from children to young adults and we recognize that that process can sometimes be difficult to

navigate. We're here to help along that journey, teach students the skills they will need going forward, and have some fun along the way.

The middle school at GEMS American Academy Qatar provides an enriching, nurturing and challenging environment for young people to explore who they are and grow into young adults equipped with the knowledge and skills to do great things.

HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9 - 12)

With a focus on Common Core standards throughout our core subjects, we offer a true American Curriculum that will help our students be successful in the future. Common Core aims to develop a student's critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. Our curriculum is vertically- and horizontally-aligned so that students have the requisite skills and information necessary as they progress through each grade level. With unique opportunities in a wide array of school clubs and after school activities at no-cost to families, our school has grown into a safe, secure learning environment where students feel challenged and respected to grow holistically.

In Grades 9 - 12, we offer College Board's rigorous Advanced Placement (or AP Program) with approximately 14 - 18 AP courses offered each year. This program affords students the opportunity to take college-level courses while earning college and university credits while in high school. These courses are more difficult than regular high school classes and also require students to pass AP exams at the end of the year to obtain this college credit.

In addition, we offer the College Board's AP Capstone Diploma which is based on two year-long AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. These courses develop skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing and presenting. We have a cohort of AP Capstone Diploma students which speak volumes about our hardworking student body and passionate teachers. Still, Advanced Placement courses are optional, so our high school students can take all regular classes and still graduate with the highly-regarded American diploma, as well.

Even though the majority of our educators are from the United States and Canada, we still possess a diverse multicultural population at the school with over 70 nationalities and over 15 teacher nationalities. This is an unique attribute that allows our community to respect each other's cultures and learn from each other in a setting that actively promotes respect and tolerance for all. Graduates of GEMS American Academy Qatar are true indicators of this structure as we have students enrolled in reputable and esteemed colleges and universities all across the world.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

Since our first graduating class, the Class of 2019, students have been accepted to the following colleges and universities:

Africa

Cairo University (Egypt)
Nahda University (Egypt)
Ryerson Cairo (Egypt)

Asia

AFG College with the University of Aberdeen (Qatar)
American University of Beirut (Lebanon)
American University of Sharjah (UAE)
Airlangga University (Indonesia)
Al Rayyan International University College (Qatar)
Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi (Turkey)
Bandung Institute of Technology (Indonesia)
Biruni University (Turkey)
Carnegie Mellon University (Qatar)
City University (Malaysia)
Georgetown University (Qatar)
Gulf Medical University (UAE)
Istanbul Medipol University (Turkey)
Istanbul Okan University (Turkey)
Koç University (Turkey)
Management and Science University (Malaysia)
Northwestern University (Qatar)
Özyegin University (Turkey)
Qatar University (Qatar)
Qatar International Beauty Academy Tajmeel (Qatar)
Swinburne Sarawak (Malaysia)
Taylor's University (Malaysia)
Texas A&M University (Qatar)
Ulster University (Qatar)
Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (Malaysia)
University of Doha for Science and Technology (Qatar)
Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts (Qatar)

Australia

Monash University
Federation University

Europe

Airways Aviation Academy (UK)
Anglia Ruskin University (UK)
Bangor University (UK)
Birmingham Institute of Media and English (UK)
Breda University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands)
Brunel University London (UK)
CAE Oxford (UK)
CEU San Pablo University (Spain)
City, University of London (UK)
Coventry University (UK)
Delft University of Technology (Netherlands)
ECAM LaSalle (France)
Edinburgh Napier University (UK)
Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands)
Esade Ramon Llull University (Spain)

Franklin University (Switzerland)
FTEJerez (Spain)
Hult International Business School - London (UK)
IE University (Spain)
Istituto Marangoni (Italy)
Keele University (UK)
Kingston College (UK)
Kingston University London (UK)
King's College London (UK)*
LaSalle Ramon Llull University (Spain)
Leeds Beckett University (UK)
Leiden University (Netherlands)
Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (UK)
Liverpool John Moores University (UK)
London Metropolitan University (UK)
Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
MetFilm School Berlin (Germany)
Newcastle University (UK)*
Nottingham Trent International College (UK)
Oxford Brookes University (UK)
Polytechnic University of Milan (Italy)
Queen Mary University of London (UK)*
Richmond, The American University in London (UK)
Royal College of Surgeons (Ireland)
Royal Holloway, University of London (UK)
Saint Louis University - Madrid (Spain)
Saint Mary's University, Twickenham (UK)
Suffolk University - Madrid (Spain)
The University of Manchester (UK)
The Hague University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands)
Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
UIC Barcelona (Spain)
Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia (Spain)
Universidad Europea de Madrid (Spain)
Universitat Internacional de Catalunya - Barcelona (Spain)
University College Birmingham (UK)
University for the Creative Arts - Canterbury (UK)
University of Aberdeen (UK)
University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
University of Bolton (UK)
University of Brighton (UK)
University of Brighton International College (UK)
University of Bristol (UK)*
University of Chester (UK)
University of East London (UK)
University of Essex (UK)
University of Greenwich (UK)
University of Groningen (UK)
University of Hertfordshire (UK)
University of Huddersfield (UK)
University of Kent (UK)
University of Leeds (UK)*
University of Leicester (UK)
University of Liverpool (UK)*
University of Liverpool International College (UK)
University of London (UK)
University of Portsmouth (UK)

University of Plymouth (UK)
University of Sheffield (UK)*
University of Surrey (UK)
University of the West of England Bristol (UK)
University of Westminster (UK)
University of West London (UK)
University of Worcester (UK)
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Netherlands)

North America

Algonquin College (Canada)
Arizona State University (USA)
Barry University (USA)
Berklee College of Music (USA)
Blinn College (USA)
Bowling Green State University (USA)
Brock University (Canada)
California Polytechnic State University (USA)
California State University, Northridge (USA)
California State University, Sacramento (USA)
Carleton University (Canada)
Carnegie Mellon University (USA)
Collin College (USA)
Columbia College Chicago (USA)
Concordia University (Canada)
Dalhousie University (Canada)
Drew University (USA)
Drexel University (USA)
Durham College (Canada)
East Carolina University (USA)
Florida Atlantic University (USA)
George Mason University (USA)
Grand Valley State University (USA)
Houston Baptist University (USA)
International College of Manitoba (Canada)
Lewis University (USA)
Liberty University (USA)
Long Island University - Brooklyn (USA)
Lynn University (USA)
Manhattan University (USA)
Marymount University (USA)
McMaster University (Canada)
Memorial University (Canada)
Metropolitan State University (USA)
Michigan State University (USA)
Montgomery College (USA)
New York Film Academy (USA)
North Carolina State University (USA)
Oakland Community College (USA)
Ohio University (USA)
Ohio State University (USA)
Old Dominion University (USA)
Ontario Tech University (Canada)
Pennsylvania State University (USA)
Portland State University (USA)
Prairie View A&M University (USA)
Purdue University (USA)
Queen's University (Canada)
San Diego State University (USA)

San Francisco State University (USA)
St. Francis College (USA)
St. John's University (USA)
St. Xavier University (USA)
Seattle University (USA)
Seneca College (Canada)
Simon Fraser International College (Canada)
Southern Methodist University (USA)
The King's College (USA)
Temple University (USA)
Texas A&M University (USA)
Toronto Metropolitan University (Canada)
Trent University (Canada)
Universidad Francisco Marroquín (Guatemala)
University of Alberta (Canada)
University of Arizona (USA)
University of British Columbia (Canada)
University of California - Davis (USA)
University of California - Irvine (USA)
University of California - Merced (USA)
University of California - Riverside (USA)
University of California - Santa Cruz (USA)
University of Calgary (Canada)
University of Colorado - Denver (USA)
University of Denver (USA)
University of Houston (USA)
University of Illinois Chicago (USA)
University of La Verne (USA)
University of Lethbridge (Canada)
University of Manitoba (Canada)
University of Massachusetts Boston (USA)
University of Minnesota (USA)
University of Missouri (USA)
University of Ottawa (Canada)
University of Regina (Canada)
University of San Francisco (USA)
University of South Florida (USA)
University of Tampa (USA)
University of Texas - Arlington (USA)
University of Texas - Austin (USA)
University of Texas - Dallas (USA)
University of Texas - San Antonio (USA)
University of Toronto (Canada)
University of Toronto Scarborough (Canada)
University of Toronto Mississauga (Canada)
University of Waterloo (Canada)
University of Wisconsin - Madison (USA)
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee (USA)
Washington State University (USA)
Western University (Canada)
York University (Canada)

South America

Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil)

Notes:

*Russell Group University (UK)

ADMINISTRATION & ADMISSIONS

Administration

Mark Lentz, Head of School/CEO
Eamonn Gregory, Principal - Upper School
Jeffrey Wessel, Assistant Principal - Upper School
Jordan Scheer, Principal - Lower School
Amber Rigdon, Assistant Principal - Lower School

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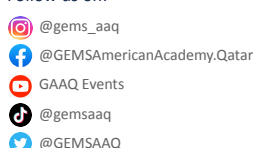
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