



2022



# THE RAPTOR REPORT



The must-read newsletter serving GAAQ families since 2019



## MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Hello Amazing GAAQ Raptors,

I don't want to sound like a broken record or repeat myself, but I can't believe what an amazing year we are having so far. I am proud of the way my teachers, students and parents have dealt with the COVID pandemic considering the constant and changing impact it has had on education. We have all been through a lot together over the past three years. COVID may not be over and it may continue to impact education, but things are as "normal" as they have been in years. I put "normal" in parenthesis on purpose because, as predicted, there is no going backwards in life. However, as we have discussed during the pandemic, the new normal might be even better than the old normal. I believe that is exactly what is happening at GAAQ now.

Thursday was our first spirit day. As you probably know, the MOPH announced that students, teachers and administrators no longer need to wear masks in school, so we couldn't have picked a better day for our first spirit day! Today, GAAQ was alive with a buzz of positive energy. I was out-and-about in classrooms and hallways most of the day so I could actually see your students' smiles! I saw many amazing lessons and also watched our first middle school house challenge. To say that the kids were excited to watch this challenge would be an understatement. We are a school, so our first priorities will always be your child's education and safety. That said, there is no reason now why we can't also have fun doing both. I know I did on Thursday and I am confident that our students and teachers did, as well. I sincerely hope your children are able to come home and share the same positive experiences with you!

Have a great weekend; I'm confident next week will be another great week. Go Raptors!

**Mark Lentz**

The Head of School/CEO, GEMS American Academy Qatar  
Country Lead, GEMS Education Qatar



## WEEK OF 4 SEPTEMBER - 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

### SUNDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER

2:30 - 3:15 PM | LOWER SCHOOL

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES include Boys Football (G3 - G5), Yoga (G3 - G5), Story Time and Writing (G3 - G5), Origami (G3 - G5), Debate (KG2 - G2), Coding (KG2 - G2), Hama Beads (KG2 - G2) and Playdough (KG2 - G2)

### MONDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER

2:30 - 3:15 PM | LOWER SCHOOL

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES include Girls Football (G3 - G5), Yoga (G3 - G5), Arabic (G3 - G5), Knitting & Macramé (G3 - G5), Dance (KG2 - G2), Science (KG2 - G2), Coloring Activities (KG2 - G2) and Playdough Creations (KG2 - G2)

### TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER

8:00 - 9:00 AM | PARENT COFFEE MORNING

2:30 - 3:15 PM | LOWER SCHOOL

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES include Frisbee (G3 - G5), Yoga (KG2 - G2), Jump Rope (G3 - G5), Arabic (G3 - G5), Movie Club (G3 - G5), Lettering Club (G3 - G5) and Coloring Activities (KG2 - G2)

### WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER

2:30 - 3:15 PM | LOWER SCHOOL

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES include Track and Field (G3 - G5), Mixed Football (KG2 - G2), Qatar History (KG2 - G2), Book Club (KG2 - G2), Movie Club (KG2 - G2), Improv/Drama (G3 - G5), Blocks and Tangrams (KG2 - G2) and Legos (G3 - G5)

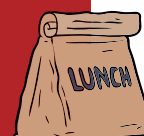
4:00 - 7:00 PM | (VIRTUAL) INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FAIR - There will be a digital online university fair for parents and students of Grades 9 - 12.

### THURSDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER

MAP READING TESTING will be conducted for students in Grades 6 - 11  
NO AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

## IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Don't forget that afterschool activities (ASAs) and sports team practices are starting this Sunday, 4 September 2022.



## LUNCH MENU

4 September - 8 September 2022

Click [HERE](#) | Hot Meals: 15 QAR each

ATTENTION



# WEEKLY PARENT UPDATES



LOWER SCHOOL (PK - GRADE 5)

UPPER SCHOOL (GRADES 6 - 12)

[READ MORE](#)

[READ MORE](#)



## MUST READ SCHOOL-WIDE UPDATES



### BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

Please Save-the-Date for our upcoming Back-to-School Night on **Wednesday, 14 September 2022, 5:00 - 7:00pm** at GAAQ.

A Back-to-School-Night is an event that allows parents and students to view the classroom/facilities, meet teachers and administration and learn more information about the schedule, events and plans of the upcoming school year.



**Take advantage of your 4% tuition discount through our Refer-a-Friend program (for each time you successfully refer a prospective student to our school)!**

Please ensure that the referred family writes your name down on the registration/enrollment paperwork.



### GAAQ GRACES THE COVER OF K12 DIGEST MAGAZINE

We are both excited and humbled to be the cover story for K12 Digest magazine's special issue on the "Must-Watch International Schools in the Middle East - 2022."

To be a must-watch school, feedback and collaboration with parents, students and Qatar education stakeholders are necessary. So, thank you to these groups who have pushed us to be better and do better each and every year.

To read the article "GEMS American Academy Qatar: Creating the Next Generation of Leaders" in more detail, please click [HERE!](#)



# SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES



## PARENT COFFEE MORNING

We are happy to announce that our first Parent Coffee Morning of the year will happen on **Tuesday, 6 September** at 8:00am.

Coffee mornings are an opportunity to meet other parents in your child's class or grade, share experiences, voice opinions and engage in dialogue with our Senior Leadership Team.

We will provide free tea, coffee and biscuits for parents and guardians.



## PRET-A-PORTRAIT PHOTOS

It may seem early but due to the World Cup, we will hold student photos with Pret-a-Portrait from **2 - 6 October 2022**.

If you are a returning GAAQ parent, it's not too late to order your child's photos from last school year! To do so, please email [customerservice@pret-a-portrait.qa](mailto:customerservice@pret-a-portrait.qa) to retrieve your unique Sitting ID and receive instructions on how to purchase photos.



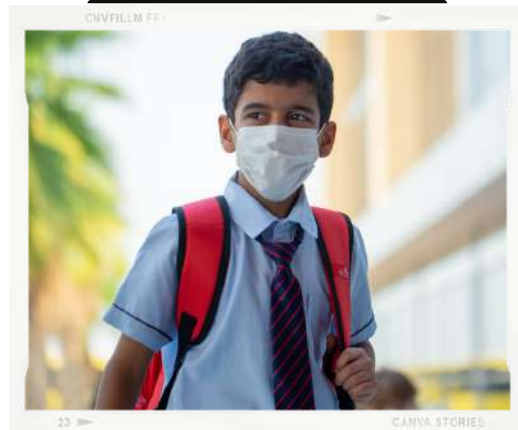
## GAAQ UNITED NATIONS DAY

In preparation for our United Nations (UN) Day, we are asking families to bring back items of your nationality or ethnicity to use for this year's event.

At GAAQ, UN Day is arguably the biggest school event of the year. This festive day provides an opportunity for the 70+ nationalities in our school community to set-up a booth/area to showcase country pride through food, clothes, flags, dance, music, art and other items. This year's event will be held on **Thursday, 1 November 2022**.

To view pre-COVID UN Day pictures, please see below:  
2019: Click [HERE](#) | 2018: Click [HERE](#)

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** Do you want to represent your country on UN Day? Soon, you will receive an email to register for this event; please respond **no later than Sunday, 25 September 2022**.



## NEW UNIFORM ORDER DELIVERED!

Finally, we have received our much-awaited delivery of uniform inventory from *Threads, Dubai*. For parents who were patiently waiting for new uniform inventory to arrive, today must be a good day!

GAAQ parents and Upper School students can purchase uniform items from our in-school Uniform Store, open **7:30 am - 3:30 pm, Sunday - Thursday**. This Saturday, our Uniform Store and Cashier are both open from **9 am - 1pm**.

For any additional questions regarding any particular uniform items now in stock, please feel free to email our Uniform Storekeeper, Mr. Ashik, at [a.parambil\\_aaq@gemsedu.com](mailto:a.parambil_aaq@gemsedu.com).





# SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATES



## GAAQ JEWELS OF KINDNESS

At GEMS, we care about values education and seek to encourage our students to grow and develop their personal and interpersonal qualities. Of particular importance is the development of values in the home, a number of which fall under the core value of Kindness.

To submit photos or videos of your child(ren) demonstrating Kindness, please email our friendly neighborhood PRE, Mr. Justin Tyler, at [j.tyler\\_aaq@gemsedu.com](mailto:j.tyler_aaq@gemsedu.com).

## GAAQ OPEN HOUSE DAY

Event Details: **Tuesday, 13 September** from **10 am - 1:30 pm**.

*How does this impact you?* Take advantage of your **4% tuition discount** through our Refer-a-Friend program (for each time you successfully refer a prospective student to our school). **Share the link below for your family, friends and co-workers to register:**

[https://www.gemsamericanacademy-qatar.com/en/Admissions/Open-House-Day?utm\\_campaign=2022-09-aaq-open-house-day](https://www.gemsamericanacademy-qatar.com/en/Admissions/Open-House-Day?utm_campaign=2022-09-aaq-open-house-day)

**#WeAreGAAQ**

## GAAQ SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us, subscribe and set a reminder to be notified when we go live!



## FREQUENTLY USED LINKS

### LOWER SCHOOL

[Academic Guides: KG1 - Grade 5](#)

### UPPER SCHOOL

[Course Syllabi](#)

### SCHOOL - WIDE LINKS

[School Calendar](#)

[GEMS Parent Portal](#)

[GAAQ Parent Guide](#)

[MOPH Parent/Guardian Declaration Form](#)

[Video: ALMA - Login](#)

[Video: ALMA - Create Your Account](#)

### SEPTEMBER SNAPSHOT

Sunday, 11 September

- National Honor Society inductees with parents | 2:20 - 3:00 PM
- Education City University Fair

Wednesday, 14 September

- Back-to-School Night | 5 - 7 PM

Sunday & Monday, 25 - 26 September

- EduCanada University Visit

Thursday, 29 September

- SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY: Marvel vs. DC
- University Fair

