

Sheikh Zayed Private Academies

School Re-opening - Academic Year 2020-2021

The Sheikh Zayed Academies will re-open for KG2 to Grade 12 students from Sunday the 30th August.

The Academies will open for KG1 students from Tuesday the 1st September. As in other years, there will be a staggered start to facilitate a smooth introduction to school.

Grades 1 to 12

Grades 1 to 12 will attend school every day, Sunday to Thursday, on a 'split day' model. The 'split day' model will enable smaller groups and the implementation of social distancing, as directed by ADEK.

Students will spend 3½ hours engaged in face-to-face, in school learning each day. Students will also engage in 'distance learning' tasks, provided by the school, which will be completed at home.

Each Grade will be divided into two groups.

There will be a **Morning (am) Group** and an **Afternoon (pm) Group**.

The 'split day' program will operate as follows:

Morning (am) Group

Morning (am) Groups will attend for 3½ hours in the morning

Afternoon (pm) Group

Afternoon (pm) Groups will attend for 3½ hours in the afternoon

Kindergarten KG1 and KG2

KG1 and KG2 will attend school every day, Sunday to Wednesday (not Thursday).

Students will spend 3½ hours engaged in face-to-face, in school learning each day. Students may engage in optional 'distance learning' tasks, provided by the school, which can be completed at home.

Each Grade will be divided into two groups.

There will be a **Morning (am) Group** and an **Afternoon (pm) Group**.

The 'split day' program will operate as follows:

Morning (am) Group

Morning (am) Groups will attend for 3½ hours in the morning

Afternoon (pm) Group

Afternoon (pm) Groups will attend for 3½ hours in the afternoon

The 'Split Day' Model

The school has opted for the 'split day model for the following reasons:

- this was the clear parental preference for every grade in both SZPAs
- greater learning momentum is engendered by being in school every day
- establishing daily routines for children is very important for their emotional stability
- establishing daily routines for parents in managing their family arrangements
- having daily contact and follow-up with students is essential for building relationships
- preparing children for the home learning, when they are not in school, is more effective in smaller 'chunks'
- students being in school for a shorter time, every day, means that learning is more consistent
- avoiding social distancing issues by not having lunchtimes assists hygiene and safety

In consideration of other potential school re-opening models, the SZPAs decided that if students were only in school every other day or every other week, the capacity to create learning momentum is more difficult. Furthermore, alternating whole day or whole week models would require students to be sat in one room for a whole day, rather than just the morning or afternoon. We therefore believe that the split day model will be advantageous in terms of student's focus and concentration.

We also believe that the alternating whole day or whole week models would place parents under greater pressure during the time when students are at home.

Distance Learning Option

Parents will have the option to continue with Distance Learning. This will operate in a similar way to the Term 3 Program during the 2019-20 academic year. However, there will be some key changes, including compulsory face-to-face online tutorials.

More Information

The Academy is still waiting for ADEK to finalise arrangements and details in regard to school's re-opening will be sending more information to parents by mid-August, including a survey to understand the preferences of parents for 'in school' learning or distance learning and their preference for Afternoon Sessions or Morning Sessions.