

Grades 7 & 8

ABIS
PARENT
INFORMATION
EVENING



Welcome to Grades 7 & 8

When the whole child matters more than ever

Our Middle Years Program provides the bridge between ABIS' primary and secondary programs. During this transition program students will engage in increasing expectations and workload while building on their PYP knowledge and skills. This is a preparation time for IGCSE and IB Diploma, both of which assess students using externally set exams and coursework. Students can also continue to expect to participate in a personalised learning environment and receive attention that makes the ABIS community so special.

While specialist teachers may focus on the content of their courses, their main concern is helping students manage their time efficiently and take control of their learning, laying down the foundations for their futures. Thus it is our priority to foster their independence as learners, refine their knowledge and skills and ensure they continue to develop as well-rounded individuals.



About Al Batinah International School

ABIS was founded in 2007 by Sohar Aluminium to meet the needs of the growing expat community in Sohar. It has been a busy few years with the school growing steadily and with authorisation in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, IGCSE and most recently the IB Diploma Programme.

The school is committed to providing all our students with the very best opportunities for learning and personal growth.

Challenge Yourself, Involve Yourself, Be Your Best

Our Grades 7 & 8 Team



Abby Brewer
Pastoral
Coordinator



Todd Davis
Maths/personal
project coordinator



Meghan Kenney
History and
English



Lina Hurst-
Mawasse
Science



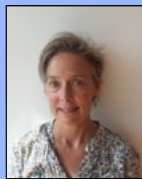
Mina Znaidi
French



Leo Thompson
Grade 7 English/
Secondary Team
Leader



Ann Turton
Art



Briar Chatterjea
Dance



AbduNabi
Uthman
Arabic & Islamic
Studies



Michael Carberry
PE



Isgak Jacobs
PE



Kirrili Williams
Choir



Eric Griebenow
Band

Helping your child

How can I support my child's learning?

1. Talk to your child about their learning.

The more you are involved in their learning at school, the more likely they are to connect their learning in the classroom to the outside world.

2. Check in frequently on the Broadcaster.

The school and your child's teachers will be using the Broadcaster on a daily basis to communicate with parents. Please make regular visits.

3. Ensure balance in your child's life

Their lives outside of school have a direct impact on how they perform in school and vice versa. Therefore, outdoor exercise, proper sleep and eating well are also key factors in academic success.

4. Communicate with teachers.

As mentioned previously, please do not hesitate to approach your child's teachers directly with questions and comments.

5. Celebrate your child's successes.

The more involved in their learning, the more you will be able to recognize their growth and development and be able to praise it.

6. Be aware of your child's homework.

Student homework is posted to their calendars, which can be viewed on their websites.

The students' websites are an integral part of teaching and learning. Children and teachers update the websites regularly with samples of work, videos, photos and reflections on their processes and successes. We encourage parents to visit their child's website often.

Independent Learners

A key component of the ABIS mission is to foster independent learning in our students. We believe that a cornerstone of 21st century education is empowering students to plan and manage their own learning as much as possible. From the Personal Project in Grades 7 and 8, through to Global Perspectives in IGCSE and the Extended Essay in IB, we put this belief into practice.



MCAS in Grades 7 & 8

MCAS stands for *Modified Creativity, Activity and Service*. Based on the DP CAS program, MCAS will give students the chance to pursue their own interests outside of their regular academic work. There are three MCAS sessions, corresponding to the three ASA sessions. Students will be eligible for achievement awards if they meet the MCAS expectations - complete at least one MCAS experience each session, cover each strand at least once during the year, complete a Collaborative Project, and maintain the MCAS Journal. The program will be closely connected to Personal Project in 7th and 8th grade, giving students a forum to learn about and practice MCAS with a Personal Project. Grades 9 and 10 will be expected to initiate experiences on their own.

Personal Project

The Personal Project is an important part of the Grades 7 & 8 Middle Years' curriculum. It is an opportunity for students to explore a topic of interest to them, while further developing their learning and project management skills. The task is designed as a self-directed task, using both individual and collaborative processes, within in which the students are required to complete a process journal and have a final outcome which is presented to their peers. The learning focus of the task is on the process and thus the Personal Project plays an important role in building the skills required to complete CAS and the Extended Essay which are a part of the IB Program. Along with this, it builds skills which are an essential aspect of many career paths in our world today.

Pastoral Care Program

The Pastoral Care Program has ABIS' mission and vision statements at its core and is seen as a vital part of the secondary curriculum. The program helps students develop social, emotional and independent learner skills by guiding them in areas such as organisation, proactive learning and personal goal setting. Other learning opportunities such as leadership, public speaking and team building are given focus. The Pastoral Care Journal is used by each student to record this learning. Pastoral Care runs a 20 minute Advisory session at the start of most school days with a 40 minute session for assemblies and a closer study of the curriculum on Thursdays. The Advisory is closely connected to the House system, and is divided into four groups of grade 7 to 12 students. The teacher Advisor supports the holistic wellbeing of each student and is the primary contact for parents in relation to absence or general concerns.

Keeping in touch

How will the school communicate with me?

1. Through the Broadcaster

The Broadcaster is the main way of the school communicating with parents. You will find the the Broadcaster at <http://abisoman.com/broadcaster>.

The password for parents is, unsurprisingly, "parents".

2. E-mail Updates

Starting in the next few weeks, parents who have provided us with their e-mail addresses will receive weekly updates from the school summarizing relevant materials posted on the Broadcaster

3. SMS

The school operates an SMS information system which provides important updates about events through your phone. If you do not receive these messages please check with reception.

4. E-mail

Occasionally, teachers may contact you directly by e-mail. Please ensure that the school has an up-to-date e-mail address on file.

5. Telephone

If your child is sick, or we need direct assistance from you about a matter related to your child ,we will contact you by email or telephone.

6. Face to face

Of course, when possible we'll try to have a chat!

Homework In Secondary School

Grade Level	7	8	9	10	11	12
Total HW minutes per school day	70	80	90	100	110	120
Total time per week	350 minutes	400 minutes	450 minutes	500 minutes	850 minutes (weekends & study periods)	900 minutes (weekends & study periods)

Assessment In Secondary School

Below is the equivalency chart that appears on all ABIS secondary reports. The purpose of the chart is to align the marking between the IB grading scale (7-1) and the IGCSE marking scale (A-F), with universal descriptors. Official ABIS reporting marks use the IB scale.

IB Numerical Level	Description	Alphabetical score
7	Outstanding (significantly above average)	A+
6.5	Working towards a 7	A
6	Very good (well above average)	A-/B+
5.5	Working towards a 6	B
5	Good (above average)	B-/C+
4.5	Average Level of Achievement	C
4	Approaching ALA	C-/D+
3.5	Working towards a 4	D
3	Needs improvement	D-/E+
2.5	Working towards a 3	E
2	Significant improvement needed	E-/F+
1.5	Working towards a 2	F
1	At beginner level	F-/G

Average IB subject score

Official IGCSE pass mark

Target here and above

Please note that due to a number of reasons the grade comparison above is very approximate and should only be used for guidance. As the level of difficulty and expectation increases in each subject each year, it is normal for students to begin a school year 'up to' a full grade lower than they achieved in the final semester report in the previous year. If students are new to the school, subject, or from a foreign language background, they will probably take longer to catch up with their age group, which is normal and to be expected.