



**THE KINDERGARTEN STARTERS - DUBAI
CIRCULAR**

KGS / C/ 366-21

21/02/2021

Dear Parents,

Last March, when all the schools in the world experienced a sudden lockdown due to the Corona Virus pandemic, the quintessential need of equipping our students, teachers and parents with the required technology skills to continue with remote learning became more than evident. At KGS, our students, staff and parents were able to transition seamlessly into remote learning because they were equipped with the skills to navigate and study using e-resources with the BYOD(Bring Your Own Device) policy being in place for the past 8 years. Besides, being a Microsoft Showcase school for the last 5 years, all our stakeholders were already familiar with most of the Microsoft tools used during the remote learning.

As evidenced during the pandemic, technological fluency is as essential as literacy and numeracy and will enhance creativity and inquiry – based learning, which are cornerstones of our educational philosophy. Significant research demonstrates that meaningful use of technology in the learning process has the following beneficial results for students:

- Development of 21st century learning skills so very essential in the new normal
- Increased student engagement.
- Flexibility for teachers in addressing different learning styles, including interventions for students as well as extensions for those who benefit from additional challenge.
- Provision of greater range and variety of assessment strategies to track student progress.
- Promotion of inquiry and critical thinking skills.

Extensive student surveys and meetings across GEMS schools indicate that, not only are the students ready for BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), they are expecting it. GEMS is committed to providing its students with the skills and attributes they will need to flourish in an ever-changing, technology-driven, global society.

As one of the Leading GEMS school to promote e-learning and digital literacy, we are happy to inform you that all students of Grades 2 to 6 are encouraged to bring their own device (**one device per student is allowed**) with the following minimum specifications: -



Grade 2

Apple I Pad's- IOS Version 12.0 or later

'Android Tablets -Android version 9 or later (Higher versions recommended)

(We highly recommend I Pad's for Grade 2 Students as a durable device)

Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6

Windows Laptop's

Minimum Requirements: -

Windows 10 Operating System/Intel Core-i5 Processor/8 GB RAM/256 GB HDD

Office 365/ with Licensed Antivirus.

(We prefer thin Laptops for Students from Grades 3-6)

Apple MacBook -Mac OS Version 10.13 or Later

(We highly recommend Windows Laptops for Grade 3-5 Students)

The required equipment will be registered for internet access in our system. Students will be expected to follow Acceptable Use Policy, which will be printed and sent home for both parents' and students' signatures.

Students of Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been bringing their own devices in the last few academic years and blended learning has been working well. Besides, the lessons we are continuing to learn from the current pandemic situation is to continue blended learning along with face-to-face learning in the future so that all students and educators are fully equipped and current with the future fluencies to overcome challenges thrown by such unprecedented world scenarios.

Thanking you for your unstinted support and whole-hearted cooperation in future focused learning so that we collaboratively draw the very best out of our students.

Warm regards,

Asha Alexander

Principal

Executive Leader- Climate Change, GEMS Education