

Dear Parents,

The local authorities have just modified the guidelines for reopening schools that I communicated to you in my previous message of August 13 (see attached ADEK guide for parents as a reminder). Below are the main changes and their consequences:

1. Preschool (PreKG to KG2):

- Despite the strengthening of sanitary measures, to this day, we remain able **to offer face-to-face education all our preschool students authorized to return to school**. This must nevertheless be validated before back to school by local authorities as part of inspection visits.
- **Only KG1 and KG2 students in Abu Dhabi at this time may resume face-to face classes**. We hope to receive a decision from the local authorities very soon authorizing face-to face classes for Pre-KG as well.

2. Elementary (Grade 1 to Grade 5):

- The maximum number of students per class is now limited to 15 students regardless of the size of the rooms. This new rule is in addition to the minimum social distancing of 1.5m between each student, and no longer allows us to guarantee 100% face-to-face education to all students currently enrolled in elementary. As a result, and given the current constraints, **an educational offer alternating between face-to-face and distance education is proposed in elementary**; this offer will be decided according to the choice made by the parents (Cf. 7.). The format will be defined in order to be the most pedagogically effective experience, while promoting the well-being of each student, parents, and also teachers. We will communicate the details shortly.

3. Secondary (Grade 6 to Grade 12):

- In accordance with the decisions of ADEK, all secondary school students in Abu Dhabi will follow **distance education during the first 4 weeks of the school year**. This distance education will be similar to the one we offered during the 3 term of last academic year; distance education recognized by ADEK as one of the most effective. Depending on the evolution of the health situation in the UAE, the authorities will decide whether secondary school students will be accepted into class as of September 27. As soon as this decision is communicated, we will keep you informed.

4. Saadiyat Campus:

- We are technically able to open the Saadiyat campus but have been facing administrative constraints since last month which have forced us to postpone its opening for a few weeks. We are doing everything we can to ensure that this opening takes place as soon as possible and no later than October 25, just following Fall Break, subject of course to changes according situation in the UAE.
- In the meantime, primary school students (PS to CM2) enrolled at Saadiyat will be temporarily hosted at Al Bateen campus. Al Bateen tuition fees will apply during this period.
- Secondary students (Grade 6 to Grade 12) enrolled at Saadiyat will follow distance learning until their arrival at Saadiyat. The 2019-20 school fees will apply during this period.

Lycée Français International Théodore Monod

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PO Box 59646 | Abu Dhabi

<http://www.ltmonod.aflec-fr.org/>

5. School transport:

- Although the buses are limited to 50% of their capacity, **the prices will be the same as last year**. All families who have the possibility are nevertheless encouraged to use their own means of transport in order to limit the pressure on school bus systems. The registration procedure will be communicated to you shortly.

6. Obligations relating to the Covid-19 Testing:

- **All school staff in Abu Dhabi are currently participating in a mandatory testing program**. No employee can now enter a school campus without a negative test obtained through this program. Additional testing programs will be organized regularly throughout the school year.

- The **PCR test will be required for all students over 12 years old** (Grade 7 and above), after the reopening of secondary schools. Details of the student testing program will be communicated to you upon receipt.

- During pre-reopening, parents can visit the school only with an appointment and will need to observe all the health and safety measures. Post-reopening, this can only be possible outside of school hours. During school hours, parents can only be allowed onto the school premises under special circumstances and if they have a valid negative Covi-19 test result (72 hours validity). Meetings with teachers or leadership should only be virtual.

7. Choice to be made by primary school parents (PreKG to Grade 5):

- Distance education will be offered to all students who cannot, or whose parents do not want them to physically attend school. Thank you for **completing the following form before Thursday August 20, 6 p.m.** for each of your primary school children: [choice form](#)

- This choice can be changed if necessary during the first two weeks of the school year.

- If you choose face-to-face (PreKG to KG) or semi-face-to-face (Grade 1 to Grade 5) education, please complete the attached form and send it by email to our health department (nurse.ltm@aflec-fr.org).

8. Safety and flexibility:

All our teams are mobilized to respect all the guidelines required by local authorities (social distancing, individual and collective protective equipment, individual and collective hygiene, protocols allowing groups to be isolated in the event of infection, temperature control for any individual entering a bus or the school, reorganization of the school rhythm and space management, etc.). These measures are very restrictive and are evolving. Their respect is scrupulously controlled by the local authorities. This obliges us and you to be very flexible but guarantees the highest level of safety for our students and our school community which remains our top priority.

I will provide you with a weekly information update as the situation evolves and the decisions to be taken by the official authorities.

Regards,

Bertrand ferret
Principal

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