



PARENT GUIDE

Back to School Parent Guide

Academic Year 2026 – 2027

*Everything you need for a smooth start –
timings, supplies, devices & policies.*

Welcome Back



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! We are delighted to partner with you in giving your child a safe, focused, and successful start.

This guide brings together everything you need for a smooth return to school, including key dates, daily timings, school supplies, devices, and our updated policies. A little preparation now will help ensure a calm and confident start for both students and families.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

AIS Administration

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Reopening & Timings

KEY DATES

Aug 12	Books & Uniform Sale opens All Grades
Aug 29	New-Parent Orientation All Grades
Aug 31	First Day of School Grades 9–12
Sep 2	First Day of School Grades 6–8
Sep 3	First Day of School PS/KG – Grade 5

Parent-Led Conferences (PLCs) for Kindergarten to Grade 8 take place from 31 August to 2 September (booked via the Parent Portal).

DAILY TIMINGS

Grade	Arrival	Mon–Thu	Friday
Pre–School	7:35 AM	1:40 PM	11:00 AM
KG & Prep	7:35 AM	2:30 PM	11:00 AM
Grades 1–5	7:35 AM	2:30 PM	11:00 AM
Grades 6–12	7:35 AM	2:35 PM	11:00 AM

- Students arriving after 7:35 AM are marked late.
- Students must attend the National Anthem at 7:40 AM.
- Gates open 7:15 AM; early arrivals wait in the designated room.



New for 2026–2027: AIS moves to a two-semester structure (185 ADEK-approved days) – two semester report cards and two mid-semester progress reports. View the full calendar at: <https://aisschools.com/calendar>

School Supplies



Books & Uniform

Order books & uniform on the Parent Portal. For full ordering, delivery and payment details, please follow the steps in the ***AIS Parent Guide for Books, Uniform & Fee Payment.***



Supplies

Prepare the supplies listed in the next two pages. Hand the materials marked with an asterisk (*) directly to the classroom teacher during the first-week Parent-Led Conference.



Devices

Students in Grades 3–12 bring their own devices to school. See the Student Devices page for the full requirements.



Label All Belongings: *Label bags, lunchboxes, pencil cases, jackets & books with your **child's name, grade and section.** KG–Grade 3 books are labelled by the school.*

The full grade-by-grade supply lists are on the next two pages.

Supplies by Grade (1 of 2)



Parents must obtain all required supplies listed in the table below. Starred (*) items must be handed to the child's teacher during the Parent-Led Conference in the first week of school.

Preschool

- ☐ 2 sets of change of clothes placed in a zip-lock bag and labeled with your child's name. A set includes: shirt, trousers, socks, and underwear. *
- ☐ apron for painting *
- ☐ 4 passport-sized photos *
- ☐ 2 tissue boxes *
- ☐ 2 pack of wet wipes *
- ☐ School bag that can fit an A4 plastic folder

KG & Prep

- ☐ 2 sets of change of clothes placed in a zip-lock bag and labeled with your child's name. A set includes: shirt, trousers, socks, and underwear. *
- ☐ Apron for painting *
- ☐ Pencil case containing 2 erasers, 1 sharpener with lid, 1 child-safe scissors, 4 large glue sticks *
- ☐ 1 pack of jumbo graphite pencils *
- ☐ 1 pack of jumbo crayons *
- ☐ 1 pack of jumbo coloring pencils *
- ☐ 1 pack of play dough *
- ☐ 2 tissue boxes *
- ☐ 2 packs of wet wipes *
- ☐ School bag that can fit an A4 plastic folder

Supplies by Grade (2 of 2)



Parents must obtain all required supplies listed in the table below. Starred (*) items must be handed to the child's teacher during the Parent-Led Conference in the first week of school.

Grade 1

- ☐ Pencil case containing 2 pencils, basic coloring pencils, 1 eraser, 1 sharpener with lid, 1 child-safe scissors, 1 glue stick
- ☐ 1 ruler (preferably 30 cm)
- ☐ 1 small pack of play dough
- ☐ 1 child-friendly wired headphone / earphone
- ☐ 1 tissue box
- ☐ 1 pack of wet wipes
- ☐ 1 set of change of clothes in a labeled zip-lock bag (shirt, trousers, socks, underwear) *

Grade 2

- ☐ Pencil case containing 2 pencils, basic coloring pencils, 1 eraser, 1 sharpener with lid, 1 child-safe scissors, 1 glue stick
- ☐ 1 ruler (preferably 30 cm)
- ☐ 1 child-friendly wired headphone / earphone
- ☐ 1 tissue box
- ☐ 1 pack of wet wipes
- ☐ 1 set of change of clothes in a labeled zip-lock bag (shirt, trousers, socks, underwear) *

Grade 3

- ☐ Pencil case containing 2 pencils, basic coloring pencils, 1 green pen, 1 eraser, 1 sharpener with lid, 1 child-safe scissors, 1 glue stick
- ☐ 30-cm ruler
- ☐ Sticky notes
- ☐ 1 tissue box
- ☐ 1 pack of wet wipes

Grade 4 & 5

- ☐ Pencil case containing 2 pencils, basic coloring pencils, 1 green pen, 1 sharpener with lid, 1 eraser, scissors, 1 glue stick
- ☐ 30-cm ruler
- ☐ geometry set
- ☐ sticky notes
- ☐ 1 tissue box
- ☐ 1 pack of wet wipes

Student Devices

All students in Grades 3–12 bring their own device — a laptop or a tablet that meets the requirements below.



Laptops

ACCEPTED OPERATING SYSTEM

Device	Operating system
Windows Laptop	Windows 10 or 11 (64-bit)
MacBook	macOS 12 (Monterey) or later
Chromebook	Chrome OS 120 or later

MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS

- Processor: Intel Core i3 minimum (i5 or higher recommended)
- RAM: 4 GB minimum (8 GB recommended)
- Storage: 64 GB SSD minimum (256 GB SSD recommended)
- Wi-Fi: must support both 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz networks



Tablets

ACCEPTED OPERATING SYSTEM

iPad
iOS 15 or later

Android Tablet
Android OS 12 or later

A tablet suits younger students; older students often prefer a laptop for coursework.



Device Management

Students must manage their devices responsibly:

- Store devices in **protective cases** to prevent damage
- **Label devices** clearly with the student's full name and grade/section
- **Fully charge** devices before coming to school, as classrooms are not equipped for charging
- **Do not share** devices with other students

Student ID Cards

The ID card & lanyard carry each student's key details (including bus information) and are required for school entry and exit.

Carry It Every Day

- Students wear the ID on the official AIS lanyard **every day**. The lanyard indicates bus students (no other lanyard is allowed).
- Students scan it at the gate each morning – this marks **attendance**.
- Without it, students may be kept from class, exams or the bus.

Cashless Canteen

- Students pay at the canteen using the ID card only – no cash needed.
- Parents charge the card at the cashier (minimum AED 50).
- Any leftover balance is refunded or carried to next year.

Manage It Online

- Parents set a daily café spending limit on the Parent Portal.
- Parents can see every purchase and the balance online, anytime.
- The card is for one student only – if someone else uses it, it is taken away.



Parent Access Card: Parents must present their Parent Access Card at the gate and wear it anywhere on campus. It allows staff to recognise them as approved adults and keeps every student, staff member and visitor safe.

School Bag Weights

A packed school bag should weigh no more than **5–10% of your child's body weight**. Keeping it light protects their growing back and posture.

Weight Limit by Grade	
Grade Level	Max. Weight
KG, Prep & Grades 1–2	Up to 2 kg
Grades 3–5	3 – 4.5 kg
Grades 6–8	6 – 8 kg
Grades 9–12	Up to 10 kg

- ### How to Keep It Light
- ✔ Pack only the books and materials on the next day's timetable.
 - ✔ Use online and digital resources so fewer books are needed.
 - ✔ Carry lunch, snacks and water in a separate bag.
 - ✔ Help your child pack the bag the evening before.
 - ✔ Weigh the packed bag to keep it under the limit.
 - ✔ Use both shoulder straps, adjusted so the bag sits high.

A shared responsibility of the school, parents and students – in line with ADEK guidelines.

Mobile Phone Policy

5–20%

Research links phone access in class to a **5–20% drop in academic performance**, with weaker concentration and memory.

In full compliance with Ministerial Resolution No. (851) of 2018 and the ADEK Student Behavior Policy. A phone-free environment protects learning by removing distractions, fostering face-to-face relationships, and safeguarding student privacy, wellbeing, and responsible technology use.

Grades K–5

No phones — at all. Students may not bring mobile phones to school under any circumstances.

Grades 6–12

Allowed **only** if sealed in the school-approved, signal-blocking pouch all day. Parents purchase the AIS-approved pouch (**AED 75**) at the book & uniform sale.

GRADES 6–12 — THREE SIMPLE STEPS

1

Place the phone in the pouch on arrival.

2

Keep it sealed and unopened all day.

3

Unlock only at the dismissal stations.



Non-compliance: The phone is confiscated and disciplinary action follows per the AIS Student Behavior Policy.

Dismissal & Bus Safety

These transport rules apply to all private schools in Abu Dhabi. Please arrange before the school year begins.

THE STUDENT'S SITUATION	WHAT'S REQUIRED
 Grade 8 and below Any transport	May not depart school unaccompanied using non-school transportation (including walking, bicycles, scooters or taxis). A parent or authorized adult must accompany them.
 Age 11 + Uses school bus	May walk independently from the bus drop-off point to their home.
 Age Under 11 Uses school bus	Must be met by an adult at the bus stop and accompanied home. If no authorised adult is at the stop, the student stays on the bus and is returned to school.
 Grade 1 and above Has sibling aged 15 +	Parents may authorize the older sibling (15+) to receive and accompany them home from the bus stop with a signed parent consent form.
 Important: The signed parent consent form confirms the sibling is mature enough to take responsibility, understands what it involves, and that the school is not liable for any resulting incident.	

School Policies

Parents are asked to read all of the policies listed below, together with those set out in the **AIS Student / Parent Handbook**.

1 Parent Code of Conduct

2 Student Code of Conduct

3 Student Behavior Policy

4 Attendance Policy

5 School Uniform Policy

6 Social Media Policy

7 Online Safety Policy

8 Anti-Bullying Policy

9 Cultural Consideration Policy

10 Healthy & Balanced Eating Guidelines

We look forward to a wonderful year!

All policies are available on the school website: <https://aisschools.com/school-policies/>