

**GEMS**

Nations Academy

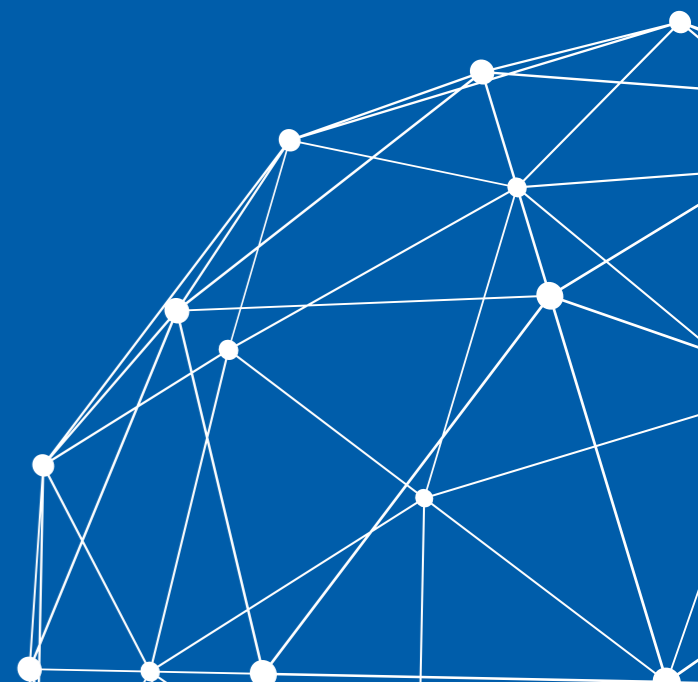




Welcome To

**GEMS**

Nations Academy







# Introduction from the Founding Head

Welcome to the new paradigm in education. It is my privilege to announce that GEMS Nations Academy will open in September, 2016, in Dubai. Our new school will pair innovative teaching methods with new digital communication tools to form a network of connected, creative learners. Offering the American curriculum, enriched by a diverse international context, we will take every student on a new journey of academic achievement and self-discovery, going beyond what schools have accomplished before.

Today we all belong to an information age that is radically changing the way we live and learn. Individuals, organizations, and nations are challenged to keep pace. Leadership is redefined as innovation, creative problem-solving, and the use of new tools to achieve ambitious goals. But greatness is using these skills to advance the cause of prosperity, sustainability, and peace—to imagine a future that brings people together and fulfills our highest hopes—for our children and for our nations.

After more than two decades leading prominent private schools in the United States, I have joined GEMS Education to create a school that will set the new standard for international education, for student engagement, and for connected learning. In highly interactive classrooms, our students will be encouraged to cultivate their exceptional potential in full measure, guided by gifted teachers. A broad spectrum of activities will stimulate the many dimensions of each child's intelligence. Challenge and opportunity, in equal measure, will be the natural outgrowth of close engagement of our teachers and students in an environment of intellectual intensity.

A center of excellence where students will experience a sense of belonging, Nations Academy will give them the courage to try new things, to take intellectual risks. GEMS believes that we learn from our mistakes as well as from our successes, and it takes a supportive community to encourage the development of curiosity, creativity and imagination. We are ideally situated at this crossroads of cultures in Dubai, a city that, like our students, is dynamically growing, embracing innovation, and creating the future.

Indeed, our students will be supported in developing the knowledge and skills to thrive in this new world. But the hallmarks of a GEMS education are our enduring values: leading through innovation, pursuing excellence, growing by learning, and global citizenship. With this holistic approach, we aim to produce not just great learners, but great people.

With the opening of GEMS Nations Academy, we are bringing a fresh answer to the age-old question of how best to unlock the extraordinary potential of every child. The keys are resourcefulness and resilience, imagination and creativity, challenge and support, collaboration, caring, and community. We will always remain relentlessly optimistic as we pursue innovative ways to challenge and inspire. And like our students, we will never stop learning.



**GEMS**  
Nations Academy

Sincerely,  
Tom Farquhar  
Head of School



## The Choice for the Future

### Our Vision

*To offer the premier educational experience where students will develop 21st century intellectual and academic skills, a life-long passion for learning, an appreciation for diversity and beauty, a global perspective, an inclination to innovate, and the qualities of character that will allow them to make their greatest contribution.*

### Our Mission

*To graduate future leaders and responsible global citizens by developing every child's potential for creativity, character, and academic achievement.*

All over the world, schools are slow to incorporate new research on learning and motivation. Fields as diverse as genetics and the neuroscience of the brain are brimming with new findings. But schools have essentially remained the same...teaching standard content to the mid-range student, and failing to provide the excitement of a rich and stimulating program to those who are eager to race ahead.

The very definition of intelligence is shifting from rote memorization to design thinking, inquiry, and insight. GEMS Nations Academy will implement a program that distinguishes us as a center of academic excellence. We are utilizing advanced teaching pedagogy, based on Harvard Project Zero, a system developed at Harvard University School of Education that will serve as a map for all our teachers in every subject and at every grade level; all expertly guided by our team of top educational professionals.

**“ Our advanced teaching pedagogy is based on Harvard Project Zero, a system developed at Harvard University School of Education ”**

GEMS Nations Academy will stay ahead of the curve in innovation. Our facilities are of bold and creative design, with inspiring interior spaces housing technology-rich learning environments. The campus goes beyond state-of-the-art, not only in expanding the frame for teaching and learning but also in advanced systems for ventilation, cooling, and natural lighting. In its cutting-edge design, the facility captures the forward-looking character of the UAE by saving energy while optimizing the spaces for teaching and

learning. From its conception, the plan for GEMS Nations Academy has made provision for the cultivation of an unprecedented degree of student engagement and creativity while leveraging the best GEMS programs through strategic collaboration with GEMS schools around the world, from Singapore to the US.

The enhanced American curriculum forms the basis of our educational program, with a balance of academic rigor and a broad range of extra-curricular experiences to develop intellectual, social, emotional, artistic, and physical competencies. The latest research in the field of education confirms that an engaging program, full of inquiry, exploration, conversation, and discovery is its own reward for children.

At GEMS Nations Academy, we will go beyond convention in the quality of teaching, program richness, student engagement, and future focus. Our purpose is to tap into every child's potential for creativity, cognitive growth, and academic achievement. Our next-generation learning environment will equip students with the 21st century skills that will enhance their chance of success in the future by intensifying the life of the mind in the present. Unsurprisingly, the entire family is enriched when a child finds this kind of inspiration at school.

Our broad program of academic offerings extends beyond the walls of the classroom. An essential dimension of the American experience is the vibrant extra-curricular life of the school on sports teams, school clubs and activities, and student government. We know that these activities contribute to the cultivation of valuable character traits like perseverance, commitment, collaboration, fairness, and leadership. The creative side of each student will be encouraged and developed too, in music and arts, dance and drama. There is abundant evidence now that serious engagement in the arts develops that part of the brain that recognizes patterns, that leaps to creative solutions, and that celebrates that which is beautiful.

Students from GEMS American curriculum schools have been accepted into the best universities and colleges in the world, including seven out of the eight Ivy League Schools in the United States and twelve of the top fifteen universities in the world.

Nations students will benefit from a dedicated College Counselling team who are there for your child from day one. They will begin advising students during their middle-school years, not only getting to know our Nations families but also building relationships with the colleges that will be the choice options for our graduates.

**“ A dedicated College Counsellor will be there for students from day one, to help guide their future and the path to higher education; and recruited from the admission teams of the leading Ivy League Universities ”**



# Nations Advisory Council

Our Nations advisors will ensure we go beyond convention in the quality of teaching, program richness, student engagement, and future focus.



**Tony Little**

Chief Academic Officer GEMS Education and Former Headmaster Eton College



**Geoffrey Canada**

Former President and CEO Harlem Children's Zone. Named to the TIME 100 list of most influential people in the world (2011)



**Dr. Edward Shanahan**

Former Headmaster Choate Rosemary Hall, Founding President, Keystone Academy



**Tom Hassan**

Former Principal, Phillips Exeter Academy



**Denise Gallucci**

Chief Executive Officer GEMS Education - Americas



**Dr. Mary Elizabeth Wilson**

Chief Learning Officer GEMS Education - Americas

# Our Faculty The Essence of Great Education

At GEMS Nations Academy, we are recruiting teachers who are dedicated, passionate about their field and excited by the prospect of working in a diverse international community. Our team of experienced teachers come with strong academic backgrounds. Each one will possess a commitment to creating learning environments that are stimulating, engaging, and challenging.

At our school, academic leadership will be drawn from the top ranks of experienced educators, and the leading colleges and universities in the U.S. will be well-represented among the credentials of the faculty. Co-teachers will serve in the capacity filled by teacher's aides in other schools, and in a departure from international school practice, they will be fully-qualified teachers in their own right with superb English language skills, able to devote high-quality teacher attention to individuals throughout the classroom. The GEMS Professional Development Program will be tailored to the growth of lead teachers as well as co-teachers.

Our world-class teachers and administrative leaders will be deeply committed to new approaches that foster student engagement, drive motivation and growth, and cultivate attitudes of exploration, curiosity and inquiry that empower all learners.

*“An unmatched Lead Teacher / Co-Teacher model for Teaching & Learning with faculty recruited from the world's leading teacher training colleges, such as Harvard and Columbia”*





# Student Engagement at GEMS Nations Academy

## Student Leadership

GEMS schools understand that some are born to lead and others develop that capacity over time.

Leadership opportunities of all sorts—in art, drama, public speaking, and sports—are peppered throughout our schools so that students of all ages and stages can engage, learn and build their leadership capacity.

At GEMS Nations Academy we will offer a broad range of elective studies for older students and will feature leadership development and entrepreneurial training as well.

## The Student Experience

### Leadership Roles

Students at GEMS Nations Academy are encouraged to assume leadership roles. This may be in group scenarios within or beyond the classroom or across whole school or GEMS settings. Opportunities will be presented whereby students can learn what effective leadership means and how values and behaviors define styles of leadership.

“*A leadership curriculum that will make Nations graduates the preferred candidates for admission to the world's most selective colleges and universities, and prepare a generation of young people who will bring about a more sustainable and peaceful world.*”

### Coaching and Mentorship

Nations Academy provides mentorship opportunities with leaders of industry philanthropy and government. Both local and world-renowned leaders will collaborate with Nations students. Visiting leaders will be encouraged to act as role models for our students and share their knowledge, skills and expertise in order to both enlighten and inspire our students to achieve in school and at their future places of work.

### Debate

Nations students will have opportunities to develop the skills of debate and to practice the strategies of advocacy and logical reasoning. The power of debate will not only enhance speaking and listening skills but empower greater self-confidence and self-esteem in our students.

### Public Speaking and Presentation Skills

The use of resources, together with highly developed language proficiency to effectively communicate, are essential for success in a modern world. The integration of technology into student learning and communication, where used appropriately, are powerful aids to effectively deliver concepts, persuade or convey information.

### International Studies

The social, cultural, economic and environmental awareness of countries of abode, origin and beyond are ways of fostering respect, care, concern, and empathy for others. As such, an international perspective and the cultivation of global awareness will be a distinctive dimension of the Nations Academy program.

### Enterprise

Innovation and enterprise are embedded within our curricula.

Talent and creativity will be harnessed to support entrepreneurial activities at GEMS Nations Academy.

“*Mentorship programs offering leadership guidance with leaders of industry, philanthropy and government*”

## Personalized & Enhanced Learning

Every child entering GEMS Nations Academy will have a personalized learning experience. The individual needs of each student will be identified and appropriate experiences will be sought to support both the academic and social outcomes.

### The Student Experience

**Digital Technologies:** Harnessing imagination through our partnership with LEGO® Education

Our LEGO® Education program will offer LEGO® Robotics at every grade level for all students, with an emphasis on a learning progression in computer coding from simple control routines to sophisticated programming structures for real-world problem-solving.

The program will provide a range of resources that enable our educators to deliver projects and lessons focused on the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) that are important for so many careers in today's rapidly advancing world. With a broad base of study modules aimed at assisting Elementary through to High School, Nations Academy will prepare our students with the 21st century skill-set to become the leaders and problem-solvers of the future.

### Design & Innovation

Our emphasis on design will be manifest in makerspaces that will inspire a shift from thinking like a consumer to thinking like a producer. Developing the innovative mindset, we will provide time and space for students to make, hack, tweak, explore, and invent, in classrooms, labs, and purpose-built studios.

“*Emphasis on a learning progression in computer coding, our 'third language', from simple control routines to sophisticated programming structures for real-world problem-solving*”

### Blended Learning

Technology will be deployed to support both personalized and self-directed learning. Students will have access to learning content and online teaching assistance in and out of school to support their learning.

### Language Program

Arabic will be our second language. We will offer engaging and modern teaching of Arabic to all students, tailoring the program to challenge those for whom Arabic is a first or second language. We will endeavor to provide mother tongue support for all students.

## Global Citizenship

Nations students will be introduced to the challenges and opportunities of our world so that they become increasingly internationally-minded, accept their responsibilities as global citizens and environmental stewards and develop a predisposition toward action. GEMS students celebrate the similarities among people of the world while developing deeper understandings of our differences. With understanding comes acceptance of diversity - the key to international mindedness and a more positive world view.

### The Student Experience

#### Beyond the Campus

“School without walls” will be short courses offering the experience of local geographical and environmental issues. These will extend learning beyond the classroom setting so that students can gain first-hand and immediate experience of the issues that require application of theoretical learning in a real-world context.

#### Outward Bound Trips

Students learn to collaborate, problem-solve and think creatively in an outdoor setting. They also challenge their own physical fitness and powers of mental agility to cope with the demands and rigours of outward bound learning.

#### International Travel & Expedition

To expand students' global awareness, GEMS Nations Academy will offer travel adventures to England, France, China, Italy, India, Singapore, Switzerland, the United States and more, and these will go beyond the hotel and the tour bus to engage with local culture and local concerns.

# Student Engagement at GEMS Nations Academy

## Extra-Curricular Activities Developing Skills in New Ways

Learning outside the classroom is a vitally important dimension of a child's journey through school life. At GEMS Nations Academy, we offer parents and students the opportunity to choose from a selection of activities that foster social, physical, emotional and cultural growth in addition to academic advancement. Self-expression through collaborative group activities creates a more vibrant and engaging school community.

Our extra-curricular program provides extended experiential learning through sports, performing arts, journalism, additional languages, math and science clubs and more. This list will grow continuously during the years of the school's growth. All teachers will participate in leading extra-curricular activities, and for many activities, we will call upon the expertise of specialists from outside the school—the artists, athletes, and experts who live in the U.A.E. or who visit this global crossroads of culture and innovation.

### *The Student Experience*

#### [The Sciences](#)

Students will have access to a range of different scientific activities to allow them to develop their understanding and curiosity of the world in which they live. Students will be given scope to participate in 'Science Fairs' that maybe organized in the school's community or devise, design and make their own experiments during 'Science Weeks' at the school.

#### [The Arts](#)

Students will have access to a full and varied arts program that allows them to develop their creativity whether through art, design, music, literature, drama or new technologies. Scope will be given for students to explore, interpret and create pieces of work as a result of exploring and evaluating the work of artists in the school's own and wider community.





## Service & Stewardship

### Community Initiatives – Improving the Quality of Life

While we are confident that our students will achieve high marks academically, what will set them apart will be their contributions to the greater good of the community. GEMS Nations Academy will encourage a sense of responsibility by involving students in community engagement activities that reveal their own inner strength as well as their concern for others.

The world around us presents opportunities to make a difference. By giving back to the community of Dubai, we will develop that capacity to sense a need and to respond. We believe in giving back, and a curriculum of service will involve all grades, with the youngest ones helping out at school and as students grow, the focus expanding out to the local community and the world beyond.

#### *The Student Experience*

##### [The Varkey Foundation](#)

Students will learn first-hand about Corporate Social Responsibility through their support of and involvement in Varkey Foundation philanthropic activities. The Varkey Foundation is a not-for-profit organization established to improve the standards of education for underprivileged children throughout the world.

##### [Voluntary Work in the Local Community](#)

Volunteer work introduces and exposes students to aspects of local community life that would otherwise remain invisible and unknown. These experiences can spark emotional responses and trigger career interests.

##### [Global Conservation](#)

Students will develop an appreciation for the fragility of our world and understand that a shared responsibility for our local and global environment is vital to a promising, prosperous, and sustainable future.





# Our Curriculum

## Inspiring the Leaders of Tomorrow

At GEMS Nations Academy, our curriculum will combine an outstanding U.S. standards framework while leveraging the assets of our international student community and the cultural diversity that it brings. Our students will excel academically while becoming part of a kinship that celebrates learning about different cultures, traditions, and habits.

The curriculum at GEMS Nations Academy is based on the U.S. Common Core State Standards as adapted by the State of Washington.

### Elementary School: Kindergarten (KG1 & KG2)

For our youngest students in KG1 and KG2, we introduce a school culture rooted in principles of trust and caring. Learning will be experiential. It will challenge confident and enthusiastic students to engage wholeheartedly in activities that expand their skills and conceptual understanding. Technology will play a vital role in the process as students develop 21st century skills of communication and analysis.

### Elementary School: Grade 1 through Grade 5

The developmental trajectory of each student is unique, and this is particularly the case in Grades 1 through 5. Today most students are reading by the end of Kindergarten, although we now know that early reading does not correlate with any long-term academic advantage. As basic skills are developed in all subject areas in the Elementary School at GEMS Nations Academy, the program embraces the flexibility to challenge every student while keeping engagement and motivation high for all students. Students are provided with opportunities to demonstrate their numerous talents, communication skills, and leadership qualities through curricular and co-curricular activities, in addition to the core curricular areas of reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.

Our teachers are instrumental in capturing the natural enthusiasm and interests of students by integrating their ideas, feelings, and experiences into their journey of learning. Students are encouraged to accept responsibility for their actions and decisions, enhancing their feelings of self-esteem, self-confidence, and connection. Our teachers place a high value on nurturing relationships with students, establishing a circle of trust within the classroom.

### Middle School: Grade 6 through 8

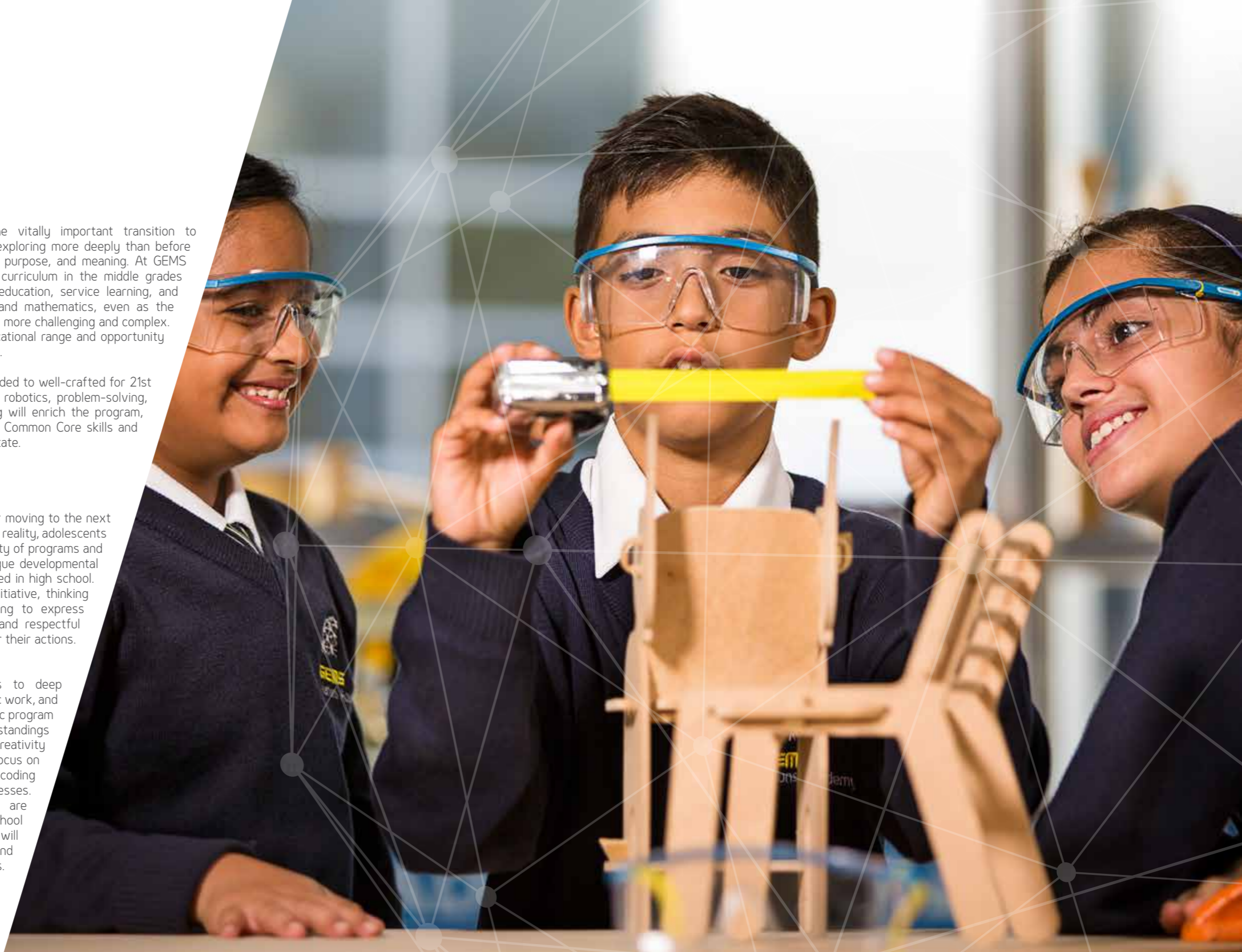
The middle grades represent the vitally important transition to adolescence as young people are exploring more deeply than before the essential questions of identity, purpose, and meaning. At GEMS Nations Academy, we extend the curriculum in the middle grades to include world languages, civic education, service learning, and a deeper engagement in science and mathematics, even as the English language and literature grow more challenging and complex. Traditionally, this expansion of educational range and opportunity was called a well-rounded education.

At Nations, we go beyond well-rounded to well-crafted for 21st century skill- development. Coding, robotics, problem-solving, projects, and inquiry-based learning will enrich the program, with constant reference to the U.S. Common Core skills and the high standards of Washington State.

### High School: Grade 9 through 12

Obtaining the credentials needed for moving to the next stage of education is important. But in reality, adolescents need much more than this. The variety of programs and experiences that will serve the unique developmental needs of this stage of life are offered in high school. Students are supported in taking initiative, thinking and acting with intelligence, learning to express ideas and feelings in constructive and respectful ways, and accepting responsibility for their actions.

In high school, the focus shifts to deep understanding, college-level academic work, and transferrable skills. The core academic program intends to build skills and understandings around literacy, numeracy, science, creativity and sustainability, with a continued focus on the Arabic language and the power of coding to instruct machines on routine processes. Sophisticated laboratory facilities are available in both Middle and High School grades, and the science program will include biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental science for all students.





# Our Learning Environment

## Encouraging Creativity & Expression

A variety of environments allow children to develop the attributes of a well-rounded learner. Our bright, interactive, modern classrooms create an environment conducive to learning. They invite young minds into a sense of inquiry, exploration, and discovery. Employing best practices from leading schools in the U.S., our teachers will create a learning experience for students that will cultivate creativity, a spirit of innovation, digital fluency, global awareness, and a toolkit of 21st century skills that will serve them well in college and beyond.

The information age has fundamentally changed the way in which students assimilate and process knowledge, and their interaction with digital tools of communication and information-sharing is intuitive. In schools everywhere, teachers struggle to match the rate at which students are adapting to these new modes and methods for sharing information and making connections. At GEMS Nations Academy, we understand that every member of the school community- students, teachers, and parents—will embrace the challenge of remaining current in a rapidly changing world. We are recruiting teachers to embrace what we now call the “growth mindset,” not only for their students but also for themselves. The challenges and possibilities of new digital tools, interdisciplinary study, world events, and vexing questions in the realm of the environment and politics all will contribute to a school environment that is dynamic, engaging, and all about learning.

### Our Campus and Facilities

Beyond the academic classroom there will be expansive opportunities for extraordinary growth. The 70,000m<sup>2</sup> campus will include a full provision for athletics and performing arts, with a 50m Olympic pool, 400m running track, a large gymnasium, playing fields and shaded playgrounds, theaters, and dedicated studios for music and arts for all grade levels.

At every step, we wish to create an engaging and student-friendly environment where every aspect of design affirms the aspirations of students.

### Located in the heart of Dubai

GEMS Nations Academy is strategically located at the intersection of Sheikh Zayed Road and Hessa Street at the heart of Dubai in Barsha. It puts the school within minutes of the city’s arterial roads such as Sheikh Zayed Road, Al Khail Road and Mohammed Bin Zayed Road, with easy access to the Dubai Metro.





**1 Communities of fully equipped classrooms in a unique serpentine building layout**

- (a) Shared learning/ break-out zones for each grade level
- (b) Dedicated Arabic language rooms throughout
- (c) Library and achievement center

**2 Science and Technology**

- (a) Dedicated science labs across all grades
- (b) Technology suite - workshop, textiles

**3 Visual Arts - dedicated areas for all grades**

- (a) Studios for 3D and 2D art
- (b) Ceramics / kiln room
- (c) Photography dark room

**4 Performing Arts - Music**

- (a) Music rooms
- (b) Band rooms
- (c) Individual music practice rooms
- (d) Music technology suite
- (e) Recording studio

**5 Performing Arts - Theater and Dance**

- (a) Ultra-modern auditorium - 618 seating capacity
- (b) Black box
- (c) Digital theater
- (d) Drama classrooms
- (e) Dance studio

**6 Multimedia Facilities**

- (a) TV studio / 'green screen' room
- (b) Radio suite
- (c) Mac lab / editing suite
- (d) Digital / blended learning zone

**7 Indoor Sports**

- (a) Main sports hall accommodates 3 full basketball courts-with retractable seating
- (b) Elementary sports hall large enough for full-sized basketball court
- (c) Indoor running track / fitness trail
- (d) Fully equipped fitness suite
- (e) Sports science classrooms / performance analysis

**8 Outdoor Sports**

- (a) 400m running track
- (b) Tennis courts, basketball courts and soccer field
- (c) Shaded play grounds
- (d) Roof play areas
- (e) 2 soccer pitches

**9 Swimming**

- (a) 50m Olympic pool with moveable boom to create 2 x 25m pools
- (b) Learner pool

**10 Café/Dining**

- (a) Main dining
- (b) Elementary dining
- (c) Parents café

**11 Parking**

- (a) Kindergarten parking
- (b) Main parking
- (c) Staff parking
- (d) Bus parking





# Opening September 2016\*

## Register Your Interest Now

This is an extremely exciting time for you and your child. We would love to tell you more about how our school could shape their future. So, please do get in touch. Or better still, come and see us!

## How to Apply

Here's a quick glance at our Admissions and Registration process:

- Visit our website [www.gemsnationsacademy-dubai.com](http://www.gemsnationsacademy-dubai.com) and click on Admissions
- Access OASIS (GEMS Online Administration and Student Information System)
- Enter the particulars of your child and receive a unique reference number and file
- Acknowledgment email will be sent detailing the next steps to complete the application

## Our Assessment Procedure

Assessment of students will be made on their previous school report, written assessment or online MAP testing (Measures of Academic Progress). If the student is overseas at the time of the application, we can arrange the assessment with their current school. Wherever possible, the student will be offered a place within 48 hours of the assessment. The offer letter is sent to the parents by email and will include detailed information on how to accept the offer and pay entry fees.

Throughout this process, the family is guided every step of the way by our friendly and efficient Registration Team.

## Annual Tuition Fees

Program	Fees (AED)
KG1	84,000
KG2	90,000
Grade 5 - 1	102,000
Grade 8 - 6	118,000

**Registration Fee:** AED 1,000 (non-refundable)

**Admission Fee:** AED 5,000 (one-time, non-deductible)



## Where to find us!

📍 Nations Experience Suite\*\*  
Suite 4503, Fraser Suites Dubai, Sidra Tower,  
Sheikh Zayed Road,  
P.O.Box 502306, Dubai, UAE



For inquiries or to meet with our Admissions Director, please contact our Nations Experience Suite:

☎ +971 4 440 1500/ 600 567 771

✉ registrar\_gna@gemsedu.com

🌐 gemsnationsacademy-dubai.com

# GEMS Education Committed to Quality Education

Advancing education for all is the motivation behind everything we do. Over the past 55 years GEMS Education has grown from one school to being a truly global company with one incredible mission - to make a quality education available to every student. Our 20,000 education professionals unlock the potential of over 250,000 students across 14 countries each and every day, preparing children of all ages for real world success.

Over the last three years alone, GEMS students have been accepted into 980 prestigious universities across 48 countries. They have enrolled in 12 out of the top 15 universities in the world and 36 of the top 50 universities in the US. In the last 10 years, students have won over 1500 international and regional awards for academics, sports and the arts, exceeding national and international benchmarks for student outcomes. Our students benefit from GEMS' links to many of the world's greatest universities and colleges. And whatever path they wish to follow in life, their preparation is ranked the best available, anywhere. That's why over 20,000 GEMS Alumni are changing the world for the better.



\*Subject to KHDA approval  
\*\*Registration fees and document submission can be made here





EDUCATION

[gemsnationsacademy-dubai.com](http://gemsnationsacademy-dubai.com)