



مدرسة الرجاء AL RAJA SCHOOL

American Mission School



Contact: Joshua Perkins, Al Raja School

Phone: +973 1725 4414

Email: admin.english@alrajabahrain.org

Virtual Learning in a Time of COVID-19

Statement from H.E. Dr. Shaikha Rana Al Khalifa
Chairperson of the Board of Managers of Al Raja School
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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This year, as Al Raja School celebrates 120 years of successful education, and the Ministry of Education celebrates 100 years of quality instruction, the education community of Bahrain as a whole finds itself in unfamiliar waters. How does the Bahraini community continue education in a time of quarantine? As the Chairperson of the Board of Managers at Al Raja School, I have been following education developments closely.

As we look at our school community, and the government and private school communities around Bahrain, we are inspired with how positive and responsive everyone has been.

Students across Bahrain are continuing to learn in a variety of ways. Using Mathletics, elementary and middle school students are able to continue to work on grade appropriate math problems online, as well as compete in math games with kids around the globe! An app called Flipgrid has helped our students create videos to present their learning and projects they have completed. Many younger students are using reading apps such as Tumblebooks where books can be read to them, and where then they can practice their reading. High school students are honing their skills on how to share content and collaborate in their learning on Google Drive. In addition to all this, students are being creative at home by continuing to exercise, produce art, and participate in technology activities. Students continue to learn from teachers who upload videos to YouTube and attend class sessions on Zoom.

With an amazing display of adaptivity, teachers throughout the country have faithfully taken on the task of teaching remotely. Since February 25th, our teachers have been working constantly to hone their teaching practice for virtual learning. They are producing educational videos, unique to their particular students, and ensuring that learning activities keep students engaged and their minds growing.



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They are participating in professional development that will further equip them to help students develop into the strong students we know they can be, and working together with their colleagues to provide consistent, high quality education.

Support staff are constantly following up with parents and students who need additional support. Parents at Al Raja School are in touch with our WhatsApp helpline for technology support, and our teaching assistants, Social Counselors, and Supervisors are in touch with students and parents who need help completing assignments, or just need someone to talk to.

With or without virtual learning, parents have always been a key pillar of our school's success, and this past month has been no exception. Parents have been tirelessly engaging with their children, helping them to succeed. Schools are extremely grateful for their feedback, which has helped us immensely in refining our virtual education systems so that it fits the needs of our respective communities.

Research has always shown that parents are the most influential factor in the academic success of students, and their impact is even greater in a time of virtual learning.

Undoubtedly, education in Bahrain (and throughout the world) is going through an unprecedented time of crisis. No one could have anticipated a worldwide pandemic forcing most students in the world to study from the safety of their own homes. But despite school closures around the world, our students are still learning, and our teachers are still teaching.

We have found we are strong not in spite of the difficult times, but because of them. Our greatest moments will not be shown in grand projects, but rather will be in the small ways we help each other, engage with each other, and show love and compassion to one another. At Al Raja School, we are honored to be able to continue our tradition of teaching strong minds and building strong character.

