

AL BAYAN MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM**Structure of the School**

Al Bayan Middle School is designed to meet the unique needs of the emerging adolescent. These needs encompass physical, psychological, intellectual, social, and moral needs. Our program inspires student achievement and a strong sense of community, self, and values.

As a bilingual school, students are expected to perform at a high academic level in both English and Arabic. Mastery of both languages is required for all students. Students spend 60% of their day in English language subjects and 40% in Arabic language subjects.

Our staff are organized into grade level teams and academic departments. Subjects are departmentalized, however, interdisciplinary units are encouraged. Each department has a standards-based curriculum. Heads of Department support and guide staff in curriculum development and implementation. Collaboration and team planning are utilized when developing units of study/assessments. Grade Level Coordinators address common grade level concerns. There is a strong emphasis on teaching reading and writing skills across the curriculum. English Department members utilize *Writers' and Readers' Workshop* Mastery of skills, application of knowledge, and a love of lifelong learning is emphasized. Adequate individual, grade level, and department planning time are scheduled during the day to allow staff to meet and plan.

Character Education

All staff members have been trained in the *Tribes* process which strongly supports the character education goals at our school.

Electives

Students are able to select from a wide variety of electives including Music, Drama, Art, Robotics, Leadership, Entrepreneurship, First Aid, MUN and French amongst others.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Students are able to choose from a wide variety of after-school clubs, orchestra, choir, interscholastic sports, intramurals, Student Council, and National Junior Honors Society.

Materials & Supplies

The school reviews its curriculum and materials on a rotational basis. Funds are dedicated to each department in order to purchase materials. The school is well equipped with ample teaching supplies. A full time duplicating services' clerk enables staff to have materials copied in a timely manner.

Assessments/Grading

Staff utilize a variety of assessment techniques. Assessments are used to help "drive" instruction. MAP testing is used to help focus instruction. Grades are reported to parents, via a report card, three times throughout the school year. No end of semester exams we follow continues semester assessment policy. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled throughout the year.

Student Body & Community

The Middle School student body consists of approximately 468 students from grades 6-8. There are currently seven sections of grade 6, and seven sections of grade 7 and six sections of grade 8. Ninety percent of our students are Kuwaiti and 10% come from other Arabic speaking nations. Most of our students have been at our school since preschool which creates a real "family" type atmosphere within our student body. Most of our parents speak English and are very supportive of our staff and the educational program.

Professional Development is strongly supported by the school. Many staff members attend PD Conferences in Kuwait and internationally. On-going PD is provided throughout the school year.

Technology

A substantial amount of financial resources has been committed to upgrading the school's educational technology. Classrooms are standardized with a teacher PC and Smartboard. The school is a wireless learning environment and students bring their own laptop to school each day. We utilize e-textbooks in some subject areas. Skoolee supports electronic grade books, parent communication, etc. Google drive and Google Classroom are also utilized. In addition, there is a full-time Technology Integration Specialist who works with staff to develop their IT skills. There are also two MS IT Labs.

Administration & Faculty

The Middle School Principal is responsible for curriculum and instructional development, along with the day-to-day operation of the school. An Assistant Principal assists in this process. In addition, there are Heads of Department, Grade Level Coordinators, and MS Counselors. The following staff members also provide support: Technology Integration Specialist, Learning Support Specialist, Instructional Coach, Curriculum and Professional Development Managers.

The faculty is the primary means by which the Middle School achieves its purpose, and it is the prime reason for the school's reputation for excellence. There are approximately 55 full time faculty members. Faculty members come from the Arabic and English speaking world. They are selected not only for their experience and abilities as educators, but for their personal qualities and commitment to students as well. They are all knowledgeable professionals; diverse in background and teaching style, but similar in their proven ability to work effectively with middle school children.