

29 August 2026
011/Par/26

Dear Grade 8 and Grade 9 Parents,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the new academic year. I hope you have enjoyed a restful summer vacation. Many of the families of Grade 8 and Grade 9 students have been associated with the school for a long time, some are newer, but I am confident all value the strong sense to community and partnership with school. We look forward to working closely with our school families to ensure every student feels welcomed, supported and ready to achieve.

Staff in the Senior Section

The principal is also Head of the Senior Section and very competently assisted by Ms Jonine who is the Deputy Head and pastoral lead with a focus on Grades 8 and Grade 9 and Ms Lisa is Deputy Head academic with a focus on Grades 10-12. Mr Mamdouh is Head of the Arabic curriculum and monitors Arabic, Islamic and Arabic Social Studies.

Arrival and first-day arrangements

Students should arrive at school by 7:30 a.m. and enter through the Second Gate where Ms Jonine and her team are on duty. Mentor Time begins at 7:50 a.m., and formal lessons begin at 8:00 a.m.

On arrival, all Grade 8 and Grade 9 students must go directly to the fishbowl in I Block. Information displayed will inform students:

- Who their mentor is
- Which mentor group and room they are in
- Which classes or teaching groups they have been assigned to

Teaching staff will be available to welcome students and help them find the correct information and classroom.

School uniform

All students should arrive wearing the correct grey and white school uniform not their PE kit. On PE days they may come in their PE kit. Please ensure sweatshirts and uniform items are named so if left they can be returned to their rightful owners.

Students should wear the black school shoes and not trainers, with socks. Girls with long hair need to have this tied back or put up and shaylas, if worn, are to be grey, white or black and worn in a tied, fixed manner for safety reasons please. Girls can wear one set of simple stud earring and a watch no other jewellery should be worn and will be taken by Ms Jonine then given to the principal who will place in her safe until collected.

Food during the school day

All students need to bring a packed, nutritious lunch with enough food for both first break and second break. This could include a sandwich, wrap or other filling main item, fruit, vegetables, yoghurt, cheese and healthy snacks. Students should bring a clearly labelled, refillable water bottle. Please avoid sending excessive sweets, chocolate, crisps. Fizzy or energy drinks are not allowed in school.

Ready to learn

Student check list:

- A suitable school bag
- A pencil case with ink pens (not ballpoints), pencils, coloured pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener, white board makers, small whiteboard eraser, highlight pens, calculator (when allowed), ruler

- Books and learning materials
- A charged device iPad or laptop. Required for some classes
- A nutritious packed lunch for both breaks
- A refillable water bottle
- PE kit on the appropriate days

Mobile phones

Students are not allowed mobile phones in school, and these will be confiscated and given to the principal if they are found. Ms Jonine the Pastoral Lead for Grade 8 and 9 has a telephone in her office if students need to phone in an emergency. The office has six outside lines and the emergency mobile number if parents need to contact the school.

Attendance

There is a very strong link between attendance and success in school, both academically and socially. If your child is ill and unable to attend, please send an email to admin@fpa.sch.ae where the office is then able to inform the teaching staff. There should be a medical certificate attached please. Students taken out of school during the school day are present for ½ a day not a full day. Absence for any other reason please email as above if the reason is sensitive then call Ms Hanan our parent liaison and she will inform me.

We are delighted to welcome our returning families and extend a particularly warm welcome to those joining FPA for the first time. We look forward to a year filled with learning, achievement and personal growth.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Best wishes,

Jan Brettingham Ms
Principal