

TIMSS information for parents of Grade 4 students: *15th March 2015*

The UAE is participating in the **Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2015)** which is being conducted through the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) as the National Centre.

TIMSS is a research-based studies sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). They are designed to provide countries with a rich array of contextual information for improving teaching and learning and impact policy and decision making at a system level. TIMSS is the longest running survey and investigates student achievement in mathematics and science in over 60 educational systems around the world. It is designed to measure and interpret differences in educational systems to help improve the teaching and learning of mathematics and science worldwide. The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) has been appointed by KHDA as the agency to assist with the implementation of TIMSS in Dubai.

1. What will TIMSS mean for your child?

All schools in Dubai is participating in the assessment. The test is for Grade 4 and Grade 8 students only, but GIS is only taking part in the G4 assessment.

The TIMSS assessment at GIS is scheduled to take place on **Sunday 15th March 2015**. There are two tests, each of 36 minutes, with a 15 minute break in between each. We will begin at 8am. Tests will take place in the same rooms as we used for MAP tests, on the second floor.

Students will complete a cognitive assessment booklet comprising mathematics and science, and then answer a questionnaire that asks them about their background, attitudes and their approaches to learning.

*Students will **NOT** need to prepare for the assessment.*

The test instruments for TIMSS include multiple-choice and free-response questions in a variety of formats. Every student in the selected classes will also be asked to complete a Student Questionnaire where the students respond to questions about their backgrounds and learning experiences.

Some students will not have to sit the test because the school has deemed it inappropriate for that particular child. You child's teacher will inform you if your son or daughter is not taking part in the assessment.

All participating students will receive a personalized Certificate of Participation.

2. What will TIMSS mean for parents?

Parents of the selected Grade 4 students will be requested to complete a Home Questionnaire (Early Learning Survey), their responses will be included in the final analysis to draw a complete picture of the current education system in Dubai. Your child will bring the questionnaire home on Thursday and we ask that you complete over the weekend and return it on the assessment day, Sunday.

Please complete and return the questionnaire on Sunday morning.

3. What will TIMSS means for the school and Dubai?

It has been almost a year since H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum announced the UAE National Agenda, which included the important objective for TIMSS: that the UAE will be among the 15 highest performing countries in TIMSS. The school is reaching out to the parents of the selected students in our school, and helping you to understand that you are key partners in this process. Your support is also required in order for our school, and in the future for the UAE, to achieve the National Agenda targets. The results will be published internationally as scores by country, and our school will receive feedback data that will contribute towards our ongoing School Improvement Plan and influence future curriculum planning.

Thank you for your participation.



Mr. Craggs
Assistant Principal