



## THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF MARRAKESH

*Building Bridges Across Cultures*

*Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence—Since 1995*

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September 4, 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new school year!

We are absolutely thrilled to reconnect with you and your children as we embark together on an educational journey, the likes of which, families and schools across the world have never seen.

Our School has come so far—this year we celebrate a quarter century of ASM providing excellence to families in Marrakesh and beyond. We could not have reached this milestone without the generous support of the whole community, including students, parents, faculty, staff, the board, and friends of ASM.

Today, ASM remains steadfast in our commitment to excellence and providing the highest value possible to students and parents. Since the end of last academic year, the School has been working nonstop in preparation for the arrival of your children. We are ready for both face-to-face (F2F) instruction and distance learning (DL). Listed below are just some of the investments the School has made to deliver on our commitment to you this year and into the future.

### **Investments in Faculty & Staff Professional Development and Training**

- **Health & safety protocols** created for all faculty and staff, including training for security, maintenance, and custodial staff
- **COVID-19 testing (PCR & Serological (IgM/IgG))** provided for all employees prior to the start of the school year.
- **Acquisition of new teaching and learning strategies, certifications, and skills** related to the IB Diploma Programme, hybrid learning, distance learning, technology integration, and social-emotional learning. Faculty and staff logged hundreds of hours attending workshops, webinars, and classes offered by leading organizations like IB, GOA, VHS, and Google Educator.

### **Investments and Enhancements to Physical and Digital Infrastructures:**

- **21 wash stations with 55 touchless faucets** located throughout the campus
- **Expanded shaded areas with benches** for student drop-off, pick-up, and lunchtime
- **Fiber Optic upgrades** for both on and off campus locations to improve connectivity and quality of DL classes.
- **New Learning Management Platforms:** *SeeSaw* for grades KG0-2, and *Google Classroom* for grades 3-12 to improve collaboration in F2F and DL instruction
- **New G-Suite Accounts** for all students to provide additional educational tools and facilitate improved communications with students, parents, and faculty.
- **Redesigned ASM webpage** with continued enhancements and content to be built throughout the year, including separate Lower and Upper School calendars.



- **New, interactive School letterhead** with live hyperlinks to ASM Facebook, Linked-in, and YouTube pages so you can stay connected

As we prepare for our staggered opening of all grades next week please be sure to review the [ASM School Opening Plan](#) as well as the appropriate *Student-Parent Handbook* for your child that you received last week. Within these documents are instructions and guidelines, including grade-level drop-off and pick-up times and procedures, that will help ensure a smooth start to the year. We appreciate your kind attention to this important information. For your convenience, below is the schedule for next week's *required* student orientations:

<b>Day (Date)</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Face-to-Face</b>	<b>Distance Learning</b>
Mon (9/7)	3-5	8:25am - 11:35am	*2:30pm - 3:05pm
	6-8	8:25am - 11:35am	*10:30am - 11:00am
	9-12	N/A	*10:30am - 11:00am
Tue (9/8)	KG0-2	8:25am - 11:35am	*2:30pm - 3:05pm
	6-8	N/A	*10:30am - 11:00am
	9-12	8:25am - 11:35am	*10:30am - 11:00am
Wed (9/9)	KG0-12	F2F & DL, Classes 8:25am - 1:45pm; pick-up 1:45pm - 2:15pm *Your child's homeroom teacher will be sending a meeting link.	

### **Health and Safety Reminders**

To ensure everyone's health and safety, please remember as a family to observe all health and safety protocols **on and off campus**. These include:

- Daily health and temperature checks (above 37.8° C, stay home)
- Frequent and thorough washing of hands
- Donning of face masks
- Physical distancing, and avoidance of crowds.

Reflecting on the members of the ASM community whom I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with these past few weeks, two values stand out—care and perseverance. Working together from a place of care and a “can do” attitude, may we make this 25th anniversary year the very best!

I look forward to seeing you and your children on campus and online in the coming days!

Sincerely,

Casey Asato, Ed.D.  
Head of School