



DASMAN دسمن
BILINGUAL SCHOOL مدرسة ثنائية اللغة

Student-Parent Handbook

Dasman Bilingual School – Elementary Division

2026–2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

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About Us

Dasman Bilingual School is home to one of the largest private school campuses in Kuwait and the only school that promotes inclusiveness and integration between mainstream and special needs students. In early 2024, DBS became part of the **Cognita group of global schools**, paving the way for further growth and success.

Our Elementary Division (Grades 1–5) nurtures the whole child academically, emotionally, socially, and creatively through a solid bilingual foundation in English and Arabic. Rooted in inquiry-based learning and guided by our values of **honesty, trust, positivity, accountability, and a growth mindset**, we foster curiosity and resilience in every child.

📖 Together, we grow, we discover, and we shine.





School Guiding Statements

Vision

DBS aims for authentic learning and character development in a safe, positive and nurturing learning environment.

Mission

DBS offers a variety of educational programs to equip our students with 21st century skills, knowledge and values required to become global citizens.

Core Values

Innovate | Empower | Persevere

School Motto

Progression Not Perfection

Accreditation

Dasman Bilingual School proudly holds global accreditations that support students' future academic achievements and affirm our commitment to providing knowledge, skills, values, and competencies for life as global citizens.

CIS

Council of International Schools

NEASC

New England Association of Schools and Colleges

ASDAN

Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network

BTECH

Business and Technology Education Council

Admissions

DBS adheres to Ministry of Private Education guidelines and accepts students regardless of race, religion, or nationality, provided space is available and admissions requirements are met. The school reserves the right to determine grade placement and deny enrollment if standards are not met.

Applicants are evaluated on:

- **Entrance Test Results**
- **Academic Records**
From current or most recent school
- **School Evaluations**
- **Learning Differences or Giftedness**
Any special needs identified

Special consideration is given to qualified siblings of enrolled students. Entrance tests and interviews are by appointment only throughout the year.



Safeguarding

We are committed to promoting the welfare of every child — ensuring all children have equal rights to be protected from harm and to feel safe. Our safeguarding principles are universal across all Cognita schools, developed in alignment with the UN Rights of the Child and globally leading practice.



Educate

All staff understand categories of abuse and their duty of care.



Empower Staff

Staff act in the best interests of the child and take appropriate action.



Know Our Children

Offer timely support to those at risk of adverse childhood experiences.



Empower Students

Children can voice opinions and seek help within a safe school environment.

Curriculum

Dasman has adopted the **New York Common Core State Standards** for Language Arts and Mathematics, and the **New Generation Science Standards** for our academic program. These standards provide clear, consistent learning goals to prepare students for college, career, and life.



Research-Based

Evidence-driven and rigorously tested



College-Aligned

Meets career and higher education expectations



Higher-Order Thinking

Rigorous content with applied knowledge

The curriculum defines what students should know and be able to do, how it is taught, and how it is measured.



Curricular Themes

Our curriculum is organized around four dynamic, year-long **interdisciplinary themes** that connect learning across all subjects through inquiry-based experiences.

1.
Our Wonderful World of Nature

Exploring the diversity of life and natural ecosystems

2.
Exploring Earth's Wonders

Investigating unique landscapes and geological phenomena

3.
Our World & Its Changes

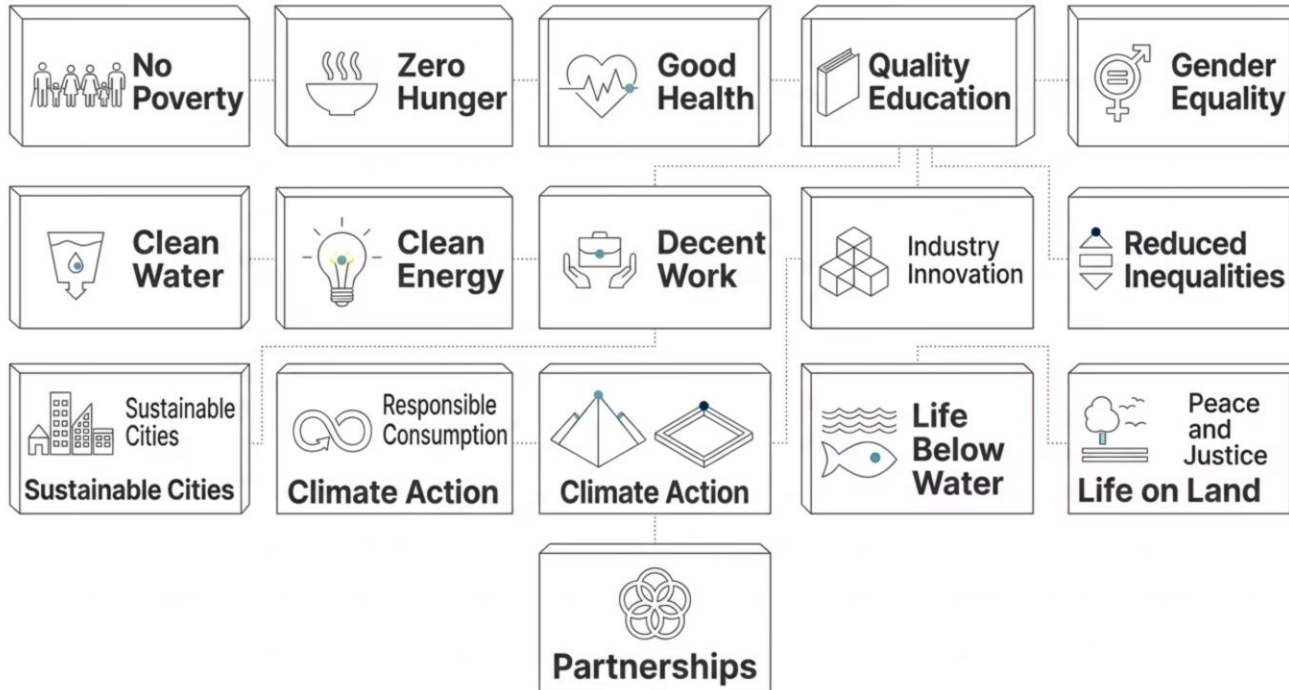
Examining human impact and environmental transformation

4.
Energy Matters

Understanding the forces and forms of energy

Sustainable Development Goals

DBS is deeply committed to the **17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, woven throughout our curriculum and co-curricular activities. Students explore real-world challenges including climate change, equality, clean energy, and quality education through classroom learning, hands-on projects, and community initiatives.



Programs of Study

Grades 1–3

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- ICT
- Music & Art
- Physical Education
- Arabic
- Islamic & Holy Quran
- Watany

Grades 4–5

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- ICT
- Music & Art
- Physical Education
- Arabic & Arabic Social Studies
- Islamic & Holy Quran
- Watany

The Dasman Learner

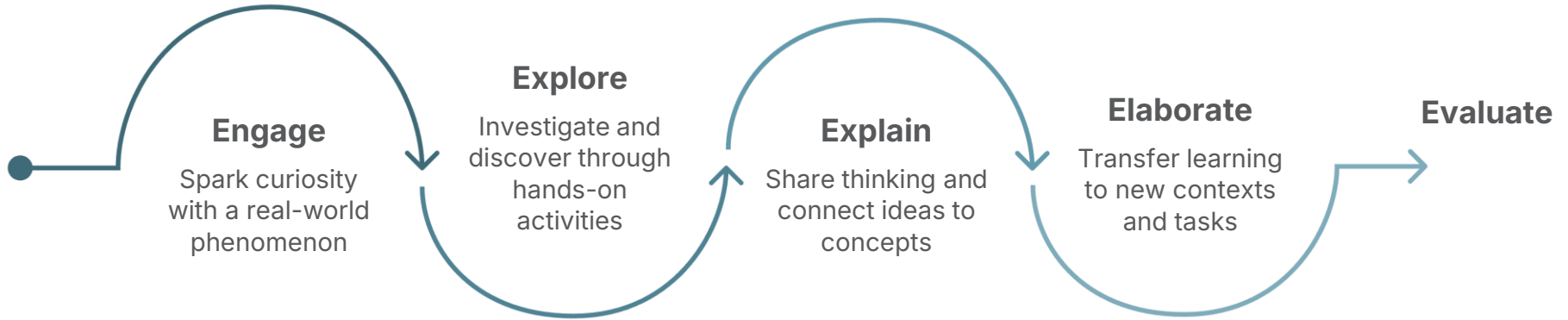
We aim for the Elementary Learner to be curious and motivated, remember what they have learned through real world experiences, be able to explain their thinking and what they have learned, connect ideas across all subject areas, and transfer their knowledge to applicable skills.

Curious & Motivated

- I apply my skills
- I connect ideas
- I remember what I learned
- I explain my thinking

The Dasman Lesson

To ensure every Dasman Learner acquires the necessary skills and knowledge, we built a supportive academic classroom environment through the **Dasman Lesson** — an inquiry-based instructional model that guides students from curiosity to mastery.



This model ensures consistent, engaging, and rigorous instruction across all classrooms in the Elementary Division.

Monthly Values & Character Education

Our character education program is the **heart of our safe, caring, and inclusive learning environment**. It nurtures values and behaviors that empower students to thrive as responsible citizens, effective team members, and successful learners promoting respect, integrity, empathy, and resilience.

Gratitude

Self-Regulation

Respect

Positivity

Growth Mindset

Empathy

Big Challenges

Perseverance

Monthly core values are taught school-wide and serve as the unifying thread across all school goals driving achievement, fostering wellbeing, and building positive school culture.

Homework

Homework is a necessary part of our educational program and contributes to overall student evaluation. Schedules are issued at the start of the year. English, Math and Science homework will be sent out every Thursday. Mondays and Wednesdays are Arabic homework days.

20

Grades 1 & 2

minutes per evening

30

Grade 3

minutes per evening

40

Grade 4

minutes per evening

60

Grade 5

up to 1 hour per evening

Learning Support Unit (LSU)

The LSU is designed to meet the needs of students with learning difficulties, including dyslexia, expressive/receptive language differences, and processing and memory differences. Admission is based on psychologist testing, screening, assessment, and classroom observation.

Instruction is paced appropriately, using auditory, visual, and kinesthetic strategies. Every LSU student has an **Individual Education Plan (IEP)** outlining learning goals, modifications, and support. Classroom assistants help students meet their goals.

- ❏ The LSU mission: helping each student achieve their potential by nurturing self-worth and building on their specific learning style.



LSU Admission Requirements

Eligibility Criteria

- Full-Scale IQ of 90 or above
- Student must be bilingual
- Diagnosed learning difficulty from an accredited center
- Diagnosis of ADD/ADHD alone is not sufficient
- Must not perform below grade level

Child Study Team

Placement decisions are made by the Child Study Team, which includes:

- Academic Director
- Principal
- Psychologist
- LSU Coordinator and Teachers

Parents are notified of all outcomes. External evaluation at an approved center is required every two years.

LSU Trial Period & Referrals

All new LSU students must complete a **20–30 school day trial period**. Success requires no discipline reports, completion of assigned work, positive behavior, and full attendance during the trial.

1

Internal Referral

Recommended by the Special Needs Principal. Student must be in a Special Needs Leaders class with IQ ≥ 90 and a diagnosed learning difficulty, performing at least two years below grade level.

2

External Referral

Must come from a mainstream school with full documentation: report cards, IQ ≥ 90 , and a diagnosed learning difficulty. Students with Autism (moderate/severe), Global Developmental Delay, or Down Syndrome will not be considered.

3

Assessment Process

A file is opened, the student is assessed in English and Arabic, a classroom observation is conducted, and the Child Study Team makes a final decision. Parents are notified of the outcome.

Enrichment Support Program

The Enrichment Support program supports students diagnosed with a specific Learning Disability within the **regular classroom**. Admission requires a diagnosis from an accredited child evaluation center. The last day for acceptance into the program is **October 30**. Support is provided in the four core subjects and may not exceed 40% of total coursework time.

Division	English	Math	Science	Arabic
Elementary	3 periods	3 periods	2 periods	2 periods

Textbooks & Educational Resources



Wonders (ELA)

A comprehensive K–6 literacy program adaptable for all learners, built on the belief that every student can succeed.



Monster Phonics

A structured, multisensory phonics program using colorful monster characters to build reading and spelling skills.



Reveal Math®

A complete K–12 core math program built on contemporary research, designed for exploration, conversation, and reflection.



Inspire Science

Sparks curiosity through real-world phenomena, encouraging students to investigate, argue, and make sense of the world.

Digital Learning Platforms

ClassDojo

Parent communication and student portfolio platform for sharing classwork with teachers and family.

Microsoft Teams

Digital hub for virtual learning, bringing all components of instruction together in one place.

IXL

Personalized learning for Math, Science, and English with real-time analytics and diagnostic tools.

Kids A-Z

Blended literacy learning with leveled books in printable, projectable, and digital formats.

Kahoot! & Britannica

Gamified engagement and a safe, age-appropriate research resource for all grade levels.

McGraw Hill

ALEKS



Each student in Grades 1–5 is required to bring a fully charged iPad or Android device every day. Students are responsible for their own devices.

Academic Reports

The school year is divided into **two semesters and four quarters**. Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter. Parent conferences are held twice a year. DBS uses a **Standards-Based Report Card** that aligns with grade-level learning goals rather than traditional percentage grades.

E

Exceeding Standard

Student demonstrates mastery beyond grade-level expectations

3

Meeting Standard

Student is on track to meet grade-level expectations

2

Approaching Standard

Student is progressing but needs additional support

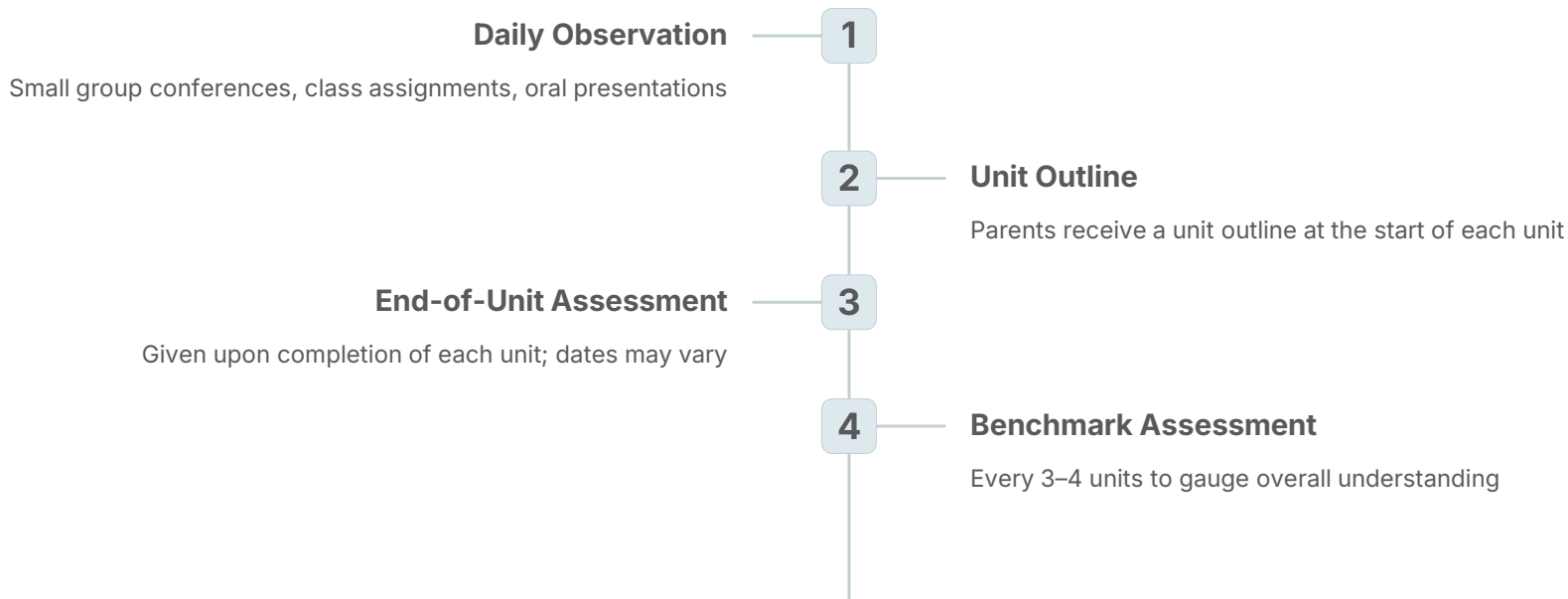
1

Below Standard

Student requires significant intervention and support

Assessment Policy

Assessment is a **continuous process** focused on student progress toward standard mastery not effort or participation alone. Teachers use rubrics, progress descriptors, and evaluative tools for written, oral, and hands-on assignments.



All assessments, classwork and tests are equally weighted and reflect mastery of specific skills under our standards-based learning approach.

Home-School Communication

Communication is essential to student success. Parents are encouraged to be active participants in school life. **Always contact your child's teacher first** before reaching out to an administrator.

→ **Contact Teachers Directly**

For questions about progress or concerns — via ClassDojo messages

→ **Attend School Events**

Parent-teacher conferences, Back-to-School Night, and monthly "Coffee with the Principal"

→ **Stay Informed**

Review ClassDojo, newsletters, and notes from the principal regularly

→ **School Office**

Call (+965) 22277377 Ext: 202 between 7:30am–3:00pm. Principal meetings on Wednesdays only (unless emergency).

Teacher Contact & Communication Tools

Teachers provide contact information at the start of the year. Appointments can be scheduled through the school reception. **Teachers cannot meet parents without prior notice** due to supervision duties critical to student safety.

ClassDojo

Daily updates on homework, behavior, and portfolio work. Use the message function to contact teachers directly. **Please avoid WhatsApp groups with teachers.**

ISAMS

Mass communication system used to inform parents of grades, meetings, events, and emergency situations in a timely manner.

Principal Updates

Monthly "Coffee with the Principal" meetings and timely updates sent directly to parents' email via the Parent Portal.

Monthly Newsletters

Distributed per grade with homework info, spelling words, upcoming topics, and school events.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences are scheduled **twice a year**. Teachers share classroom activities, areas of study, and student progress. Parents sign up for appointment times prior to conference day.

Semester 1 Conference

Mid-year check-in on student progress and learning goals

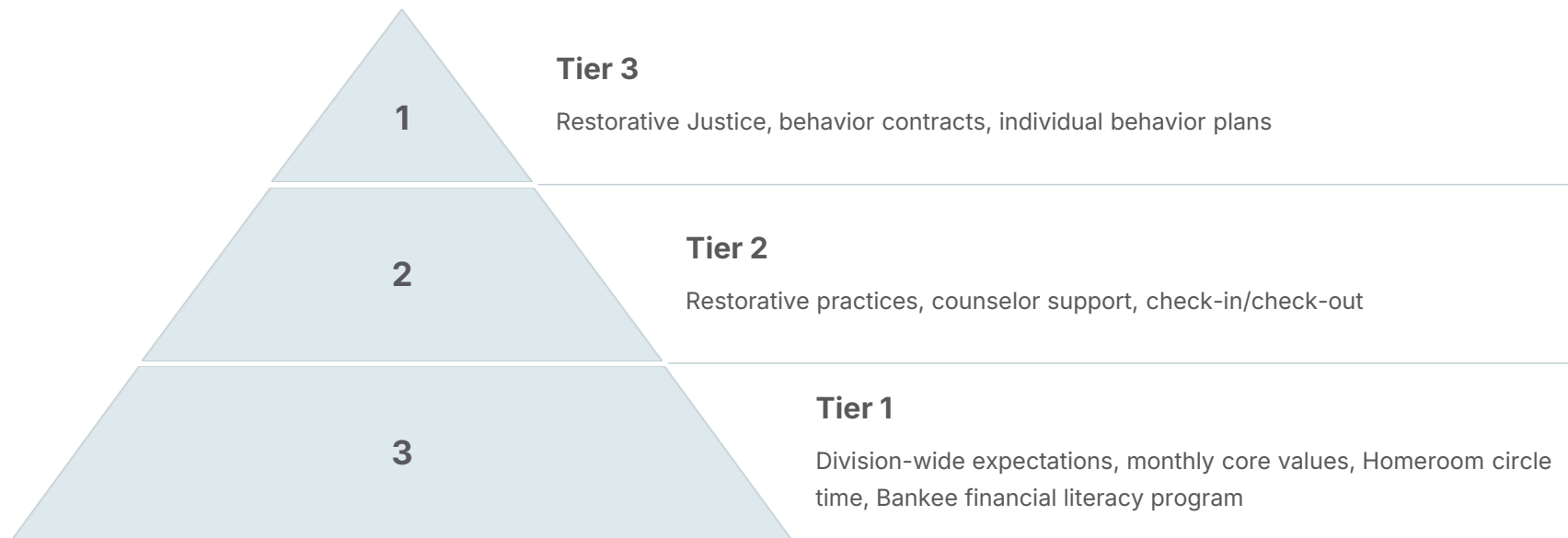
Semester 2 Conference

End-of-year review of growth, achievements, and next steps

-  Walk-in conferences before or after school are not possible without prior arrangements. If campus conferences are not possible, they will be hosted virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Code of Conduct & PBIS

DBS students are expected to follow school rules and embody our core values — striving to become **inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring global citizens**. In Elementary, we follow the **3 R's: Respect, Responsibility, and Readiness**.



The Positive Behavior Interventions & Support (PBIS) program guides students toward self-regulation and strong moral character through positive relationships and home support.

School Uniform

Boys — Summer Uniform

- Navy Blue Polo Shirt
- Beige Shorts
- Navy Blue Socks
- White Shoes

PE Uniform

Required for PE class. Colorful runners permitted on PE days only. Football shoes and wheeled/light-up shoes are strictly forbidden.

Girls — Summer Uniform

- Navy Blue Shirt
- Beige Skort
- Navy Socks
- White Shoes

Dress-Down Days

Modesty and cultural sensitivity required. Jeans permitted on dress-down days only. No jewelry; watches allowed for Grades 3–5. Girls must tie back long hair. Boys should keep hair short and neat.