UAS Mission Statement

Universal American School is committed and dedicated to providing an excellent teaching and learning environment where students learn and understand what it means to be responsible, productive, and ethical citizens. The school strives to create an educational climate where students acquire the essential and necessary knowledge, understandings, and skills to reason critically, communicate effectively, learn continuously and think creatively when solving problems and making decisions.

The school's mission is actively pursued within the contexts of an international student body and a caring, supportive, and nurturing professional staff.

UAS Philosophy

Universal American School (UAS) continually dedicates its fiscal and human resources towards preparing students for both immediate and on-going success in an ever changing and challenging world. Virtually all graduates continue their formal education by attending some of the finest international universities. *UAS* empowers its students to be able to comprehend the importance, appreciate the significance, and respect the Arabic language, culture, traditions, and religion, while using English as the basic means of communication and instruction. *UAS* strives to develop in all its students the capacity to become productive, ethical, and moral participants in a culturally diverse and technologically advanced global community.

UAS believes that demanding, stimulating, effective, and caring instruction significantly enhances academic and personal development and growth in all students. Such instruction occurs best and yields its greatest rewards when it occurs in a learning community . . . a supportive community that establishes high expectations for student behavior, conduct, and achievement and believes students, families, and the general public must share responsibility for establishing and nurturing the finest teaching and learning environment possible.

UAS further believes that the diversity of its student body in itself is a source of strength that should be respected, nurtured, and celebrated.

UAS Educational Goals

I. UAS will create and sustain a rigorous academic environment for all students at all levels that prepares them to demonstrate competence in all scholastic endeavors.

- UAS will provide each student with the academic skills necessary for continuing education and opportunities for career exploration and occupational guidance.
- UAS will instill in the student acceptable work habits and the ability to carry tasks through to completion.

- UAS will develop in all students the knowledge and understanding of reading, writing, mathematics, science, social science, technology, foreign languages, physical education/health and the arts that are essential to the student's intellectual development, essential to a wide range of career choices, and as the indispensable language of science and technology.
- UAS will inculcate in all students the belief that a true education lies in a life-long willingness to learn and adapt in the midst of a constantly changing world.
- UAS will provide each student with scientific knowledge to be aware of themselves as biological organisms in a physical world, to take full advantage of career options, and to function effectively as responsible citizens in a society increasingly shaped by science and technology.

II. UAS will emphasize ethical and moral standards, not only through its curriculum, but also through its co-curricular program and its rules and regulations.

- UAS will cultivate in all students moral and ethical integrity based on the development of spiritual and human values
- UAS will develop an active appreciation of and involvement in issues related to preserving our natural world
- UAS will expand and advance the human dimensions of all students by enabling them to cultivate basic shared values and by fostering mutual respect based on the school's Honor Code.
- UAS will provide each student with knowledge and understanding of how society functions, and will foster in each student the commitment to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- UAS will contribute to each student's physical and emotional well-being and development in a positive environment that fosters self-esteem.

III. UAS will maintain and support a full array of studies focusing on Arabic language, culture, and religion at all levels and for all students.

- UAS will develop significant knowledge, understanding and ability to use at least one other world language.
- UAS will develop appreciation of other people's values and ways of life.
- UAS will facilitate informal and formal exchanges of ideas in commerce, diplomacy, science, technology, law and the arts.
- UAS will expose students to their cultural heritage and will enable students to develop pride in their roots.

IV. All academic classes at all levels (the exception of Arabic and World Language Classes], all co-curricular activities, and all school communications will emphasize the use of the English language.

- UAS will develop in all students the arts and skills of English usage [reading, writing, listening, and speaking] as the core of college preparation, for accomplishing the demands of daily living, for communicating attitudes and ideas, for expanding thought, and for informing the imagination.

V. All students at all levels will use technology and will be taught respect for diverse cultures.

- UAS will develop in all students a minimum competency in the use of computers as instruments to receive, organize, store, analyze and interpret information in each of the academic disciplines.
- UAS will help students recognize and respect various cultures and their influence on individual and group behavior and thought
- UAS will provide each student with a broad range of opportunities to understand and appreciate the fine arts [art, music, theater, etc.] and to discover and develop talents and interests to permanently enhance the quality of their lives, engage the imagination, foster flexible ways of thinking, develop disciplined effort, and build self confidence.
- UAS will provide all students with the study of history and other social sciences, to perform effectively as citizens in society, to understand central institutions and values in their own society and other societies, and to define problems and employ various kinds of information in seeking solutions to contemporary problems.

UAS Beliefs

1. Students need to respect themselves and others and strive to maintain high standards of ethical and moral behavior.

2. Students need to be responsible for their own behavior/conduct and must demonstrate good manners and positive attitudes towards others and towards learning.

3. Students must develop a discipline that comes from within and which is responsive and responsible to authority and to the need for rules and regulations.

4. Students must take responsibility for their own learning and achievement and understand that significant learning does not occur without major personal effort, perseverance, and hard work.

5. Students need to make a positive contribution to society.

6. Students need to participate in a wide range of school activities which allow them to become well-rounded individuals, and prepares them for the world they live in.

7. Students need to develop their whole being, exhibiting intellectual curiosity, social awareness, high moral and ethical standards, and physical abilities based on sound fitness principles.

8. Parents must be actively involved in their child's schooling experience.

9. Educators need to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment for all students.

10. Educators need to be professionally competent and possess the essential knowledge, understandings, attitude, and skills to effectively teach and lead . . . they must be highly qualified.

11. Educators must be held responsible for ensuring high achievement levels are actively and continually sought for every student and that every student experiences academic success.

12. Educators must be caring and supportive of students, parents, and colleagues.

13. Educators must clearly understand they are constantly role models and therefore, must exhibit the very best behavior/conduct for students.

14. Educators must be aware of the cultural differences that make students who and what they are.

15. School leaders need to be supportive of students, teachers, and parents and provide the necessary incentives and guidance essential for strengthening the teaching and learning environment.

16. School leaders must be actively engaged in managing the staff professional development program and designing said program to enhance the instructional and assessment techniques, strategies, methods, and practices associated with effective teaching.