



Frequently Asked Questions

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General Information

What are the school hours?

- School Hours - 7:30AM - 3:00PM
 - Arrival begins at 7:00am and ends at 7:30am
 - The office is closed for dismissal between 7:00-8:00 am and 1:30-3:15 pm

Does my child need to know Arabic to attend AIMS?

- Students do not need to have a background in Arabic to enroll in our program, however, we encourage parents to enroll in PK-1st grade to ensure your child will have a strong foundation to be successful in learning science and math content in Arabic.

What is the immersion program breakdown?

Grade Level	Arabic%/English %	Content Taught in Arabic
Pre-K & Kinder	80%/20%	All Content except English Language Arts
1st & 2nd Grade	60%/40%	Math, Science and Arabic Language Arts
3rd-5th Grade	40%/60	Science and Arabic Language Arts
Middle School	Arabic LOTE	LOTE - Lang. Other Than English (HS Credit)

Are students assessed in English or Arabic?

- While students are taught content in Arabic, the majority of their assessments are conducted in English. Students in K-8th grade take a beginning of the year and end of the year Arabic assessment (Avant STAMP) to assess their Arabic language acquisition.

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Do the students learn formal or colloquial Arabic?

- Instruction is conducted in Modern Standard Arabic (*fosha*), however, our teachers are allowed/encouraged to use colloquial Arabic for general directions. This allows for students to be exposed to the different dialects over the years. Students are also exposed to colloquial Arabic through several of their elective/enrichment classes.

What is the dress code at AIMS?

MONDAY-THURSDAY

- **TOPS:** AIMS polo shirt (embroidered with the school logo) in dark green, white, or black.
- **BOTTOMS:** Khaki, navy blue, gray or black pants, shorts, skorts, skirts, or jumpers. Jeans are not allowed Mon-Thurs

FRIDAY

- TOPS: AIMS Polo or Spirit Shirt
- BOTTOMS: Jeans

Daily Dress Code:

- Sagging pants are prohibited.
- Skirts and shorts must be no shorter than four fingers above the knee, even when worn with leggings.
- Nylon fleece, sweatpants, pajama bottoms, and workout pants/leggings as pants are not permitted.
- Hats are not allowed inside the building.
- Jeans must not have any tears, rips, or holes, even if they are designed that way.
- Shirts must not be cut or altered in any manner.
- Open-toed shoes, house shoes, slippers, crocs, flip-flops, sandals, or any footwear without a hard sole or back are prohibited.
- Only solid color jackets and hoodies are allowed, free of logos, designs, or images.
- Midriff blouses are never permitted.

School Spirit Days:

- **First Monday of the Month:** College Spirit Day
- **Last Monday of the Month:** House Spirit Day

Where can I find the School Supply List?

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- We are excited to announce that AIMS and the PTO are collaborating to streamline and simplify school supplies for the 2024-2025 school year, saving you the hassle of (most) of the back-to-school shopping! **Parents will pay a \$50 fee to the PTO (see below).** With this \$50 supply fee, we will provide all of the necessary general classroom items. The \$50 fee DOES NOT cover the following items:
 - Backpacks
 - Reusable Water Bottles
 - Lunch kits
 - Combination Locks (4th-8th Grade - combination locks only, no keys)

If this presents a problem for you, whether financial or otherwise, please email me at Mballoul@houstonisd.org.

HOW TO PURCHASE:

Using Zelle, add ptoaims@gmail.com as a recipient. Once you add PTO as a recipient, send \$50.00 via Zelle. Most banks have Zelle set up as an option to send money, in the event that you do not have the app. **PLEASE PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME & GRADE LEVEL IN THE MEMO SECTION** (see image below). This will help us with tracking and managing supply purchases.

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How can I purchase uniform shirts?

- Please see the newsletter for updated purchasing information.

Does the campus help families who are struggling financially by providing uniforms?

- If you need assistance purchasing uniform shirts, bottoms or school supplies, please complete a [Student Assistance Form](#) and Ms. Audi will reach out to assist you.

Does the school provide breakfast and lunch?

- AIMS provides breakfast and lunch for students. Students are welcome to bring food from home, if they prefer. [Click here for more information from Nutrition Services.](#)

Is the food halal?

- As a public school, we do not provide halal food. Pork products may be offered on select menu items and will be noted on the menu. Our cafeteria manager has worked to avoid pork products as much as possible. [Click here for more information from Nutrition Services.](#)

Is AIMS a nut free facility?

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- We do not use peanuts or tree nuts in any HISD foods. Please note that we are not “nut free” facilities since students/staff are allowed to bring foods from home that may contain nuts. Some classrooms may be designated as “nut free” zones if we have a student with a significant allergy. [Click here for more information from Nutrition Services.](#)

Does AIMS have an after school program?

- Yes! We have partnered with After 3 to provide after school programming for our students. Space is limited, so enroll early! [Click Here to register to enroll in After 3.](#) For questions regarding payment, logistics, or curriculum, please email asp@gmail.com.

What is the attendance policy?

A student is considered tardy if they arrive after 7:30 AM. Students who leave school prior to ADA time (9:30am) are marked absent for an entire day. It is the parent’s responsibility to submit an email or doctor’s note via email within three days of your child’s return to AIMS. **Please do not copy office or admin members on the email. We have access to the attendance email account.**

Only absences due to illness, death in the family, hazardous road conditions making travel impossible, and participation in official school activities will be excused. **Overseas travel and/or extended vacations are not considered excused absences and will be counted towards your child’s number of unexcused absences.**

Consequences of Excessive Absences

- **Lost Instructional Time:**
 - Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Studies show that children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade have trouble mastering reading.
 - By grade 6, chronic absence is a proven warning sign that a student is at risk of dropping out.
 - By grade 9, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than eighth-grade test scores.
 - Attendance also affects a school’s budget. When students miss class, their campus’ average daily attendance rate drops, which can reduce the funding it receives to support its programs. (Learn more about how public schools are funded [here](#).) We lost about \$120,000 due to attendance last school year. That is enough funding for almost 2 teachers.
- **Truancy:**
 - Truancy letters will be sent to parents of students who have had three or more unexcused absences for three or more days or parts of days within a

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four-week period but less than 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period.

- State law ([Texas Education Code Section 25.085](#); PDF) provides that if a student is absent from school without parental consent for any portion of the school day for three days in a four-week period or for ten or more days in a six-month period, the student and/or the student's parent or legal guardian are subject to civil prosecution by the truancy court.
- **Magnet Growth Plan:**
 - Students who have excessive absences will be placed on a growth plan and will be required to meet with the attendance committee.
- **Retention:**
 - **A student who misses 10% of the instructional days (roughly 17 days) will be required to attend summer school to be promoted to the next grade level.** This includes excused and unexcused absences.
 - Any student served by the school district is considered enrolled in the district. A student must be in attendance for at least two hours to be considered present for one-half day and for at least four hours to be considered present for one full day. These time limits refer to instructional time, not including lunch, homeroom, passing periods, or other non-instructional time.

Where do I submit my child's parent/doctor excuse notes?

- Please [CLICK HERE TO EMAIL ABSENCE NOTES](#) to AIMS. This email address is not monitored frequently but will help us track absence notifications. If you have questions regarding absences, please contact the front office.

When is Pre-K tuition due?

- PK tuition is due on the 1st of each month. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Beginning of the Year Questions

When will rosters be made available to parents? Can I request a teacher or specific class?

- Class rosters will be available to parents the week before school begins. The rosters will be shared via the campus newsletter.
- Roster adjustments are not made based on parent requests to ensure we are being equitable. On rare occasions, a request is considered if there is a

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significant documented concern but it must be approved by the campus principal.

Will I be able to drop off my child in their classroom on the first day of school?

- PK 3, PK 4 and Kindergarten parents will be allowed to enter the building to drop off their child on the **first day of school**. We kindly ask that you adhere to the following guidelines to help your child with the adjustment:
 - Do not enter the classroom, give your hugs at the door.
 - Make your goodbyes short and sweet. The longer you delay leaving, the harder it will be for your child. Give them a reassuring smile, hug and tell them you will see them at the end of the day. Please DO NOT give them an empty promise of returning before then, this will only create distrust.
- All other students will be dropped off in the carpool line or parents must park and walk their child to cafeteria doors (this applies to arrival only).

How can I prepare my young child for success at AIMS?

- Establish Daily Routines
 - Establish a consistent routines for bedtime and begin setting an earlier bedtime and wake up time before school begins
- Lunch
 - Have your child practice opening items on their own. Students are expected to open all lunch items without assistance: including but not limited to lunch containers, snack pouches, bananas, oranges, juice boxes etc.
- Seatbelts
 - Have your child practice unbuckling themselves in the car. During arrival, parents remain in the cars and we do not assist with unbuckling/buckling seat belts. Students are expected to be able to buckle/unbuckle their seatbelts without assistance. If your child needs assistance, you will be able to park and assist them safely.
- Bathroom
 - Please help us prepare your child for PK by strengthening these skills before school begins in August. These skills are important for all students, but they are particularly important since our campus does not have bathrooms inside the classroom.
 - Make sure your child is potty-trained and comfortable with using bathrooms outside of your home.

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- Students need to be able to unbutton/button and zip their pants independently. If your child does not yet have the fine motor skills to complete this independently, we kindly ask that you utilize pants with an elastic waist.
- Students need to be able to clean themselves independently with toilet paper. We do not have bidets and wipes are not allowed as they damage our plumbing system.
- ALL PK and Kindergarten students must keep a change of clothes in a ziploc bag in their backpack (labeled with their first and last name).

Arrival and Dismissal

How does AIMS dismiss students?

- All students are dismissed as car riders unless they are bus riders or participate in the after school program. Walkers are permitted for families who sign up, however, parents must be consistent in their mode of pick up.

Can I walk up to pick up or drop off my child?

- Walkers are permitted for families who sign up, however, parents must be consistent in their mode of pick up to avoid confusion during dismissal. Sign up for walkers will be sent before school begins.