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## **Orientation level at the German International School in Abu Dhabi**

### **Transition from primary school to the orientation stage**

In order to make the transition of the students to the orientation level as smooth as possible, the following points were set as joint objectives by the school management and the teaching staff at the Teachers' Conference on 9 September 2013:

- Grades 5 and 6 form a unit and should be taught by the same teachers as far as possible throughout. A high proportion of hours of class leadership in the classes is aimed for. This includes one class teacher lesson.
- The new class teacher of class 5 should be determined by the end of May of the previous school semester.
- In June mutual hospitations take place. For this purpose, future class teachers and interested subject teachers visit the lessons of grade 4. Fourth graders visit the subject lessons of class 5
- Class conferences in regards of transition. A first joint conference of the current class teachers of grade 4 and future grade 5 (as far as already known) will take place under the leadership of the Head of Primary School and Orientation Level in mid-June, immediately after the future class teachers of grade 5 have been determined. A further class conference with compulsory participation of the subject teachers of grade 5 and the former class and subject teachers of grade 4 will be held in the third week after the summer holidays. The aim is the pedagogical handover of the classes and a collegial exchange of ideas with the pupils.
- In the sense of a pedagogical dovetailing, annual joint further training events/specialist conferences are held for the teachers of grades 4, 5, 6.

### **Placement rule of the orientation level of the GIS**

#### **Conference on placement for the 1st semester grade 5**

- Following the report card conference, a trial conference of all teachers in the class is held.
- A protocol is created and continued until the midterm of grade 6. The grades, personal development status and development potential are discussed. The class teacher prepares a grade overview for all students. The overall impression and not an arithmetically calculated average grade is decisive for the grading. By voting, a first tendency without any consequence for the student is established.



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- If there is a tendency towards a recommendation for Hauptschule or Realschule, the class teacher informs the parents promptly in a personal counselling interview.

### **Placement conference for the 2nd half-year Class 5**

- The report conference is followed by a placement conference of all teachers in the class.
- According to the "Criteria of the School Career Recommendation" of September 2013 and the current level of performance of the student, the conference will decide on placement by vote. There is no specific grade point average at which a certain level is reached.
- In accordance with the resolution, the parents will be informed of the recommendation in writing together with the year certificate. The parents can object to this recommendation in writing. In the case of a recommendation for the Hauptschule, only the status for the Realschule comes into consideration.
- Students are taught and graded at the beginning of grade 6 according to their placement (if their parents object, according to their wishes).

### **Placement conference of the first half year GRADE 6**

- The report card conference is followed by a placement conference inclusive of all teachers who had taught in the respective class.
- At this conference, according to the "Criteria for School Career Recommendation" and the students's current performance level, only those students who had been classified as Hauptschüler or Realschüler at the end of Year 5 by the conference and whose classification had been objected to by their parents will be re-classified by vote.
- The decision of this conference is binding.
- In accordance with the principle of the greatest possible permeability after the orientation stage, school career changes can be proposed until the end of Year 8, usually at the end of each school year.

(Resolution of the Teachers' Conference of 09 September 2013)