

# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS GROUP Saudi Arabia

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Superintendent



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*(ISG is a not-for-profit Educational System  
for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.)*

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***“Committed to Educational Excellence”***

September 28, 2009

Dear ISG Community,

The Royal Decree closure for schools is now a reality. When we initially received the information, our Assistant Superintendent, Rashed Al-Doulab, spoke twice with the Director of Public and Foreign Education, Dr. Khalid Al-Suheim, who indicated that all schools were to abide by the Royal Decree. Mr. Al-Doulab indicated that we had taken preventative measures against the H1N1 (hand sanitizers throughout buildings, public awareness campaign, emphasizing hand washing, etc.) and that we had already been in session for several weeks. It was reiterated that the closure was in effect for Kingdom schools. We now understand that schools that were noted in the Arab News as opening are, in fact, closed.

Although the next few weeks will pose many challenges it is our belief that our introduction to the Blackboard Virtual School will represent some of the most exciting opportunities for educational growth that we have had in the past few years. We are all on the verge of “new” learning- for ourselves and for our students. Originally, all schools had planned for an October 19, 2009 “Virtual Day” so that we might be prepared in the event of a school closure. This is now a reality for ISG and with the school closures our preparations are accelerated as all ISG schools begin virtual schooling no later than Saturday, October 3, 2009.

We urge you to be actively involved in your child’s learning during the coming week(s). Check with them daily to see their progress. Ask them to demonstrate what is taking place virtually with their classes and teachers. Encourage them to keep checking their e-mail or Blackboard on a regular basis. If questions emerge, contact your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

Each day is important for student learning. We want this to be a successful and positive experience for all. The Board of Trustees will determine if any student days need to be made up after the virtual schooling period has finished. The determination will be based on an assessment of what was accomplished during this timeframe. Before the decision is made, parents, students, and faculty members will be asked for their assessment of the virtual schooling experience.

The success of Virtual School lies with each one of us. It is important that we work together in the coming weeks and support each other during the virtual schooling period. We are doing this for one primary reason...so that student learning will continue to take place.

Thank you.

Respectfully,



Norma Hudson  
ISG Superintendent



Bill Stapp  
ISG Deputy Superintendent