

Date: 20/08/2021

Dear G1 - G5 Parents,

Re: Baseline Assessments (G1 - G5)

I hope this note finds you and your family well and that you are keeping safe and well during these times. My name is Ms. Tania and I am delighted to be joining the KIS learning community as PYP Coordinator.

I have been so impressed with the enthusiasm of our PYP learners and the positive manner that they have had as they have engaged with their teachers and their classmates online through these times of remote learning. It was a joy to be able to meet with them online and find out a little bit more about our KIS learners, they are truly 'inspiring individuals'.

I am writing to you to inform our G1 - G5 parents and families that we will, in the next 2 to 3 weeks, be beginning our baseline assessments. As a school, we carry out these baseline assessments at the beginning of each year to provide teachers with an overall 'snapshot' of a child's academic current level of understanding. These baseline assessments are designed to provide our teachers with information that will then support the planning of teaching and learning, and ensure that we are providing appropriate differentiated learning experiences for all of our learners. Throughout the year, we will continue to assess and monitor your child's learning to ensure that their learning progresses.

As a teaching and learning team, the PYP staff have spent some time researching the best baseline assessments for our students considering our learners and the current online / home environment.

The baseline assessments for G1 - G5 will be:

- Reading Through a RAZ Kids Flight Check. (Online, Digital)
- Writing An independent writing assessment set by grade level teachers for the appropriate level and context (Teacher guided)
- Spelling Words their Way - Diagnostic Spelling inventory (Teacher guided)
- Math A Snapshot Diagnostic Assessment through IXL Math. (Online, Digital)

The baseline assessments will be organised and supported by your child's homeroom teacher, who will also provide your family with more detailed information through the weekly planner and daily notes to families.

So that we get a clear picture as to your child's academic needs at this time of year, we ask that parents do not help their children when they are participating in these assessments, but instead, ensure that your child has a quiet, comfortable space to focus and complete these assessments, with enough time and minimal distractions.

Please let your child's teacher know if you have any questions or concerns or if your child is struggling, for whatever reason, with these assessments and with their learning.

As part of my role as coordinator, I will be working with our teaching and learning team to organise a number of parent education workshops and webinars throughout the year. One of the early focuses of these workshops will be 'Assessment in the PYP', and the different ways we assess to build a picture of our learners and who they are academically, socially and emotionally. Please keep an eye out for notice of these workshops.

I look forward to meeting with you all online and hopefully in person in the not too distant future. If you have any curriculum questions, please do feel free to email me at tania.ma@kis.ac.th.

Warm regards,

Tania Mansfield
PYP Coordinator
KIS International School