



GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CAIRO



January 27, 2025

Dear GISC families,

I hope the New Year 2025 has opened with joy and promise for all of you! It has been a great start to Term 2 at GISC with several new families joining us, and I extend to them a special welcome.

MAP assessments are ending for MYP and beginning this week for PYP. We look forward to sharing your child's growth and progress as reports become available during February.

It is also a very important time for our G10 students who are matriculating to the Diploma program in September. Last week, the students heard from a variety of parent and staff representatives about the world of work in Egypt and beyond. In concert with their parents, this week they will make important choices about the course options available to them in DP that can maximize their success in achieving the IB Diploma.

We are proud to announce that our GEMS annual review held last week was an extraordinary success. In our brief 2 ½ year history, GISC improved dramatically much to the acclaim and astonishment of the review team! The final report will be released next month, and we look forward to sharing highlights of successes but also areas of improvement as we continue to build a school targeting high academic and personal outcomes for every student.

Our senior leadership team will be changing in 2025-26. Ms. Han will be joining our team of Saudi schools, and Mr. Mark will soon be announcing his next career steps. We wish them both well as they pursue new adventures!



WELCOME TO THE FUTURE! WELCOME TO GISC

Admissions Team ☎ 01061618302 - 01061618103

✉ registrar_gic@gemsedu.com

Parent Relations Executive ☎ 01061618203

✉ PRE_gic@gemsedu.com



GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CAIRO



We have already secured replacement leaders for these two critical positions. We are grateful to the staff and parents who assisted us in the finalists' interview process.

It is my pleasure to announce that Ms. Hoda Negm has been promoted to Head of Early Years after three years of exemplary teaching and leading as a founding member of the GISC staff.

Ms. Barie Pinsker will assume the role of Head of Elementary after an extensive career serving both early years and elementary students and families, most notably in Qatar. Her background in SEN, safeguarding, and high-quality teaching and learning will be an asset to GISC.

Please see the attached biographies for both new GISC leaders. We look forward to introducing them formally to our community over the next months.

Thank you for your support of the dream that is GISC!

Warm regards,

Catherine Spencer
Head of School.



WELCOME TO THE FUTURE! WELCOME TO GISC

Admissions Team ☎ 01061618302 - 01061618103

✉ registrar_gic@gemsedu.com

Parent Relations Executive ☎ 01061618203

✉ PRE_gic@gemsedu.com



GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CAIRO



Hoda Negm is excited to take on her new role as the Head of Early Years after making a lasting impact as an Early Years Lead Teacher. Hoda is a founding member of GISC, where she has dedicated years to shaping the Early Years program, and now she's stepping into leadership to continue her passion for nurturing young learners.

With 15 years of teaching experience and 8 years in leadership, Hoda has spent over 10 years in International Baccalaureate (IB) schools, becoming an expert in creating engaging, caring environments where children can grow and thrive.

Born and raised in New York, Hoda's teaching journey has taken her all over the world. She's taught in the United States, Indonesia, China, and now Egypt, bringing a wealth of global experience to her work.

As she transitions into her new role, Hoda is thrilled to lead the Early Years program and continue creating a fun, inspiring space for children to explore and learn. With her international experience, love for teaching, and dedication to the success of every child, Hoda is ready to take the Early Years program to new heights and ensure all students have an incredible start to their education!



WELCOME TO THE FUTURE! WELCOME TO GISC

Admissions Team ☎ 01061618302 - 01061618103

✉ registrar_gic@gemsedu.com

Parent Relations Executive ☎ 01061618203

✉ PRE_gic@gemsedu.com



GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CAIRO



My name is Ms. Barie Pinsker, and I am thrilled to be joining the GEMS family here in Cairo. Originally from Long Island, New York, I have nearly 20 years of experience in teaching and educational leadership, both internationally and in the United States. I hold a Master's in Early Childhood and Elementary Education, a Bachelor's in Special Education, and an Educational Leadership Certification from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

My career began in Philadelphia, where I taught Learning and Emotional Support in the inner city. I then transitioned into international education, spending three years in Germany as a Special Education Coordinator and classroom teacher. Since 2010, I have worked in Qatar, most recently as the Early Years and Lower Elementary School Principal. I have developed a deep love for

the Middle East and consider it my second home.

Outside of work, I enjoy cooking, playing the flute, and watching sports. I'm also an avid traveler, having visited over 50 countries and embraced unique cultural experiences, including paragliding and white-water rafting. Though I haven't lived in Egypt before, I've had the pleasure of visiting Cairo, Alexandria, and Sharm El Sheikh on several occasions, and I am excited to make Cairo my home.



WELCOME TO THE FUTURE! WELCOME TO GISC

Admissions Team ☎ 01061618302 - 01061618103

✉ registrar_gic@gemsedu.com

Parent Relations Executive ☎ 01061618203

✉ PRE_gic@gemsedu.com



GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CAIRO



As an educational leader, I am dedicated to creating an environment where students, educators, and the broader community can thrive. My leadership philosophy centers on collaboration, innovation, and a student-focused approach to learning. I believe in fostering a diverse, culturally responsive environment where every student's unique identity is celebrated. Together, we will continue to build a nurturing and dynamic educational experience for all.

I am excited to get to know each of you and look forward to working together to make a lasting impact in the lives of our students!

Warmest regards,

Ms. Barie Pinsker
Incoming Elementary School Principal



WELCOME TO THE FUTURE! WELCOME TO GISC

Admissions Team ☎ 01061618302 - 01061618103

✉ registrar_gic@gemsedu.com

Parent Relations Executive ☎ 01061618203

✉ PRE_gic@gemsedu.com