

# Prospectus

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# A PIONEERING HISTORY...

Scholastica was established in 1977 by Mrs. Yasmeen Murshed. It was founded with a mission to provide a balanced and well-rounded education, using English as the primary medium of instruction but placing equal emphasis on Bangla.

Scholastica's mission is to build curious, knowledgeable and caring young individuals, who will be equipped to tackle head-on the challenges of our modern-day "global village". They will aspire to become responsible citizens, who will embrace and respect people from other cultures and walks of life, and contribute meaningfully to society.

Our customized curriculum builds the knowledge, skills and attitudes that students need to succeed in their academic and professional careers after school. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves, their peers and their teachers in a setting that gives them confidence and builds their skills to think independently.

Scholastica has built a reputation as a pioneer in education in Bangladesh being one of the first local private schools to...

- offer English-medium instruction
- provide science labs for secondary school students
- develop custom-built campuses with numerous facilities, including auditoriums, a swimming pool and numerous hard courts
- forge international connections through sports and trips abroad
- hire professional experts to develop curriculum
- provide mandatory, international-standard training for teachers and management
- introduce sophisticated technology to manage data and information systems
- launch an internship program
- introduce multimedia technology in classrooms
- introduce professional school counselors
- introduce a safeguarding program
- develop a tech and media lab

All these firsts have been achieved through the vision, hard work, passion and dedication of the faculty and management of Scholastica.



# AND A VISION OF EXCELLENCE...

Scholastica will continue to be a pioneer in education in Bangladesh. The management of the school pursues development and improvement relentlessly, and this makes Scholastica truly unique.

What makes Scholastica one of the premier schools in the country? We believe it is:

- our emphasis on training for faculty and management
- our attention to whole child development through extra-curricular activities
- our respect for each and every student who is treated as an individual
- our aspirations to implement international best practices in teaching
- our investment in technology to enhance the quality of our services
- our development of custom-built campuses that boast excellent facilities for sports, visual and performing arts and leadership opportunities
- our efforts to introduce innovative new programs such as counselling services, safeguarding, character education and critical thinking courses

These are the principles on which we continue to improve and develop our academic program, facilities and services. And these are the principles that underlie our success and excellent reputation today.

## ACADEMICS

### Our Educational Philosophy

In Scholastica, we implement modern, international best practices in education. We believe in teaching that...

- is student-centered, active and hands-on
- is thought-provoking and creative
- takes into account the needs of individuals
- prepares students for the real world.

We teach our students to be...

- independent learners: we don't tell them everything, we encourage them to learn for themselves
- curious: we encourage them to ask questions and challenge us and each other
- critical thinkers: we ensure students understand what they are learning, rather than just memorizing what the teacher has said
- willing to take challenges: we push students to think at higher levels and apply their skills, rather than being intimidated by new types of questions or tasks
- creative: we encourage students to apply imagination and think outside-the-box, and we reward students who go beyond the book or what they have been taught

All subjects are taught using interactive and activity-based methods. Asking questions is encouraged and students are often given opportunities to share their own opinion and think critically about the issues at hand. Students usually work together in pairs and groups, developing excellent teamwork and communication skills. Important skills are also developed through the academic program, so that students are able to keep on learning even after they graduate.



We have center-based classrooms in Playgroup and Nursery, where diverse activities are conducted to develop a range of important skills—communication skills, social skills, personal and emotional skills as well. Students get opportunities for physical education on a regular basis, as well as the creative arts. We have introduced a more play-based approach so that students' natural curiosity and playful instincts are nurtured toward learning.



## Our Curriculum

Scholastica provides a complete school-leaving course of study, from pre-school to the A' Levels. We have developed our own curriculum; it aims to deliver a holistic education program combining the core competencies of the national and the British curricula. The comprehensive curriculum designed for the elementary, secondary and high school classes ultimately leads to the University of Cambridge International Examinations Ordinary and Advanced Level General Certificate of Education exams, taught in the high school. These examinations are conducted under the auspices of the British Council, Dhaka.

## The Early Years

In Junior school, students learn through play. We encourage children to observe their surroundings, think independently, ask questions and freely express themselves without fear or inhibition, thereby honing their observation, listening, verbal and comprehension skills. We create an environment where students develop independence and creativity. Students develop a love of learning through hands-on activities where they are given a choice. They then grow in confidence as they apply learned skills in different contexts.



Another strong emphasis of our curriculum is to teach literacy and numeracy and lay the foundations for strong reading and writing in later years. Our English curriculum in the junior section is based on the Science of Reading and incorporates all five of the key skills for reading comprehension into our language and literature classes. Our comprehensive, structured literacy curriculum based on the Orton Gillingham method ensures all of our students learn the skills they need to become strong readers.



## The Middle Years

Our curriculum at this stage exposes students to more subjects in a formal classroom setting. Learning in these classes is designed to develop positive attitudes. Students learn from hands-on activities including scientific investigations, mathematical projects, games, discussions and debates. They read engaging, modern novels and poetry, and conduct research online. Our curriculum is student-centered and active, encouraging learners to research, think and create in order to learn across all the subjects. In addition to the foundation subjects such as language and literature, maths, science, social science and the arts, students also take Ethics & Religions, Media and Technology classes and Learning for Life – which builds basic life skills. In our comprehensive middle school curriculum, we ensure students develop all the skills they will need for success in high school and beyond.

As the students get older, our curriculum is designed to strengthen their foundation and begin their preparation for the public examinations they will take in high school.

## High School

Scholastica's O' Level Program encourages students to engage, invent, manage and compete – equipping them for eventual success in the public examinations under Cambridge International Examinations. Years of experience teaching the O' Levels has allowed us to understand the requirements of the international examinations board – our mock results very closely mirror actual results received by our students.

The A' Level Program provides a demanding, expansive educational experience to our diverse, talented and intellectually sophisticated students. Through this program we aim to prepare our students for entry to the great universities of the world! Our excellent and experienced A' Level faculty ensure that our students are given the best guidance for success at the A' Level examinations.



Scholastica's O and A level Programs are exemplary –our students obtain excellent results in their public exams year after year—and these results are a credit to our hardworking students, their teachers, families and our excellent management team. Additional recognitions for our students come in the form of The Daily Star Awards (where our school gets among the largest numbers of student awardees) and the CAIE Outstanding Learner Awards (which our school tends to dominate!).



## Reading and Writing at Scholastica

In Scholastica, we consider proficiency in both languages to be the cornerstone of a well-rounded education for the students of this nation.

### বাংলার গুরুত্ব

ইংরেজি মাধ্যমের স্কুল হলেও স্কলাস্টিকার শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য বাংলা একটি আবশ্যিক বিষয়। তাই নার্সারি থেকে ১০ম শ্রেণি পর্যন্ত সকল ক্লাসেই বাংলা পড়ানো হয়।

শুরুতে নার্সারি ক্লাসে শিক্ষার্থীদের বাংলার সাথে প্রাথমিক পরিচয় করিয়ে দেয়া হয় বিভিন্ন আকর্ষণীয় শিক্ষামূলক কর্মকাণ্ডের মাধ্যমে। এই ক্লাসে তারা বাংলাভাষার গল্প ও ছড়ার সাথে সাথে বর্ণমালার পরিচয় লাভ করে।

পরে কিন্ডারগার্টেন ক্লাসে বর্ণমালার উপর পড়া, লেখা, শব্দ শেখা ও গল্প পড়ার বিভিন্ন আকর্ষণীয় শিক্ষাপদ্ধতি প্রয়োগ করা হয় যা শিশুদের জন্য বিজ্ঞানসম্মতও।

এছাড়া কেজি ওয়ান থেকেই শিক্ষার্থীদের বয়স উপর্যোগী ও আকর্ষণীয় বাংলা গল্প, কবিতা এবং উপন্যাস পড়তে অনুপ্রাণিত করা হয় যাতে তারা এ ভাষা শেখার প্রতি আরও উত্সুক হয়। আবার বাংলা ও-লেভেল পরীক্ষার অন্যতম আবশ্যিক বিষয় হওয়ায় এ ক্লাসের পরীক্ষার্থীরা বাধ্যতামূলকভাবে এ বিষয়টি গ্রহণ করে থাকে। সুতরাং অন্যান্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়ের মতই স্কলাস্টিকা বাংলা বিষয়টিকে সমান গুরুত্বের সাথে বিবেচনা করে এবং এই বিষয়ের মান উন্নয়নে সদা সচেষ্ট।

The study of both English and Bangla in Scholastica encourages the development of the four key language skills – speaking, listening, reading and writing. Emphasis is placed on applying the rules of language in order to enhance communication skills. Development of students' literary skills is also a very important way to equip them with the necessary tools of communication and expression. Students in Scholastica are required to read numerous novels every year, in both languages, in order to expose them to a greater variety of genres, time periods, styles and authors.



## The Maths and Sciences

Developing Mathematics skills each year along multiple strands helps students develop diverse mathematical thinking skills and nurtures their strengths and talents. We consider competence in Mathematics to be a critical component of success in our school. Mathematics is taught through hands-on, interactive methods based on the approach of the Singapore Math curriculum, which emphasizes building conceptual understandings and quantitative reasoning skills in addition to procedural fluency.

Scholastica's curriculum promotes:

- Mathematical thinking through the use of problem-solving activities and tasks
- Visual thinking and ability to analyze data intelligently
- Investigating and making sense of mathematical problems
- Conceptual understanding
- Development of mental-maths skills
- Quantitative reasoning skills through projects that apply learning to real-world scenarios

In a world filled with the products of scientific inquiry, scientific literacy has also become a necessity for everyone. Scholastica's Science Program embodies a vision of a scientifically literate populace. Our program aims to:

- Stimulate students' interest in scientific investigation
- Develop a range of practical and thinking skills for scientific investigation and conceptual understanding
- Ensure students draw informed, rational and justifiable conclusions based on observed data

Scholastica holds the distinction of being the first school in Bangladesh to conduct laboratory classes at the V-VIII level. We now have a rich laboratory program for students from classes V-XII. Students from Class I to IV don't miss out on practical science – their investigations and explorations take place in their classroom using a range of appropriate scientific resources and materials.





## The Arts and Physical Education

At Scholastica, we recognize that students must develop skills and an appreciation for visual and performing arts, as well as physical education, in order to grow holistically as ‘complete’ individuals.

Our art, music, theatre and dance programs not only build the skills that are necessary to perform and produce art, but they also grow an aesthetic and creative sensibility, develop an understanding of important historical genres, artists and works of art, music or theater, and teach students how to talk about the arts analytically and with appreciation. In the high school, our Media Studies curriculum exposes students to the different types of media and its influence on daily life; the impact of media on social consciousness, and media literacy as a 21st-century approach to education.

Physical education is a mandatory component of our academic program. Our students are not only given basic skills in physical fitness and in a range of different sports but they are also taught about maintaining their health and well-being. By playing various competitive sports, students develop teamwork skills, as well as discipline and sportsmanship. Regular physical education classes are designed from the very early years of education based on an understanding that physical health forms the basis for good mental and intellectual health.

## Technology and Media

Students from Class III onwards take a weekly class in Technology and Media to ensure they grow up to be digital natives. Students learn coding, programming, digital literacy and computer skills in a hands-on way, using tablets provided by the school. They also make media (art and movies), participate in design challenges and develop media awareness through a range of engaging and motivating learning activities. They understand ways to stay safe online and how to place limits on the use of technology for the sake of good health and development.

## Educational Resources

Scholastica has invested in numerous resources to enhance the educational experience and improve teaching and learning in all our campuses. All classrooms in the Middle and High School have projectors and teachers use laptops and Wi-Fi to access online videos and games, and to give presentations. Students in Middle School also use tablets provided by the school for their Media & Technology classes to learn programming and develop their computer skills. High School students also have access to state-of-the-art IT Labs. Teachers stay in touch with students for their homework and to share notices/reminders through Google Classroom. Such resources engage learners and enhance the educational experience, and help teachers to make learning more fun. It is equally important for teaching and learning to incorporate technology to help prepare students to use technology in all aspects of their lives to come.

Scholastica also maintains a rich library in every campus, with over 35,000 books and audio-visual resources. We add modern books to the library every year in order to keep our young readers continually engaged. In addition, we have a resource center on every campus which houses hundreds of educational resources for teachers to use in the classroom—3D models, all kinds of globes, atlases and models, scientific equipment and tools, and a range of visual resources such as charts and photographs. All these resources are used by teachers on a regular basis to make connections between lessons and the real-world and make learning come alive in the classroom.

## Special Education Program

We believe a comprehensive, balanced, and purposeful curriculum should be available to all students. And Scholastica is also dedicated to helping all students reach their full potential. Some children have varying needs that may require them to be given extra attention in order to keep up with the standard set by the school. Scholastica has developed, therefore, a Special Education Program, which is a set of policies and planned activities, based on global best principles and practices, to cater to the special educational needs of students in Scholastica. In many cases, these students are asked to attend specialized classes (called "Skills Labs"), which are small and allow very close teacher-student interaction. In this way, students who are below the standard of the class are given special attention to build their skills and achieve academic success up to their full potential. We also have assistant teachers in junior classes who help to give individualized attention to students. All campuses have a counselor who works closely with faculty, management and parents to support students and help them to access learning as effectively as possible.

## SCHOOL LIFE

Scholastica provides many opportunities for students to explore and excel beyond the classroom, in activities that span a full range of co-curricular pursuits.

### Events and Activities Beyond the Classroom

Life on campus is busy, with something going on every day! We emphasize the development of skills and interests outside the classroom through numerous extra-curricular activities. These include participation in cultural events, art competitions and performances, concerts, fairs, festivals, exhibitions, community service projects, science fairs, leadership opportunities, international trips, and sports competitions. Additional programs for older students, such as Boy Scouts and Model United Nation (MUN), and the Duke of Edinburgh Award program encourage our students to broaden their horizons and build leadership skills. School events that commemorate our cultural and national heritage include Shaheed Dibash, Independence Day, Victory Day, Eid-E-Miladunnabi, Pahela Baishakh, and International Mother Language Day.

Other events also take place, including annual plays and all kinds of academic competitions. Scholastica bags prestigious academic awards in debate, quizzes, Maths Olympiads, Chemistry Olympiads and international academic competitions. Inter-class quiz competitions are held on a regular basis.



### Encouraging Stellar Athletes

We are particularly proud of our sports teams that have participated in countless tournaments and sporting events throughout Bangladesh, and the world, in countries such as Italy, India, Australia and Sweden. Scholastica's students challenge others in football, handball, basketball and cricket. Our sports teams are ranked among the best in Bangladesh and regularly attain top positions in interschool tournaments.



### Building the Leaders of Tomorrow

In the Middle and Senior Schools, we offer students a variety of Student Clubs and After-School Programs. These clubs and programs give students the skills necessary to develop into well-rounded and confident personalities to flourish in an ever-changing and demanding job market. All of these clubs and programs provide opportunities for team work, social skills development and the development of individual talents of our students.

For junior students, the After-school Programs provide opportunities for them to explore their interests and develop specific skills through project work. Senior students have the opportunity to join Clubs and to participate in elections to take on leadership roles to run the Clubs. The Clubs at Scholastica are entirely student-run, with teachers or management personnel providing advice and guidance only; these are invaluable opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills.

# CAMPUSES AND FACILITIES

## Custom-Built Campuses

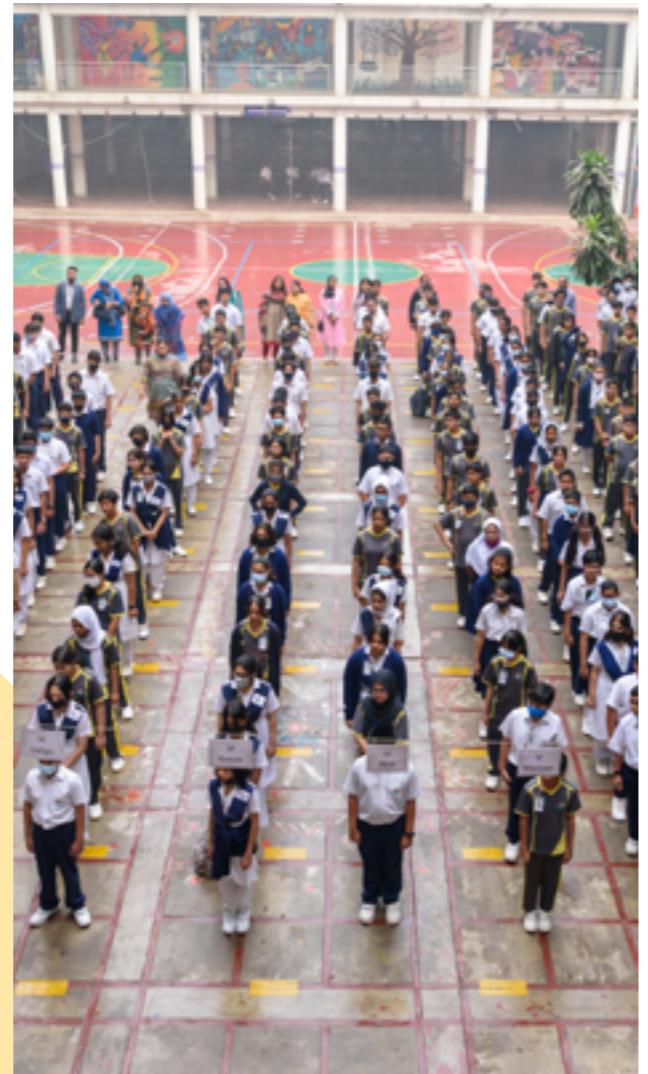
We are proud of our two custom-built campuses. These facilities allow us to provide safe and comfortable environments for learning, as well as state-of-the-art infrastructure that rivals schools at a global level. Each campus has been carefully designed and provides numerous facilities for our faculty and students, including:

- Spacious and comfortable air-conditioned classrooms
- An indoor multipurpose hall, used for events, performances and sports
- Outdoor hard-courts that host sports tournaments throughout the year
- Fully equipped labs for biology, chemistry, physics and media & technology
- Library with access to the internet and printing, and teacher resource center
- Cafeteria and fully-operational canteen services
- Fully stocked bookshop and fee collection booth
- Full-power generator support
- Our campus in Mirpur also houses a swimming pool!

## Safety and Security on Campus

The welfare and well-being of students start with ensuring a safe and secure environment. To enforce day-to-day safety and security within the school premises the following measures are taken:

- Full-time security personnel to ensure round-the-clock security in each campus.
- Metal detectors and archways are used for checking visitors at the entrance points.
- Use of ID cards is compulsory for all employees and students.



- Visitors are confirmed through prior appointment of management and are not allowed to bring large bags onto campus.
- Only parents, guardians or authorized persons are allowed to pick up students.
- All school sections are secured with high barbed wire fences.
- The school building and rooms are kept under lock and key after school hours.
- Each campus has a sick room and first aid facilities in convenient locations.
- Fire extinguishers are kept available for use and staff are trained to use them.
- First aid training is regularly given to all faculty and management. In addition, all campuses have qualified nurses to take care of students.
- Fire drills and emergency evacuation drills are conducted in all school campuses at regular intervals.

# PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

## Including Parents in the School Community

We believe that parents' involvement in the school is an integral component in a child's success in school, and can make a significant contribution to the development and learning process of the students.

We stay in touch with parents through email and SMS for important notices and announcements. Every month a newsletter prepared by each campus is circulated to parents. In addition, every term the Scholastica Newsletter shares important updates on policies, plans and significant news. Our website ([www.scholasticabd.com](http://www.scholasticabd.com)) and social media pages also provide information to the general public.



Of course, parents are always welcome to make appointments to visit the school and meet with teachers or management personnel to discuss any aspect of their child's education. We also regularly survey parents on important issues to get their feedback on opinions on new initiatives or current services.

Scholastica also has a Volunteer Parents Program which encourages parents to work closely with us on programs that enhance our educational services. In addition, parents in the junior school are invited to come and observe their child in class, thereby providing an opportunity for them to enjoy a personal introduction to our teaching methodology and get a glimpse into their child's school day.

## University Placement Services

The University Placement Services office (UPS) is committed to helping graduates to attend good universities all over the world. UPS makes students' decisions regarding university easier through a variety of services, including providing information about higher education institutions, counseling and certification. UPS invites various local and international university representatives, Scholastica alumni, and foreign delegates to conduct information sessions. The office also conducts workshops and short courses designed to prepare students for university and beyond.

Our graduates have been admitted to prestigious universities in the US including Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Stanford, and Brown, and renowned colleges and universities in the United Kingdom – such as Oxford University—and also Canada, Australia and within Bangladesh as well.



## International Public Examinations

Scholastica is the first private school in Bangladesh to provide facilities for the British Council, Dhaka to hold the O' Level and A' Level examinations in its own premises. All arrangements are made by the British Council so that our students are able to take this important examination in their own campus, in STM Hall and in our labs.



## Safeguarding and Student Affairs

Scholastica is committed to safeguard and protect students – ensuring their emotional, social, moral and physical health and development and addressing all concerns with care, privacy and urgency. We try our best to ensure that all members of the school community take proactive action and participate in cultivating a school and work culture that is child-centric and safe. To ensure intervention to prevent harm and to reverse any harm caused by forms of abuse or neglect, the Safeguarding Leads identify students who may be at risk, are experiencing abuse or neglect, or are reported due to concerns from management, faculty, parents or support staff. Students are also encouraged to disclose incidents of abuse or neglect directly to the Safeguarding Lead. They then work closely with students and any other relevant adults who form a team to protect or reverse harm and to ensure the wellbeing of each student going forward.

Additionally, the Student Affairs Unit is dedicated to the well-being of the students in terms of safety, comfort and happiness. The unit helps students understand and deal with social, behavioral and personal issues. We are committed to providing personalized attention to all students through counseling and various mentoring and guidance programs. Every campus has Mental Health Counselors who are qualified psychologists who work with students, and sometimes their families, to promote optimum mental and emotional health.

We also conduct programs to make students and parents aware about important life issues such as discipline and positive and ethical behavior. Awareness programs are conducted on topics such as drug resistance, safety and security, health and hygiene, good citizenship and building character. We also believe that it is important to recognize the achievement and efforts of our students as a motivating factor for their success. Various methods of recognition are used, including issuance of certificates and letters, public recognition during assembly or award ceremonies, highlighting achievements in the Newsletter or Yearbook, and providing rewards over the course of the school year.

## Curriculum Development Unit

Scholastica's Curriculum Development Unit (CDU) is an independent department that oversees the academic program. We spend a lot of time thinking about what to teach our students and the most effective way to deliver our curriculum. We work hard to upgrade what to teach, how to teach and when to teach. CDU learns and conducts research into international best practices and then works closely with the academic team and teachers to implement these teaching methods and ideas. We also improve textbooks and the large range of education aids and resources that make learning fun. CDU also provides training to teachers to enhance their skills in the long-term. We want to ensure that a high standard of education is delivered uniformly at all levels.



## Faculty & Management Development

Scholastica's teachers and management are some of the busiest educational professionals in the country! We are committed to excellence and work hard to deliver the best to our students. High standards are maintained through intensive and comprehensive training programs. Close monitoring and supervision is provided to ensure modern teaching methods are followed.

Scholastica is the first school that has undertaken an initiative to certify all teachers within a few years of joining the school. We have engaged a professional training organization, SPEED, to conduct formal teacher training courses for our faculty. The members of the management and administration are also given training courses regularly on education philosophy, teaching methods, and also soft skills and even communication skills.



## Career Day and Internship Program

One of our central goals is to give our students the basic skills they need to excel beyond their academic careers. Therefore, Scholastica organizes career days where professionals from a broad range of fields present about their careers, and the path they took to enter into their career, as early as the junior and middle school. This includes Scholasticans Speak – a program that provides a platform for alumni to share their experiences and advice with other alums and students virtually. At the high school level, we organize an annual summer internship program in various well known corporate houses and non-government institutions.

## Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program

Scholastica provides need-based financial support for hundreds of students. We support students who face personal or family challenges after they have already enrolled in school. It is our commitment to support our own students as far as we can to ensure their education is not interrupted due to temporary, external challenges.

## Alumni Association

The Scholastica Alumni Association (SAA) builds the special bond between fellow students and this great institution. The SAA is committed to bringing together all former Scholasticans who have conquered different corners of the globe. The SAA has been involved in community service, as well as organizing social events, sports matches and plays. The alumni are invited to events on campus, to maintain their close bond to the school.

## Transport Services

Scholastica offers transportation to students from Class I onwards through STS, Scholastica Transport Services Limited, a sister concern. STS provides an air-conditioned bus service from different parts of the city for middle and senior school students. Stringent safety measures are in place to ensure students are transported to and from school comfortably and securely.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Admissions

Playgroup Admissions: Application Forms are available from September for the next academic session which starts in July. Interview sessions are done immediately; therefore parents are advised to apply when the child is 2 ½ years old.

Nursery to IX Admissions: Application Forms are given out from January for the next July. The admission testing starts in the spring.

A-Level Admissions: Application Forms are given out in June for the coming academic session. Admission is only offered if students meet minimum academic requirements.

Successful candidates who cannot be admitted are kept in the waiting list and are notified as and when vacancies arise.

## School Year and School Timings

The school year is divided into two terms that include four quarters. The First Term begins in July and the Second Term begins in January and ends in June. Winter vacations, summer vacations and the two Eid vacations are the major scheduled vacations during the academic year.

School timings vary between campuses and class levels. Please contact the admissions office for details on school timings.

## Assessing Student Progress & Achievement

Assessments in Scholastica are based on ongoing coursework: written and oral work, class tests and assignments in each quarter. Performance in sports and co-curricular activities is also assessed regularly. Class Teacher's Reports are given twice a year, upon completion of the 1st and 3rd quarters. Report Cards are given two times a year, upon completion of each term. From Class V onwards, exams are held twice a year, at the end of each term.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

## Email Addresses

### Executive Office:

managing\_director@scholasticabd.com  
coo@scholasticabd.com

### Student Affairs:

student\_affairs@scholasticabd.com

### General Information:

info@scholasticabd.com

### Admissions:

admissions@scholasticabd.com

**Website**  
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