

September 2, 2008

Dear AST Parents:

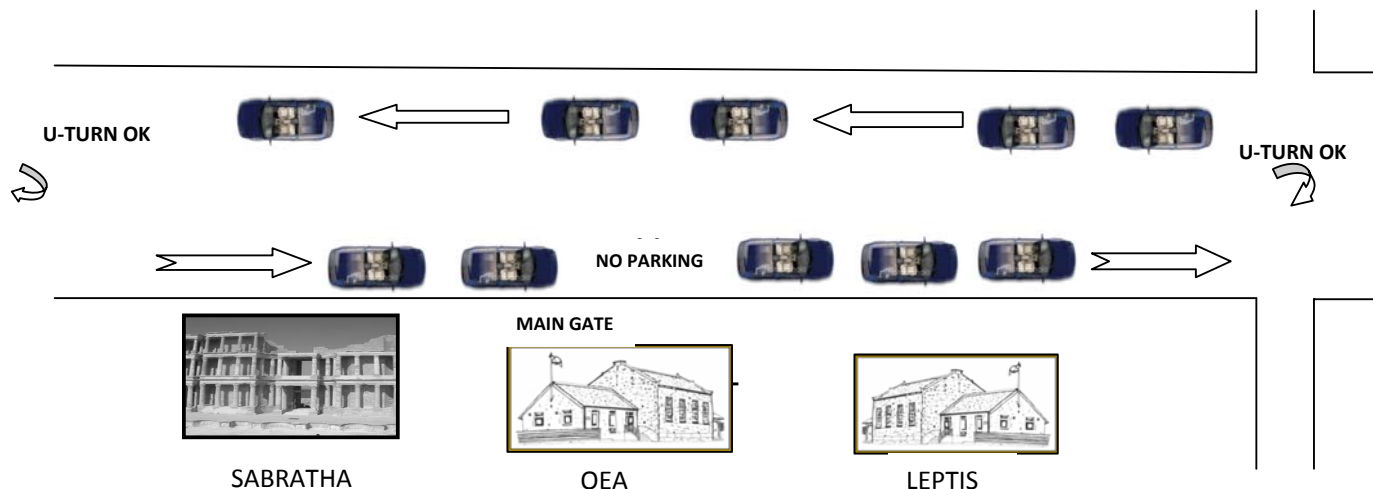
Ramadan Kareem and welcome to the 2008-2009 school year!

Since your children's safety and security is of utmost importance to us at AST, we all ask that you PLEASE read and note the following points.

1. Due to a serious allergic situation, **Pre-K is now peanut-free**. Your cooperation is extremely important.
2. Please read the entire Student-Parent Handbook with your students as soon as possible, making sure that everyone understands all of the policies & procedures.
3. If you don't already have an AST photo ID, please come to the office to have your pictures taken. Without this ID, parents will be asked to show another form of identification and to sign in before entering the campus.
4. Students will only be permitted to leave with the person(s) you have designated with the office. **(Please let us know as soon as possible!)** If there are changes due to play dates, parties, etc., please let the office know in plenty of time to notify the guards.
5. Parents/drivers/etc. need to come to the gate to collect all students. **No student may exit the campus unless the designated person(s) is at the gate.**
6. Every member of our school community is expected to respect the following driving/parking rules. **If you have drivers collecting your students, please make sure they know the rules as well.** This is very important to ensure the continued safety of all of our students.

Our guards will be monitoring the front of the school and have been asked to report any problems.

- ✓ Cars are expected to drive slowly past the school.
- ✓ No U-turns may be made except at the corner by the side street or 200 meters past the west side of the school.
- ✓ No double parking. There is plenty of room down the street and around the east corner.
- ✓ There is NO PARKING immediately in front of the school's main entrance.
- ✓ Cars need to park in the direction they drive.



As you have noticed, AST has been exceptionally busy over the summer as we continue to focus on the Board's expansion plans. Three wonderful new classrooms have been added to our basements. Within the next month or so, the students will also be able to use the large playing field that is being prepared on our new property adjacent to AST.

We have also renamed our main building, now calling it Oea (ancient Tripoli). Why? Because the name Sabratha is now reserved for our newest building (and the farthest west). Sabratha should be ready in early 2009 and will house our elementary students.

While we are accomplishing many things, the best news is that our teachers are here and that we have a very dynamic and professional faculty waiting anxiously for your students. All of the teachers have just spent the past week in orientation and have already established school-wide teacher goals.

Please note that our new P.E. teacher, Mr. Makour, would like to eventually have all students in uniform, which is a great idea! Until we can make this happen, he asks that students try to have a white T-shirt and dark pants or shorts. If this is not yet possible...no worries please! Our saying here is that: "AST is a masterpiece in progress!"

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to Miss Azah, Ms. Layla, and Ms. Pesekas, who will not be returning. With Ms. Azah and her family's departure, we no longer have an Independent Studies program, which Ms. Sease was scheduled to teach. We are very happy, however, that she has generously offered to fill in when needed. Ms. Tammie Caffee will be our new librarian and will join us at the end of the month. Ms. Julie Reach, who will teach elementary ESL and art history in the high school, will arrive in a week.

Finally, you are warmly invited to attend the following upcoming events. The PTA "Back to School Coffee" will be on Sunday, September 7th at 10:00 AM, to be held at Lynda Quintana's house (map to follow).

The AST Back-To-School Night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10th. This is the time when parents (no students) come to school to meet the Kinder-Grade 10 teachers and learn all about their students' courses. Pre-K will meet from 2:00-2:45 on the same day. These are both great opportunities to meet the other parents in our wonderful school community and to learn how to get involved. We hope to see you at both!

Warmest regards,

Judith Drotar
Director