



# THE ICADEMY MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

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## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Caitriona Lane  
Middle School Department Chair



Caitriona Lane is the new Middle School Department Chair.

She has worked with iCademy for 5 years, first starting as a homeroom Lower School teacher before moving to the Middle School team to work as the Life and Physical science teacher. In 2016/17 Caitriona became the lead teacher for Middle School. Caitriona graduated from the University of Limerick, Ireland, with a Bachelor of Education in biological science with physics and a Master of Education in mentoring.

During Caitriona's 12 years of teaching experience, she has remained student focused, seeking to actively engage students and incorporate fun and creative ideas to allow her students to become proficient in science. In her leadership role she has a desire to cultivate holistic education for children throughout the world, trying to actively engage the minds of future leaders.

# A WORD FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

*Diane Claver*

I am pleased to welcome our new and returning students, and their families, to the iCademy Middle East community for the 2018-19 school year. At iCademy, we are focused on ensuring excellence for every student, empowering each one to be successful in higher education, the workplace, and in life. We believe that our individualized programs enable each student to achieve his or her true potential.

As of 2017, iCademy became one of the first online schools—and the only online school in the Middle East—to be accredited by the prestigious New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Over the past years, this rigorous process has allowed us to refine and continuously improve our school. We have built up an academic staff dedicated to serving students in the GCC region; refined teacher training and evaluation processes; and partnered with schools and learning institutions throughout the region to offer a world-class, individualized education.

We have also successfully implemented Measures of Academic Progress standardized testing, widely used by US and international schools, to help us target teaching practices and meet learning needs for individual students and our school as a whole. Students who graduate with us will receive a fully US-accredited, US curriculum school diploma from iCademy Middle East, which will be widely accepted in the United States and in most higher-education institutions across the world. iCademy Middle East is also licensed by Dubai's Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA).

Our mission at iCademy Middle East is to provide a high quality, online and blended learning school for students from all over the world.



We are committed to building an excellent learning environment for all students, whether schooling online, in our Learning Centers, or in one of our blended-model school partnerships.

I am honored to serve as the Head of School for iCademy Middle East.

The 2018-19 school year marks my sixteenth year in virtual and blended-model education. As a long-time teacher, administrator, and as the parent of three children, I have experienced firsthand some of the challenges involved in educating students with unique learning styles and interests. It is my hope that our school can help remediate these challenges by providing continuity, a rigorous curriculum aligned to US standards, and an individualized educational program for each student.

We truly believe that all of our students have the potential for success, and we continue to demonstrate commitment to ensure that every student receives an education that will prepare him or her for the next level and beyond.

# DONATIONS TO THE PHILIPPINES

**BY: MA. MERCED DOMINGO-ABELARDO  
HS MATHEMATICS TEACHER/HS LEARNING COACH**

When I first came to K12 Middle East 7 years ago, I was amazed of the curriculum and the learning materials provided individually to students. I thought of how less we have in my home country, the Philippines.

A year after that, there was a need to renovate the office and the Office Manager, Ms. Mylen Mendoza was unaware of where to Distribute boxes of learning materials in the stock room. I asked her if I could send the learning materials for donation, and this is how iCademy Middle East's annual donation to the Philippines began.

That was 6 years ago. Today, I have arranged a yearly shipment of learning material boxes for donation to selected public schools back home. iCademy Middle East have donated to 2 national high schools, 1 barangay high school, and 7 elementary schools and this year donation will benefit at least another 4 schools. Here in Dubai, we have donated to 3 Philippine Schools. All these schools were thankful for the "surprise" donations. It was a surprise for them because there was no prior notice that such a donation was coming. When the donations arrived at my home in the Philippines, my siblings brought them to the schools I had selected and all I asked of them was a picture when it was received and a guarantee that they will make sure students will benefit from the materials.

The donation box includes, used books for English, Math, History, and Science. We also donate used laboratory materials. At the end of every school year, I collect all the used materials in the Learning Center for donation. All the HS Learning Coaches, Ms. Samar and Mr. Paolo, support this project and they assist with the collection of materials, to the sorting and re-packaging. Middle School lead Ms. Angela, iCad+ lead Ms. Jo, and Lower School lead Ms. Sheldene also collect used materials from their year levels, and then hand to me for donation. Of course, my "Kabayans", Ms. Mylen and Edwin are always there to help me with the packaging of all these materials for shipment. It is now an annual activity. A thank you must go out to the support of Mr. Diarmuid Geraghty, for allowing me to collect the used materials.

Ms. Kendyl Blackburn once e-mailed all the home-based students in Dubai to inform them of this activity. Parents of home-based students took their time off just to bring their used materials to the Learning Center. Ms. Diane Claver also supports this activity by encouraging both home-based and Learning Centers students to participate.



# NEW ADDITION

**HELENA ALGERA**, *Learning Coach at Khamis*

Born in Zimbabwe, raised in South Africa. Helena has a diploma in Educational Psychology from Uni-Prep Institute, California, U.S.A., a diploma in English Language Teaching from Cambridge University, has also done TESOL with Allison Institute, Canada. Over the years she has taught adults and children English language, speaking and writing in South Africa. Helena came to K.S.A. with her husband and son for work. Has assisted at the school as a substitute teacher and has helped with grades: K to 3 to gain experience and to satisfy her teaching passion. Helena lives by the saying "BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE".



**LEAH MARKHAM**, *MS History Teacher*

Originally from Long Island New York. At the age of 19 Leah joined the army for 3 years. Later went on to college and received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Health Care Administration. Leah completed her Master's in Business Administration and then worked in corporate America but did not love what she was doing and kept feeling the pull to become a teacher. Leah returned to school and obtained a dual Master's in Teaching elementary and special education from Liberty University to follow her passion of being a teacher. She has lived in Kansas, Japan, Hawaii and is currently living near Munich Germany with her family.

**CHRISTOPHER GWIN**, *MS and HS German Teacher*

Lives in the shadow of Philadelphia, USA and has taught German language and culture courses for nearly three decades. Christopher also provides professional development workshops for teachers in second language pedagogy at local, regional and national conferences. He sits on the board of directors for the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, chairs the publication committee, and sits on the board of directors of the National Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations. Christopher is also a part-time lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He spends his summers growing food in his vegetable garden and spends his winters selling artisan chocolates in the Victorian beach resort Cape May, NJ on the Atlantic Coast.



## FALL MAP TESTING | SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 4

MAP Growth measures what students know and informs what they're ready to learn next by dynamically adjusting to each student's responses. MAP Growth creates a personalized assessment experience that accurately measures performance.





PARTNERSHIPS

# WORK RIGHT & EMPLOYABILITY

## **WORK EXPERIENCE for iCad Plus students in iCademy Middle East.**

Some of our readers will already know of the iCad Plus group which was set up to support students with learning difficulties in the Learning Center. Students in the iCad Plus group range in age between 12- 21 years and have mild to moderate learning difficulties. For our older students, we offer two courses from ASDAN to help prepare them for the world of work, Employability and Workright.

### **Workright**

The aim of Workright is to develop basic transferable employability skills for students who have no experience in the world of work. The students are required to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they learn in this course while on work experience placement.

### **Employability**

The Employability course is aimed at older students who need to be ready, in the foreseeable future, to leave school and enter the world of work. It encourages students to make use of skills learned, knowledge and understanding to carry out structured tasks and activities in the workplace.

### **WE NEED your help in finding Work Placements:**

In this region, it is difficult to find placements for our students in the real world of work so that they can build up some practical experience. As part of the Expo 2020 initiative, there is also a drive in the UAE for People of Determination to be more included in society. The experience of working is invaluable for our students, as it contributes so much to their personal development, independence and confidence. We are looking for opportunities to provide work experience for our students at both these levels. Contacts in the following services, but not limited to, would be most useful:

**Hospitality/Hotel | Beauty | Child Care | Horticultural | Restaurants/Cafes  
Retail | Clerical office work | Animal care**

If you feel that you could help us provide some work experience for our students, we would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact me on **055 7614846**, or email me at **[jnolane@icademydubai.com](mailto:jnolane@icademydubai.com)**

## **ENROLLMENT DATES**

FALL 2018  
3 & 17 October  
7 November

SPRING 2019  
9 & 23 January  
6, 13 & 20 February  
6 & 20th March  
17 April

# REFER A FRIEND

## EARN AED 500

### Terms & Conditions:

- A successful referral means an application has been processed and the payment has been made in full.
- No limit on number of students referred.
- The AED 500 discount cannot be applied to part-time, semester, or summer courses. It is only applicable for a full-time student.
- The payment will be credited on the 3<sup>rd</sup> month after enrollment, assuming the student does not withdraw within this period.
- The enrolling family needs to mention the referring family name to ensure they receive the AED 500 discount.

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MIDDLE EAST