



Dear MENA Common Core Conference Participants,

We hope this message finds you well. Here is some information to help you prepare for the conference. We look forward to a wonderful weekend of professional development, networking with educators, and celebrating education.

Best,
Kevin Simpson and Alison Burrows

Venue

The conference venue is the American University in Dubai. More about the school is located here <http://www.aud.edu/>. A location map is found here: <http://www.aud.edu/app/webroot/js/ckfinder/userfiles/images/campusdir.png>. The university hosts many workshops and free Wi-Fi will be available. Please bring your laptop or devices.

We will provide you coffee, tea, and snacks each day. Breakfast will be provided on both days. Lunch will also be provided on 16 October and a light lunch on 17 October. Parking is available on the AUD Campus.

Registration

When you arrive at the conference, please check in at the security gate. All participant names will be on a list with the security guards. The security team will check your bags.

Next, please check in at the conference registration desk. KDSL staff will provide you with a name badge, conference bag, and additional instructions about the conference.

Sessions

Sessions are first come first served, with 25 participants per session depending on the room. If you do not get into a session you would like, then please see your colleague as they probably attended the session. **We urge you to read through the session descriptions and schedule thoroughly before the conference.**

Sessions are located here: <http://menacommoncore.com/sessions.html>. Attached you will find a copy of the two day schedule. You will be able to connect with the presenters over the two days.

Resources

All of the MENA Common Core Conference resources will be available from presenters after the conference on the website.

Please bring your technology (tablets, laptops, power cords), as some of the presenters may ask you to access documents online.

Partners

You will have a chance to visit our conference partners and learn more about products and services available to teachers and schools. Time is available at the start of each day, during breaks, during lunch and at the end of each day.

Collaborative Planning on Day One

This time is reserved to make connections with educators from different schools and collaborate to solve similar dilemmas. A facilitator in each room will provide a brief introduction and directions for how the session will work. In this session the participants will have a chance to share celebrations, challenges, new learning and share resources they use when teaching that specific grade level or content area.

Action Planning on Day Two

At the end of day two, schools will have a chance to engage in next steps action planning. This will be a time for teacher and administrators to share information from the sessions they attended, reflect on what they learned, determine where their school is right now, and decide what information learned at the conference to bring back to their school. An optional template to be used will be provided.

What to Bring and What to Wear

Please bring your business cards and personal devices.

The weather in Dubai will be lovely this weekend. On Friday the high temperature will be 94 F / 34 C and the low to be 76 F / 24 C. On Saturday, the high temperature will be 92 F / 33 C and the low will be 76 F / 24 C.

Every indoor space in Dubai is strongly air-conditioned. Therefore, we recommend you carry a sweater if you are a person who gets a chill in air-conditioned areas.

Please remember: The people of Dubai and the MENA region dress conservatively.

Dubai Airport Tips

- If you are traveling from abroad please remember your passport. Please let us know when you arrive and what hotel you will reside in.
- Exchange money at the airport as local currency is used everywhere (\$1=3.67AED)
- Have the place you will stay available to share at passport control
- Taxis are abundant at all terminals and will take you right to your hotel location. Have the hotel name, location, and phone number ready to share if necessary.
- Citizens of the following countries do not require a visa to enter the UAE: United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Other nationalities may require an entry permit. To find out if you require a visa to enter into the UAE please visit <http://www.dubaitourism.ae/definitely-dubai/entry-formalities>



AGENDA

16 October 2015

7:30-8:30am	Registration, Exhibitors
8:30-8:45am	Welcome
8:45-9:45am	Keynote - Dr. Norman Webb
9:45-10:00am	Coffee Break, Exhibitors
10:00-11:30am	Session 1
11:30-12:30pm	Lunch, Exhibitors
12:30-1:45pm	Session 2
1:45-2:00pm	Coffee Break/Snack
2:00-3:30pm	Session 3
3:30-4:30pm	Content Area Meeting: Collaborative Planning

17 October 2015

8:00-9:00am	Registration, Exhibitors
9:00-10:00am	Keynote – Nicole Zdeb
10:00-11:30am	Session 4
11:30-12:15pm	Coffee Break/Snack
12:15-1:45pm	Session 5
1:50-2:30pm	Action Planning
2:40-3:00pm	Closing Address

Prayer Times will be shared each day.

Prayer rooms are available at the host venue.

If you have additional questions, please email us at cccmene@gmail.com.

We will see you on 16 and 17 October!

Contact Persons:

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