



Dear GIS community,

I am “Ms. Carolina”, and I am very honored to be joining GIS as the PYP Counselor!

I am new to the UAE, but in love with it already! Dubai is so beautiful and welcoming. As for our school, I can honestly say that the positive climate and friendliness I heard so much about prior to arriving at GIS is true - and powerful! What a wonderful community!

It was lovely to see the students excited to come to school, and how well they are settling in and adjusting to the routines and procedures. Thank you for trusting us to care for and teach your children!

I am looking forward to building trusting relationships with our students, parents and staff. At this point, I really want you to know that I am here to support YOU! It is my job to look after the well-being of the children, and that goal is only possible when we work together as a team. It absolutely does “take a village”! I’ll ask you to be patient as I get to familiarize myself with everyone (and vice-versa!) and the surroundings, but rest assured that I already have your child’s best interest at heart, and take pride in being a caring person and professional.

I am sure we will get to know each other better as the school year progresses. Just to tell you a little bit about myself, I am from the south of Brazil (a real “*gaucha*”). I am a licensed Psychologist, hold a Masters degree in Education and have experience working as an International School Counselor for over a decade now (in Brazil, Turkey, Malaysia and China). I am extremely passionate about child development and education, and feel incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to focus on social and emotional learning in everything that I do. Promoting a healthy physical, emotional, social and cognitive development in a school setting is my mission in life, and I am thrilled to be part of the GIS team and community for it!

There’s no doubt that the past months have been challenging in ways we have never imagined, and that there is much more to come. As we experience the uncertainties, anxieties and stress of what we are calling “*the new normal*”, what we do know is that we are in this together, and that we are extremely resilient and flexible human beings. Nobody has all the answers, but nobody is alone. And, as I am learning, #WeRGIS, and I am so excited to be a part of this amazing journey!

Please stay tuned as I will be sharing more information and resources to support students and parents in coming back to school, as well as helpful child development, education, parenting and well-being resources.

If you have any urgent immediate needs or concerns regarding your child, please contact me at c.barboza_gis@gemsedu.com.

p.s. I will be smiling behind my face mask!

Kind regards,
Ms. Carolina Zambom Barboza
PYP Counselor

