

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Ms. Sudha Govindswamy (Sunder) and I currently hold the position of Curriculum and Staff Development Coordinator at the Universal American School (UAS) in Dubai, UAE. In this capacity, I provide continued professional development and support teaching staff in effective concept-based curriculum development. Within this broad domain, I specifically target three areas: concept-based teaching and learning within international curricula particularly in IB programs across the continuum; ICT integration with a clear focus on differentiated instruction in multicultural settings; and fostering distributive leadership practice through teacher empowerment.

I am currently a doctoral research student at the University of Bath, UK (defending April 2015), specializing in Curriculum Studies. As a certified curriculum consultant from the Lynn Erickson Institute, Whitefish, Montana, USA, I have researched and presented widely at international conference on curriculum studies and teacher professional development: <http://practicalthinkingclassrooms.wikispaces.com/>

I have recently been selected for the position of Curriculum Reviewer for the IB Americas Global Centre, for a pilot project of Building a Quality curriculum. In this capacity, I provide curriculum review and feedback on IB planners and Programme of Inquiry for IB/American schools in the United States and some other parts of the world.

As a SMART Certified Trainer and a SMART Exemplary Educator, I currently serve also in the role of technology coordinator in the secondary school and serve in the school-wide IT committee that makes budgetary decisions k-12. I am currently the Program Manager for the launch of the iTunes U Master class at UAS. I have taught in the IB DP program for 7 years and am also an IB Examiner for IB ITGS.

I have also worked extensively on leading the preparations for school inspection visits from the Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai, UAE with particular focus on the Quality Indicators for Curriculum and Teaching and Learning. I have also been an active member on various committees for accreditation such as the CIS, MSA and IB. As the chairperson of the school-wide Curriculum committee for the last few years, I have also worked with the Curriculum Committee members on revising the school-wide Curriculum and Assessment Plan, the Strategic Plan (in the Steering Committee) and the ICT integration plan.

Before I joined the present organization, I worked in a GEMS school in Dubai for eight years where besides teaching, I served in the capacity of Staff Advisor and Events coordinator for all major events that brought together many schools from both within and outside the Emirates.

Please find below my CV for your perusal.

Sincerely,

Sudha Govindswamy Sunder,

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Curriculum Vitae

Specialization:

- Curriculum Development and teacher training: concept-based curriculum, design and practice.
- Curriculum Mapping – curriculum continuum- curriculum, pedagogy and teaching and learning bridging the IB PYP and the IB DP with the middle school conceptually based curriculum. (Atlas Rubicon and Manage Bac)
- ICT integration and Educational Technology- with particular focus on differentiation in multi-cultural settings.
- SMART Boards as a medium of creating interactive and engaging lessons.
- Teacher focused professional development, mentoring and monitoring in all of the above.

Current Responsibilities as the Information and Communication Technology Coordinator

- Conducting workshops for teachers on cross-curricular and ICT integrated pedagogy with particular focus on differentiation strategies in multi-cultural settings.
- iPad initiative and iTunes U Master class- moving the school towards the BYOD model.
- Launching/training teachers for the iTunes U Master class for IB Diploma Program courses.
- Launching and upkeep of the Parent/Teacher/Student Portals –training, providing ongoing support and trouble-shooting on Portal related matters.
- Collaborating, planning and target setting with school wide IT committee for the upkeep and maintenance of the school Portal and Website. (Final Site)
- Conducting ongoing workshops for teachers on integrating SMART boards and iPads in the classroom for effective teaching and learning.
- Conducting classroom observations and mentoring of teachers in concept-based teaching and learning with supportive technology integration.
- Liaising and planning annual IT budget with the Chief Information Officer and school wide IT committee.

As Curriculum Leader for IT

- Developing and revising the Scope and Sequence for Grades 7-10 in collaboration with other teachers in the department.
- Mentoring and providing support to teachers in the department.
- Ensuring vertical and horizontal alignment of the IT curriculum and ensuring this Seamlessly integrates into mainstream teaching.

Committees served/serving:

- Chair of School wide Curriculum Committee (2010-2014).
- Member of school-wide Portal and ICT Committee (2011-2013).
- Co-chair MSA/CIS five year review committee for ICT (2011-2012).
- Chair of KHDA Inspection teams-visit preparation committee (2010 till current).
- Chair of Steering Committee – two years (2008-2010).
- Member of Staff committee- CIS Visit (2007).
- Chair of IT committee (2007-2010).

Paper Presentations at international conferences:

- Teacher Perceptions about concept-based curriculum development and instruction- Tales from the Chalk Face: The 3rd TESOL Arabia Teacher-Led Research Mini Conference. February 2015.
- Tackling content saturation through teaching for conceptual understanding- Michigan State University, the 3rd Dubai International Conference in Higher Education- Dubai, UAE. February 2015.
- Quality Teaching and Learning through teaching for conceptual understanding- Michigan State University: Conference Proceedings International Conference in Higher Education: Sustaining Success Through Innovation- January 2014.
- American curriculum Schools in the United Arab Emirates and the Common Core State Standards- On the Education Panel- Radio 103.4 Dubai Eye. October 2014.
- The role of Crosscutting Concepts in unpacking the Next Generation Science Standards- The Middle East and North Africa Common Core Conference. October 2014.
- The role of evidence-based writing in aligning to the ELA standards- The Middle East and North Africa Common Core Conference. October 2014.
- Cultural Values and Student Expressions in an inquiry-based IB classroom- The Alliance for International Education conference- October 2014.
- Global Education Forum- Dubai World Trade Center - Training Approaches for effective use of technology in the classroom-March 5-7, 2013.
- Alliance for International Education Conference - Teachers' Managed Heart in International School Settings. October - 2012. (This paper features in the International Schools Journal, November issue, 2013)
- Workshop at GITEX- Assessment to Inform Planning with SMART Response - October 2012.
- SMART Exemplary Educator Summit, Hamburg, Germany. – Sharing of best practices- July 2012.
- ICT integration and teacher perspectives- Gitex, Dubai October 2011.
- Tackling Information Obesity in the 21st century classrooms- Global Education Summit; Dubai World Trade Center, Dubai March, 2012.
- Conceptual Curriculum workshops at international schools and conferences – 2012-2014.

- MENA Common Core Conference: Title: The Learner in focus - the starting point when aligning Common Core with ELA. (November 1-2, 2013, Dubai, UAE)
- Facilitator in Lynn Erickson's workshop: Concept-based Curriculum and Instruction for the Thinking Classroom- (January 24, 25 - 2014, Dubai).
- Emirates International School, Dubai. Full day workshop – 65 PYP teachers: (February 4th 2014).
- ESOL Conference- Dubai, UAE (October 4-6, 2013)
- Workshop 1: Leading concept based curriculum- challenges and strategies.
- Workshop 2: Effective Scaffolding of Generalizations and developing Guiding Questions in the inquiry based PYP classroom.
- Beykent Schools, Istanbul, Turkey [for the 12th Turkish National Day IB conference] April 13th, 2013. A. Presentation: Clarifying Conceptual-Misconceptions. B. Presentation: Teaching for Conceptual Understanding in the PYP. C. Presentation: The MYP Trans-disciplinary Classroom and The Power of a Conceptual Lens.
- Zayed University [For: KHDA partnership - What works in Literacy]. Title: "How we use compelling questions to drive inquiry-based learning in the English and Arabic language classrooms at middle and high school stages"-February 12th, 2013
- Universal American School Dubai: Leadership Roles for the Concept-based Curriculum.
- GEMS World Academy: Title: The power of a Conceptual Lens in PYP interdisciplinary teaching. November 4th, 2012. [Full day workshop for 80 PYP staff]
- Universal American School, Dubai: Title: Teaching for Conceptual Understanding- what does this mean?
- Universal American School, Dubai: Title: Clarifying Misconceptions. August 28th, 2012.

Education

- 2008-Ongoing - Doctorate in Education (EdD) –University of Bath, UK.
- 2012- Certified Independent Consultant for Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction- Lynn Erickson institute, Whitefish, Montana, USA.
- 2009 – Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, University of Sunderland, UK.
- 2007 – Certificate in Graphic Design – United Arab Emirates.
- 1994 – Certified Professional Business Programmer – Apple Education, Dept. of Electronics, India.
- 1992 – Master's Degree in Commerce (M.COM) – Kerala University, India
- 1991 – International Diploma in Computer Programming and Applications, UK
- 1990 – Bachelor's Degree in Commerce (B. Com)- Mahatma Gandhi University, India.
- 1988 – Diploma in Data Processing, Indian Institute of Technology, India.

1998 to 2006: Computer Studies Teacher and Events coordinator –GEMS Dubai.

- Events Coordinator for all major inter-school activities
- Staff Advisor for Student council: and in-charge for Prefect Body.
- Member of Steering Committee for school development.
- Moderator - for four consecutive years in the Inter school Debates conducted at the o Indian Consulate, wherein over 15 schools all over UAE participated.
- Coordinated, directed, scripted Cultural show for Annual Day, for four consecutive years.
- Counseling and motivating teenagers towards goal focused and consistent performance
- Volunteered in special needs school for teaching and organized shows for children with special needs.
- UN Simulation assemblies: initiated and pioneered by self, which is still a major event in previous school.
- Involved in Website Development for the school.
- Preparing and dispatching Press release and coordination with media for events.

For more information on my workshop, international conferences and consultancies, please visit:

Concept-based workshops and consultancies:

<http://practicalthinkingclassrooms.wikispaces.com/My+workshops>

Common Core Workshops:

<http://practicalthinkingclassrooms.wikispaces.com/Common+Core+Workshops+and+Presentations>

Published Papers and presentations:

<http://practicalthinkingclassrooms.wikispaces.com/Presentations>

LinkedIn : ae.linkedin.com/pub/sudha-govindswamysunder/40/736/40a/

About myself:

Nationality: Indian.

Visa Status: On employer sponsorship.

Hobbies: Reading, Caricature, Traveling.

Date of Birth: 30-12-1969.

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