



Al Fatih Academy

OPENING YOUNG MINDS TO GREAT WONDERS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT ELEMENTARY PRESENTATION

9/15/2020

AFA Administrative Team



Pervin Divleli
Head of School
& Founder



Ismail ibn Ali
Principal



Amina Husain
Assistant Principal



Afeefa Syeed
Director Community
Engagement &
Founder



Sulaima Kochaji
Registrar &
System Administrator



Sana Rashid
Business Manager



Uzma Baig
K-4th Grade
Counselor



Muzna Khan
5th Grade /
MS Counselor



AFA Core Values

Be Intentional & Mindful

Build Community

Uphold Excellent Character

Create Serenity & Peace

Transform Knowledge into Action

Practice Stewardship & Service

Parents, Teachers and Students




How will you put each of these 6 values into practice this year?

THEME FOR 2020-21

Be an UPstander!

An “upstander” is a person who chooses to make a difference in the world by speaking out against injustice and creating positive change.

Whoever sees an injustice:

<i>he or she must try to fix it with their hands.</i>	Take action Remove something harmful Put your hands up to show you want it to stop	
<i>If they are not able, then try with their tongues,</i>	Speak out against it Let others know it is happening Use ways to share	
<i>if that is also not possible, then in their hearts - they should pray for it to be gone and feel the hurt of its existence.</i>	Think about what might happen if it is not stopped Spend time understanding what is happening and why Ask Allah (s) to guide others to do the right thing	

Be an UPStander!

Never too young to make a difference

Speak truth to power Never give up

Create solutions Think before doing

Create content Self advocate Spread the Truth

Transform knowledge into action

"qawwāmah" or someone as "qa'im bi al-Qist"

Root of q-w-m literally means to "stand" ق - و - م

A qawm (a nation) is a people who stand together.

istaqāma (being mustaqīm) is be steadfast as you stand
(walk the path)

be upright i.e. "straight".

lqāmah is to establish, someone established is muqīm

Look for all the ways we will practice being UPstanders at AFA!

5 ways you can encourage your child to be an "upstander":

1. Share inspiring stories of others who've made a difference in their community and/or the world.
2. Discuss situations when your child can stand up for himself/herself or others.
3. Encourage your child to use his/her voice to report issues or problems.
4. Celebrate your child's actions and his/her bravery when acting like a young leader.
5. Be a good role model for your child by being an "upstander."

RaisingWorldCitizens.com

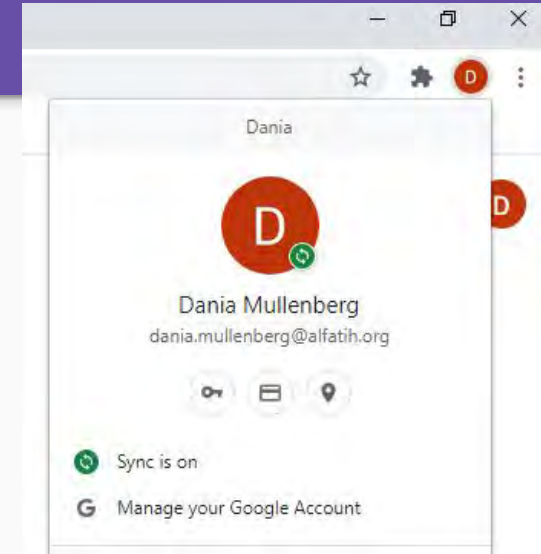
Al Fatih Academy
Virtual School



Management of Virtual School

Online Platform: GSuite for Education

- Email administered to every student, grades K-8
 - allows for student/parent to access/house AFA-only related emails, resources, communications.
- Google Meet Video Conferencing Software
 - ability to monitor student activity
 - cannot be accessed by anyone outside of AFA domain
 - designed for use with Chromebooks
- School-managed bookmark bar to make accessing links easier
- **Reminder: if using personal device, students must use Google Chrome and it must be logged into their AFA account**
 - **Note: AFA is not able to access any personal files on a personal device**



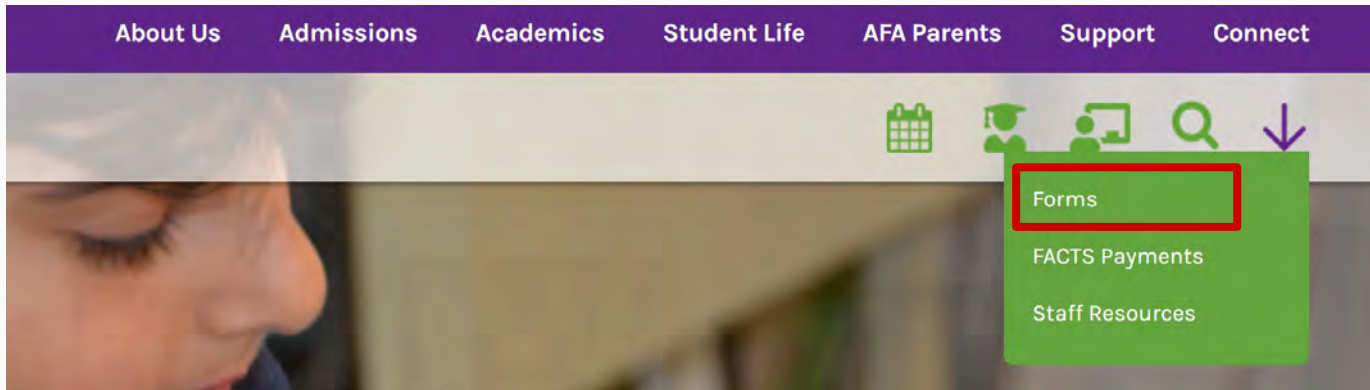
Student Learning Kits - Reminders

- Kits include a variety of materials
- Periodically check on supply levels
- Make sure supplies only used for school work
- Take care of any textbooks given to students
- May need to help students with preparation of materials for classes
- Keep box in a safe place to be returned at next pick-up event



Attending Live Sessions

- Teachers will record attendance for every live session in RenWeb
 - Attendance during homeroom is counted as official daily attendance
 - Students are marked tardy if joining more than 2 minutes late
 - Parents will be contacted if tardiness is persistent
 - Students expected to stay for the entire live session
- Absences must be reported by parents - posted on AFA website
 - [Absence Notification Form](#)



Grading Policy

- **Assignments are graded in Virtual School**
- **Standards-Based Grading in Elementary**
 - 4: Consistently exceeds the expectations of the standard
 - 3: Proficient/Meets the standard (right where they should be)
 - 2: Approaching mastery of standards
 - 1: Developing standards
- **This grading does not equate to a % or letter grade (e.g. 3 ≠ 75%)**
- **Core Learning Packet work will not be graded unless teacher requests an assignment to be turned in**
- **Teachers leave comments on report card at end of quarter**

AFA is a Responsive Classroom School

It is based on the premise that children learn best when they have both academic and social/emotional skills.









Essential Practices

- Morning Meeting
- Creating “Netiquette” Rules
- Interactive Modeling
- Teacher Language
- Logical Consequences
- Guided Discovery
- Academic Choice
- Classroom Organization
- Working With Families
- Collaborative Problem Solving

Some of these skills will be worked in gradually.

PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ AS A TEACHER



	HIS ACTION	LESSON FOR US
	MAINTAINED DIRECT EYE CONTACT WITH LISTENER	BE PRESENT
	STATED 3x IN DIFFERENT WAYS	REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT
	ASKED QUESTIONS TO SPARK INTEREST AND CURIOSITY	UTILIZE ENQUIRY-BASED INSTRUCTION
	USED ANALOGIES & ILLUSTRATED TO MAKE POINT	DIFFERENTIATE; BE VISUAL
	USED HANDS OR OBJECTS TO TEACH A POINT	MAKE THE ABSTRACT CONCRETE
	USED DAILY LIFE EXAMPLES TO INSTRUCT	BE RELEVANT
	USED QUESTIONS TO ELABORATE AND EXPAND	REDIRECT FOR SELF DISCOVERY
	SPOKE IN MEASURED TONE GAVE TIME BETWEEN WORDS	BE SUCCINCT, CLEAR GRADUAL

Communication Expectations

- **Teachers/Staff**

- Mon-Fri, teachers will respond within 24 hrs between 8-4pm
 - exceptions made as needed
- Teachers send weekly newsletter on Sunday to help prep for following week
- Emails received on the weekend by teachers will be responded to on Monday
- Teachers/staff should only be reached by their official AFA emails
- Admin may send reminders outside of school hours on a limited basis

- **Tech Issues**

- Small tech team and respond quickly, in order of form filled out
- Form is best way to communicate

- **In-Person School?**
 - Continuing to assess and evaluate our options
- **Field Trips?**
 - Teachers and staff are thinking through how this might be possible
- **Standardized Testing?**
 - Reviewing state guidelines and other national and regional educational institutions providing direction
- **Spelling Bee and Geo Bee?**
 - In contact with respective organizations
 - We intend to offer them, provided the respective organizations give guidelines on how these would be run in an online format

Town Hall Meetings

Mandatory Attendance:

Each family must attend at least
1 town hall meeting per
academic year

Fee:

Families that do not attend any
town hall meetings will be fined
\$50

November 15th, 10-12

May 2nd, 10-12

...are key to AFA's commitment to transparent governance and our school family's kitchen-table conversation for sharing

- updates on budget, curriculum, new programs
- initiatives directed to the school's financial sustainability
- any suggestions, concerns, or ideas parents may have

Volunteer hour requirement has been waived for each family for this year.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email us at board@alfatih.org.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

A group of parent volunteers to help
organize, plan, **Fundraise** and execute
ideas and events for **school**
improvements and **community**
building and to foster communication
among the teachers/staff, parents, and
students.

**WE ARE THE
VOICE OF THE
PARENTS.**

2020 - 2021 EXECUTIVE TEAM



MAHWISH HAMLANI

Children in 1st Grade and
4th Grade



SHAHEEN SHAIKH

Child in 2nd Grade



IMANEY AHMAD

Children in KG, 2nd, 4th,
and 8th Grade

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FALL 2020

Please look out for further details on upcoming events:

PTO GENERAL BODY MEETINGS

- Wednesday,
9/30 at 8 PM
- Wednesday,
10/28 at 8 PM

SOCIAL

- Smaller Family
outdoor
activities
- Virtual calls for
parents to get to
know each other
better
- Sports watch
parties
- Skate for AFA

FUNDRAISING

- Monthly
Restaurant
Nights
- Spirit wear sales

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Virtual Author
Nights
- Parenting
workshops

HOW TO HELP PTO



VOLUNTEER AT PTO EVENTS

Volunteer opportunities will be posted via email and Al Fatih PTO Facebook page.



SIGN UP WITH LOYALTY PROGRAMS

We have partnered with organizations that will donate a percentage of your purchase. We will share the list via email.



BRING IN/SCAN BOX TOPS

Scan your receipts using the BTFE app.

Arabic & Qur'ān



Arabic & Qur'ān Team



Asma Messaoudi
Kindergarten
Grade 5
MS Quran 6
MS Arabic Level 1



Iman Mosallam
Grade 2
MS Quran 7
MS Arabic Level 2A



Roua Duwaji
Grade 1
Grade 4
MS Quran 8
MS Arabic Level 3



Souad Mohammad
KG
Grade 1
Grade 3
MS Arabic Level 2B

Ustadha Asma M.

- BA degree in Literature from The University of Tunis, Tunisia.
- Participated in a training in modern teaching strategies in Aberystwyth University in Wales, UK.
- Licensed by State of Virginia.
- Studied Tajweed and earned certificates in all its levels.
- Teaching Arabic and Quran at AFA since September, 2008.
- Ms. Asma's favorite hobbies are reading, walking, and observing nature.

Ustadha Iman M.

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Commerce
- Licensed to teach in Arabic PREK-12 for the state of Virginia. 10+ years of experience
- Strong passion for teaching:
 - volunteered to teach elders how to read and write Arabic and Quran.
 - taught at the local Saturday school and then went on to teaching full time.
 - Vice Principal position at ADAMS Center Taleem UI- Quran School.
- Joined Al Faith Academy in 2013.
- Loves teaching and enjoys inspiring children.
- Outside of work Mrs. Iman loves shopping and spending time with her family.

Ustadha Roua D.

- Born and raised in Damascus, Syria.
- Earned Bachelor's Degree in Education.
- Virginia certification in teaching second language and Montessori training certificate.
- Teaching Arabic, Quran and Islamic studies at Al-fatih Academy (elementary and middle school) for 15 years.
- Grateful to have a job that allows me to draw on the element of teaching that has long been a part of who I am, while working with students who continue to inspire me each day. Effectively provide an engaging and interactive learning environment during class.
- Proud to work in a school that teaches students the knowledge of the Quran and help in shaping their Islamic character and identity.

Ustadha Souad M.

- Born in Lattakia, Syria.
- Holds 2 degrees from Tishreen University: Bachelor's of Arts in Arabic Literature and a Diploma of Educational Qualifications.
- This year marks the 18th year for her of teaching Quran and Arabic.
- Taught at the Saudi Academy for six years.
- Joined Al Fatih Academy in 2009.
- She loves teaching and enjoys being with children.
- Her favorite activities are reading, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Goals of the Quran Program

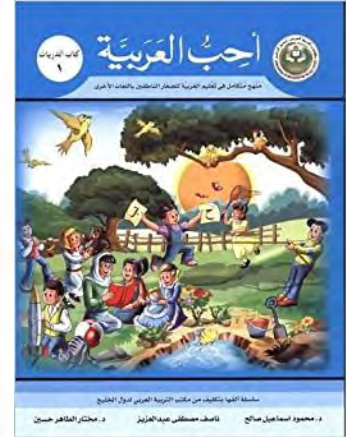
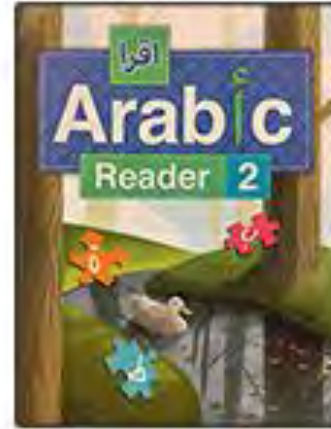
- Learn and maintain correct pronunciation and recitation rules
- Memorize *surahs* chronologically
- Memorize relevant verses as an extension of integrated topics
- Exposure to Quranic Vocabulary
- Introduction to:
 - أدعية (*Duas*) related to daily lives
 - أحاديث (*Narrations*) related to worship & interactions



Goals of the Arabic Program

- Emphasize strategies that allow students to see themselves as language learners.
- Emphasis on reading, writing, listening and speaking through Arabic Immersion.
- Incorporate vocabulary, grammar and dialogue in discovering cultural experiences.
- Participation in plays, dialogues, and games to apply learned vocabulary.
- Connections made to Quranic Arabic as appropriate.

EXAMPLE SCHOOL RESOURCE



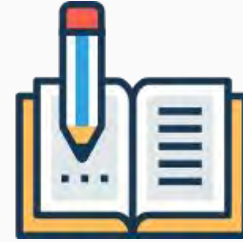
How to Excel in Arabic



Neat & Complete Notes



Study Vocabulary
[daily]



Complete Homework



Review Dialogue



Read Arabic Stories

Quran and Arabic website and Applications:



Tilawah Sheet



Ayat App (on iPhone or Android)



Quran.ksu.edu.sa



Quizlet for daily use



Arabic Stories App

قصص عصافير App

High School Credit

Students successfully completing 3 years of Middle School Arabic at AFA can earn 1-3 years of High School Arabic Language Credit (added to transcript).

AFA Grade	Arabic Track 1	Arabic Track 2	Arabic Track 3
6	Level 1	Level 2A	Level 2B
7	Level 2A	Level 2B	Level 3
8	Level 2B	Level 3	Level 3 Extended
Equivalent HS Credits	HS Credit - Year 1 & 2	HS Credit - Year 1,2,3	HS Credit - Year 1,2,3
		<i>Students who test out of Level 1 before entering 6th grade will be eligible for 1 credit, however a grade will not be assigned.</i>	<i>Students who complete Level 3 in 7th grade will not be eligible to receive credit for Level 3 Extended Arabic.</i>





PHYSICAL EDUCATION

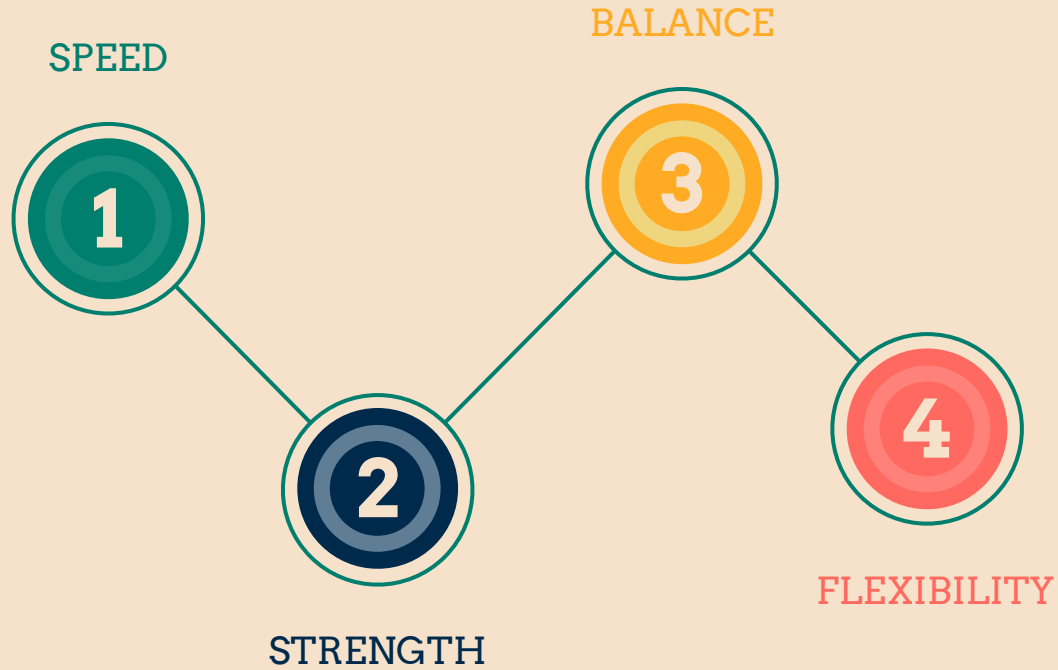
MR. YOUSUF MEHTER
GRADES K-8



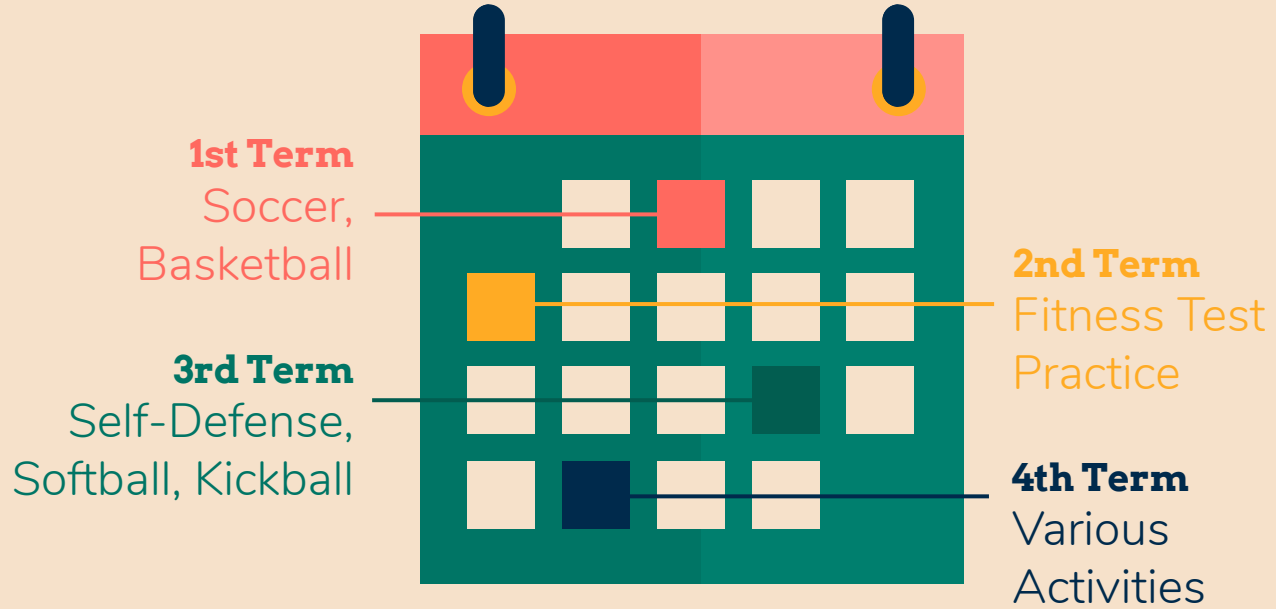
Mr. Yousuf

- B. Sc. in Zoology from Rangoon, Burma
- M. S. in Entomology from SUNY, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY
- Burma National Field Hockey team
- Black Belt in Aikido and Karate
- Teaching martial arts for over 45 years
- Recipient, “Martial Artist of the Year” award
- Eighth year of teaching at AFA

OUR GOALS



SCHEDULE



To benefit the most from each class, students are expected to follow these guidelines:

- Come into the class fully prepared to stay focused and to put in extra effort.
- Remember - "No pain, no gain; Just train and train".
- Always be on time and stay for the duration of the class.
- Use the bathroom and drink some water before and after the class.
- Dress as per the school's dress code and see that your clothes are not too tight, as this will hinder your movements.
- Most of the time we will practice bare feet and there will be times when we will have our sneakers on as well.

EXPECTATIONS

CONTACT

yousuf.mehter@alfatih.org

Email to schedule a meeting
or conference if you have
questions or concerns.

Art Program



Allah
is
beautiful
&
loves
beauty



MY INTENTIONS AS YOUR CHILD'S ART TEACHER

- To guide your child to see, appreciate, and be grateful for the beauty that surrounds them
- To help your child develop and enhance their unique creative energy by instilling confidence and helping them to develop creative problem-solving skills, through their artistic expressions using a variety of mediums

About Me:

- Artist & Art Educator
- Graphic Design + Art & Cultural Studies
- 18 years of combined teaching experience
- 13 years of teaching at AFA
- Wife & mother of 2
- Love to be near water, drink tea, and inspire young artists



Elementary School Art Overview

We cover an array of subjects under the umbrella of the 7 Elements of Art while adhering to Virginia Standards of Learning

Students are assessed based on the way they demonstrate use of materials and their ability to identify, distinguish, describe, and create Art concepts after a lesson.

Although this virtual platform may pose its challenges, I like to encourage students to use their imaginations to come up with solutions to something that may look like a problem.

Quite often we find that we learn the most from the challenges we face. Within our struggles is an opportunity to grow and emerge all the wiser, inshaAllah.

May Allah increase us in love, light, and wisdom...



A M E E N

Elementary School Counseling

Uzma Baig, M.A., NCC

Email: uzma.baig@alfatih.org

Students: Kindergarten - 4th Grade

Classes: Tuesday & Wednesday

Virtual Office Hours by Appointment: Thursdays | 10am-1pm

Google Meet ID: "ms-uzma"

Greetings AFA Parents!

I am proudly entering my fifth year as the elementary school counselor at AFA!

I have a master's degree in school counseling from Virginia Tech and a bachelor's degree in Business Economics from Queens College in the City University of New York.

I switched careers ten years ago and haven't looked back since! My passion is working with youth and understanding their needs. They are both my students and teachers, Alhamdullilah!

It has been a smooth start and I very excited to make this the best year ever, Insha'Allah!



Why contact the counselor?

- To discuss an **academic plan** for improving grades/ performance in school
- To help analyze your child's **behavior/feelings**
- **Personal, social, and emotional concerns**





What to expect

- Weekly guidance lessons
- Mindfulness curriculum
- 1-1 student support
- 1-1 parent support
- Parent seminars
- New parent check-in --
Starting week of 9/21



Student & Parent Wellness Surveys Coming Out Soon!



A Few Tidbits About Virtual School

- Help your children with managing their time during breaks
- **Timer for breaks** -- helps students to stay focused and on track



- It's best when students control their own time with the use of timers
- Place printed schedules in a common area in addition to their learning space
- During breaks avoid time-consuming and/or distracting activities

More Tidbits

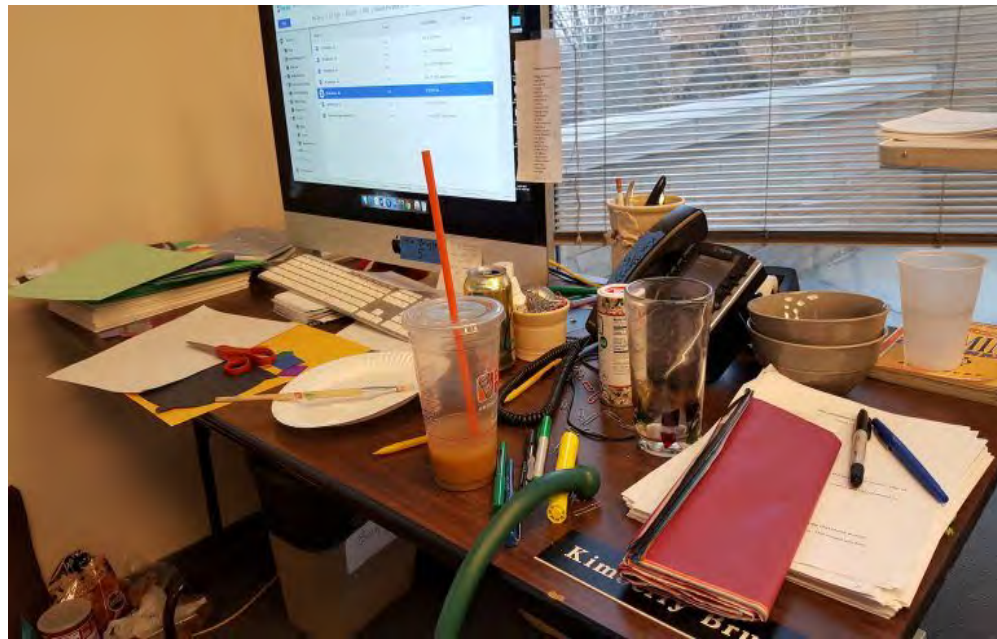
- Pack their snacks and lunch just like you would for in-person school



- Remind them to drink water
- Do not allow your child to log in early - breaks are necessary

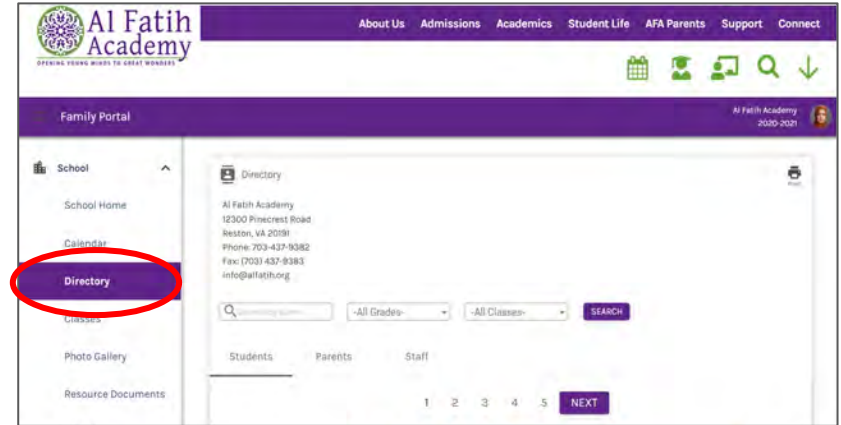
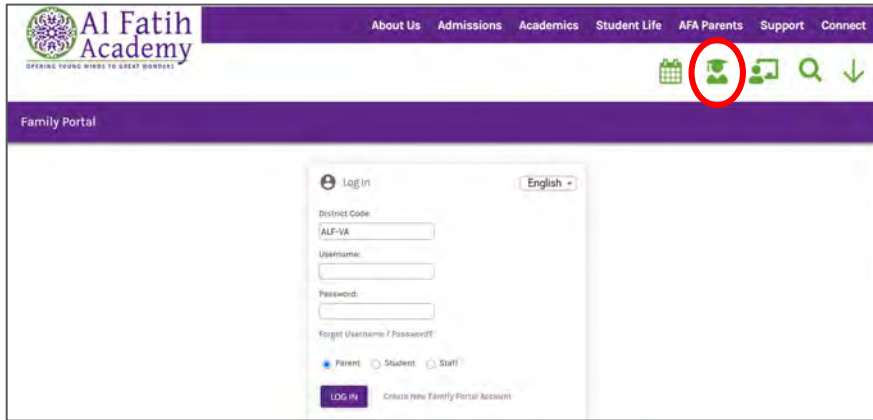
Your Child's Workspace

- Remove distractions
- Have the student clean up frequently
- Noise-canceling headphones
- Help them organize all of their school supplies
- Place a trash can near their workspace



Socializing

Unfortunately, due to the nature of virtual schooling, students have limited opportunities to socialize with each other. Please utilize the **school directory** to connect with other parents to make arrangements for socializing.





Al-Fatih
Academy

OPENING LIVING WORLDS TO GREAT HERITAGE

5 TIPS FOR PARENTS TO FACILITATE VIRTUAL LEARNING



Routines are EVERYTHING

Help your child establish and stick to a routine. Example:

- Wake up, eat breakfast and change
- Organized and well-stocked workspace
- Packed lunch and snacks
- Planned virtual play dates for socializing after school and weekends



Check In with Teachers and Counselors

Check in if your child is having difficulty managing the online learning platform or staying on task.

Be on the lookout for any communications from teachers indicating that they are having trouble connecting with your child during this time.



Get Moving!

Your child will be sitting in front of their computer for long stretches of time. Encourage them to use the breaks in the day to stretch, go for a walk, or do jumping jacks — any movement helps!

Try not to let your child to log in early to class - use break time to take a real break.



It's Their Learning Time

Resist the urge to sit in on classes with your child. While it may certainly be tempting to "pop in" on your child's classes, please respect their privacy and that of other students.



Take Care of YOU

The famous saying, "You can't pour from an empty cup" holds true. If you're not taking care of your own physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs, you will have less energy, space, and patience to connect with and take care of your children. Even 10-15 minutes of scheduled "me" time during the day is beneficial.

School Counselor– Ms. Muzna Khan



Students: 5th-8th Grades

Contact: muzna.khan@alfatih.org

Virtual Office Hours: Thurs. 4-5 PM
by appointment

- Individual student biweekly sessions
- Weekly Guidance lessons
- CAG is a graded class based on completion of assignments and participation via virtual learning

Why request to meet the counselor?

- To discuss an academic plan for improving grades
- To analyze your child's behavior/feelings
- If you notice any changes in mood, behavior, social interactions

The school counselors contact parents on a regular basis to gain a better understanding of students, so we can provide them with the best learning experience.

Parent Resources (monthly)

- Evening Office Hours for Scheduled Appointments
- Wellness Wednesdays
- Wellness Resources on Website

Wellness Wednesdays

**Wednesday,
September 30 2020
6-6:30 PM**

[Google Meet Link](#)
meet.google.com/nad-ubox-egv

**Topic: Facilitating Virtual
Learning**

A Guide for Parents

What has worked well for your family and what would you like to change? AFA Counselors will present tips for parents and provide a space for families to share their experiences following the first month of Virtual School.

Wellness Wednesday is a monthly gathering for parents facilitated by AFA School Counselors Ms. Muzna and Ms. Uzma

Questions?



Family Life Education/Health & Wellness Program

- Physical, Mental, Spiritual Wellness integrated throughout our approach
- Includes stand-alone sessions with counselors (girls), Principal & PE Teacher (boys)

Taking place throughout December 2020

- In-house curriculum based on Islamic Guidelines developed by AFA staff and in-house professionals
- **Mandatory parent information session DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED** for any parent that has not attended a previous info session
- Parents must attend information meeting in order to access Opt-Out Options

To Whom It May Concern:

Bismillāhi al-Rahmān al-Rahīm.

In my capacity as an imām over the last 20 years, I have reviewed the Family Life Education (FLE) curriculum produced by Al Fatih Academy (as printed in January of 2019), I hereby fully endorse the content and approach to teaching these subjects as developed and implemented by the in-house mental health professionals, child development experts, Islamic scholars and educators convened by the school.

Al Fatih Academy K-8 FLE curriculum is comprehensive, based on a sound understanding of *fiqh*, child psychology, and the broader surrounding cultural context. The curriculum provides students with appropriate definitions and tools to protect them from harmful situations and empower them with very important knowledge in their life.

As an Imam and as a parent, I believe it is very important that we take proper measures to proactively teach our children this subject matter in an Islamically and age appropriate manner. We live in a world where they can easily encounter misinformation online, through various media forms, or from other children. This is why I fully endorse, Al Fatih Academy's FLE curriculum and I encourage parents to take full advantage of this excellent resource and educate themselves on how to handle this important subject matter.

We ask Allah (SWT) for guidance to best teach our children and for His greater protection of them.

Wasalam'Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatu,

Imam Mohamed Magid



MS items to include

- Admin - Clarification of Independent Work Time Expectations
- Students treating is as off - you have HW!
-

Attendance Policy

- **Excused Absences**
 - Illness (after 3 consecutive absence, physician note required)
 - Immediate family emergency
- **Unexcused Absences**
 - Extended Trips for leisure
- If students are able to join and have all of their materials with them, they will not be counted as absent.