



The Academy Connect

ICM Academy's Monthly Newsletter

Assalamu Alaikum Parents and Families of ICM Academy:

My name is Summer Al-Majaideh, the new principal of ICM Academy. I'm excited to join the leadership team of the school! Let me introduce myself: I have a BA in Islamic Law, an MS in Organizational Leadership and, I am currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Professional Practice at Trevecca University. Before joining ICM Academy, I served in a variety of teaching and educational leadership roles over the past 12 years. These roles have included classroom teacher, Director of Islamic Development, Director of Student Development and Community Relations, and served on several school accreditation teams with AdvancED.

The mission of ICM Academy is to create an optimal learning environment for our students to develop a love and understanding of Islam with an emphasis on achieving academic excellence while bringing out the best in every learner. In order to support our mission, it is important for us to create a healthy, safe and nurturing Islamic environment. As the parent of four children, I recognize the importance of a strong home-school connection. Our primary objective will be to ensure that every student is receiving high-quality instruction from every teacher at ICM Academy. We will also be striving for a strong relationship with parents. Parents are every child's first teacher. Studies are clear about parents' involvement in their children's education. Students with involved parents are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school.

A major goal of ICM Academy is to receive school accreditation through AdvancED, a national and international accrediting agency. To achieve this goal, we will be using data-driven methodologies to maintain the academic standing of our students and introduce standardized testing for grades 1 - 3, as well as, improve instruction for our core academic, religious, and social-emotional learning curricula. The ICM Academy team and I will be working diligently to comply with AdvancED that will review, evaluate, and InshaAllah, qualify the school for accreditation.

Finally, I would like to assure our parents that your student's academic, social, and emotional well being are my top priorities. I'm very passionate about education and I look forward to partnering with you to provide our students with a rigorous, engaging, and high-quality early childhood and elementary experience. With this being said, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share.

Sincerely,

Summer Al-Majaideh
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October Updates

- Oct. 4** Half Day- Dismissal
- Oct. 7-11** Fall Break
- Oct. 17** Family Night at IHOP
- Oct. 31** First Report Card

Announcements

- Dec. 17th** Quran Competition (Pre-K through 3rd)
- Jan 7th** Science Fair (KG through 3rd)
- March 9th** Spelling Bee (KG through 3rd)
- April 6h** Hadith Competition
- May 4th** IOWA Test Week (1st-3rd)
- TBA** Class Picture
- TBA** Spirit Week

ICM Academy in ACTION



Salat Al-Jumaa Delivered by Sheikh Saleem

Every Friday, ICM Academy students and staff look forward to attending Sheik. Saleem Friday Khutba. His Khutbas are motivating and relevant to our elementary students' emotional and intellectual learning abilities.

ICM Academy in ACTION

Family Night at Al-Rayyan

Alhamdulillah, we had a great time at Al- Rayyan restaurant. Both students and their families had a blast! All proceeds will be used towards classroom wish lists. Jazakum Allah Khairan for your generous contributions.



ICM Academy in ACTION



Bookmobile Visits

At ICM Academy, we believe that A Reader Today, A Leader Tomorrow. So, every Friday we invite Bookmobile to visit our school campus. Students enjoy the convenience of checking out books. Also, a librarian from Bookmobile reads a story for our preschoolers!



Preschool Pajama Day

Pajama Day is a popular classroom fun day! It is also a great way to teach students about the letter "P".



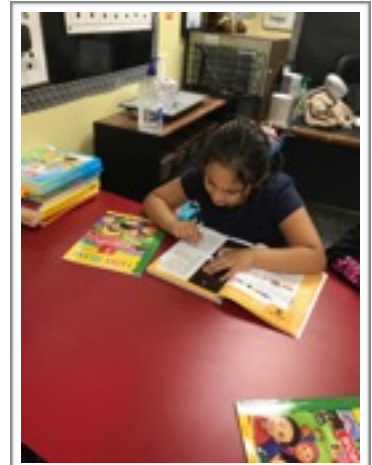
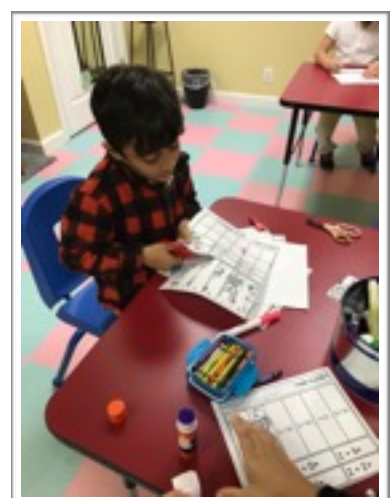
Preschool & Pre-K Classes

Teachers spent the first 6 weeks of school getting into the rhythm and routines of school. This is essential for students to make them feel comfortable especially for those who are coming to school for the first time. They were introduced to different centers to help them work on their fine motor skills. Some examples of centers include math, block and arts, and crafts centers.



ICM Academy In Session

Ahamdulillah, we had a great start to the new school year and we are happy to see all the students excitedly arrive in the morning for a day full of learning adventures. We captured some of our students in action - performing experiments, doing math operations, having fun on the playground, and working on their art projects!



Parents' Corner

GET READY FOR A GREAT YEAR!

The school year is busy. Setting up some structure now will help ensure it is also happy and productive for your child and your family. Here are some things to do:

1. Make a plan for after-school activities. Include plenty of time for reading, family and relaxation.
2. Create routines to help your child get tasks done on time.
3. Start a family calendar to keep track of everyone's commitments.

DON'T PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM LEARNING

Getting involved with your child's education can enhance their learning. But it's crucial to remember that they have to do the learning for themselves. Avoid these common pitfalls:

1. Don't do everything for your child. Let her grow by trying new things.
2. Don't rush to school with something she forgot. Let her face the consequences.
3. Don't try to negotiate a better grade for your child.

SUPPORT HOMEWORK EFFORTS

To encourage your child to be conscientious about homework, create the conditions for success. Make sure he has:

1. A designated study area. It should be well-lit and free of distractions like TV during homework time.
2. A set study time. Experiment to see when your child is most alert, then stick with that time.
3. A supply kit. Having pencils, erasers, rulers and other tools handy eliminates time-wasting searches.

BUILD BRAINPOWER BY HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN FROM MISTAKES

Whether your child is a brand new kindergartner or in an upper grade, he'll be starting the new school year with a clean slate. But like all kids, he will sometimes make mistakes on tests or assignments. That's no reason for either of you to be discouraged!

Research shows that when parents and teachers actively encourage students to fix errors and learn from them, the children do better in school. One reason may be that correcting mistakes shows kids that their intelligence isn't fixed—they can improve and get smarter.

When you review your child's work, focus first on what he did right. Then, to help him learn from his mistakes:

1. Talk about them. Does your child understand why his answers were wrong? If so, have him correct them. If he's not sure, offer suggestions or encourage him to ask his teacher for help.
2. Recognize progress. Did your child make fewer mistakes on this test than the last one? Remind him that he's improving. Point out how paying attention to past mistakes—and learning from them—made a difference.

Source: H.S. Schroder and others, "Neural evidence for enhanced attention to mistakes among school-aged children with a growth mindset," *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, Elsevier B.V.

