



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Islamic Academy of South Jersey's curriculum ...

- integrates academic skills with a firm grounding of moral and ethical Qur'anic principles.
- is current, interactive, interdisciplinary and sequential.
- Directs intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual and physical development.
- is consistent with its standardized assessment, classroom instruction and state academic content standards.
- is designed to develop and enhance the skills for lifelong learning.
- Teaches diversity and is committed to the betterment of family, community, environment and humanity.
- encourages independent thinking, critical thinking, problem solving and real world connections from a foundation of strong basic skills.
- sets standards of excellence while considering the uniqueness and various developmental levels of all students.

Elementary School

KINDERGARTEN

Reading

Islamic Academy of South Jersey has chosen a reading series with a strong phonetic approach as well as being a literature based program. It develops sequential reading skills and vocabulary. The overall program is enhanced with independent reading times/parent guided reading and assignments. The teacher reads aloud and takes them on weekly library visits. Emphasis is placed on the development of decoding and comprehension skills.

All students at Islamic Academy of South Jersey will understand and apply the knowledge of sounds, letters, and words in written English to become independent and fluent readers, and will read a variety of materials and texts with fluency and comprehension.

- ***Comprehension Skills and Strategies:**

Concepts of print: directionality: left to right and top to bottom, return sweep, capital letter at beginning, end punctuation, word spacing, first letter in written word, match spoken words to print, distinguish letter, word and sentence, first and last letter in written word, quotation marks, recognize use of all caps.

Comprehension and strategies: compare and contrast, noting details, sequence of events, making predictions, predict and infer, summarize, phonics and decoding, story structure, character/setting/plot, beginning, middle and end, inferences, drawing conclusions, monitor and clarify, question and fantasy/realism.

- ***Phonemic Awareness and Decoding Skills:**

Short vowels, long vowels, consonants initial/final, blending words and rhyming words.

Language Arts

The language program at Islamic Academy of South Jersey is integrated with our reading program. It covers the following skills: listening, speaking, writing and spelling. Kindergarteners learn to speak with a command of standard English and conceptions. They listen and respond to oral communication and speak in clear and coherent sentences. These skills are cross-curricular and are used as a foundation in all subject areas.

- **Writing Skills:**

All students by the end of Kindergarten will learn to write in clear, concise, organized speech that varies in content and form for different audiences and purposes.

Independent Writing: journals. Shared Writing and Interactive Writing: writing about signs, writing a class story, a report, a friendly letter, class newsletter, book report, directions, a graphic organizer, a note, a list, a number rhyme, writing a description, a weather observation/report, recording observations and writing naming words.

- **High Frequency Words and Building Words:**

High frequency words, a, to, and, go, is, here, for, have, said, the, play, she, are and he. Matching words and building sentences. Short vowel word families.

- **Oral Language:**

Learning about big and little, naming words, number words, describing words, using size words, using exact naming words, plural names, movement words, action words, position words, family words, types of clothing, using order words, words for weather and outdoor activities, opposites, travel words, rhyming words, comparisons, and animal names.

- **Listening, Speaking and Viewing:**

See skills listed for oral language and writing.

WRITING CURRICULUM

A. Writing as a Process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, post writing)

1. *Recognize that thoughts and speech can be written down in words.*
2. *Observe the teacher modeling writing.*
3. *Generate and share ideas and experiences for a story.*
4. *Attempt to put ideas into writing using pictures, developmental spelling, or conventional text.*
5. *Write (print) own first and last name.*
6. *Participate in group writing activities such as experience stories, interactive writing, and shared writing.*
7. *Begin to sequence story events when writing by using pictures, developmental spelling, or conventional text.*

B. Writing as a Product (resulting in work samples)

1. *Show and talk about work samples containing pictures, developmental spelling, or conventional text.*
2. *Begin to collect favorite work samples to place in personal writing folder.*

C. Mechanics, Spelling, and Handwriting

1. *Use letter/sound knowledge in attempting to write (print) some words.*
2. *Spell own name.*
3. *Recognize and begin to use left-to-right and top-to-bottom directionality and spacing between words when writing.*
4. *Gain increasing control of penmanship, including pencil grip, paper position, and beginning strokes.*
5. *Write all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet from teacher copy.*

D. Writing Forms, Audiences, and Purposes (exploring a variety of writing)

1. *Communicate personal response to literature through drawing, telling, or writing.*

Show and talk about favorite work samples (drawing or writing) with teacher and family.

Handwriting

Islamic Academy of South Jersey follows the Zaner-Bloser method of handwriting. Kindergarteners focus on the development of their manuscript skills. They learn the six basic strokes as well as proper grip and posture. The sooner essential manuscript skills are learned the sooner students can enjoy the independent process of writing and sharing ideas.

Math Overview

Islamic Academy of South Jersey uses a math series that encourages the development of basic skills. Through the use of manipulatives children are able to move their thinking from concrete to abstract. These skills form the basis for higher thinking processes needed for problem solving, reasoning and critical thinking.

Additional support to our program is Excel Math. It is designed to integrate and reinforce all math concepts on a daily basis. This method is known as spiraling and is the key component in helping students build on concepts as they are taught gradually, in one continuous process. Students slowly but surely learn how all math concepts fit together.

- **Whole Number Concepts and Operations:**
Meaning of numbers, reading and writing numbers, ordinal numbers, comparisons, addition and subtraction of basic facts and strategies to 18, and problem solving.
- **Fraction Concepts and Operations:**
Parts of a whole, parts of a set.
- **Number Sense, Estimation and Mental Math:**
Number patterns, relationships, fractions, relative magnitude of numbers, estimating quantities and measures, counting on and counting back, turn around facts, doubles plus one, make ten, and skip counting.
- **Mathematical Processes:**
Analyze word problems, analyze strategies, decision making, check reasonableness of answer, critical thinking, logical reasoning, visual and creative thinking, curriculum connections, real world connections and math connections.
- **Geometry:**
Identifying plane figures and solid figures, relate plane and solid figures, congruent figures, triangles and quadrilaterals.
- **Patterns, Relationships and Algebraic Thinking:**
Patterns with geometric figures and numbers, skip counting, making predictions and logical reasoning, and Venn diagrams.
- **Measurement, Time and Money:**
Non standard, standard and metric measurement of length, capacity, weight, mass and temperature. Time to nearest hour/ half hour, estimating time and calendar. Identifying coins and bills, count, show and compare amounts.
- **Data, Statistics and Probability:**
Reading and making pictographs, bar graphs and charts. Collecting and organizing data, tally marks, using data in problem solving, predicting outcomes based on data.
- **Technology:**
Using a computer for math games that reinforce all aspects of curriculum.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

The students will learn the following in math at the end of Kindergarten: position and direction, numbers 0-5, sorting and classifying, patterns, numbers to 10, Data, Graphing, probability, numbers to 20, measurement, numbers beyond twenty, geometry, fractions, money, time, addition concepts, and subtraction concepts.

KINDERGENTEN MATH CURRICULUM

Beginning Kindergarten

- Lesson 1: Establishing Number Sense
- Lesson 2: Establishing Calendar Routines
- Lesson 3: Establishing Graphing Routines

Position and Direction

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Use Illustrations
- Lesson 2: Inside, Outside
- Lesson 3: More Position and Direction
- Lesson 4: Left and Right
- Lesson 5: Problem Solving Strategy: Act it out

Number 0-5

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Use Illustrations
- Lesson 2: One-to-One Correspondence
- Lesson 3: Numbers 1, 2, and 3
- Lesson 4: Numbers 4 and 5
- Lesson 5: More Numbers to 5
- Lesson 6: Problem Solving Strategy: Make a Graph
- Lesson 7: Zero
- Lesson 8: Compare Numbers 0 to 5
- Lesson 9: Order Numbers 0 to 5

Sorting and classifying

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Compare and Contrast
- Lesson 2: Same and Different
- Lesson 3: Sort by One Attribute
- Lesson 4: Sort by Two Attributes
- Lesson 5: Problem Solving Strategy: Use Logical Reasoning

Patterns

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Make Predictions
- Lesson 2: Copy Patterns
- Lesson 3: Identify Patterns
- Lesson 4: Problem Solving Strategy: Act it Out
- Lesson 5: Extend Patterns
- Lesson 7: Growing Patterns
- Lesson 8: Create a Pattern

Numbers to 10

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Use Illustrations
- Lesson 2: Numbers 6, 7, and 8
- Lesson 3: Numbers 9 and 10
- Lesson 4: More Numbers to 10
- Lesson 5: Problem Solving Strategy: Make a Table
- Lesson 6: Order Numbers to 10
- Lesson 7: Count on Numbers 0 to 10
- Lesson 8: Count Back Numbers 10 to 0
- Lesson 9: Ordinal Numbers to 10

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

Data, graphing, and probability

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Use Story Details
- Lesson 2: Data, Graphing, and Probability
- Lesson 3: Problem Solving Strategy: Make a Graph

Numbers to Twenty

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Compare and Contrast
- Lesson 2: Numbers 11 and 12
- Lesson 3: Numbers 13 through 19
- Lesson 4: Numbers to 20
- Lesson 5: More Numbers to 20
- Lesson 6: Problem Solving Strategy: Find a Pattern
- Lesson 7: Order Numbers to 20

Measurement

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Story Details
- Lesson 2: Longer or Shorter
- Lesson 3: Estimate and Measure Length
- Lesson 4: Problem Solving Strategy: Guess and Check
- Lesson 6: Explore Capacity
- Lesson 7: Explore Weight
- Lesson 8: Temperature

Numbers beyond Twenty

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Summarize
- Lesson 2: Numbers to 30
- Lesson 3: Problem Solving Strategy: Find a Pattern
- Lesson 4: Count by Tens
- Lesson 5: Count by Fives
- Lesson 6: Estimate Numbers

Geometry and fractions

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Classify and Categorize
- Lesson 2: Solid Figures
- Lesson 3: Compare Solid and Plane Figures
- Lesson 4: Attributes of Plane Figures
- Lesson 5: Problem Solving Strategy: Use Logical Reasoning
- Lesson 6: Equal Parts
- Lesson 7: Halves and Fourths

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

Money

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Summarize
- Lesson 2: Pennies
- Lesson 3: Nickels
- Lesson 4: Dimes
- Lesson 5: Problem Solving Strategy: Act it Out

Time

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Sequence Events
- Lesson 2: Problem Solving Strategy: Use Logical Reasoning
- Lesson 3: Tell Time to the Hour
- Lesson 4: Analog and Digital Clocks Lesson 5: Estimate How Long

Addition Concepts

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Compare and Contrast
- Lesson 2: Join Groups
- Lesson 3: Count On 1 to Add
- Lesson 4: Show Addition
- Lesson 5: Problem Solving Strategy: Draw a Picture
- Lesson 6: Ways to Make 4, 5, and 6
- Lesson 7: Ways to Make 7 and 8
- Lesson 8: Ways to Make 9 and 10

Subtraction Concepts

- Lesson 1: Problem Solving: Reading for Math/Use Illustrations
- Lesson 2: Separating Groups
- Lesson 3: Take Away 1
- Lesson 4: Show Subtraction
- Lesson 5: Problem Solving Strategy: Choose the Operation
- Lesson 6: Subtracting from 4, 5, and 6
- Lesson 7: Subtracting from 7 and 8
- Lesson 8: Subtracting from 9 and 10
- Lesson 9: Explore Patterns in Subtraction

Science/Health

Science and Health are blended together for the study of five major units throughout the year.

- **Human Body:** Feelings, 5 senses, manners, healthy habits and safety.
- **Life Science:** Plants, (farm) animals and living vs. non living.
- **Physical Science:** Grouping things (matter), heat and cold, sound and movement.
- **Earth Science:** Seasons and Helping our World.
- **Science Fair:** Students in small groups will learn the scientific method to develop and present projects for the annual Science Fair. These projects are completed during class time.

In conclusion the students will learn the following in science at the end of Kindergarten: Plants, Animals, our earth, our home, weather, sky, exploring matter, and moving right along.

Social Studies

Students in Kindergarten will learn about the world around them. They begin by looking at their own families and communities and then branching out to include our country and the world. They will learn about how their life relates to others in terms of following rules and responsibilities, being a good citizen, knowing our countries symbols, learning about the past and how it relates to people and events of today. There are four major areas that will be explored during the year.

In conclusion the students will learn the following in Social Studies by the end of Kindergarten: friends and family, where we live, working together, I am a citizen, people work, and things change.

Physical Education

Physical Education takes place twice weekly. Simple locomotor skills such as running, galloping, jumping, throwing and catching are also emphasized. Here at Islamic Academy of South Jersey we use a variety of games to develop their coordination of these skills. Other important aspects of Physical Education are the values of proper sportsmanship and team play. All students have the opportunity to be leaders and followers.

Art

Students will have the opportunity to experience art activities throughout the year. They will be exposed to a variety of artwork through the use of images and stories about great artists and their art. They will use various art mediums such as; pastels, water color, mosaic, clay, wire, print making, ceramics and chalk to create their own masterpieces. In addition to our formal art class, students will also have projects to complete in class that compliment other areas of the curriculum.

FIRST GRADE

Language Arts

Literacy development means not only to learn to read, write, speak and listen but it also means the ability to use language to learn. Our language arts curriculum uses reading, writing, listening, and speaking across all contexts and for all purposes. It is our goal to develop in all of our students the lifelong habits of literacy.

Instruction in language arts demands differentiation. Young children learn to read and write at different rates using different strategies. Our language arts program honors the differences in young children.

The language arts curriculum provides explicit and systematic instruction in the five essential components of reading:

- **Phonemic awareness:** Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and use individual sounds in spoken language. Students learn to understand how sounds work together to make spoken words.
- **Phonics:** Phonics is the relationship of the sounds of spoken language to the letters in written words. This is also called sound/symbol correspondence. Phonics provides the necessary foundation for other reading skills.
- **Vocabulary:** Direct instruction is an important component of students vocabulary development. Students need the knowledge of words, their definitions and context to understand what they are reading.
- **Comprehension:** Good readers are purposeful and active. They set a purpose for reading and use background knowledge to make sense of the text. Students are taught strategies to help them comprehend what they are reading.
- **Fluency:** Fluency is the bridge between word recognition and comprehension which a critical element in both oral and silent reading. Fluent readers read with expression, emphasizing words correctly and pausing where appropriate.
- **Writing:** The writing process is an instructional approach to writing that consists of: prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading and publishing. Writing is a developmental process and students are encouraged to go back and forth between the stages as needed.
- **Speaking and Listening:** Listen and speaking skills contribute to oral language development. Students who communicate their thoughts, ideas and feelings clearly will experience achievement in reading and writing as well.

Stories to be Read:

Book 1.1

Max, the Cat
Quack
What Does Pig Do?
The Path on the Map
Ships

Book 1.2

One Good Pup
The Bug Bath
Splash!
What Bug is it?
A Vet

Book 1.3

Stan's Stunt
Greg's Mask
Sam's Song
Snakes
Let's Camp Out!

Book 1.4

The Shopping List
Yasmin's Ducks
The Knee-High Man
Johnny Appleseed
Ring! Ring! Ring! Put Out the Fire!

Book 1.5 Unit 1

Seven Sillies
Shrinking Mouse
You Can't Smell a Flower with Your Ear!
Owl and the Moon
The Night Animals

Book 1.5 Unit 2

A Friend for Little Bear
New Shoes for Silvia
The Story of a Blue Bird
Young Amelia Earhart
On the Go!

Math

- § **Numeration**: Counting, reading and writing numbers, investigating place-value of whole numbers, exploring fractions and money
- § **Operations and Computation**: Learning addition and subtraction facts, fact families, and extended facts, beginning informal work with properties of numbers and problem solving
- § **Data and Chance**: Collecting, organizing, and displaying data using tables, charts, and graphs, exploring concepts of chance
- § **Geometry**: Exploring 2- and 3-dimensional shapes
- § **Measurement and Reference Frames**: Using tools to measure length, capacity, and weight, using clocks, calendars, timelines, thermometers, and ordinal numbers.
- § **Patterns, Functions, and Algebra**: Exploring attributes, patterns, sequences, relations, and functions, finding missing numbers and rules in Frames-and-Arrows and Whats My Rule? problems, studying properties of operations.

Units of Study

The topic of each unit of study is listed below. Prior to the start of the unit, parents will receive a family letter that further explains the material explored in the unit.

- Unit 1: Addition and Subtraction Concepts
- Unit 2: Addition and Subtraction Facts to 10
- Unit 3: Graphs, Numbers to 100, and Facts to 12
- Unit 4: Geometry and Addition and Subtraction to 20
- Unit 5: Money, Time, and Fractions
- Unit 6: Measurements, Operations, and Data

Science

Life Science

Unit A- Plants

- Chapter 1- Plants are Living Things*
- Chapter 2- Plants Grow and Change*

Unit B- Animals and Their Homes

- Chapter 3- All About Animals*
- Chapter 4- Places to Live*

Earth Science

Unit C- Our Earth

- Chapter 5- Looking at Earth*
- Chapter 6- Caring for Earth*

Unit D- Weather and Sky

- Chapter 7- Weather and Seasons*
- Chapter 8- The Sky*

Physical Science

Unit E- Matter

- Chapter 9- Matter Everywhere*
- Chapter 10- Changes in Matter*

Unit F- Motion and Energy

- Chapter 11- On the Move*
- Chapter 12- Energy Everywhere*

Social Studies

Unit 1- All About Families

- Lesson 1- Many Families*
- Lesson 2- Families Celebrate*
- Lesson 3- Where Families Live*
- Lesson 4- Family Rules*
- Lesson 5- Families on the Move*
- Lesson 6- Families and Change*

Unit 2-Where we Live

- Lesson 1- We Live in Communities*
- Lesson 2- Our Country*
- Lesson 3- Our World*
- Lesson 4- Water and Land*
- Lesson 5- What is Weather?*
- Lesson 6- Caring for Our Natural Resources*

Unit 3- Good Citizens

- Lesson 1- People Get Along*
- Lesson 2- People Follow Laws*
- Lesson 3- What is a Leader?*
- Lesson 4- Votes Count*
- Lesson 5- Our Symbols and Pledge*
- Lesson 6- Good Citizens*

Unit 4- All Kinds of Jobs

- Lesson 1- Needs and Wants*
- Lesson 2- Work and Jobs*
- Lesson 3- Goods and Services*
- Lesson 4- Getting Goods and Services*
- Lesson 5- New Tools at Work*
- Lesson 6- People with Great Ideas*

Unit 5- Americans Long Ago

- Lesson 1- Native Americans Then and Now*
- Lesson 2- New People Come to America*
- Lesson 3- George Washington*
- Lesson 4- Sacajawea*
- Lesson 5- Abraham Lincoln*
- Lesson 6- Susan B. Anthony*
- Lesson 7- Martin Luther King, Jr.*

SECOND GRADE

Reading

Islamic Academy of South Jersey has chosen a reading series with a strong phonetic approach as well as being a literature based program. It helps develop sequential reading skills and vocabulary. The overall program is enhanced with independent reading times and assignments, teacher read aloud and weekly library visits.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey also uses two additional tools to enhance our reading program. STAR assessment is used in conjunction with Accelerated Reader to assess and monitor students on a regular basis to ensure that all students are reading at their optimal level. This is an individualized program designed to meet the different instructional needs of each child.

- **Comprehension Skills and Strategies:**

Compare and contrast, fact and opinion, categorize and classify, predict and infer, fantasy vs. realism, story structure, topic and main idea and details, problem solving, drawing conclusions, making generalizations, cause and effect, monitor and clarify, author's viewpoint, making judgments, following directions and sequence of events.

- **Study Skills:**

Reading a chart, diagram, schedule, graph, calendar, recipe, encyclopedia, dictionary, thesaurus, newspaper captions, locating information, knowing parts of a book, reference sources, taking notes, using timelines and adjusting rate of reading.

- **Phonemic Awareness and Decoding Skills:**

Short vowels, long vowels, vowel patterns, consonant clusters, base words, endings, double and final consonants, vowel digraphs, compound words, vowel pairs, r-controlled vowels, syllabification, contractions and plurals.

In conclusion all students will understand and apply the knowledge of sounds, letters, and words in written English to become independent and fluent readers, and will read a variety of materials and texts with fluency and comprehension. Building upon knowledge and skills gained in preceding grades, by the end of **grade 2**, students will learn concepts about print and text, phonological awareness, decoding, word recognition, fluency, reading strategies, vocabulary, concept development, comprehension skills, response to text, inquiry, and research.

Language Arts

The language program at Islamic Academy of South Jersey is integrated with our reading program. It covers the following skills: listening, speaking, writing and spelling. These skills are cross-curricular and are used as a foundation in all subject areas.

- ***Writing Skills:**

Writing dates, character sketches, main ideas and details, journal writing, paragraphs, research reports, poems, news articles, opinions, informational paragraph, dialogue, summarizing, compare and contrast, writing to persuade, responding to writing prompts, stories, descriptions, friendly letters, personal narratives and writing instructions.

All students will learn to write in clear, concise, organized language that varies in content and form for different audiences and purposes.

By the end of Grade 2, students will learn prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, post writing, writing as a product, mechanics, spelling, handwriting, writing forms, audiences, and purposes.

- **Grammar, Usage and Mechanics:**

Parts of a sentence, types of sentences, nouns, verbs, adjectives, capitalization and punctuation.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

- **Spelling and Vocabulary Skills:**
High frequency words, homophones, synonyms, compound words, antonyms, word families, entry words and guide words. Phonemic spelling awareness as listed under reading section.
- **Listening and Speaking Skills:**
Dictation, listening for instruction and information, auditory discrimination and sound symbol correspondence, giving oral presentations, giving personal information (sharing), telling a story, participating in group discussions, giving clear directions and telling a story through drama.

The students will read several second grade level stories answering various comprehension questions. They will learn important concepts as fantasy reality, cause effect, fact opinion, making predictions, context clues.

They will learn various Grammar rules/concepts as parts of speech, types of sentences, combining sentences, abbreviations, verb tenses, singular/plural possessive states.

The students will also study 10 Spelling words each work covering Phonics rules for example -ea words like reach and -oo sound words like bloom.

Handwriting

Islamic Academy of South Jersey follows the Zaner-Bloser method of handwriting. Most of the year second graders continue to focus on the developments of their manuscript skills. There is a brief introduction to cursive during the final trimester.

Math

Students will learn various concepts and foundational math skills. They will cover 2 digit addition and subtraction, geometry/shapes terms, time and addition and subtraction of money.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey uses a math series that encourages the development of basic skills. Through the use of manipulatives children are able to move their thinking from the concrete to the abstract. These skills form the basis for higher thinking processes needed for problem solving, reasoning and critical thinking.

Our Math program is further enhanced by STAR Math and Accelerated Math. STAR Math is an assessment tools that allows for consistent testing of our students across all grade levels. Accelerated Math is a supplemental math program that gives teachers the opportunity to meet the differing levels and instructional needs of each child in their class. Students that are exceeding classroom expectations have the opportunity to advance and those that need extra support can have their learning reinforced.

- **Whole Number Concepts and Operations:**
Reading number, place value, ordinal numbers, comparisons, odd and even, addition and subtraction of basic facts and strategies to 18, 2 and 3 digit addition and subtraction with regrouping, properties of addition, subtraction and multiplication, meaning of multiplication and division, estimation and problem solving.
- **Fraction Concepts and Operations:**
Parts of a whole, parts of a set.
- **Number Sense, Estimation and Mental Math:**
Number patterns, relationships, whole numbers, fractions, relative magnitude of numbers, estimating quantities and measures, counting on and counting back, turn around facts, doubles plus one, make ten, fact families, skip counting, break apart numbers.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

- **Mathematical Processes:**
Analyze word problems, analyze strategies, decision making, problem-solving checklist, critical thinking, logical reasoning, visual and creative thinking, curriculum connections, real world connections and math connections.
- **Geometry:**
Identifying plane figures and solid figures, relate plane and solid figures, sides and corners, symmetry, congruent figures, slides, flips and turns, polygons, triangles, quadrilaterals, perimeter and circumference, area and volume.
- **Patterns, Relationships and Algebraic Thinking:**
Patterns with geometric figures and numbers, skip counting, making predictions and logical reasoning, function tables, ordered pairs, Venn diagrams, commutative and associative properties, zero and identity properties, missing numbers and number sentences.
- **Measurement, Time and Money:**
Non standard, standard and metric measurement of length, capacity, weight, mass and temperature. Time to nearest hour/half hour, minutes before/after the hour, elapsed time, calendar and AM/PM. Identifying coins and bills, count and show amounts, making change, comparing, adding and subtracting.
- **Data, Statistics and Probability:**
Reading and making pictographs, bar graphs and charts. Collecting and organizing data, tally marks, using data in problem solving, predicting outcomes based on data and writing probabilities.
- **Technology:**
Using calculators in problem solving, counting and skip counting, reading a display and learning number and operation keys. Using a computer for math games that reinforce all aspects of curriculum.

In conclusion all students by the end of Grade 2 will learn exploring number relationships, addition strategies and facts to 20, subtraction strategies and facts to 20, exploring addition and subtraction, understanding place value, numbers and patterns, money, using money, telling time, time and calendar, data, graphs, number relationships, regrouping, 2-digit addition, practice and apply 2-digit addition, 2-digit subtraction, practice and apply 2-digit subtraction, length, weight, capacity, temperature, 2-D and 3-D shapes, spatial sense, place value to thousands, number relationships and patterns, 3-digit addition, 3- digit subtraction, fractions, interpreting data, probability, and exploring multiplication and division.

Science/Health

In Science the students will learn about plants and animals, animal groups and their lifecycle. Various concepts as energy and environment as well as different types of lands and their characteristics as well as the animals inhabiting them will be discussed.

Science and Health are blended together for the study of five major units throughout the year.

- **Human Body:** *Bones and muscles, safety, health and exercise.*
- **Life Science:** *Plants, animals and life on earth long ago.*
- **Physical Science:** *Matter, heat, light and sound, machines and electricity.*
- **Earth Science:** *Weather patterns, oceans and space.*
- **Science Fair:** *Students will follow the scientific method to develop and present an individual project for the annual Science Fair.*

In conclusion all students by the end of Grade 2 will learn the following in science: plants and animals, homes for plants and animals, changes on earth, the sun and its family, matter and energy, and watch it move.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

Social Studies

Students in Grade 2 expand their concept of community beyond that of their family and neighborhood. They learn more about how others influence the world around them and about important people that have influenced history. There are five major areas that will be explored during the year.

In conclusion all students by the end of Grade 2 will learn the following: our community, all about earth, our past, all about work, and our government.

The students will learn their place in the world. They will learn about communities, states/countries/continents, landforms and the American History. It starts with the early exploration and into the American Revolution period as well as the Independence Era.

Physical Education

Physical Education takes place twice weekly. A variety of low organized games are used to help develop the awareness needed for more sophisticated games. Gross motor skills such as running, throwing, jumping and catching are also emphasized. Other important aspects of Physical Education are the values of proper sportsmanship and team play. All students have the opportunity to be leaders and followers.

Art

Students will have the opportunity to experience art activities throughout the year. They will be exposed to a variety of artwork through the use of images and stories about great artists and their art. They will use various art mediums such as; pastels, water color, mosaic, clay, wire, print making, ceramics and chalk to create their own masterpieces. In addition to our formal art class, students will also have projects to complete in class that compliment other areas of the curriculum.

THIRD GRADE

Reading

Islamic Academy of South Jersey has chosen a reading series with a strong phonetic approach as well as being a literature based program. It develops sequential reading skills and vocabulary. The overall program is enhanced with independent reading times and assignments, teacher read aloud, weekly library visits and literature discussion groups. Students are able to draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed, to develop an appreciation of reading and to use their skills to enhance real-life reading situations.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey also uses two additional tools to enhance our reading program. STAR assessment is used in conjunction with Accelerated Reader to assess and monitor students on a regular basis to ensure that all students are reading at their optimal level. This is an individualized program designed to meet the different instructional needs of each child.

- **Comprehension Skills and Strategies:**

Sequence of events, inferences, cause and effect, predict/infer, author's viewpoint, categorize and classify, noting details, topic, main idea and details, evaluate, fantasy and realism, following directions, drawing conclusions, story structure, monitor and clarify, questioning, fact and opinion, compare and contrast, making judgments, text organization, problem solving, generalizations, and summarize.

- **Information and Study Skills:**

Reading parts of a book, key, dictionary, bilingual dictionary, maps, atlas, charts, tables, graphs, diagram, encyclopedia, thesaurus, directions and recipes. Using a K-W-L chart, library, newspapers to find information, multi-media resources, SQRR, graphic organizers, timelines and outlines.

- **Structural Analysis and Phonics**

Base words, short and long vowels, syllabication, endings, vowel patterns, compound words, plurals, contractions, suffixes and prefixes, homophones, consonant clusters, possessives, double consonants and digraphs.

In conclusion all students will understand and apply the knowledge of sounds, letters, and words written in English to become independent and fluent readers, and will read a variety of materials and texts with fluency and comprehension. Building upon knowledge and skills gained in preceding grades, by the end of **Grade 3**, students will learn concepts about print and text, phonological awareness, decoding, word recognition, fluency, reading strategies, vocabulary, concept development, comprehension skills, response to text, inquiry, and research.

Language Arts

The language program at Islamic Academy of South Jersey is integrated with our reading program. It covers the following skills: listening, speaking, writing and spelling. These skills are cross-curricular and are used as a foundation in all subject areas.

- **Writing Skills:**

Writing dates, correcting run-on sentences, journal writing, character sketches, compare and contrast, paragraphs that explain, transforming questions into statements, news article, compound sentences, writing to a specific audience, dialogue, opinion paragraph, varying sentence types, taking notes, writing a poem, problem/solution essay, choosing what's important, using exact verbs, writing a play, taking a message, log entries, exclamations, writing complete information, announcement, summary, essay, ordering important information, paraphrase, writing a personal narrative, instructions, story, research report, description and persuasive essay.

In conclusion all students will learn to write in clear, concise, organized language that varies in content and form for different audiences and purposes.

By the end of **Grade 3**, students will learn prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, post writing, writing as a product, mechanics, spelling, handwriting, writing forms, audiences, and purposes.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

- **Grammar, Usage and Mechanics:**
Kinds of sentences, subject and predicates, nouns, verbs, past, present and future tenses, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs.
- **Spelling and Vocabulary Skills:**
High frequency words, structural analysis and phonics listed under reading, multiple meanings, guide and entry words, rhyming words, word families, definitions, choosing correct meaning, pronunciation key, analogies, synonyms and antonyms.
- **Listening and Speaking Skills:**
Literature discussion, introductions, story telling, follow and give oral directions, explain a process, having a conversation, hold a debate, view and evaluate media, listen to and make announcements, oral reports, group problem solving, give a persuasive speech and dramatize a story.

Handwriting

Islamic Academy of South Jersey follows the Zaner-Bloser method of handwriting. Third graders begin the cursive strokes at the beginning of the first trimester. They continue learning the cursive alphabet through the year.

Math

Islamic Academy of South Jersey uses a math series that encourages the development of basic skills. Through the use of manipulatives children are able to move their thinking from the concrete to the abstract. These skills form the basis for higher thinking processes needed for problem solving, reasoning and critical thinking.

Our Math program is further enhanced by STAR Math and Accelerated Math. STAR Math is an assessment tools that allows for consistent testing of our students across all grade levels. Accelerated Math is a supplemental math program that gives teachers the opportunity to meet the differing levels and instructional needs of each child in their class. Students that are exceeding classroom expectations have the opportunity to advance and those that need extra support can have their learning reinforced.

- **Whole Number Concepts and Operations:**
Reading and writing numbers, place value, comparing and ordering, rounding, even and odd, multiples and least common multiples, properties of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, 3 or more addends, addition, subtraction and multiplication of 2 or more digits, choosing a computation tool, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division expressions/sentences/equations, estimation and mental math problem solving.
- **Fraction Concepts and Operations:**
Parts of a whole, parts of a set, mixed numbers, fractions greater than 1, equivalent fractions, comparing and ordering, addition/subtraction of like denominators, multiplication/division by a whole number.
- **Decimal Concepts and Operations:**
Meaning of decimals, related to fractions, related to money/measurement, addition and subtraction.
- **Number Sense, Estimation and Mental Math:**
Meaning of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, number patterns, number relationships, relative magnitude of numbers, deciding when to estimate, using front-end digits, rounding whole numbers and decimals, rounding fractions and mixed numbers, estimating quantities and measures, multiply in any order, use doubling, use known facts, use patterns, think multiplication to divide, multiply/divide by 10, 100, 1000, compatible numbers, fractions.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

- **Mathematical Processes:**
Analyze word problems, analyze strategies, decision making, problem-solving checklist, critical thinking, logical reasoning, visual and creative thinking, curriculum connections, real world connections and math connections.
- **Geometry:**
Identifying plane figures and solid figures, relate plane and solid figures, sides and corners, symmetry, lines, line segments, rays, planes, angles, congruent figures, slides, flips and turns, polygons, triangles, quadrilaterals, perimeter and circumference, area and volume.
- **Patterns, Relationships and Algebraic Thinking:**
Patterns with geometric figures and numbers, patterns in tables, charts and graphs, skip counting, making predictions and logical reasoning, function tables, ordered pairs, Venn diagrams, commutative and associative properties, zero and identity properties, missing numbers and number sentences.
- **Measurement, Time and Money:**
Non standard, standard and metric measurement of: length, capacity, weight, mass and temperature. Time to nearest hour/half hour, minutes before/after the hour, elapsed time, calendar and AM/PM. Count and show amounts, making change, comparing, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing.
- **Data, Statistics and Probability:**
Reading and making pictographs, bar graphs and charts. Reading line graphs, collecting and organizing data, graphing ordered pairs, tally marks, using data in problem solving, predicting outcomes based on data and writing probabilities.
- **Technology:**
Using calculators in problem solving, counting and skip counting, reading a display and learning number and operation keys. Using a computer for math games that reinforce all aspects of curriculum.

In conclusion all students by the end of **Grade 3** will learn place value and money, numbers and money, addition properties and strategies, add greater numbers, subtraction strategies, subtract greater numbers, time, data and graphs, multiplication properties, multiplication facts to 5, multiplication facts and strategies, multiplication patterns, division concepts, using division, division facts and properties, division facts and strategies, apply division, multiplication patterns and estimation, multiplication by 1-digit numbers, division patterns and estimation, divide by 1-digit numbers, customary units, measurements metric units, 2 and 3 digit dimensional figures, geometry, understanding fractions, fractions and probability, relate fractions and decimals, and add and subtract decimals.

Science/Health

Science and Health are blended together for the study of five major units throughout the year.

- **Human Body:** Health needs, drugs, disease, teeth, food pyramid, organ systems, healthy community.
- **Life Science:** Plant growth, how animals grow and change, living things need each other, how people affect plants and animals.
- **Physical Science:** Properties of matter, work and machines, forms of energy and sound.
- **Earth Science:** Rocks and soil, changes in the earth, clouds and storms and solar system.
- **Science Fair:** Students will follow the scientific method to develop and present an individual project for the annual Science Fair.

In conclusion all students by the end of **Grade 3** will learn the following in science: plants, animals, relationships among living things, ecosystems in balance, earth's resources, forces shape the land, earth's weather, earth in space, how things move, work and machines, matter, and energy.

Social Studies

Students in third grade learn more about our connections to the past. They learn ways in which local, regional and national government and traditions have developed to leave their mark on our current world. Emphasis is placed upon the physical and cultural landscape of California, including the study of Native Americans, the arrival of immigrants and the impact they have on shaping our society today.

In conclusion all students by the end of grade 3 will learn the following: people build communities, communities have history, communities have government, communities at work, and many cultures, one country.

Physical Education

Physical Education takes place twice weekly. A variety of activities are used to continue the development of skill, rules and strategies for organized games. Other important aspects of Physical Education are the values of proper sportsmanship and team play. All students have the opportunity to be leaders and followers.

Art

Students will have the opportunity to experience art activities throughout the year. They will be exposed to a variety of artwork through the use of images and stories about great artists and their art. They will use various art mediums such as; pastels, water color, mosaic, clay, wire, print making, ceramics and chalk to create their own masterpieces. In addition to our formal art class, students will also have projects to complete in class that compliment other areas of the curriculum.

FOURTH GRADE

Reading

Islamic Academy of South Jersey has chosen a reading series with a strong phonetic approach as well as being a literature based program. It develops sequential reading skills and vocabulary. The overall program is enhanced with independent reading times and assignments; teacher read aloud, weekly library visits and literature discussions. Fourth graders have become sophisticated readers and will read some one-half million words annually. This includes several different types of text such as literature, magazines, online information etc...

Islamic Academy of South Jersey also uses two additional tools to enhance our reading program. STAR assessment is used in conjunction with Accelerated Reader to assess and monitor students on a regular basis to ensure that all students are reading at their optimal level. This is an individualized program designed to meet the different instructional needs of each child.

- **Comprehension Skills and Strategies:**

Story structure, author's viewpoint, sequence of events, inferences, cause and effect, predict/infer, categorize and classify, noting details, topic, main idea and details, evaluate, fantasy and realism, following directions, drawing conclusions, monitor and clarify, questioning, fact and opinion, compare and contrast, making judgments, text organization, problem solving, generalizations, sequence of events and summarize.

- **Information and Study Skills:**

Reading parts of a book, dictionary, bilingual dictionary, maps, atlas, charts, tables, graphs, diagram, encyclopedia, thesaurus, directions, story chart and recipes. Using a K-W-L chart, library, newspapers to find information, multi-media resources, SQRRR, graphic organizers, timelines and schedules, taking notes, outlines, adjusting reading rate, evaluating sources, recording information on a Venn diagram, conduct an interview, collecting data and skim and scan.

- **Structural Analysis and Phonics**

Base words, short and long vowels, syllabication, endings, vowel patterns, compound words, plurals, contractions, suffixes and prefixes, homophones, consonant clusters, silent consonants, possessives, double consonants, digraphs and diphthongs.

In conclusion all students will understand and apply the knowledge of sounds, letters, and words in written English to become independent and fluent readers, and will read a variety of materials and texts with fluency and comprehension. Building upon knowledge and skills gained in preceding grades, by the end of **Grade 4**, students will learn concepts about print and text, phonological awareness, decoding, word recognition, fluency, reading strategies, vocabulary, concept development, comprehension skills, responding to text, inquiry, and research.

Language Arts

The language program at Islamic Academy of South Jersey is integrated with our reading program. It covers the following skills: listening, speaking, writing and spelling. These skills are cross-curricular and are used as a foundation in all subject areas.

- **Writing Skills:**

Writing dates, writing complete sentences, correcting run-on sentences, correcting sentence fragments, combining sentences with possessive pronouns, with prepositional phrases and pronouns, journal writing, friendly letter, character sketches, compare and contrast, paragraphs that explain, news article, compound sentences, writing to a specific audience, writing a problem/solution paragraph, varying sentence types, elaborating with adverbs, taking notes, problem/solution essay, choosing what's important, using exact verbs, writing a magazine article, a message, a speech, log entries, writing complete information, announcement, summary, ordering important information, paraphrase, writing a personal narrative, description, story, research report, personal and persuasive essay.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

In conclusion all students will learn to write in clear, concise, organized language that varies in content and form for different audiences and purposes.

By the end of **Grade 4**, students will learn prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, post writing, writing as a product, mechanics, spelling, handwriting, writing forms, audiences, and purposes.

- **Grammar, Usage and Mechanics:**

Kinds of sentences, subject and predicates, nouns, pronouns, verbs, past, present and future tenses, irregulars, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and prepositional phrases.

- **Spelling and Vocabulary Skills:**

High frequency words, see structural analysis and phonics listed under reading, multiple meanings, using guide and entry words, connotation, base words, rhyming words, word families, definitions, choosing correct meaning, pronunciation key, analogies, homophones, synonyms and antonyms.

- **Listening and Speaking Skills:**

Literature discussion, introductions, story telling, follow and give oral directions, telephone skills, present a reader's theatre performance, having a conversation, view and evaluate art, explain a process, hold a debate, group problem solving, listen to and make announcements, oral reports, group problem solving, give a persuasive speech, view and evaluate media and dramatize a story.

Handwriting

Islamic Academy of South Jersey follows the Zaner-Bloser method of handwriting. Fourth graders have mastered the entire cursive alphabet. They continue to develop and refine their skill. Most final draft writing is presented in cursive.

Math

Islamic Academy of South Jersey uses a math series that encourages the development of basic skills. Through the use of manipulatives children are able to move their thinking from the concrete to the abstract. These skills form the basis for higher thinking processes needed for problem solving, reasoning and critical thinking.

Our Math program is further enhanced by STAR Math and Accelerated Math. STAR Math is an assessment tools that allows for consistent testing of our students across all grade levels. Accelerated Math is a supplemental math program that gives teachers the opportunity to meet the differing levels and instructional needs of each child in their class. Students that are exceeding classroom expectations have the opportunity to advance and those that need extra support can have their learning reinforced.

- **Whole Number Concepts and Operations:**

Reading and writing numbers, place value, comparing and ordering, rounding, square numbers and square roots, divisibility, factors and greatest common factors, multiples and least common multiples, three or more addends, adding and subtracting with 4 or more digits, choosing a computation tool, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of expressions/sentences/equations, estimation and mental math, problem solving, subtracting three digit numbers, basic facts and fact strategies, properties, multiplication and division by 1-digit number, multiples of 10 and 100, multi-digit number and meaning of division.

- **Fraction Concepts and Operations:**

Parts of a whole, parts of a set, mixed numbers, fractions greater than 1, equivalent fractions, lowest terms/simplest form, comparing and ordering, common denominator, related to decimals, addition and subtraction of like/unlike denominators and multiplication and division by a whole number.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

- **Decimal Concepts and Operations:**
Meaning of decimals, related to fractions, related to money/measurement, place value, on a number line, comparing and ordering, rounding, addition and subtraction.
- **Number Sense, Estimation and Mental Math:**
Fractions, decimals, number patterns, number relationships, relative magnitude of numbers, deciding when to estimate, underestimate/overestimate, adjusting an estimate, using front-end digits, rounding whole numbers and decimals, rounding fractions and mixed numbers, substituting compatible numbers, multiply in any order, use doubling, use known facts, use patterns and properties, think multiplication to divide, multiply/divide by 10, 100, 1000, compatible numbers, fractions.
- **Mathematical Processes:**
Analyze word problems, analyze strategies, decision making, problem-solving checklist, critical thinking, logical reasoning, visual and creative thinking, curriculum connections, real world connections and math connections.
- **Geometry:**
Identifying plane figures and solid figures, relate plane and solid figures, sides, a corners/vertices, symmetry, lines, line segments, rays, planes, angles, similar figures, congruent figures, slides, flips and turns, parts of lines/line segments, polygons, triangles, quadrilaterals, polyhedrons/solid shapes, perimeter and circumference, area and volume.
- **Patterns, Relationships and Algebraic Thinking:**
Patterns with geometric figures, numbers and objects, patterns in tables, charts and graphs, making predictions and logical reasoning, function tables, ordered pairs, commutative, associative and distributive properties, zero and identity properties, missing numbers and number sentences.
- **Measurement, Time and Money:**
Non standard, standard and metric measurement of length, capacity, weight, mass and temperature. Perimeter/area/volume relationships. Time zones and time tables. Multiplying and dividing money.
- **Data, Statistics and Probability:**
Reading and making bar graphs, line graphs, line plots, stem-and-leaf diagrams. Collecting and organizing data, graphing ordered pairs, range, mode, median, mean, using data in problem solving, interpreting data, predicting outcomes based on data and writing probabilities, tree diagrams and simulations.
- **Technology:**
Using calculators in problem solving, counting and skip counting, reading a display and learning number and operation keys. Using a computer for math games that reinforce all aspects of curriculum.

In conclusion all students by the end of **Grade 4** will learn place value and number sense, numbers and money, addition, subtraction, time and data, graphs, multiplication facts, division facts, multiplying by 1-digit numbers, multiplication and functions, multiplying by 2-digit numbers, multiply greater numbers, divide by 1-digit numbers, divide greater numbers, divide by 2-digit numbers, quotients

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

and order of operations, measurement, customary units, metric units, space and plane figures, geometry, fractions, probability, add fractions, subtract fractions, relate fractions and decimals, use decimals, add decimals, and subtract decimals.

Science/Health

Science and Health are blended together for the study of five major units throughout the year.

- **Human Body:** *Digestion and circulation, your brain and your sense organs.*
- **Life Science:** *Flowering plants, animal behavior, food chains and food webs, animal and plant adaptations.*
- **Physical Science:** *Measuring matter, work and energy, electricity and magnetism, light and sound.*
- **Earth Science:** *Changes in landforms, oceans, measuring weather conditions and movement in the solar system.*
- **Science Fair:** *Students will follow the scientific method to develop and present an individual project for the annual Science Fair*

In conclusion all students by the end of **Grade 4** will learn the following in science: the world of living things, animals as living things, earth and beyond, weather and water, matter, and energy.

Social Studies

Students in fourth grade study California in depth. They will view California from the following perspectives: geography, history, cultural, economic, environmental issues, ethics and belief systems, social and political systems, national identity, constitutional heritage, citizenship as well as the future of our state.

- **Map Skills:** *Identify different map and globe symbols, use and understand location related terms, interpret and use directional terms, locate places and positions on maps and use and understand terms to describe relative size and distance.*
- **People and Place:** *Focus is on the uniqueness of the state by learning about the geography and how early settlers depended upon the environment for their needs.*
- **Colonial California:** *The motives and hardships of early Spanish explorers and how their settlement influenced the California Indian culture. Focus is placed on social and economic changes that occurred in California under Mexican rule.*
- **New Comers Change California:** *The transfer of ownership of California from Mexico to the United States and the gold rush. Students learn of the effects of the gold rush such as exorbitant prices as well as political and cultural forces that shaped the era.*
- **Growth and Development:** *Building of the transcontinental railroad links California with the rest of the United States. Post gold rush California finds many miners turning to agriculture to seek their fortunes. Immigrants come to California to realize the dream of building a better life.*
- **Modern California:** *The economic history of California is discussed in terms of why industries prosper, but also suffer. Changes brought to California by WW II. Civil rights movements and the influx of Southeast Asian and Central American immigrants to California. The future of California and its environment in terms of looking to the past and showing how those decisions and actions have shaped California today.*

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

Physical Education

Physical Education takes place twice weekly. Fourth graders have the opportunity to develop skills at a higher level. They now have the skills to play sophisticated games with a understanding of the rules, nuances of the games and use follow the proper rules of sportsmanship.

Art

Students will have the opportunity to experience art activities throughout the year. They will be exposed to a variety of artwork through the use of images and stories about great artists and their art. They will use various art mediums such as; pastels, water color, mosaic, clay, wire, print making, ceramics and chalk to create their own masterpieces. In addition to our formal art class, students will also have projects to complete in class that compliment other areas of the curriculum

Middle School

INTRODUCTION

Our Middle School program (fifth through eighth grade) bridges the childhood expectations of elementary life and the increased demands of high school. As a place of growth, awareness, and understanding of oneself, the Middle School provides an opportunity for students to learn the interdependence of all subject areas and their relevance to everyday life. Students are encouraged to synthesize, analyze, and evaluate problems, define solutions, and relate their experiences to the world around them. Islamic Academy of South Jersey Middle School captures the unbounded energy of maturing young adults and nurtures and guides them through the necessary transitions of early adolescence.

The Middle School experience provides a wealth of learning — from the fundamentals of a strong academic curriculum to the development of essential life skills. Our supportive and talented Middle School staff ensures the success of each student by giving the kind of individualized instruction that promotes critical thinking, intellectual integrity, and social maturity.

Beyond the classroom, the students receive other opportunities to expand their learning and build important leadership skills through additional programs in the Middle School. Student Council is an avenue for some students to reach a level of service and responsibility as leaders in the school. Peer tutoring is another way for students to use their knowledge and skills to help others who are in need. Community service is an option for seventh and eighth graders which teaches students the importance of caring and giving of their time as they visit the neighborhood public school each week as teachers' aides.

School competitions challenge students to excel for their own sense of achievement and as representatives of the school. In the area of mathematics, all middle schoolers participate in the American Mathematics Competition (AMC8) each year, and seventh grade girls join the Alverno Math Meet. Seventh and eighth graders can also choose to compete in the MathCounts program if they take this elective for two trimesters.

Striving for excellence is a goal in our science program, and students in sixth and seventh grade can prove their merit in our annual science fair. Upon assessment by a team of outside judges, the students may earn a gold, silver, or bronze medal.

The mind and body work together to balance a student's mental and physical health. The Sports Club in the middle school encourages students to increase their ability in various sports while developing a sense of sportsmanship and school spirit. Competitions are arranged with area schools for both boys and girls in volleyball, flag football, soccer, and basketball.

The outdoor education program is an essential ingredient in the overall middle school experience as learning takes on a different flavor in the outdoors. While the students learn various skills on these trips, they also enjoy the chance to develop a strong class spirit and deeper friendships with classmates.

The Arts program stimulates students to express their creativity through various outlets. Drama propels students to improve their speaking ability as well as overcoming the anxieties of standing in front of an audience. These classes work towards a final performance in which they can demonstrate their new skills and understanding. Nasheed and art classes also engage the students in learning techniques and expanding their appreciation of the masters in these areas.

COMPUTER CURRICULUM

Letter writing: Personal and business letters:

Application: Microsoft Word

1. Learn to write your name in ACROSTIC (write sentences Adjectives)
2. Learn to write a Personal letter (how to indent, do salutation and comma spacing).
3. Choose different font size and style.
4. Learn to write a Business letter (how to indent, do salutation and comma spacing).
5. Learn to create page borders and page background and page layout.
6. How to insert clip art and pictures from paint to your word documents.

Typing:

Application: Mavis Beacon

- Perfecting typing skills Basic levels.
- Students typing intermediate level
- Skill building fun game to track individual student progress.

Introduction to Graphs and Formulas : January Assignments.

Application: Microsoft Excel

1. Learn the terms used in Excel.
2. Learn to create data table and choose to create a comparative bar graph
3. Learn to enter formulas in Excel. (Currently Jan 18th, 2013)
4. Learn to align and insert color in tables.
5. Format cells and add grids

FIFTH GRADE

Fifth grade at Islamic Academy of South Jersey is the entrance to middle school. While students may sense their readiness to be part of this experience, often their organizational and process skills are still developing. Therefore, we consider fifth grade to be a transitional year in which we work with fifth graders to develop the skills and abilities needed to excel in our middle school program.

ENGLISH

The English program focuses on reading comprehension, writing skills, grammar, and literature analysis. Reading comprehension is reinforced through reading and analysis of texts with attention to contextual vocabulary, prediction/inference, summarizing, and so on. Students learn how to write a 5- paragraph essay and how to edit their work with attention to mechanics of writing. Emphasis on grammar, vocabulary, and spelling assist students in developing more accurate word usage and enhanced writing. Students are given tools to analyze literature by introducing them to the parts of literature (theme, voice, plot, structure, setting, symbolism, tone, point of view and style) and various literary devices such as personification, analogies, irony, similes, metaphors, and foreshadowing. Handwriting is emphasized at this grade level: printing and cursive.

Students are required to read at least two books for their independent reading from the school's quiz list. They must take the quizzes for these books and this is incorporated into their reading requirement grade.

Projects/activities for this course include: tall tales, diary entries, book reports, journals, essays (descriptive, persuasive, expository), wanted poster, timeline, and maps.

All students by the end of 5th grade will understand and apply the knowledge of sounds, letters, and words in written English to become independent and fluent readers, and will read a variety of materials and texts with fluency and comprehension. Building upon knowledge and skills gained in preceding grades students will also learn concepts about print and text, phonological awareness, decoding, word recognition, fluency, reading strategies, vocabulary, concept development, comprehension skills, responding to text, inquiry, and research.

MATH

Students begin their middle school math journey using the Middle School Math series starting at the sixth grade level. Real-world application of math concepts gives students a more practical way of approaching math. An emphasis on problem solving and critical thinking expands their skills in this course and other areas as well. Topics covered include: reading and interpreting graphs, displaying and describing data, number sense and operation sense, introduction to algebra, decimal concepts, adding and subtracting with decimals, multiplying and dividing with decimals, units of measurement, area of polygons, circles, number theory, connecting fractions and decimals, adding and subtracting fractions, adding and subtracting mixed numbers, multiplying fractions, dividing fractions, lines and angles, polygons, transformations, integers, graphing on the coordinate plane, ratio and rates, proportions, percents, solids and surface area, volume, introduction to probability, and fairness.

Our Math program is further enhanced by STAR Math and Accelerated Math. STAR Math is an assessment tools that allows for consistent testing of our students across all grade levels. Accelerated Math is a supplemental math program that gives teachers the opportunity to meet the differing levels and instructional needs of each child in their class. Students that are exceeding classroom expectations have the opportunity to advance and those that need extra support can have their learning reinforced.

All students by the end of grade 5 will learn place value and number sense, add and subtract whole numbers and decimals, multiply whole numbers, multiply whole numbers and decimals, divide whole numbers, divide whole numbers and decimals, data and graphs, graphs and sampling, number theory and fractions, fractions and mixed numbers, add fractions and mixed numbers, subtract fractions and mixed numbers, multiply fractions, multiply mixed numbers, divide fractions, measurement, customary units, metric units, algebraic expressions, algebraic equations, geometric concepts, apply geometry, perimeter, area, area and circumference, surface area, volume, symmetry, ratios, probability, percents, and apply percents.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

SOCIAL STUDIES

At this level, the social studies program addresses the development of the United States up to 1850. The emphasis is on the study of people, discussing the roles of Native Americans and explorers while also focusing on different colonial settlements and how that led to the development of regional differences. Students study the causes leading up to the Revolutionary War, the events during the war, and the results. The structure of the government and the physical and political development of the U.S. are also important elements of the curriculum.

Basic note-taking skills are reinforced in this course as well as how to summarize an article for a current event. Critical thinking skills are emphasized as students are asked to study cause/effect, development of societies, how conflict shapes history, importance and biases of primary and secondary sources, role of religion, social issues (racism, immigration), and changing views of history, events, people, and society. Students are required to know the location and capitals of the 50 states.

All students by the end of grade 5 will learn the following: the first Americans, the world meets, colonization and conflict, the fight for independence, a new nation, slavery and emancipation, the nation changes, the modern era, and our neighbors in the western hemisphere.

The fifth grade social studies curriculum is a chronological study of early American history through the adoption of the United States' Bill of Rights. By applying the tools of historians, including the use of primary and secondary sources, students explore how significant events shaped the nation.

They begin with an introduction to the United States Constitution which, as the first unit of study, retrospectively frames their study of the early history of the nation. As they study the meeting of "Three Worlds" they explore interactions among American Indians, Africans, and Europeans in North America. Students also examine how these interactions affected colonization and settlement. They explore how geography of North America influenced daily life and economic activities as the three distinct English colonial regions developed.

Throughout the course, students learn how ideas about government, colonial experiences with self-government, and interactions with Great Britain influenced the decision to declare independence. Within the historical study emphasis is placed on ideas about government as reflected in the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Students examine how and why the Founders gave and limited the power of government through the principles of separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, protection of individual rights, popular sovereignty, and the rule of law (core democratic values).

Throughout the course students develop capacity for responsible citizenship as they apply the values and principles of constitutional democracy in the United States to contemporary issues facing the nation.

Unit 1 Government

Focus Questions:

1. Why do we have both state and federal governments?
2. How are core democratic values and constitutional principles reflected in our government?
3. How is our government organized to give and to limit power?

Unit 2 Three Worlds Meet

Focus Questions:

1. How were the worlds of America, Africa, and Europe alike and different?
2. How and why did the three worlds meet?
3. How did Europeans, American Indians, and Africans view the meeting of their three worlds?

Unit 3 Colonization and Settlement

Focus Questions:

1. How did the push and pull factors of migration influence the settlement of different colonial regions in North America?
2. How did the geography of North America affect settlement patterns and the economic, political, and cultural development of different colonial regions?
3. How did cultural differences and similarities between Europeans and American Indians influence their interactions?

Unit 4 Life In Colonial America

Focus Questions:

1. How did economic activities contribute to the significant differences among the colonial regions?
2. How did colonial political experiences influence how colonists viewed their rights and responsibilities?
3. How did the institution of slavery affect colonial development and life in the colonies?

Unit 5 Road To Revolution

Focus Questions:

1. How did economic issues and political experiences and ideas affect the relationship between Great Britain and the colonies?
2. Why were the colonists dissatisfied with British rule?
3. How and why did people in different colonial regions unite against Great Britain?

Unit 6 The American Revolution

Focus Questions:

1. How did the colonists justify their right to rebel?
2. In what ways was the American Revolution a war of ideas?
3. How did people influence the course of the war?

Unit 7 A New Nation

Focus Questions:

1. How effectively did the Framers of the Constitution resolve the problems the nation encountered under the Articles of Confederation?
2. What role did compromise play in constructing the Constitution?
3. How did the Framers address the issues of governmental power and individual rights?

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

SCIENCE

A general course in science is offered at the fifth grade level. The scientific method and process skills are essential components of the learning experience. Students are given numerous opportunities to gain knowledge through lecture, discussion, group work, and hands-on experimentation. Topics covered in this course include: life science (comparing living things, reproduction and change, adaptations, ecology), physical science (classifying matter, investigating motion, forms of energy, electrical energy), earth science (the changing earth, the earth's resources, climate, astronomy), the human body (respiration and excretion, living a healthy life).

All students by the end of grade 5 will learn the following in science: classifying living things, plant structure and functions, plant diversity, animal diversity, interactions of living things, ecosystems, landforms, minerals, rocks, air, water, energy, astronomy, weather, weather patterns and climate, properties and structure of matter, forms of matter and energy, Newton's laws of motion, sound energy, and light energy.

COMPUTER

The main focus of the computer program at the fifth grade level is keyboarding. Giving the students ample time for this allows them to establish their basic typing skills. In addition, students learn the tools of the computer such as word processing (Word), spreadsheet (Excel), and multimedia presentation (PowerPoint). Some attention is also given to the guidelines for navigating the Internet and using the Internet as a research tool. This class is offered four times per week for one trimester and two times per week for two trimesters.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education classes engage the students in positive, healthy behaviors that ultimately contribute to overall physical fitness. Students learn the rules of various sports such as basketball, flag football, soccer, and volleyball while also practicing the skills involved in each sport. Additional games and activities such as Capture the Flag and relays are used to enhance sportsmanship. The Presidential Fitness program offers students a way to improve their fitness level and skills as well. This class is provided for three periods each week.

HEALTH

The health program utilizes various resources to promote the following goals: teaching students the information and skills they need to become health literate, maintain and improve health, prevent disease, and reduce health-related risk behaviors. Students cover topics within the following areas: mental health, family living, nutrition, personal health, growth and development, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, communicable and chronic diseases, injury prevention and safety, consumer and community health, and environmental health. This class is provided once a week.

Students in fifth grade also receive a workshop in human development with focus on the changes of puberty, menstruation, and Islamic guidelines for cleanliness.

ARTS

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

In fifth grade, students have exposure to two areas of the arts: fine art and nasheed. In Fine Art, students are guided by their art teacher to learn the basic skills of drawing and painting and art appreciation. In nasheed rehearsals, students practice their singing skills for a final production at the end of the year.

SIXTH GRADE

ENGLISH

The English program focuses on reading comprehension, writing skills, grammar, and literature analysis. Reading comprehension is reinforced through reading and analysis of texts with attention to contextual vocabulary, prediction/inference, summarizing, and so on. Students continue to develop their 5- paragraph essays through various opportunities for writing. They also continue to build their grammar, vocabulary and spelling skills to improve the quality of their overall writing and to enhance reading comprehension. Students analyze literature with attention to parts of literature (theme, voice, plot, structure, setting, symbolism, tone, point of view and style) and various literary devices such as personification, analogies, irony, similes, metaphors, and foreshadowing. Handwriting is emphasized at this grade level: printing and cursive.

Students are required to read at least two books for their independent reading from the school's quiz list. They must take quizzes for these books and this is incorporated into their reading requirement grade.

Projects/activities for this course include: essays (compare/contrast, descriptive, persuasive, narrative, expository, personal, and precise), writing myths and letters, book reports, journals, and character dinners.

All students will understand and apply the knowledge of sounds, letters, and words in written English to become independent and fluent readers, and will read a variety of materials and texts with fluency and comprehension. Building upon knowledge and skills gained in preceding grades, by the end of **Grade 6**, students will learn concepts about print and text, phonological awareness, decoding, word recognition, fluency, reading strategies, vocabulary, concept development, comprehension skills, response to text, inquiry, and research.

WRITING

All students will learn to write in clear, concise, organized language that varies in content and form for different audiences and purposes.

By the end of Grade 6 students will learn prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, post writing, writing as a product, mechanics, spelling, handwriting, writing forms, audiences, and purposes.

MATH

Students continue the next phase of the Middle School Math program with sixth graders using the seventh grade level of this series. Students are challenged to enhance their problem solving skills, utilize technology, and incorporate algebraic concepts throughout the program. Topics in this curriculum include: working with data, formulas, expressions, equations, decimal and fraction concepts, sums and differences of fractions, products and quotients of fractions, geometric figures and formulas, ratios and rates, proportional quantities, scale drawings, maps, and scales, dimensional analysis, similarity, understanding and estimating percents, using integers, tables, equations, and graphs, integer equations, polyhedrons, circles and cylinders, transformations, counting, and chance and probability.

Our Math program is further enhanced by STAR Math and Accelerated Math. STAR Math is an assessment tools that allows for consistent testing of our students across all grade levels. Accelerated Math is a supplemental math program that gives teachers the opportunity to meet the differing levels and instructional needs of each child in their class. Students that are exceeding classroom expectations have the opportunity to advance and those that need extra support can have their learning reinforced.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

All students by the end of grade 6 will learn add and subtract decimals, introduction to algebra, multiply decimals, divide decimals, graphs, statistics and sampling, number theory and fractions, fractions, mixed numbers, add and subtract fractions, add and subtract mixed numbers, multiply mixed numbers and fractions, divide mixed numbers and fractions, measurements, metric units, customary units, functions, equations, inequalities, integers, rational numbers, geometry concepts, apply geometry, perimeter, area, surface area, volume, ratios, proportions, percents, apply percents, probability-one stage experiment, and probability-multistage experiment.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Units of Study

The 6th Grade Social Studies curriculum introduces students to the history of our world. Through geography, students learn the locations of significant places in each of these world regions. They explore cultural and natural features that characterize each region, they trace movement of people, ideas, and products within the regions, and they discover ways that each region can be divided into subregions.

Historical background is set for each region to enable students to understand how they developed from the past to the present. How people within a region are governed is also studied. The economy of each region and its role in the global economy is explored with special attention paid to economic ties with the United States. Students study public issues of global significance in these regions and work to resolve them through study, discussion, writing, and in at least one instance, civic action.

Using a variety of media, students compile, analyze, and present geographic and economic data pertaining to the regions.

UNITS OF STUDY

Unit 1: History's Beginnings

Ch. 1 ~ The Earliest Human Societies

Ch. 2 ~ Mesopotamia & the Fertile Crescent

Ch. 3 ~ The Hebrew Kingdoms

Unit 2: Ancient African & Asian Civilizations

Ch. 4 ~ Ancient Egypt & Kush

Ch. 5 ~ Ancient India

Ch. 6 ~ Ancient China

Unit 3: Ancient & Classical Greece

Ch. 7 ~ Ancient Greece

Ch. 8 ~ Classical Greece

Unit 4: The World of Ancient Rome

Ch. 9 ~ The Rise of Rome

Ch. 10 ~ Rome's Decline & Legacy

Unit 5: Regional Civilizations & Empires

Ch. 11 ~ The Rise of Islam

Ch. 12 ~ African Civilizations

Ch. 13 ~ American Civilizations

Ch. 14 ~ Dynasties of China

Ch. 15 ~ Civilizations of Asia

Unit 6: Medieval & Renaissance Europe

Ch. 16 ~ Feudal & Late Medieval Europe

Ch. 17 ~ The Renaissance & Reformation

Ch. 18 ~ Scientific Revolution &

The Age of Exploration

Unit 7: The Age of Revolutionary Change

Ch. 19 ~ From Monarchy to Revolution

Ch. 20 ~ Industry & Empire

Unit 8: The Twentieth Century & Beyond

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

Ch. 21 ~ The World at War
Ch. 22 ~ The World Since 1945

At this level, the social studies program addresses the development of the major Western and non- Western civilizations. Emphasis is placed on the study of geography and its effect on the growth of these civilizations. Students also study people's ideas and religions, achievements, the problems they faced, and their role in developing today's political, social, and economic structure.

Basic note-taking skills are reinforced in this course as well as how to summarize an article for a current event. Critical thinking skills are emphasized as students are asked to study cause/effect, development of societies, how conflict shapes history, importance and biases of primary and secondary sources, role of religion, social issues (racism, immigration), and changing views of history, events, people, and society. Students are required to learn the areas studied in the Middle East and Asia as well as influential cities and bodies of water.

Projects/activities for this course include: writing a Roman mystery, Olympic city-state simulation, current events and historical book reports.

All students by the end of grade 6 will learn the following: the first cultures, the Fertile Crescent, the Nile river valley, the Indus valley river, the Huang He Valley, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, the Ancient Americans, the Arab world, African Civilizations, Europe in transition, New empires in Asia, New empires in the Americas, technology, expansion, revolution and expansion, troubled times, the spread of independence, and a changing world.

EARTH SCIENCE

Exploration of the fascinating elements of earth science is the focus for the sixth grade science program. Scientific inquiry is inspired through hands-on experimentation and creation of models that help promote deeper understanding of difficult concepts. Topics covered in this course include: plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, minerals, rocks, mapping the earth's surface, weathering and soil formation, erosion and deposition, the water planet, fresh water, freshwater resources, ocean motions, ocean zones, the atmosphere, weather factors, weather patterns, climate and climate change, populations and communities, ecosystems and biomes, living resources, energy resources.

Students also take an 8 to 10-week course on preparing a science fair project. Objectives of the course include: choosing a topic, conducting research, experiment planning, reporting results, drawing conclusions, writing the report, designing the display board, and preparing an oral presentation. The course culminates with students displaying their projects in the school's annual science fair. Students may earn a bronze, silver, or gold medal for reaching a particular standard from the averaged scores of several outside judges.

All students by the end of grade 6 will learn the following in science: kingdoms of life, ecosystem, from cells to organisms, inheriting traits, the earth-moon system, the solar system and beyond, the earth's moving crust, how earth changes over time, properties and changes of matter, heat energy, electricity and magnetism, objects in motion, and works and machines.

COMPUTER

The computer class continues to emphasize keyboarding but assumes the students have reached a level of competence (25-30 wpm with 90% accuracy). Therefore, more emphasis is given to other skills such as word processing, spreadsheet, and multimedia presentation. Students are also introduced to desktop publishing and web page design.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education classes engage the students in positive, healthy behaviors that ultimately contribute to overall physical fitness. Students learn the rules of various sports such as basketball, flag football, soccer, and volleyball while also practicing the skills involved in each sport. Additional games and activities such as Capture the Flag and relays are used to enhance sportsmanship. The Presidential Fitness program offers students a way to improve their fitness level and skills as well. This class is provided for three periods each week.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

HEALTH

The health program utilizes various resources to promote the following goals: teaching students the information and skills they need to become health literate, maintain and improve health, prevent disease, and reduce health-related risk behaviors. Students cover topics within the following areas: mental health, family living, nutrition, personal health, growth and development, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, communicable and chronic diseases, injury prevention and safety, consumer and community health, and environmental health. This class is provided once a week.

Students in sixth grade also receive a workshop in human development with focus on the following areas: male/female reproductive system, sexuality, stages of pregnancy, physical and emotional changes of puberty, menstruation, Islamic perspectives on menstruation and guidelines for cleanliness, personal health care, body image, and spiritual accountability.

ARTS

In sixth grade, students have exposure to two areas of the arts: fine art and nasheed. In Fine Art, students are guided by their art teacher to learn the basic skills of drawing and painting and art appreciation. In nasheed rehearsals, students practice their singing skills for a final production at the end of the year.

SEVENTH GRADE

ENGLISH

Students continue to build their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills through the English program. Students are required to delve into the intricacies of literary texts, examining the use of metaphors, analogies, and other literary devices. Essay writing emphasizes a structured approach to writing but also allows students to express feelings, emotions, and opinions in a constructive and unique way. An important focus of the class is vocabulary development with many words taken directly from the reading selections. Grammar remains an essential component of the English program with students practicing correcting sentences and then incorporating their knowledge of the rules into their essay writing.

Projects/activities include: double entry journals, literary circles, in-book annotations, passage illustrations, and cooperative in-class discussions (grand conferences).

All students will understand and apply the knowledge of sounds, letters, and words in written English to become independent and fluent readers, and will read a variety of materials and texts with fluency and comprehension. Building upon knowledge and skills gained in preceding grades, by the end of **Grade 7**, students will learn concepts about print and text, decoding and word recognition, fluency, reading strategies, vocabulary and concept development, comprehension skills and response to text, and inquiry and research.

- **READING**

- character
 - analysis and inference cues
 - traits
 - major/minor characters
- novel (whole class) – The Outsiders: various written assignments, tests, and projects completed
- novel (independent study, students selected from list of twenty books): various written assignments, tests, and projects completed
- literary terms
 - theme
 - plot
 - conflict
 - resolution
 - point of view – first-person, third-person
 - figurative language
- Setting
- Theme
- Tone
- Author’s purpose
- Non-Fiction
 - Expository/practical
 - Persuasive
 - Reflective
 - Narrative non-fiction
- Poetry
 - Form
 - Figurative language

- **TEST PREP**

- test-taking skills & practice

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

- **VOCABULARY**
 - approximately 75 words introduced. 45 words cycled through curriculum with repeated review
- **SPEAKING**
 - oral presentations – how-to
- **GRAMMAR**
 - conventions – punctuation, capitalization, spelling, etc.
 - eight parts of speech
 - subject/verb identification
 - independent/subordinate clauses
 - coordinating/subordinating conjunctions
 - sentence patterns/types according to structure (simple, compound, complex)
 - punctuation sentence patterns
 - identification of sentence fragments and run-ons
 - Conventions (continued) – punctuation, capitalization, spelling, etc.
 - parts of speech (in depth study)
 - verb types
 - tense agreement
 - pronouns
 - prepositions
 - conjunctions
 - effective sentences

WRITING

All students will write in clear, concise, organized language that varies in content and form for different audiences and purposes. By the end of grade 7, students will learn prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, post writing, writing as a product, mechanics, spelling, handwriting, writing forms, audiences, and purposes. Following is what the students will learn throughout the year.

- The Writing Process
 - prewriting, drafting, editing, revision, publish
- Descriptive Essay
- Comparison/Contrast Essay
- Writing Traits
 - Ideas
 - Topic selection
 - Details
 - Organization
 - Leads and conclusions
 - Sticking with the topic
 - Providing a “map” for the reader
- Cause-and-effect
- persuasion
- Research report
- Response to literature
- Writing Traits
 - voice
 - word choice
 - sentence fluency
 - conventions

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum 2020-2021

PRE-ALGEBRA

The content of this course allows students to make a smooth path from arithmetic to algebra and from the visual world and arithmetic to geometry. Four dimensions of understanding are emphasized: skills in carrying out various algorithms, developing and using mathematics properties and relationships, applying mathematics in realistic situations, and representing or picturing mathematical concepts.

Topics covered in this course include: decimal notation, large and small numbers, measurement, uses of variables, patterns leading to addition, problem solving strategies, patterns leading to subtraction, displays, patterns leading to multiplication, multiplication and other operations, and patterns leading to division.

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All students by the end of grade 7 will learn problem solving, algebra, geometry, how to apply decimals, statistics, using number patterns, fractions, percents, using integers, applying fractions, exploring equations and functions, using proportional reasoning, investigating patterns, exploring area, applying percents, finding volume and surface area, and exploring discrete math and probability.

WORLD HISTORY

The seventh grade social studies curriculum invites students to explore the challenges and accomplishments of a vast array of ancient empires including the Roman, Islamic, Ottoman, Mongolian, Japanese and Chinese empires.

An additional unit on Black History is incorporated into the program during Black History month. Students experience a unique vision of African-American life through the eyes of African Americans themselves by listening to the musical genres of rap and blues. This is mainly connected to the reading of one of the literature selections.

All students by the end of grade 7 will learn the following: looking at earth, water, climate, vegetation, the world's people, the United States, Canada, Mexico, the West Indies, Central America, Brazil and it's neighbors, the Andean countries, Western Europe, Southern Europe, Northern Europe, Eastern Europe, Russia-A Eurasian country, Russia-past and present, North Africa, Southeast Asia, the Caucasus, Central Asia, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, South Africa and it's neighbors, South Asia, China, Japan, the Koreas, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Oceania, and Antarctica.

LIFE SCIENCE

Students in seventh grade continue their scientific inquiry by focusing on life science. Understanding and applying the scientific method is an essential goal of this class. Through study of text and actual experimentation, students gain knowledge and experience of important scientific concepts. The following topics are covered: cell structure and function, cell processes and energy, genetics and the science of heredity, modern genetics, evolution, sponges, Cnidarians and worms, bones, muscles and skin, food and digestion, and circulation.

Students also take an 8 to 10-week course on preparing a science fair\ project. Objectives of the course include: choosing a topic, conducting research, experiment planning, reporting results, drawing conclusions, writing the report, designing the display board, and preparing an oral presentation. The course culminates with students displaying their projects in the school's annual science fair. Students may earn a bronze, silver, or gold medal for reaching a particular standard from the averaged scores of several outside judges.

All students by the end of grade 7 will learn the following in science: exploring and classifying life, cells, cell processes, cell reproduction, heredity, adaptations over time, bacteria, plants, fungi, protists, plant reproduction, plant process, introduction to animals, mollusks, worms, arthropods, echinoderms, first amphibians and reptiles, birds, mammals, animal behavior, structure, movement, nutrients, digestion, circulation, respiration, excretion, control and coordination, regulation, reproduction, immunity, disease, interactions of life, the nonliving environment, ecosystems, and conserving resources.

Islamic Academy of South Jersey Academic Curriculum
2020-2021

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education classes engage the students in positive, healthy behaviors that ultimately contribute to overall physical fitness. Students learn the rules of various sports such as basketball, flag football, soccer, and volleyball while also practicing the skills involved in each sport. Additional games and activities such as Capture the Flag and relays are used to enhance sportsmanship. The Presidential Fitness program offers students a way to improve their fitness level and skills as well. This class is provided for three periods each week.

HEALTH

The health program utilizes various resources to promote the following goals: teaching students the information and skills they need to become health literate, maintain and improve health, prevent disease, and reduce health-related risk behaviors. Students cover topics within the following areas: mental health, family living, nutrition, personal health, growth and development, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, communicable and chronic diseases, injury prevention and safety, consumer and community health, and environmental health. This class is provided once a week.

Students in seventh grade also receive a workshop in human development with review of and focus on the following areas: male/female reproductive system, sexuality, stages of pregnancy, physical and emotional changes of puberty, menstruation, Islamic perspectives on menstruation and guidelines for cleanliness, personal health care, body image, spiritual accountability, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, contraception, peer pressure, modesty, and male/female relations.

ELECTIVES

In addition to the core classes, 7th and 8th grade students are given options for two elective classes per trimester. Elective I courses are more academic in nature while Elective II courses are usually related to the arts or technology. Elective I courses may include: Newspaper, Roller Coaster, Activism, Speech, Stock Market, MathCounts, and Media Literacy. Elective II courses may include: Fun with Instruments, Keyboarding, Acting, Ceramics, Fine Art, Robotics, Yearbook, and Community Service.

Religious Curriculum

Kindergarten

ARABIC

Kindergarten lessons are explained using fifteen different stories ranging from fiction, folk, culture stories (i.e. The Red Hen, Magic Seeds, Good Food and Stone Soup), songs and roleplay. By the end of the year, when prompted, students will be able to express necessity, compare objects & persons, and be able to describe an action in present or future tense. Students can compare two objects and use vocabulary words like (more than, less than, bigger, smaller, taller, shorter) to describe their respective attributes. Students can express both properties of existence or non-existence of objects or emotions. Students will learn how to place objects, persons or events in sequence. An additional text titled, “Let Me Share My Arabic Words.” is used for homework and is assigned on a weekly basis. This usually is a fun activity for the students to share with their family to show what they learned in Arabic class.

ISLAMIC AND QUR'ANIC STUDIES

In Kindergarten, students learn about some of the basic teachings of Islam. They learn the concept of God, The Creator. They also learn about the Prophet Adam, first man, Prophet Sulayman and the story of the ant, Prophet Noah and the ark, and Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) as the last prophet to mankind. Other topics include the five pillars of Islam, basic Adab or etiquette of speaking and showing respect for all. In addition, students learn the importance of praying and going to the mosque. This also involves getting to know about cleanliness, making wudu (ablution), and calling the prayer. Through the Hajj Simulation, students get to perform the pilgrimage as a simulation experience. For Qura'nic Studies, the students learn the Arabic alphabet through the Nouraniya tool. They will also learn a new Sura (verse) from the Quran on a monthly basis and a new Hadith every trimester.

1st Grade

ARABIC

Students continue learning the Arabic language through listening and watching several interesting stories. Teachers encourage students to describe these pictures, talking about colors, size, numbers and location of items in them. Students are asked to rearrange the sequences of the events of the stories and to predict its ending. In addition, students evaluate the characters' actions and reactions, and express what they like or dislike. Finally, students try to creatively and change its ending. Decoding and practicing handwriting begins in the second semester of the year.

ISLAMIC AND QUR'ANIC STUDIES

First Graders expand on Islamic Studies concepts taught in Kindergarten. They identify God as One and Allah as the Arabic word for God. They develop a deeper understanding of God as the Creator of all things, and compare and contrast the creation of bees and ants. They also relate to God through some of His Attributes (The One, The Eternal, The Creator, The Generous, etc.). They will learn about Angel Jibreel and the message he brought to Prophet Mohammad (pbuh), and Paradise as our reward for good deeds. They learn the value of cleanliness and wudu in preparation for prayer. They will learn the importance of staying focused during prayer as it is their way of getting closer to God. They learn about Zakat al-Fitr, Eid ul-Fitr, and pilgrimage. Using a weekly journal, students will expand on the Values of the Month and express their understanding of these values in the form of writing and art work. In addition to reviewing the lessons on Prophets from the previous year, they acquire more in-depth knowledge about each: Prophet Adam, Prophet Ibrahim, the story of Hajar and Prophet Ismail, Prophet Musa, Prophet Isa, and Prophet Sulayman. Students get to know and love Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) through the stories of his early life which show his character and qualities. In Qur'anic Studies, they discuss and learn a new verse or Sura bi-monthly and continue to expand their Nouraniya knowledge by reviewing the alphabet from lesson one and develop a connection between joint letters and accents from lessons two, three, and possibly four by the end of the year. First graders begin the year by reciting verses learned in Kindergarten and continue to add new verses as the year progresses. This ensures and increases retention of verses taught. Finally, they learn a new Hadith that corresponds with the value of each month.

2nd Grade

ARABIC

With 177 new vocabulary words introduced in second grade, students are able to communicate meaningfully and effectively in Arabic for real-life purposes. Students will be asked to express themselves in different settings, such as while making a cake in grandmother’s house, describing people and animals, ordering food at restaurants, following traffic lights rules to be safe while crossing streets, exploring in the garden and at the beach. Topics of some other lessons also include playing sports, collecting information about Arab Gulf countries, using different weather expressions, and explaining the differences between city and countryside. Arabic and Islamic culture and its values are introduced through some short stories. Students read sentences and short paragraphs with understanding and write simple sentences.

ISLAMIC AND QUR'ANIC STUDIES

In Islamic Studies, second graders learn about God as One and are introduced to the term, “Tawheed” and “Ahad.” They get to know Him as a Creator and as a Loving and Merciful God through His attributes (Al-Khaliq, Al Kareem, Al-Wadud, Ar-Rahman, Al-Ghafaur). In a connection of science and faith, students compare and contrast two flowers to learn about God’s many creations and connect the life cycles of plants and animals. They review what they learned about prophets in first grade, and then learn about Prophets Nuh, Yunus and Ayuub. More of the life of Prophet Muhammad includes Mecca as a place of idol worship, his beloved wife Khadijah, and his qualities of honesty, trustworthiness, and hard work. Students are introduced to concepts of accountability and the Hereafter. More specifics on the Five Pillars of Islam are covered in this grade level. In the unit on Hajj, students will also learn about the building of the Ka’ba, the story of Hajar, and the direction of prayer (Qibla). Some of the values that are discussed include responsibility, self-restraint, patience, showing respect to parents, and seeking knowledge. Finally, they learn a new hadith that corresponds with the value of each month. In Qur’anic Studies, students begin with a review of all the Quranic verses from previous years and add on new lessons as we progress in the year. The program includes memorization, recitation, and discussion of selected verses that expand on different themes. They also memorize and recite chapters from the thirtieth part of the Qur’an. Using the Nouraniya method, students also learn to read the Qur’an.

3rd Grade

ARABIC

There are 196 new vocabulary words learned in this grade that allow students to communicate and to express themselves easily and with understanding in real-life situations. Students will be encouraged to not only answer simple questions, but also to ask one another yes/no and content questions about different topics like their parents' job and occupations, living in apartments or houses, lifestyle and differences between living in a city or countryside. Arabic and Islamic culture and its values are introduced through some short stories that emphasize on cooperation, honest, respect and caring, Roleplaying and acting allow students to learn the language naturally and in an enjoyable way. Content-based topics are also introduced in this curriculum such as how do cars work. Students read with fluency and understanding, and they are encouraged to write short to more complex sentences.

ISLAMIC AND QUR'ANIC STUDIES

Students will affirm God as the Creator of the universe and our responsibility as the stewards of the earth. In addition, students are introduced to the concept of Tawheed (Oneness of Allah) and the meaning of Islam (as the Submission to the will of Allah). To get to know Him better, they will learn God's Attributes such as Al-Khaliq, Al-Hafiz, Al-Bari, Al-Badi, Al-Aziz, Al-Malik, Al-Mubdi, Al-Musawwir, Al-Razzaq, and Rabb ul-Alameen (Lord of the Worlds). As a connection of science and faith, students will study the stars, moon, sun, and planets. At this grade level, students will be introduced to the Articles of Faith including the concept of free will and choosing from right and wrong. In deeper discussions on prayer, students will understand the true meaning of why we pray, the importance of staying focused while praying, and our connection to God during prayer. They will expand on the five pillars and learn the values such as kindness, respect, appreciation and the love of Allah through actions. They will learn about Prophets Ibrahim, Hud, Saleh, Dawoud, and Isa with the story of Maryam. Students will study the history of Prophet Mohammad's (pbuh) family, his revelation, character, the spread of Islam, hardships, migration (Hijra), and some of his companions. Finally, they learn a Hadith that corresponds to the Value of the Month. In Qur'anic Studies, students begin with a review of all the Quranic verses from previous years and add on new lessons as we progress in the year. The program includes memorization, recitation, and discussion of selected verses that expand on different themes. They also memorize and recite chapters from the thirtieth part of the Qur'an. Using the Nouraniya method, students also learn to read the Qur'an.

4th Grade

ARABIC

There are 209 new vocabulary words learned in this grade that allows students to communicate meaningfully, effectively, and creatively in Arabic for real-life purposes. Students can learn about Arab scholars, culture and its values such as working hard, being honest and cooperating with others to achieve more. Content-based topics are also taken into consideration in this curriculum like flying and airplanes; life and habits of ants; and preserving the environment. In addition, students will talk and write about their hobbies, feelings and wishes. Roleplaying and acting allows students to learn the language naturally and in an enjoyable way. Students read longer paragraphs with comprehension, and they are encouraged to write questions and complex sentences, and gradually progress to writing short paragraphs.

ISLAMIC AND QUR'ANIC STUDIES

In Fourth Grade, students will identify Aqeeda as word and action and learn the six Articles of Faith in detail. They will learn more of God's Attributes such as Al-Adl, Al-Hayy, Al-Qayyum, Al-Ali, Al-Atheem, Al-Raqib, Al-Awwal, AlAkhir, and Al-Alim as well as The Wise, The Just, and The Fair. They will memorize all 99 names of God. In a unit connecting science and faith, students learn about God's creation in terms of organisms' interdependence. In addition to the above, students learn the meaning of Ibadah (worship) in both actions and words spoken to please God. They get to know more about different types of prayer including Sunnah, Jum'a, Eid, and Tarawih prayers, and will find out about types of Zakat. They also learn to apply the values of responsibility, patience, thankfulness, honesty, justice, commitment, generosity and perseverance to name a few. Students learn certain values through the prophets' stories, such as Nuh and patience, Sulayman with gratitude for God's gifts unto him, and Hud with humility. They also elaborate on the Prophet Mohammad's life and character with focus on his early life, revelation and his habit of meditation, the struggles and hardships, the plot to kill the Prophet, and Hijra to Medina to avoid persecution. They briefly study the lives of important figures like Ali, Khadijah, and Abu Bakr as the first converts, and Fatimah, Umar ibn-al-Khattab, Uthman ibn Affan, and Bilal ibn Rabah as companions. In Qur'anic Studies, students begin with a review of all the Quranic verses from previous years and add on new lessons as we progress in the year. The program includes memorization, recitation, and discussion of selected verses that expand on different themes. They also memorize and recite chapters from the thirtieth part of the Qur'an. Using the Nouraniya method, students also learn to read the Qur'an.

5th Grade

ARABIC

In this grade level, students will learn 218 new vocabulary words. Lessons are explained using different kinds of storytelling, from fiction, folk, culture stories and dialogues. They learn about the importance of generosity, friendship and cooperation, how to start and end a phone conversation, talk about their summer break and express their feeling about it. Through role play, they learn how to inquire about colors and sizes, and learn how to ask about prices and calculate how much they need to pay. Students also explore different professions and what they want to be when they grow up. Students practice etiquettes, good family values, cleanliness, staying active and good eating habits. Students can read short illustrated stories of about 200-250 words, and write a narrative and short story of about 50-60 words.

ISLAMIC STUDIES

The program at fifth grade continues to build on the knowledge gained through the elementary years. In the unit on God as the Creator, the curriculum makes connections to CA Life Science Standards related to plants and animals. Starting in fifth grade, the units on the deeper knowledge of the five pillars of Islam and the core beliefs are reviewed so as to allow more time to address new topics. Values and ethical decision-making form an integral part of the learning experience as students are challenged to read stories and poems and to imagine the real-life situations in which they have to make difficult choices to apply their principles. The Islamic Studies class is a critical place for students to develop understanding and respect for other faiths.

QUR'ANIC STUDIES

In Qur'anic Studies, students begin with a review of all the Quranic verses from previous years and add on new lessons and verses throughout the year. The program includes memorization, recitation, and discussion of selected verses that expand on different themes. These themes and topics address acts of worship, morals and monthly values emphasized at school. Furthermore, students are encouraged to explore some Qur'anic verses that reflect linkage with nature, mathematical and scientific phenomena in Qur'an to deepen their faith and to nurture their appreciation of the religion. Students will also memorize and recite chapters from the thirtieth part of the Qur'an. Using the Nouraniya method, students also learn to read the Qur'an and follow Tajweed rules to perfect their pronunciation.

6th Grade

ARABIC

In this grade level, students will learn 211 new vocabulary words. Lessons are explained using different kinds of storytelling, from fiction, folk, culture stories and dialogues. Students learn about birds and their habitats through Islamic storytelling. They practice how to be good to your neighbors through roleplaying. They learn about 46 different types of sports by researching and talking about their favorite type of sport. Students explore different types of professions and how they help their community. They talk about their life and daily schedule. They learn about different species of animals and their habitats, and the importance of animals in human life. Student learn mathematical terms, decimals and fractions, and one to one comparison (length-height-weight) Through roleplaying, students are introduced to situations where they interact with their community helpers, learn about inventors and scholars and their achievements.

ISLAMIC STUDIES

The program at sixth grade begins with the unit on God as the Creator which relates to the CA Earth Science Standard on how the earth's natural resources are used as renewable and non-renewable energy and the importance of humanity's role in preserving the earth. After learning additional attributes of God (of the 99) and reviewing the beliefs and pillars of Islam, students work on developing responsibility for their own actions and learning how to practice the values of the faith. Some of these values include patience, thankfulness, tolerance, courage, being a good citizen, avoiding gossip, kindness to the earth, respecting one's mind and body, seeking knowledge, etc. The stories of key prophets in history take on new meaning as a more mature and developing mind can tackle the deeper lessons (Adam, Dawud, Sulaiman, Ya'qub, Musa, and Isa).

QUR'ANIC STUDIES

In Qur'anic Studies, students begin with a review of all the Quranic verses from previous years and add on new lessons and verses throughout the year. The program includes memorization, recitation, and discussion of selected verses that expand on different themes. These themes and topics address acts of worship, morals and values emphasized at school. Furthermore, students are encouraged to explore some Qur'anic verses that reflect linkage with nature, mathematical and scientific phenomena in Qur'an to deepen their faith and to nurture their appreciation of the religion. Students will also memorize and recite chapters from the thirtieth part of the Qur'an. Using the Nouraniya method, students also learn to read the Qur'an and follow Tajweed rules to perfect their pronunciation.

7th Grade:

ARABIC

In this grade level, students will learn 218 new vocabulary words. Lessons are explained using different kinds of storytelling, from fiction, folk, culture stories and dialogues. Students learn about different seasons and the changes in weather conditions and temperatures. They talk about good behavior and being involved in their community, about the activities they did during summer vacation, the excitement of starting a new school year, and looking forward to new learning experiences. Through dialogue students learn how to communicate and express their needs. Students conduct interviews and learn about different types of hobbies in depth. Learn about influential figures in History. Students are introduced to the cultures and societies of major cities of the world, how and where they were built and the difference between city life and urban living. They also learn about the importance of friendship.

ISLAMIC STUDIES

Under the theme of “Journeys,” seventh graders address a variety of topics in developing a better understanding of their faith. The “Journeys” include physical journeys, personal journeys, first journeys, prophet journeys, intellectual journeys, and social journeys. Students explore topics such as historical periods of Islamic Spain, the Crusades (this is cross-curricular with their seventh grade California Social Studies curriculum), spirituality and connecting to God, other faith’s journeys, migration in the cause of seeking freedom and justice, and the schools of thought. Time is spent for students to discuss current events during this class and to communicate their thoughts and feelings regarding the challenges they face.

QUR’ANIC STUDIES

In Qur’anic Studies, students begin with a review of all the Quranic verses from previous years and add on new lessons and verses throughout the year. The program includes memorization, recitation, and discussion of selected verses that expand on different themes. These themes and topics address acts of worship, morals and values emphasized at school. Furthermore, students are encouraged to explore some Qur’anic verses that reflect linkage with nature, mathematical and scientific phenomena in Qur’an to deepen their faith and to nurture their appreciation of the religion. Students will also memorize and recite chapters from the thirtieth part of the Qur’an. Using the Nouraniya method, students also learn to read the Qur’an and follow Tajweed rules to perfect their pronunciation.