

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Al-Ihsan Academy

Parents Bulletin

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Message From the Principal - Shaikh Rafeek Mohamed

Assalaamu 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaatuh

Al-Hamdu Lillah! We have had a very smooth and successful start and are looking forward to a year full of active and meaningful learning. We hope, Inshaa Allah, that your child's stay with us will be most enjoyable and rewarding. We will ensure that your child is given every opportunity to achieve maximum success, Inshaa Allah.

The School's Calendar was sent home with your child. Please make note of the Holidays and School Events/Activities. If there is any change to the calendar, you will be informed

"O men! Behold, we have created you all out of a male and female, and have made you into nations and tribes, so that you might come to know one another. Verily the noblest of you in the sight of God is the one who is most deeply conscious of Him. Behold, God is All-Knowing, All Aware."
(49:13)

in advance. Please also check the school's website (www.ihsanacademy.org) for updates and other events.

In order for us to best meet the needs of your child/children, it is crucial that we maintain open lines of communication. If at any time you have a question, suggestion, or concern, contact the classroom teacher. He/she is the best person to clarify situations and to know your child. Of course, I am always available to talk to you. Let's work together to keep the lines of communication open

and positive.

Jazaakumullah Khairan

Establish routines and positive habits for the new school year

It's the beginning of a new school year--the perfect time to set the stage for learning success. To make sure your child shows up at school ready to learn:

- Get a head start. Many families find that organizing at night prevents morning "rush hour." You can review school papers, pack and refrigerate lunches, set backpacks by the door and agree on outfits.
- Establish sleep routines. Choose reasonable bedtimes so everyone is rested when the alarm clock goes off. Do your best to stick with them.
- Develop morning habits. If your child does the same things, in the same order, each morning, it's less likely that she will forget a step. For example, make bed, get dressed,

eat breakfast, brush teeth and put on shoes.

- Choose a homework time. With your child, pick a time when she will have the most energy and motivation to do assignments. Create a quiet study spot, complete with necessary supplies, where she can work at the same time each day.
- Use organizational tools. What will help your child stay organized? She might use calendars, to-do lists or a folder system.
- Set priorities. Schedule things like schoolwork, family meals and even free time on a calendar. Treat them like appointments. If there are openings, your child can add activities.

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Busy parents can support learning with simple activities

Family life is so hectic these days that it may seem impossible to be involved in your child's education. But even on your busiest days, there are things you can do to support your child's learning:

- Listen and respond when your child is talking to you.
- Read together.
- Stock your house with books and other reading materials.
- Quiz your child on spelling, math and other facts.
- Share favorite poems and songs with your child.
- Look up words in the dictionary together.
- Talk about the daily news.
- Find places mentioned in the news on a map.

- Review your child's homework.
- Cook together.
- Get organized using a calendar.
- Go to the library together.
- Let your child make choices.
- Keep a puzzle on a table for your child to work on.
- Tell family stories.
- Engage in "word play," riddles and tongue twisters.
- Play board games.
- Limit the amount of TV your child watches.
- Ask your child "What if ..." questions and discuss your conclusions.

Al-Ihsan Academy Update

friendly reminders

1. If your child needs to take medication during school hours, please notify the office. Your child cannot keep his/her medication while in school. Medication must be held by the Nurse.
2. Please respect school rules. All parents/visitors must sign in at the security desk before proceeding to the Office.
3. **School starts at 8:15 am.** Please make every effort to drop your child/children off on time.
4. Please be prompt on picking up your child/children. **There is no supervision for student after 3:15pm.**
5. Please call the MAIN office at 718-322-3154 if you need to make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher.
6. Please remind your child to give you any correspondence addressed to you from the school.
7. Please **do not** enter your child's classroom without approval from the Office.
8. **Cell phones are not allowed in school.** Cell phones will be confiscated if a child is caught using it. Parents will be required to come in and get it from the office.
9. Please refrain from picking up your child/children during the Khutbah/Salaah on Fridays and during Salaah time Monday-Thursday.
10. Your child/children must be dressed in proper uniform at all times. Jeans are not allowed under the Jilbab for the girls. No jewelry/makeup is allowed. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please call the school.
11. Gym uniform can be purchased at the school. Elementary School—\$20 (shirt and pants), and JHS/HS \$25 (shirt and pants).
12. Please write your account number on your checks or if sending cash to school, please make sure to write your name and your child's name on the envelope.
13. Please do not park or stand in areas assigned for buses especially during dismissal. **Please do not double park your vehicle or block any of our neighbor's driveway.**
14. Please remind your child that he/she needs to read 6-7 Accelerated Reader books per Marking Period. High School students must read and pass 10 quizzes per school year.
15. Please keep supporting our Fund Raising Programs.
16. **Donations can now be made online via our web site.**
17. Please volunteer some of your free time towards helping our students in reading, etc.

Make attending school a priority for your child

Your child's teachers will do their best to help your child learn and succeed in school. But there's one thing that only you can do--get him to school every day.

Children who don't attend school regularly fall behind and score lower on tests. They can also have a hard time making and keeping friends--especially in elementary school.

How often a child is absent in elementary school sets a pattern for absences in later school years.

Lots of absences often lead to students dropping out of school completely.

Let your child and his teacher know that you take attendance seriously:

- Tell your child how important school is. At-

tending school is his job and it is important that he arrive on time every day.

- Discuss the consequences of missing school: needing to do make-up work, not understanding, missing out on friends.
- Make doctor and other appointments during non-school hours.
- Schedule vacations when school is not in session.
- Only keep your child home from school if he is sick or there is a family emergency.
- Keep track of your child's absences. See if there are any patterns that need to be changed.
- Talk to the teacher if your child regularly doesn't want to go to school.

Setting goals lets your child take responsibility for learning

Setting weekly goals allows your child to take more responsibility for her learning. To help your child set goals and achieve them:

- Ask your child to identify one goal at the beginning of the week. It might be finishing a book she has been reading for school.
- Have your child write the goal on a piece of paper and post it on the refrigerator or bulletin board.
- Talk about how to accomplish the goal. Help your child break the goal down into smaller steps. For example, "You

could read two chapters every day."

- Check your child's progress in a few days. If problems arise, talk about possible solutions. If your child falls behind in reading, a 10-minute extension of bedtime might help her catch up.
- Help your child evaluate how she did at the end of the week. Did she achieve her goal? Why or why not? Regardless of the outcome, praise your child for trying. Then set a new goal for next week.

Set the stage for a successful partnership early in the year

When parents and teachers work together, the results can be powerful. Here are four things you should do during the first few weeks of school:

1. Meet your child's teacher. Make plans to go to back-to-school night. If you can't attend, contact the teacher to set up a short meeting to talk.

2. Share important information that can make it easier for teachers to understand your child. Sometimes things that happen at home can affect how children learn. A family move, divorce, and even the birth of a baby, can all leave a child feeling a little off-kilter.

3. Find out what's expected. Ask about homework

and other special assignments.

4. Plan to volunteer for at least one thing this school year. That way, you'll be making things better for your child--and for all children in the school.

Dates To Remember

September.....	Candy sale
9/2.....	Regional Spelling Bee
9/22.....	Muslim Day Parade
10/14.....	No School
10/15—18.....	Eid ul Adha Recess

Start the new school year with strategies for academic success

How you start the school year can determine how well the rest of the year will go. Here's how to make sure your child gets off to a great start this year:

- Review school safety. Talk to your child about the importance of following school rules. Also talk about ways to be safe when riding the school bus or walking to school.
- Get to know your child's teacher. When parents and teachers are on the same team, kids do better in school. Once you've met face to face, you'll find it easier to ask a question or share a concern about your child.
- Set goals. Students who do best in school have both short- and long-term goals. Whether it's earning an A in math or preparing to become a

veterinarian, your child needs goals to keep him on the right track.

- Settle into a routine. Kids thrive on predictability. So have a regular time for homework. Set--and stick to--a regular bedtime. Plan a morning routine that gets everyone out the door on time.
- Don't overschedule your child. Give him time to unwind after school--especially during the first few weeks.
- Be genuinely interested in your child's schoolwork. Ask him about school every day.
- Insist that your child give his best effort in school. If your child knows that school is important to you, it will be important to him.

Try to make the most of your parent-teacher conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are a great way to find out what your child will be learning this year--and what you need to do to help.

Preparation is the key to a successful conference. Here are things to do before, during and after your conference:

Before the conference:

- Make a list of things you should tell your child's teacher, such as your child's favorite subjects, activities, difficulties in school, medical needs and sensitive issues.
- Make a list of things to ask your child's teacher. Ask about grades, homework, attitude, behavior, strengths and weaknesses.
- Let your child know you are having a conference. Ask her what you and the teacher should discuss.

During the conference:

- Be on time. Teachers have many conferences, and a five-minute delay can throw off their schedule.

- Start the conference on a positive note. You and your child's teacher want what's best for your child.
- Use the lists you prepared of things you want to tell the teacher and questions you want to ask.
- Listen carefully and make notes as the teacher talks about your child's progress.

After the conference:

- Talk over the results of the conference with your child.
- Stress the good things the teacher said. Talk about the suggestions she made for improvement--and how you plan to help your child carry these out.

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