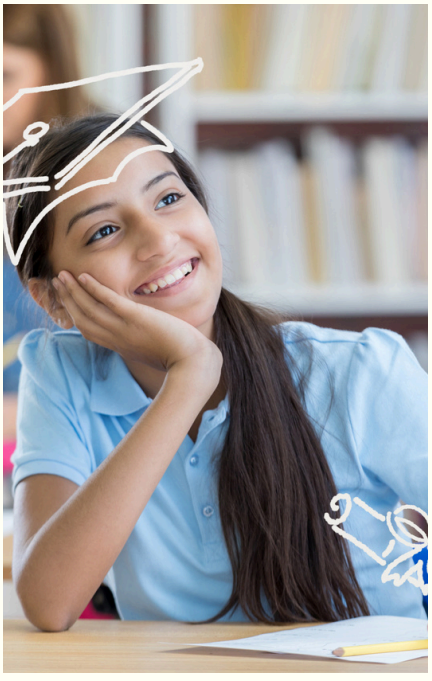
STEMS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

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STEMS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK

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Telephone Number: 954-741-8130
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Welcome to Middle School!

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WELCOME TO YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK! THIS IS YOUR GUIDE TO HELP YOU BECOME A MODEL CITIZEN OF STEMS.

THIS HANDBOOK SHOWS YOU THE RULES, VALUES, AND INFORMATION YOU NEED TO SUCCEED.

JUST LIKE A GPS HELPS YOU FIND YOUR WAY, THIS HANDBOOK WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO NAVIGATE EVERYTHING FROM CLASSES AND BEHAVIOR TO ACTIVITIES AND FRIENDSHIPS.

STEP 1: READ THE BOOK ALONE, WITH FAMILY, OR FRIENDS. TRY TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS AND ASK YOUR TEACHER ABOUT ANYTHING YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOUR TEACHER WILL ALSO GO THROUGH THE BOOK IN CLASS.





STEP 2: ONCE YOU FINISH THE BOOK, YOUR TEACHER WILL GIVE YOU A STEMS CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE! THIS SHOWS YOU'RE KIND, RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, AND CARE ABOUT MAKING THE SCHOOL A GREAT PLACE.

STEP 3: BECOME A STEMS CHANGE AGENT AND EVEN AN AMBASSADOR! AMBASSADORS REPRESENT THE SCHOOL, SET A POSITIVE EXAMPLE, SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION, AND SHOW LEADERSHIP BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL, EVEN ON WEEKENDS.



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- TO AFFIRM THAT THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAH, AND THAT MUHAMMAD, MAY HE BE BLESSED, IS HIS SERVANT AND LAST MESSENGER

- TO PROMOTE THE MESSAGE THAT ISLAM IS THE ONLY WAY OF LIFE, ESTABLISHED BY ALLAH THAT CAN BRING SUCCESS IN THIS LIFE AS WELL AS IN THE HEREAFTER

- TO PRACTICE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF MORAL BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT AS IT MAKES A MAN OR WOMAN, THE BEST OF ALLAH'S CREATION

- TO RECOGNIZE AND VALUE THE INDIVIDUALITY OF EVERY STUDENT, CHALLENGING EACH TO HIS OR HER FULL POTENTIAL AND EDUCATE THE WHOLE CHILD, HELPING HIM/HER TO ACQUIRE SKILLS TO INSURE A LIFELONG PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING

- TO ADHERE TO THE BELIEF THAT A PARTNERSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE HOME AND THE SCHOOL WHICH MUST BE UTILIZED TO BRING MAXIMUM BENEFIT TO THE STUDENT

- TO APPRECIATE AND SEEK TO LEARN FROM OUR CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR ONE, UNITED ISLAMIC COMMUNITY

- TO BECOME THE ROLE MODEL FOR OUR STUDENTS AND PRACTICE WHAT WE TEACH

- TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH A VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE EXPECTATIONS OF LEARNING

- TO BECOME A MODEL PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR IT IS BUILT ON THE PREMISE OF A SHARED MISSION OF HIGH LEVELS OF LEARNING FOR EACH STUDENT, IN WHICH OUR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO ACHIEVE THE SCHOOL’S VISION, MISSION, VALUES, AND GOALS.

STEMS VISION & MISSION

Vision

Our School Vision describes what STEMS wants to become in the future:

Salah Tawfik Elementary and Middle School (STEMS) will provide and promote the highest level of education in a nurturing Islamic environment, raising future generations of students with a strong moral character and excellence in both Islamic and academic education.

What this means for you: STEMS wants to be a top school where students get a top education and learn to be respectful, responsible, and follow Islamic values. It also helps students become good citizens in a diverse welcoming American community.

Mission

Our School Mission describes what the school does every day to reach our vision:

To Provide Quality Education in the Best Islamic Environment.

What this means for you: STEMS focuses on giving students an excellent education based on Islamic values. We value all the school subjects, especially science and engineering. The school also works to build strong connections with families and the community.

Why do we need a school vision and mission...

...and what does that have to do with students?

We need a School Vision and Mission to give everyone—students, teachers, and staff—a clear idea of what the school aims for and the values that guide us. As a student, this is important because it helps you understand the school's goals, how you fit into that bigger picture, and what kind of behavior, learning, and actions are expected from you to help achieve that vision.

Educational Philosophy

Holistic Education: At STEMS, we help students grow in every way—academically, morally, and as good citizens. This is called a "holistic" education, meaning we focus on the whole person, not just grades, and base everything on Islamic values.

Dynamic Curriculum: Our lessons make you curious, help you think critically, and support your personal growth. We mix learning about academics, ethics, and your spiritual life.

Core Values (PEARL): We focus on five key values: Professionalism, Enrichment, Accountability, Respect, and Leadership. These values help students succeed while following Islamic principles in today's diverse world.

> Indeed, Allah will admit those who believe and do righteous deeds to gardens beneath which rivers flow. They will be adorned therein with bracelets of gold and pearl, and their garments therein will be silk. Quran 22:23



Values

The STEMS values are the acronym **PEARL**.

Professionalism: Upholding high educational standards in line with Florida guidelines.

Enrichment: Implementing a curriculum that fosters intellectual growth, firm faith, and good character.

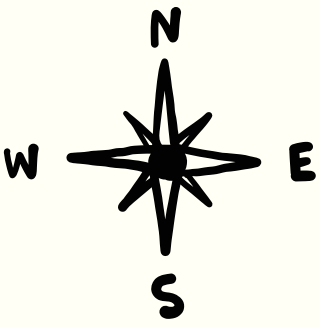
Accountability: Promoting self-discipline and perseverance in achieving personal and institutional goals. (Perseverance means not giving up even when things get tough.)

Respect: Encouraging kindness and mutual respect in all interactions.

Leadership: Preparing students to be 21st-century leaders, integrating Islamic values and civic responsibilities.

What are values, and why do we need them?

What are values? Values are essential beliefs that guide our behavior and decision-making. Imagine a compass guiding you to the direction you need to go when unsure.



Why do we need them? Values help us know what's right and wrong, shape how we treat others, and live our lives. They keep us focused on doing the right things, even when it's hard.



Below are short stories about each value to help you understand what it means to live the PEARL values every day.

STEMS VALUES:

PROFESSIONALISM

PEARL

Here's a story about Professionalism



"The Science Fair Team"

In a middle school in Florida, two students, Yousef and Khaled, were assigned to work together on a science fair project. Yousef was excited and wanted to make sure their project met all the educational standards outlined by the state. He spent time researching the guidelines and organizing their work.

Khaled, on the other hand, was more relaxed and thought they could just wing it. "We'll be fine. Let's just have fun!" he said, shrugging off Yousef's efforts.

As the deadline approached, Yousef stayed focused, creating a detailed presentation and practicing their speech. He reminded Khaled, "We need to show that we understand the topic and follow the guidelines to get a good grade."

On the day of the science fair, Yousef's professionalism shone through. He was well-prepared and confident, presenting their project with clarity. Khaled, realizing how hard Yousef had worked, felt inspired by his dedication. He stepped up during their presentation, supporting him with answers and even thanking him for keeping them on track.

After their presentation, the judges praised their project and noted how well it aligned with the educational standards. Yousef smiled, knowing their professionalism had paid off. Khaled learned the importance of upholding high standards and promised to approach future projects with the same commitment.

From then on, they worked together with a shared understanding of professionalism, making each project successful and setting a great example for their classmates.

STEMS VALUES:

ENRICHMENT

PEARL

Here's a story about Enrichment

"The Enrichment Program"

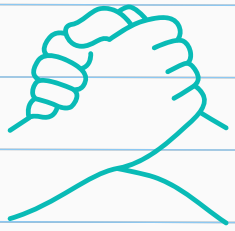
At Maplewood Middle School, teachers designed a new enrichment program to foster intellectual growth, strong character, and firm faith among students.

Aisha and Hiba joined the program, excited to explore their interests.

The teachers encouraged them to create a community project, so they organized a book drive for a local shelter. Aisha handled promotions, using her creativity for posters, while Hiba led the volunteer efforts. When they faced challenges, like low donations, they brainstormed solutions and inspired their classmates to help.

Through this experience, Aisha and Hiba learned the importance of teamwork and perseverance (not giving up when things get complicated).

The program showed them that developing knowledge, good character, and a commitment to helping others could positively impact their community.



STEMS VALUES:

ACCOUNTABILITY

PE**A**RL

Here's a story about Accountability



"Soccer Players"

Ali and Idris both play on the same soccer team. One day, they both missed practice—Ali because of a dentist appointment and Idris simply because he didn't feel like going.

The next day, Ali told the coach about his appointment and offered to stay late to catch up, showing responsibility for his absence. Idris, on the other hand, shrugged it off and didn't apologize or put in any extra effort.

On game day, Ali was well-prepared and played great, while Idris struggled and let his team down. Ali's accountability earned him trust, while Idris's lack of it hurt his team's performance.

What could Idris have done better?

Idris could have taken responsibility for missing practice by being honest with his coach and teammates. He could have apologized for not showing up and offered to put in extra work to catch up on what he missed.

By taking accountability, Idris would have shown that he cares about the team and is willing to do his part, which would have helped him stay prepared and earn the trust of his coach and teammates.

STEMS VALUES:

RESPECT



PEARL

Here's a story about Respect.

"Samreen and Anam"

Samreen and Anam were in the same middle school and shared a love for art. One day, during art class, Samreen overheard Anam helping a classmate with their project.

Instead of appreciating Anam's kindness, Samreen rolled her eyes and whispered, “Why does she always think she’s better than everyone else?”

Anam noticed Samreen's attitude but didn’t let it bother her. She supported her classmates and created her artwork with a smile. When the teacher praised Anam for her teamwork, Samreen felt a little guilty for her words.

Later, at lunch, Anam invited Samreen to join her table, saying, “It’s okay if you didn’t like my help. We can learn from each other.”

This simple gesture of respect opened Samreen’s eyes. She realized that treating others well, like Anam did, builds friendships and creates a positive environment.

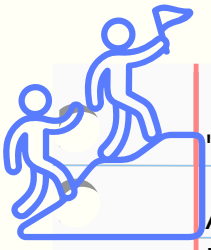
From that day on, Samreen worked on showing respect to everyone, including Anam, and the two became good friends. They learned that respect makes school a better place for everyone.

STEMS VALUES:

LEADERSHIP

PEARL

Here's a story about Leadership.



"A Day of Leadership"

At Crescent Middle School, teachers focused on preparing students to be 21st-century leaders by integrating Islamic values and civic responsibilities.

One day, the school held a leadership workshop, and two students, Fatima and Omar, were chosen to lead a community service project.

They decided to organize a clean-up day at the local park. Fatima suggested they gather volunteers from their school and community, while Omar emphasized the importance of teamwork and respect for others. Together, they created a plan and spread the word.

On the clean-up day, Fatima and Omar led by example, encouraging everyone to work together and showing kindness to all volunteers.

They shared Islamic values like caring for the environment and helping the community, reminding everyone that their actions could make a difference.

By the end of the day, the park was clean, and everyone felt proud of their efforts. Fatima and Omar learned true leadership means serving others, respecting teamwork, and embodying values that inspire change.

STEMS VALUES:

PEARL

After reading all of the 5 stories of the STEMS values, who would be a great example of a STEMS ambassador? Why?

Yousef Khaled Aisha

Hiba Ali Idris

Samreen Anam Fatima Omar

OUR GOALS

As a quality Islamic educational institution, STEMS is dedicated to:

- Maintaining an Islamic environment to achieve our mission.
- Providing a high standard of education.
- Assisting our students to excel in their lives and activities.
- Incorporating Arabic language as a part of students' lives.
- Inspiring self-discipline in the students.
- Encouraging students to become ambassadors of Islam.
- Developing community and leadership qualities.
- Building strong moral character, based on the principles of integrity; open-mindedness, honesty, sincerity, empathy, respect for other people, property and resources and a strong sense of responsibility.

OUR OBJECTIVES

Towards achieving these goals, STEMS strives to:

- Provide a safe and stimulating learning environment.
- Employ qualified, dedicated, and committed faculty and staff.
- Implement Sunshine State Standards and relevant Islamic curriculum.
- Promote student clubs, to include Math, Science and Qur'an etc.
- Encourage relationships with other schools promoting healthy competition (e.g. Qur'an, Science Fair, athletics and games, spelling bee, debate etc.).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

LIVE LIKE A PEARL 10 WAYS

1 Responsibilities

You can embody the PEARL values by being a responsible student and doing these actions every day:

- Arrive at school on time
- Wear the proper uniform and are well-groomed
- Have the materials we need for class
- Demonstrate a serious and responsible attitude in our daily work
- Come prepared with your homework carefully and thoughtfully completed and submitted on time

2 Respect



We settle our differences peacefully when we:

- Respect other people's property and personal space
- Respect other people's differences and embrace them

3 Etiquette

We interact with each other with professional behavior:

- We use appropriate language at all times
- Treat each other with kindness
- Are willing to help each other
- Are friendly and courteous

4 Being considerate

We show we are considerate of the needs and feelings of others when we:

- Are silent in the Masjid
- Use appropriate language at all times
- Treat each other with kindness



5 In the classroom

- Be a good listener.
- Think before speaking.
- Keep a neat and clean desk.
- Show care for all property.
- Avoid disturbing others in your class or other classes.
- Leave everything in order at the close of the day.
- Use the best manners at all times.

6 In the hallways

- Always keep to the right when moving in the halls.
- Walk in the hallways and on school grounds at all times.
- Avoid crowding others while in line.
- Keep your voice at a whisper.
- Greet your teachers and classmates with "Assalamu Alaikum."

7 At Lunch

- Practice proper mealtime manners at all times
- The lunch area is an extension of the classroom. The same rules apply.
- Maintain a speaking voice while in conversation (no shouting).
- Each student is responsible for leaving tables and the ground area clean.
- Eat with your right hand.
- Say "BismAllah" before you eat.
- Say "AlhamdulAllah" after you eat.



8 On the playground

- Students must follow playground rules.
- Students should share and take turns in using all playground equipment.
- Any student who incites, encourages, promotes, or participates in a fight at school or at a school-sponsored activity, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

9 In the mosque

- Make du'a as you enter & Perform tahiyyat-ul masjid
- Stop talking when you hear the Adhan. In a low voice, repeat the Adhan after each call
- Repeat the du'a for Adhan, after the Adhan is completed.
- Avoid disturbing others. There is no talking.
- Say dhikr after Salat and wait to be dismissed.
- Pay attention and follow Salah Procedures properly.

10 In the restroom

During Ablution (Wudu)

- Take turns.
- Keep it clean and dry. Use paper towels to wipe the counters after making Wudu. Don't waste the paper towels.
- Finish Quickly

We do our best to follow the role model and example of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in his actions, words, and especially his treatment of others.

ATTENDANCE & TARDINESS

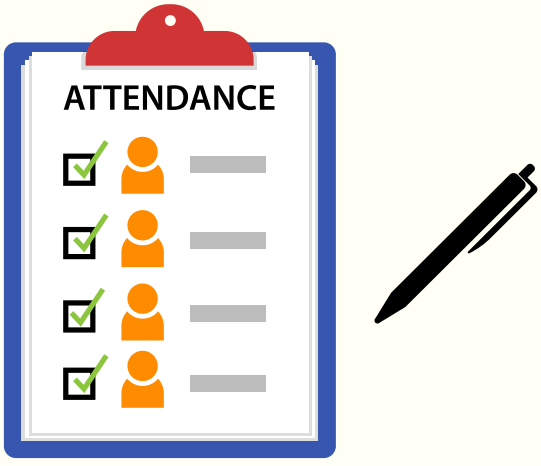
Attendance

- Florida law says your parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring you attend school every day. Everyone, including school staff, parents, and state agencies, works together to make sure these rules are followed.

- If you're going to be absent, your parents must inform the school ahead of time by email or phone unless it's an emergency.

- When you return to school, bring a note explaining your absence. If you've been sick for 3 or more days, you'll need a doctor's note.

- Missing more than 10 days in a term could result in failing grades or loss of scholarship eligibility (like Step-Up).



ATTENDANCE & TARDINESS

Excused absences

- Illness of an immediate family member
- Death in the family
- Doctor/dental appointment
- 5 days for head lice infestation
- Religious holiday of the child
- Required court appearance
- Special occasion
- Hajj or Umrah

Unexcused absences

If your parents don't inform the school about your absence by calling or sending a note, and there's no good reason for missing school, your absence will be considered unexcused.

Tardiness (being late)

- If you're late to school, you must go to the office to get a pass before class.
- If you arrive after 8:45 a.m., you'll be marked tardy and not allowed in class until the next period starts.
- Being late often disrupts your learning and makes it harder for the whole class to stay focused.

SCHOOL TIMINGS

School timings

- Drop-off and pick-up procedures are implemented to promote student safety and convenience.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning drop-off	7:50am- 8:05am				

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Afternoon pick-up	3:15pm				2:15pm
Early dismissal pick-up	11:30am				

- Monday - Thursday: no early dismissal/pick-up is allowed between 2:30pm-3:15pm

- Friday: no early dismissal/pick-up is allowed between 1:30pm-2:15pm

DRESS CODE:

GIRLS

- Long sleeve navy pique polo with a logo
- Pull-on girls navy pants and/or straight leg navy twill pants
- V-neck navy pleated jumper
- Lined navy jacket with a logo or heavy cotton full zip gray hoodie with a logo
- White (wrap-around easy hijab/two-piece) hijab - available at school or Hijab Queen/Middle Eastern Fashion
- Black shoes
- Long sleeve gray PE shirt with a logo
- Loose black PE pants (can be purchased elsewhere)
- Sneakers



DRESS CODE:

BOYS

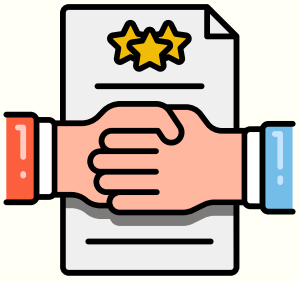
- Short sleeve navy pique polo with a logo and/or long sleeve navy pique polo with a logo
- Pull-on khaki boys pants and/or
- Adjustable waist double knee khaki pants and/or
- Adjustable waist pleated double knee khaki pants
- Lined navy jacket with a logo and/or
- Heavy cotton full zip gray hoodie with a logo
- Black shoes
- Gray PE shirt with a logo
- Black PE pants (can be purchased elsewhere)
- Sneakers



CODE OF CONDUCT

> The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Righteousness is good morality, and wrongdoing is that which wavers in your soul and which you dislike people finding out about."

The goal of our Code of Conduct is to create a safe and supportive Islamic environment for learning based on the teachings of the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH).



CODE OF CONDUCT

Righteousness is about doing the right thing when no one's watching. Here's a story about righteousness:

The Whisper of Conscience

Sami was known for being a kind and honest student. One day, he found himself in a tricky situation. He accidentally saw the answers to an upcoming math test on his teacher's desk. For a moment, temptation crept in—he could memorize the answers, ace the test, and no one would ever know. But as he thought about it, something inside him didn't feel right.

His heart began to beat faster and faster. Even though no one would know, Sami realized that he would know, and the thought of someone discovering what he did made his stomach twist. He disliked the idea of hiding a secret like that, so he quickly walked away from the desk without another thought.

When the test came, Sami did his best with what he had studied. He didn't get a perfect score, but he felt something better than the joy of taking the test—he felt peace. He had done the right thing, even when no one was watching. That feeling of inner peace, he realized, was far more valuable than any grade.

The whisper of his conscience had guided him, and Sami knew that true morality wasn't about getting away with something but about doing what felt right deep in his soul.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The **STEMS discipline policy** is in effect during the following:

- Regular school hours
- School bus rides or other school-sanctioned transportation
- School-sponsored events
- Activities related to the school
- Salah and while in the Masjid

The administration can also take action for misconduct outside of school if it negatively affects others or the learning environment.





Due Process Rights
As a student, you have rights!

(these are done before the student may be suspended)

If your actions might lead to a school suspension or expulsion, you will receive:

- A notification of the issue.
- A chance to explain your side to school staff.

Your Parents will get:

- A written notice of the issue and the consequences.
- A 24-hour notice for a meeting with school staff unless the behavior is too disruptive to allow the student to stay in school.

Always be mindful of Allah (SWT), show respect, behave safely, and be ready to learn!

INFRACTIONS:

BREAKING THE RULES

We don't want you to break the rules... and we definitely don't like to discipline students!

There are 3 levels of infractions. In the first level, the classroom teacher handles the situation by herself. However, if the student has committed infractions 3 times, then the teacher will send the student to the principal's office. If the first infraction is really serious, the teacher will invite the principal to help her handle the situation.



Detention means that a student has to stay after school for some time, and their parents have to pick them up later from school.



In-school suspension means a student will be dismissed from classes for a period of time to be determined based on the student's actions. The Principal may suspend a student who consistently refuses to follow a teacher's directives or consistently disregards STEMS regulations.



Out-of-school Suspension may happen when a student is temporarily barred from the school grounds for a set time, which could be up to 10 days. While suspended, the student cannot attend classes or participate in any school events.



Expulsion means the student will be permanently removed from the school. Parents will have to find a different school for the student or have the student homeschooled.



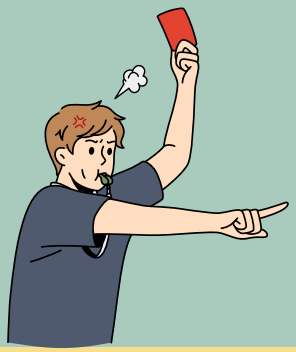
Written Warning means the school will notify the parents about the student's behavior with a letter. The warning letters are also recorded in the school system known as "Praxi".

INFRACTIONS: L1

INFRACTION

LEVEL 1

DISCIPLINARY ACTION





01. DISRUPTION

This is when someone acts in a way that interrupts the teacher or makes it hard for others to learn.

02. LITTERING

This means throwing trash or papers on the floor or outside instead of putting them in the trash can.

03. REFUSAL

This happens when a student doesn't want to do their schoolwork, projects, or follow directions from the teacher.

04. SQUABBLE

This is when people argue or insult each other with words, which can lead to a bigger conflict or trouble.

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- **Verbal Reprimand:** Telling the student they need to improve their behavior.
- **Notifying Parents:** Informing parents about the student's behavior, either by phone or in writing.
- **Behavior Contract:** Creating an agreement with the student about how they will behave.
- **Conferences:** Meeting with the student and their parents to discuss behavior.
- **Separation from Peers:** Moving the student away from their classmates for a time.

INFRACTIONS: L1 CONTINUED

05. RULES

This means not following the rules that help keep the classroom a safe and respectful place.

06. DEVICES

Students can't use or show electronic devices like phones or tablets without getting permission first while on school property.

07. DRESS CODE

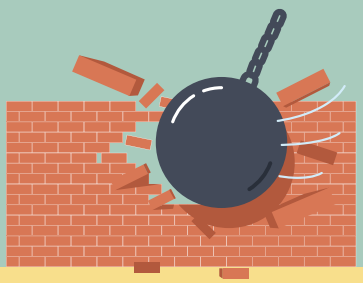
This means when a student doesn't wear the required school uniform. Following the dress code is important to help everyone look neat and feel like part of the school community.

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (CONT'D)

- **Denial of Privileges:** Taking away certain fun activities or rewards.
- **Administrative Referral:** Sending the student to the office for further action.
- **Detention:** Having the student stay after school as a consequence.
- **Detention and Principal Conference:** If necessary, a student may have to meet with the principal or stay after school.
- **Device Confiscation:** If a student uses their electronic device without permission, it will be taken away, and their parents must come to school to pick it up.

INFRACTIONS: L2

INFRACTION — LEVEL 2 — DISCIPLINARY ACTION





01. ACADEMIC

Academic misconduct occurs when a student cheats, copies someone else's work, or tries to access materials without permission. It also includes giving false answers or using methods the teacher still needs to approve.

02. LANGUAGE

Inappropriate language means using foul words or cursing in any language, including rude hand gestures.

03. LYING

This is when someone intentionally tells something that isn't true or gives misleading information.

04. DOCUMENTS

This means changing important papers, like forging signatures or changing information without permission.

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- **1st Offense: detention or 1-day suspension**
- **2nd Offense: 1-2-day suspension**
- **3rd Offense: 2-3-day suspension**

INFRACTIONS: L2 CONTINUED

05. DAMAGE

Damage or destruction of property happens when someone tries to break or harm school property, by accident or purpose, causing minor damage. It's important to take care of our school and keep it safe for everyone!

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (CONT'D)

- **1st Offense: Under $50 repayment and/or 1-day suspension**
- **2nd Offense: Repayment and/or 1-2-day suspension**
- **3rd Offense: Repayment and/or 2-3-day suspension**

06. MISUSE

This is when students use school online services for illegal, inappropriate, or obscene purposes.

- **1st Offense: detention or 1-day suspension**
- **2nd Offense: 1-2-day suspension**
- **3rd Offense: 2-10-day suspension, police notified**

07. DEFIANCE

This happens when a student refuses to follow a request or instruction from a teacher or staff member. It's important to listen and cooperate to keep things running smoothly at school!

- **1st Offense: detention or 1-day suspension**
- **2nd Offense: 1-2-day suspension**
- **3rd Offense: 2-3-day suspension**

INFRACTIONS: L2 CONTINUED

08. LOITERING

This means hanging around school without any supervision from a teacher or staff member. It's best to stay in supervised areas to ensure everyone is safe and accounted for!

09. TRESPASS

This means being in the school building or on school property without permission. It also includes not leaving when asked to do so by a teacher or staff member.

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (CONT'D)

- **1st Offense: detention or 1-day suspension**
- **2nd Offense: 1-2-day suspension**
- **3rd Offense: 2-3-day suspension**

10. SKIPPING

This is when a student is absent from school without permission. It also includes not following the right procedures for checking in or out and skipping classes.

- **1st Offense: 1-day suspension and conference with Principal and Parents**
- **2nd Offense: 1-2-day suspension**
- **3rd Offense: 2-3-day suspension**

11. FIGHTING

This happens when students get into arguments or physical fights, whether they start it or respond to someone else.

- **1st Offense: detention, 1-day suspension and conference with Principal and Parents, written warning**
- **2nd Offense: 1-2-day suspension**
- **3rd Offense: 2-3-day suspension**

INFRACTIONS: L2 CONTINUED

12. BULLYING

This includes repeated, aggressive, hurtful behavior, whether it's through verbal, physical, social interactions, or cyberbullying . Bullying is not acceptable and can make others feel unsafe, powerless, and afraid.

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (CONT'D)

- **1st Offense: detention, conference with Principal, written warning**
- **2nd Offense: 1-2-day suspension**
- **3rd Offense: 2-3-day suspension**

13. TECHNOLOGY

Misuse of technology means using, controlling, or turning off technology, like computers or school devices, without permission. It's important to always get approval before using school technology to keep everything secure!

- **1st Offense: 1-day suspension, detention and conference with Principal**
- **2nd Offense: 1-2-day suspension**
- **3rd Offense: 2-3-day suspension**

INFRACTIONS: L3

INFRACTION	LEVEL 3	DISCIPLINARY ACTION





01. THREATEN

This means scaring someone verbally or physically. It can also include trying to make others do bad things by encouraging, scaring, or forcing them to act inappropriately. This can even be one direct statement where someone says “I’ll hurt you.” or “I’ll destroy your stuff.” It's important to treat everyone with respect and kindness to keep our school a safe place!

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- **1st Offense: 2-3 day suspension**
- **2nd Offense: 3-5-day suspension and recommended for expulsion**
- **3rd Offense: expulsion**

02. ARSON

This is when someone uses fire or explosives without permission, putting people or property at risk.

- **1st Offense: 3-14-day suspension and recommended for expulsion**
- **2nd Offense: expulsion and legal authorities notified**

INFRACTIONS: L3 CONTINUED

03. ASSAULT

Assault or felony happens when someone hits another person with a weapon and intends to hurt them.

04. BOMBS

Bomb threats or false alarms means making a fake bomb threat or pulling a fire alarm when there isn't an emergency. It also includes making false calls to 911.

05. BURGLARY

Breaking and entering, or burglary, is when someone breaks into a school building or room without permission, intending to steal or damage something.

06. EXPLOSIVES

Explosive Devices refers to having or hiding dangerous devices that can explode or cause harm.

07. VANDALISM

This is when someone purposely damages or defaces school or personal property, like graffiti or breaking things.

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (CONT'D)

- **1st Offense: 3-14-day suspension and recommended for expulsion**
- **2nd Offense: expulsion and legal authorities notified**

INFRACTIONS: L3 CONTINUED

08. EXTORTION

Extortion or Robbery means getting money or property from someone by threatening or intimidating them.

09. DRUGS

Drugs and Alcohol involves selling, using, or having drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or other illegal substances on school grounds or at school events.

10. THEFT

This is when someone steals or tries to steal school or personal property, or helps someone else steal.

11. OFFENSIVE MATERIAL

Producing, possessing, or distributing materials that offend common decency or moral in the school community.

12. RECKLESSNESS

This is when someone acts carelessly and puts others at risk of getting hurt or damages property, even if they didn't mean to.

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (CONT'D)

- **1st Offense: 3-14-day suspension and recommended for expulsion**
- **2nd Offense: expulsion and legal authorities notified**

INFRACTIONS: L3 CONTINUED

13. GAMBLING

This is when someone takes part in games of chance to win money or other prizes.

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (CONT'D)

- **1st Offense: 3-14-day suspension and recommended for expulsion**
- **2nd Offense: expulsion and legal authorities notified**

14. OBSCENITIES

This is when someone uses rude or offensive language towards the school or its staff. It includes insults or slurs about race, gender, religion, or anything else that is hurtful. This also covers using bad gestures to intimidate or insult others. This applies to written or verbal communication including via social media.

- **1st Offense: 3-14-day suspension and recommended for expulsion**
- **2nd Offense: expulsion**

15. PDA

PDA, or public display of affection, means showing affection in ways that go against Islamic teachings, like inappropriate touching or flirting, whether it's inside or outside of school. It's important to keep our interactions respectful and appropriate.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE:

SENSE OF BELONGING

A sense of **belonging** is when you feel like you're accepted and included by the people around you. The first sense of belonging you felt was when you were a small child; you belonged with your parents and family. The feeling of belonging later extends to school and with friends.

It means you feel valued and you're a part of something. Think of it like being on a sports team or in a group of friends where everyone supports and respects each other.



When you belong, you feel more confident, happier, and less stressed. Without that feeling, things can get tough. You might feel lonely, anxious, or like you don't fit in.

That's why belonging is super important—it helps you feel connected, safe, and supported!



COMMUNITY AND CULTURE:

BELONGING

story #1

Amir

"The New Kid"

Amir felt nervous. He had just moved to a new town, and this middle school was completely unfamiliar. As he walked into the building, he noticed groups of students chatting and laughing with each other.

During lunch, Amir sat alone, pretending to be busy with his sandwich. He could hear students talking about weekend plans and inside jokes. Feeling like an outsider, he stared at his food.

Just then, a student named Sarah noticed Amir sitting by himself and walked over. "Hey, do you want to sit with us?" she asked with a friendly smile.

Amir joined them, and as the days went by he felt like he belonged.

Amir learned that a sense of belonging was about being accepted, heard, and valued. It made school a lot more enjoyable and gave him the confidence to be himself.

And whenever Amir saw someone sitting alone, he remembered how Sarah had invited him over that first day. Now, he always made sure to do the same for others, because everyone deserves to feel like they belong.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE:

BELONGING

story #2

Layla

"The Lonely Days"

Layla always sat at the back of the classroom, watching the other kids laugh and talk. No one really talked to her, and she didn't know how to join in.

As the days went on, Layla started to feel sad all the time. She would come home tired, even though she hadn't done much. She didn't sleep well at night, often staying up thinking, "Why doesn't anyone want to be my friend?"

Without feeling a sense of belonging, Layla's mood got worse. She felt anxious at school, like she didn't fit in. Her grades started to drop because it was hard to focus when all she could think about was feeling left out. She also didn't want to go to school anymore, pretending to be sick some days to avoid it.

Layla didn't realize that feeling disconnected was affecting her mental health. She felt lonely, stressed, and even tired from all the worrying. Without support or friends, her self-confidence shrank, and everything felt harder.

Feeling like you don't belong can lead to sadness, anxiety, and low energy. It's important to find people who make you feel accepted, because everyone deserves to belong.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE: BELONGING



How did Amir feel on his first day at the new school? What specific details illustrate his feelings?

What kind of personality do you think Sarah has?

How did Amir's experience influence his behavior towards others in the future?

How might the story differ if Sarah hadn't invited Amir to sit with her? What impact could that have had on him?



What signs did Layla exhibit that showed she was struggling emotionally?

How did Layla's feelings of loneliness affect her academic work?

What do you think would have changed if Sarah from Story #1 approached her?

Do you think Layla could have done something herself to change her situation of loneliness?

What are some other ways you can help yourself feel a sense of belonging?

MULTICULTURALISM & AMERICAN SOCIETY

Did you know Islam is the third fastest-growing religion in the United States? With around 3.5 million Muslims calling this country home, the Muslim community is vibrant and diverse. While there may be differences between Islam and other faiths, many Muslims find comfort and happiness in their American lives, contributing to a rich array of cultures.



Whether your family is new to the U.S. or you have been here for many years, it's important to stay curious about American customs, holidays, and history. Exploring traditions like Thanksgiving or the Fourth of July can be enriching experiences, while also taking pride in one's own cultural heritage. This dual appreciation fosters a sense of belonging and helps navigate the complexities of living between cultures.

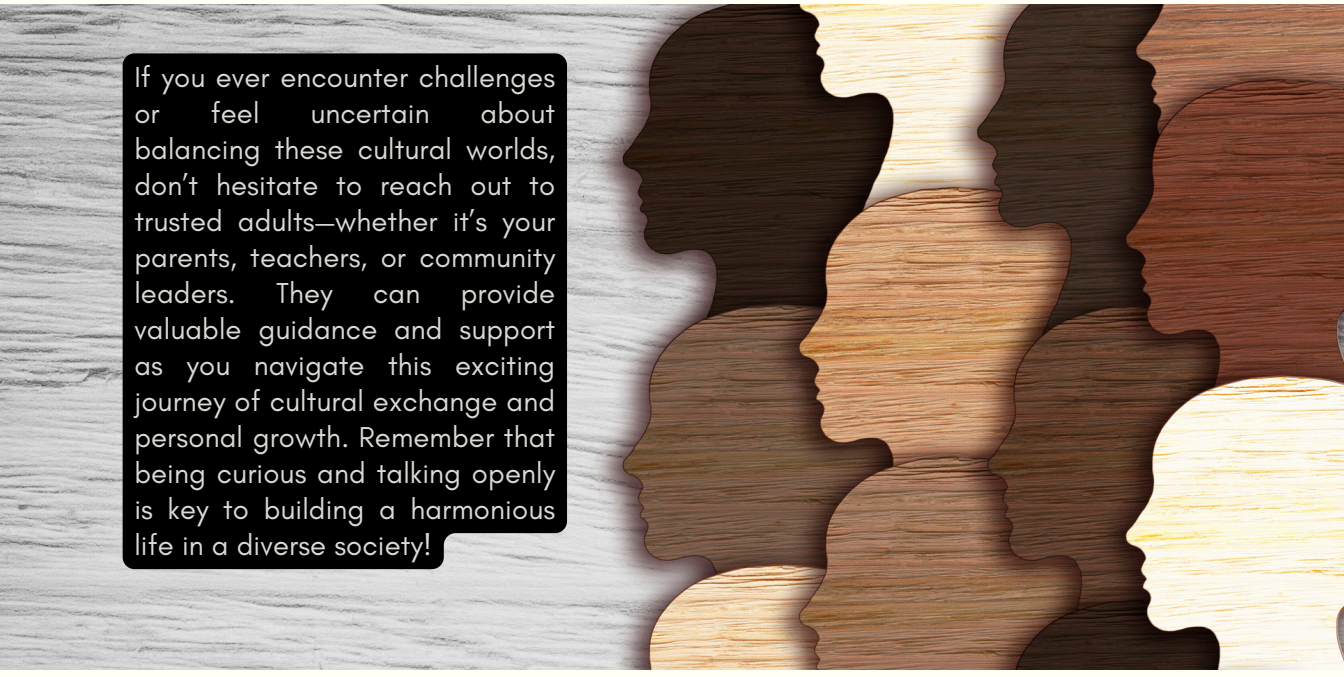
One of Islam's core teachings is tolerance, which encourages Muslims to embrace diversity and foster friendly relationships with people of all backgrounds. For example, it's common for Muslim families to invite neighbors of different faiths to their homes for meals, especially during special occasions like Ramadan. This spirit of hospitality builds bridges and creates opportunities for understanding and friendship.

MULTICULTURALISM & AMERICAN SOCIETY

O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.
Quran 49:13

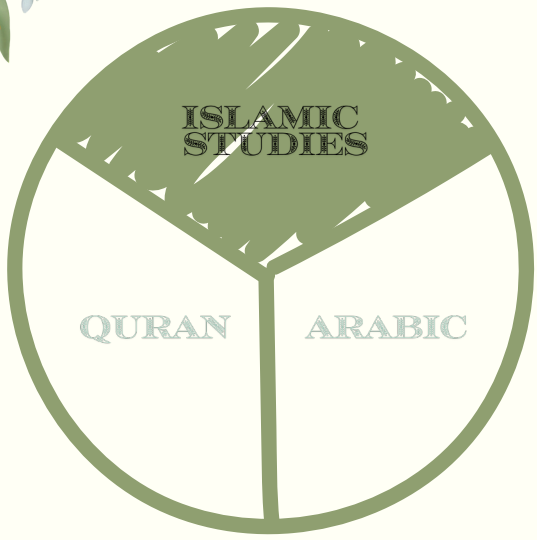
"All mankind is from Adam and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; a white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have any superiority over a white; none have superiority over another except by piety and good action."
Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

If you ever encounter challenges or feel uncertain about balancing these cultural worlds, don't hesitate to reach out to trusted adults—whether it's your parents, teachers, or community leaders. They can provide valuable guidance and support as you navigate this exciting journey of cultural exchange and personal growth. Remember that being curious and talking openly is key to building a harmonious life in a diverse society!



ISLAMIC STUDIES

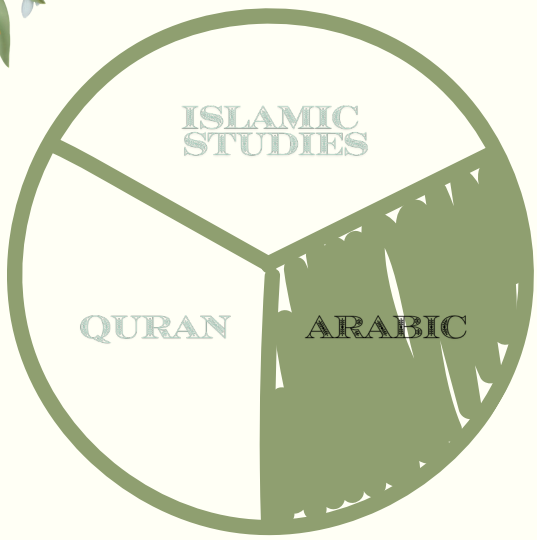




Islamic Studies covers a lot of important topics. It includes **Aqeedah**, which is all about believing in one God, and **Ibadaat**, which is how we worship. There's also **Mu'amalaat**, which teaches how to treat others, and **Akhlaq**, which is about having good manners and morals. You'll learn about the life of the Prophet Muhammad (SAS) in **Seerah**, and about the history of Islam. Islamic Studies also covers **Tafsir**, which explains the meaning of the Quran, and **Hadith**, which shares the sayings and actions of the Prophet (SAS).

ISLAMIC STUDIES: ARABIC



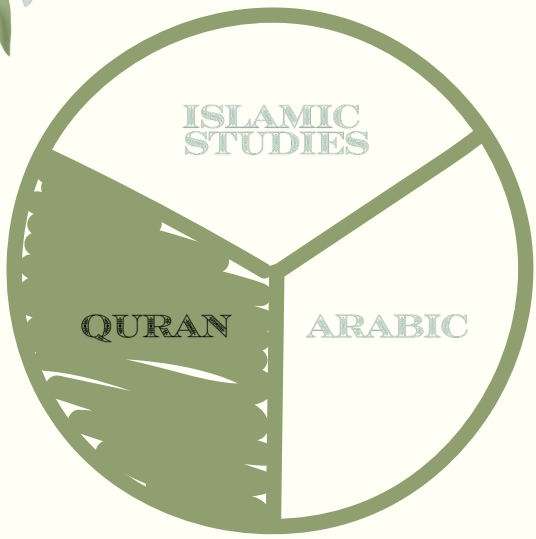


Arabic is the language of the Qur'an, and learning it helps students understand their religion and connect with their identity. Key areas of focus include:

Reading ❁ Listening and understanding ❁
Building vocabulary ❁ Grammar ❁
Speaking ❁ Writing

ISLAMIC STUDIES: QURAN





Taking care of the Mushaf (the written Quran) and showing it respect is really important, along with reading it regularly. The focus in learning includes:

- Reading fluently using the **Nooraniyah** method.
- **Hifz**, which means memorizing the Quran.
- **Tilawah**, which is reciting it with **Tajweed** (the proper rules and pronunciation).
- **Tafsir**, which explains what the Quran means.

Field TRIPS

Do you get excited about Field Trips? Throughout the school year, students will go on fun trips that connect to what they're learning in class. These trips help you see and understand things better. We recommend having three field trips each year!



Annual STAR NIGHT



Attention, students! Everyone gets to be part of our super fun annual school performance! We pick an exciting theme each year, and you'll work with your class to put on a great show. It's your chance to shine, show off your talents, and have a blast with your friends! Get ready for some unforgettable moments!



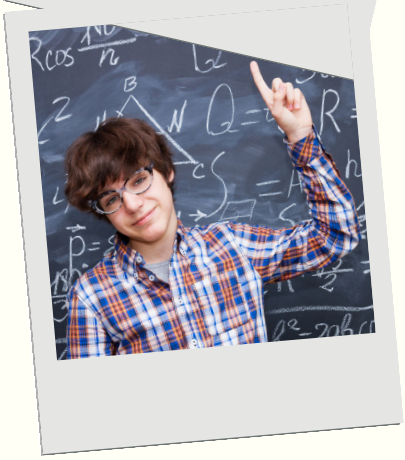


Spelling BEE

Students in Grades 1 through 8 will participate in a Spelling Bee competition each year. Before the competition, you'll get a list of words to study and practice. The first rounds will be held in your classroom by grade, and the finals will include the top spellers from each grade!







Science and MATH

Do you love Science? What about Math? Competitions are held every year, and our school will have a Science Fair! For Pre-K to 5th grade, each class will work together on one big project with their Science teacher. Students in 6th to 8th grade will do their own individual projects. Everyone will compete in the school science fair, and the winners from 6th to 8th grade will go on to the county science fair. Students will also participate in Broward County Math Counts and other elementary and middle school math competitions!

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Sports DAY

Get ready for an awesome day outside filled with exciting activities! Students will compete in fun games that boost school spirit and teamwork while celebrating everyone's achievements, both individual and team-based. It's all about having a blast, cheering each other on, and making great memories together. Let's make this a day to remember!

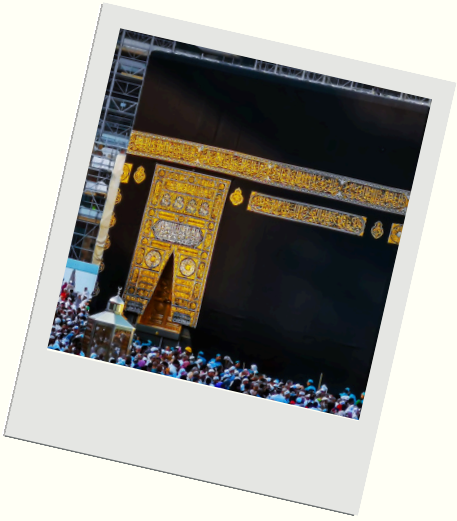
Culture DAY

Prepare for an exciting adventure as each homeroom dives into a different culture! You'll learn about traditions, food, music, and more, and then share all the cool things you've discovered with your classmates, parents, and the community. It's a fun way to celebrate our diversity and showcase the vibrant world around us! Let's explore!



Hajj DAY

Hajj Presentation Prior to Eid-ul-Adha, students model the rituals practiced at the annual hajj to celebrate the sacrifice of Ibrahim (A.S.) and his son (Ismail) (A.S.).





Quran NIGHT

Qur'an Competition & Quran Night:

Students will compete at the class level and inter-school competitions. The memorization of texts and Tajweed will be a major criterion. Quran Night is a celebration of student achievements in the Quran.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: WHY SHOULD I DO THEM?

MAKING FRIENDS

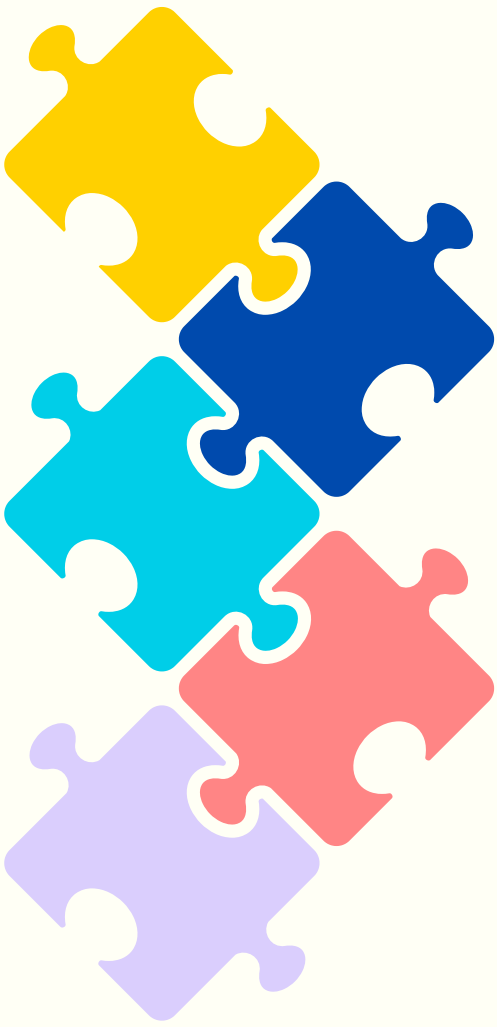
When you join a club, sports team, or any school group, you meet people who like the same things you do. This makes it easier to build friendships and feel connected to others.

GETTING RECOGNIZED

In extracurriculars, you get a chance to show off your talents and be recognized for what you're good at. When people appreciate what you do, it makes you feel important at home and in your school.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE

As you try new things and improve your skills, you feel more confident. That confidence helps you feel comfortable in school and more connected to the community around you.



BEING PART OF SOMETHING

Whether you're in the science club or on the soccer team, you're working toward a shared goal. This gives you a sense of pride and belonging because you're part of something bigger.

CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES

Clubs and teams often bring together students from different backgrounds, helping everyone feel included and respected, no matter where they come from.



STUDENT COUNCIL



What?

IT'S ALL ABOUT PROMOTING SCHOOL SPIRIT AND BEING LEADERS.

Who?

STUDENT COUNCIL IS A GROUP OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS THAT HELPS MAKE OUR SCHOOL A BETTER PLACE.

Why?

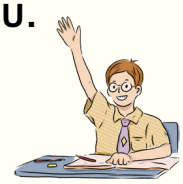
BEING IN STUDENT COUNCIL CAN HELP YOU IMPROVE YOUR READING AND WRITING SKILLS, GAIN CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC SPEAKING, AND LEARN HOW TO MAKE A REAL IMPACT IN OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.

How?

TELL ONE OF YOUR TEACHERS THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING AND SHE WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE STEPS TO GET STARTED!

WHAT DO STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS DO?

SPEAK UP: THIS IS A DEMOCRATIC SPACE WHERE YOU AND YOUR CLASSMATES CAN DISCUSS ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU.



STAY CONNECTED: WE KEEP COMMUNICATION OPEN BETWEEN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, ENSURING EVERYONE IS ON THE SAME PAGE.



BE A GOOD CITIZEN: YOU'LL LEARN IMPORTANT SKILLS ABOUT BEING RESPONSIBLE AND SERVING OTHERS.



REPRESENTATION: YOU'LL REPRESENT YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS AND SHARE THEIR OPINIONS, EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T CHANGE SCHOOL RULES.



WHAT ARE SOME REAL EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE WILL DO?

BEAUTIFYING OUR SCHOOL: HELP CLEAN UP, PAINT, AND MAKE OUR SCHOOL LOOK AMAZING!



COMMUNITY SERVICE: JOIN US FOR FOOD PANTRY EVENTS, RECYCLING PROJECTS, AND FUN FUNDRAISERS.



GATHERING OPINIONS: HELP WITH STUDENT POLLS AND CREATE NEWSLETTERS TO SHARE UPDATES.

POLL

CAPTURE MEMORIES: WORK WITH THE YEARBOOK TEAM TO DOCUMENT SCHOOL EVENTS AND SHARE NEWS.

yearbook

STUDENT AMBASSADOR



What?

AN AMBASSADOR REPRESENTS A GROUP, COUNTRY, OR SCHOOL AND ACTS AS A POSITIVE EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL.

Who?

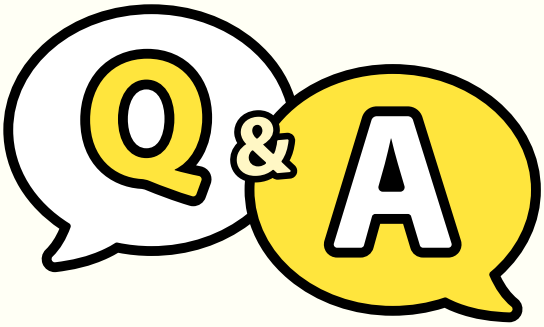
WE WANT 100% OF THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO BE STEM AMBASSADORS! WILL YOU HELP YOUR SCHOOL REACH 100%?

Why?

THEY HELP BUILD GOOD RELATIONSHIPS, SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION, AND SHOW LEADERSHIP BY MAKING SURE THINGS RUN SMOOTHLY AND RESPECTFULLY.

How?

SHARE GREAT THINGS ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL, TEACHERS, CLASSES, CLASSMATES, OR ANYTHING ELSE TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T ATTEND YOUR SCHOOL. DO PRESENTATIONS, CATCH A CLASSMATE LIVING THE VALUES, CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW, AND MUCH MORE!



Here's a simple way to know if you have what it takes to be an Ambassador of STEMS. Choose the answer that describes you:

A. When I leave school, I speak very well about the school, my classmates, and my teachers. When I have a problem with someone or something, I know who to talk to, and I don't turn it into gossip.

B. When I leave school, I talk negatively about my classmates and how bad someone looked that day. I like to say how mean my teachers are and how everything at my school is so stupid.

There is a clear difference between the two statements above. I am sure you have figured out that "A" is the correct behavior in order to be a good ambassador.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM:

3 STEPS

01 Become a STEMS CITIZEN

Being a student citizen of your school involves actively participating in and contributing to the school community in a positive and responsible manner.

a. During the first week of school, go through this book with your teacher in class.
b. Receive your STEMS CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE! Congratulations!

02 Become an "Agent of Positive Action"

An Agent is someone who acts on behalf of others, or takes initiative to make things happen. You will support the Student Council when they need extra hands. You will also raise problems to your teacher when you see something wrong. In order to be an "Agent of Positive Action", you must fulfil the following:

a. Have zero infractions. This can be changed based on Principal's discretion.
b. Topic Presentation: A pair of students present one topic from this book to their class for 3 minutes. Students must prepare questions for the class to answer. You also get extra credit for this!!
c. "Catch a Classmate" One time: Students may witness that a classmate is living one of the PEARL values. In this case, the student brings this to the attention of the classmate and both explain to the teacher how the classmate was living the values.
d. Positive Affirmation: Say one positive thing about the school, teachers, classmates, activities, or anything else to someone who doesn't attend the school. Student should complete the "Positive Affirmation Statement" form. This positive affirmation must be shared in class.
e. Contribution to Society Interview: Complete the "Contribution to Society" interview form and submit it to the teacher.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM:

3 STEPS

03 Become a "STEMS Ambassador"

The STEMS Ambassador represents his/her school and acts as a positive example for others inside and outside of the school. You will help build good relationships, share important information, and show leadership by making sure things run smoothly and respectfully. In order to be a STEMS Ambassador, you must fulfil the following:

a. Must already be an **Agent of Positive Action.**
b. Topic Presentation: A pair of students, or the student by himself/herself, to present one topic to their class for 2-3 minutes. Students must prepare questions for the class to answer. You also get extra credit for this!!
c. "Catch a Classmate" Three times: Students may witness that a classmate is living one of the PEARL values. In this case, the student informs his/her classmate and both explain to the teacher how the classmate was living the values.
d. Positive Affirmation: Say three positive things about the school, teachers, classmates, activities, or anything else to someone who doesn't attend the school. Student should complete the "Positive Affirmation Statement" form. This positive affirmation must be shared in class.
e. Speaker Event: Visit an elementary class and speak positively about the school for 2-3 minutes. Make sure it's interesting for elementary students!

You will receive a distinguished badge to proudly pin to your shirt—a prestigious symbol of your commitment and leadership! Your demonstrated excellence as a positive and strong leader positions you to represent STEMS with pride. During open house events, you will play a vital role in guiding parents and conducting orientations, showcasing the very best of our school community. In addition, you'll support your teachers, classmates, and fellow Student Council members, making a meaningful impact as a positive contributor to society. This is not just a badge; it's a testament to your dedication and an opportunity to inspire others!

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM:

3 REWARDS



3 Easy Ways

to earn rewards



1 **STEMS CITIZENSHIP**

As a proud STEMS CITIZEN, you'll score an awesome certificate to show off your school spirit and prove you're part of something amazing!

2 **AGENT OF POSITIVE ACTION**

As a STEMS Agent of Positive Action, you'll earn a shiny gold sticker to proudly stick on your certificate—showing off your positive impact in style!





3 **STEMS AMBASSADOR**

As a STEMS Ambassador, you'll earn a cool badge to proudly pin to your shirt every day—showing everyone your leadership in action!

You get extra credit points every time you give a 3 minute topic presentation!



Why is it so important to speak positively about my school?

Boosts School Pride and a sense of Belonging:
When you talk about your school, everyone feels proud to be part of it—like being on a winning team!

Creates a Happy Atmosphere:
Positive talk makes school a fun and friendly place where people are excited to learn and hang out.

Attracts New Students
When others hear how awesome your school is, they'll want to join the fun! Wouldn't you want your friends from other schools to be with you?

Makes Teachers Feel Great
It shows teachers and staff that their hard work is noticed, making them even more excited to help you succeed.

Boosts School Spirit
Positive energy leads to better events, more fun, and a stronger sense of community.

WHEN I grow up I WANT to be...







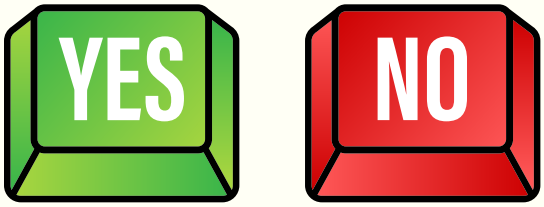








Have you decided what you want to be when you grow up?



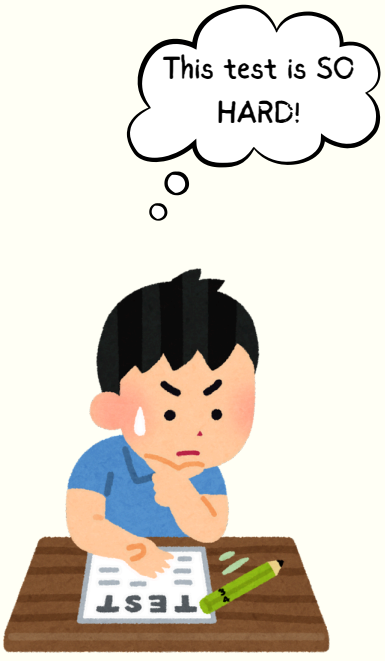
Make sure you focus on the subjects that are related to your future job.
For example, if you want to be a pharmacist, you will have to focus on math, science, and health.

That's totally okay! If you are doing really well in certain subjects, that may be an indication of what you could be.
For example, if you like working on the computer and with technology, you could be a software developer, a robotics engineer, or even a game developer!

ASSESSMENTS

The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: "Whoever takes a path upon which to obtain knowledge, Allah makes the path to Paradise easy for him."





Did you know that going to a school with high-quality education and tough testing standards is like unlocking your future!

Tough testing helps you decide what you want to be when you grow up!

ASSESSMENTS

Why Do We Have Tests? Tests and quizzes help teachers see how well you're learning. They're scheduled regularly so you can show what you've learned and keep track of your progress. If you're out of school for a good reason (excused absence), don't worry—you'll get a chance to take the test or quiz you missed when you return!



How Our Grading System Works (Grades 1-8):

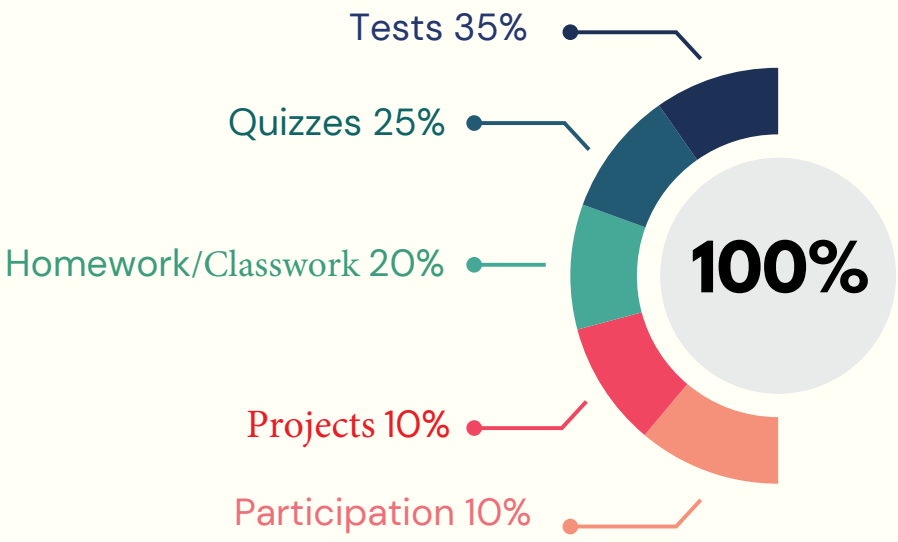
The school year is split into four grading periods. At the end of each grading period, your report card will be sent to your parents to show how you're doing. Here's how the number grades match up with letter grades:

A	B	C	D	F
100-90 Excellent	89-80 Very Good	79-70 Satisfactory	69-60 Needs Help	59-below Unsatisfactory

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are sent home four times a year, after each quarter, to show how you're doing in school. Your parents must review the report card with you to help you improve and do your best. If you get a failing grade, the report card won't be given directly to you. Instead, it will be handed or mailed to your parents or guardians, so they can discuss it with you and make a plan to help you succeed.

Report Card grades will be comprised as follows:

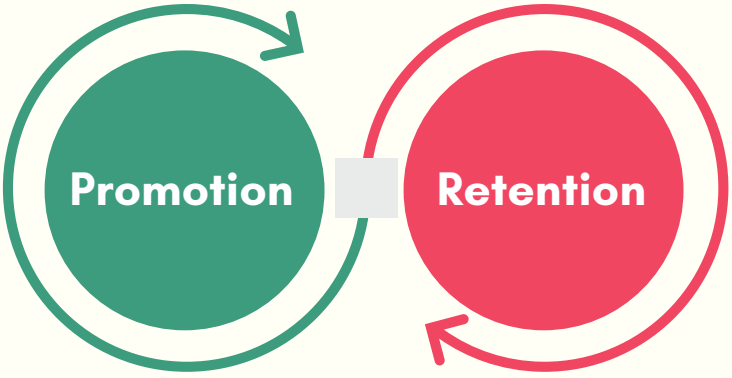


What is MAP Testing? It stands for "Measures of Academic Progress"
MAP Testing is a special test by the Florida Department of Education that helps measure what you already know and are ready to learn next. The cool part? The test adjusts to your answers, giving you a personalized experience! You'll take the MAP test three times a year—Fall, Winter, and Spring—to see how much you've grown.

REPORT CARDS:

PROGRESS REPORT

Interim, or **Progress Report,** is a summary of your academic excellence. Progress reports will be sent home in the middle of each grading period.



MOVING TO THE NEXT GRADE

To advance to the next grade, you must pass 3 out of 4 terms and attend at least 75% of the school days.

Standardized test scores and input from teachers and the administration may also be considered.

REPORT CARDS:

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

- Parent-teacher conferences happen throughout the year to help you stay on track.
- If necessary, a letter will be sent home by the end of the 3rd grading period if you're not making enough progress.



SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: PARTIES

Parties at School
Classroom parties need approval from the Principal at least one week in advance.
Only Zabiha and Halal food



*We don't celebrate birthdays.

Instead, we focus on the celebrations that align with our faith:

- Eid al-Fitr: A joyful time after Ramadan with family, sharing meals, and helping those in need.
- Eid al-Adha: A celebration of faith and sacrifice during the Hajj pilgrimage.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Hey there! You might have your own Instagram, TikTok, or Snapchat account, and that's totally common these days. **Just make sure your parents know you have these accounts!** These apps can be useful for staying in touch with friends and sharing moments, like hanging out at your favorite restaurant, showing off your new kicks, or celebrating with family. It's one way to express yourself and stay connected with others, no matter the distance.

But let's be real for a second. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in scrolling and posting that we forget important things!

How many times have you chatted with your friends while pretending to be asleep? 😴 ...and then you wake up feeling tired and groggy! 😟

Social Media Use

STEMS does not encourage social media use for students. If a student maintains a social media account, it is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian to monitor their child's activity and ensure appropriate use.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

RULES

Your parents and teachers care about you and want you to stay safe and healthy. That means enjoying social media while being smart about it. 

Timing: Spend less than 30 minutes per day. Avoid it during meals and before bedtime. 

Comparing: Don't compare yourself with what you see on your screen. Stay focused on yourself and the good things Allah gave you. 

Unfollowing: Leave accounts that are negative and those that make fun of others. 

Oversharing: Keep your location private and avoid tagging places because that can make it easier for strangers to find you. 



vs True: Don't believe everything you see and read!

No Going Back: Even if you deleted one of your own posts, remember that someone else might have saved it, so that means it's still there for the whole world to see! Think before you post! 

Being Kind: Always treat others the way you want to be treated. It's very easy to hide behind your social media and make fun of others. But guess what! Your school has a way of finding out! 

Offline vs Online: Remember to spend way more time offline like hanging out with your friends face to face!

SOCIAL MEDIA:

CYBERBULLYING

You've probably heard about **cyberbullying**, where some kids leave mean comments on others' posts. It's super important to stand against this behavior. If you see it, tell an adult—trust me, you'll be doing the right thing, and it's a brave move! Allah will bless you for standing up for what's right.

> "The most beloved of Allah's slaves to Allah are those with the best manners."
>
> Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)



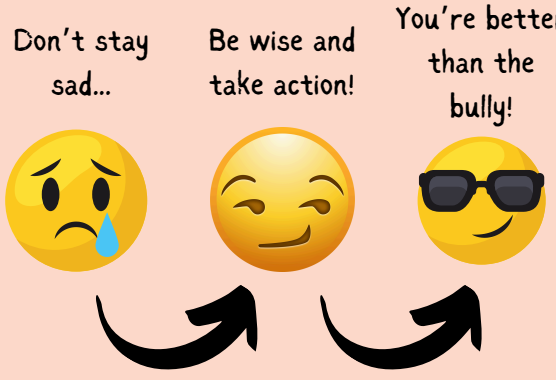
Cyberbullying: Being Mean on the Screen

This is when you use social media or text messages to make fun of your classmates or even spread rumors about them!

If you see one of your friends doing this, it's your choice not to participate in the conversation. You may talk to a parent or teacher about what's happening so they can help. Remember to protect the person being bullied and not the bully!

What can you do if you are the one being bullied?

Don't respond to the messages. Take a screenshot to show an adult. You have the right to a happy and peaceful school life. Don't let a bully get away with hurting you and others! Stay positive, and you may even take some time off social media.



SELF-ESTEEM

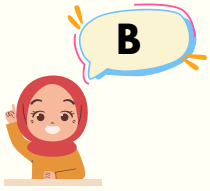
Self-esteem is how you feel about yourself and how much you value yourself regardless of your abilities. Self-confidence is about believing in your abilities even when things get tough.

> We created humans in the best form.
> Quran 95:4

What is one way you can boost your self-esteem?

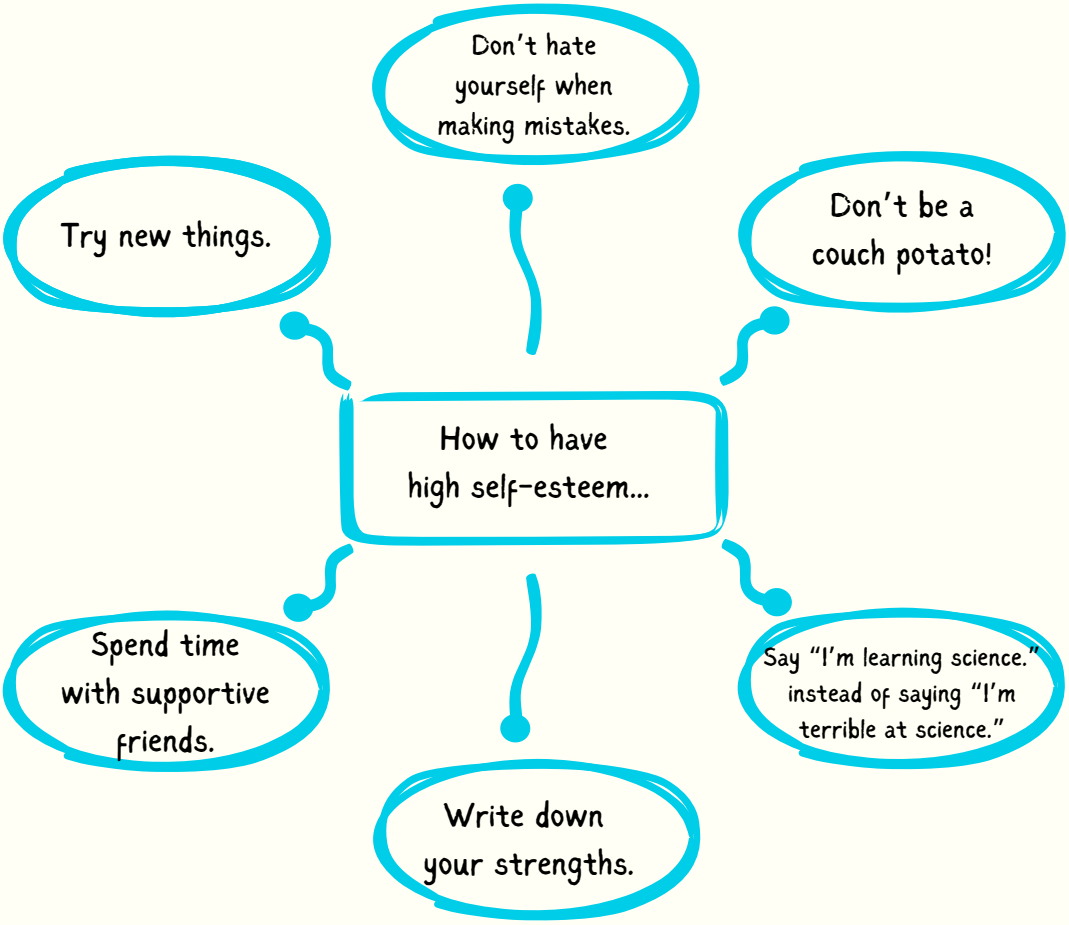


A. Compare yourself to others and focus on what they have that you don't.
B. Celebrate your achievements, no matter how small.
C. Avoid trying new things because you might fail.
D. Focus only on your weaknesses.
E. Always depend on others to tell you how great you are.



Middle school can sometimes be tough, right? Any student may have low self-esteem or low self-confidence for several reasons. Have you experienced any of these?

- Comparing yourself to others, especially online, can make you feel "less than."
- Struggling with school or getting bad grades can shake your confidence.
- Feeling left out or bullied can make you feel rejected.
- Family problems, like lots of arguments at home, can mess with your self-esteem.

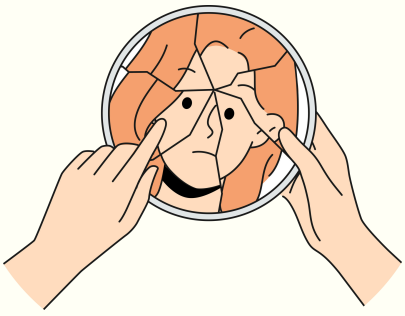


What are other ways you can boost your self-esteem?

SELF-ESTEEM:

BODY IMAGE

Body image is how you feel about your own body. Many students may feel that their appearance needs to be better or they don't believe they look good enough for everyone else.



Allah made our bodies in a way that are constantly changing. So you're supposed to change! If you feel like you are changing too fast or too slow, and you don't look like your cool classmates, don't worry. Everyone develops at their own pace, and that's completely normal. What's most important is how you feel about yourself, not how others see you. Focus on being healthy, kind to yourself, and appreciating the unique way that Allah created you.

SELF-ESTEEM:

BODY IMAGE

"You're so fat. why don't you stop eating?"

"You're too skinny. you look like a stick."

"You're so tall. it's freaky."

"Your nose is so big!"

"Why are your ears so big?"

"You're too fat to run fast."

"You'd look better if you lost a few pounds."

"You shouldn't wear that. it makes you look even bigger."

"Your legs look like toothpicks."

"Why are your arms so hairy?"

"Your skin is too dark/light."

"You can't sit with us."

"Your teeth are so crooked."

"She doesn't look anything like those TikTok stars."

He's so dumb!! She's so ugly!! They should get married!

WORDS HURT!

When people insult you, it hurts. It can cause low self-esteem. **Backbiting** means talking about someone behind their backs, and if you were to say that same thing to their face, they would be very hurt!

Let's make sure we are not guilty of saying these things about our classmates behind their backs, on social media, or to their faces. If your friend says it, try to remind him or her gently that it's hurtful to say such things. Remember the person who body shames you is definitely insecure about his or her appearance more than they are about yours.

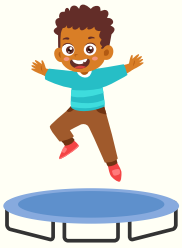


We never body shame or tease someone for how they look because Allah created all of us in the way that He wants.
If you need help boosting your self-confidence, then talk to a teacher, or a supportive friend, or your parents.

SELF-ESTEEM:

RESILIENCE

Sometimes it can feel like the problems never stop, right?!



Have you heard of the word RESILIENCE?

It means that whenever something you don't like happens, you easily bounce back from it and don't let it get you down. Let's say for example, you got a D on a test you studied for, and now you're mad at yourself.

Resilience means that even though you got a bad grade, you know how to do better next time!

Building resilience when facing bad grades can be challenging, but it's possible with the right mindset and strategies. Here's how:

Learn from mistakes and Identify where you can do better next time.

Ask for help: Reach out to teachers, parents, or classmates for guidance.

Set small goals: Break down big tasks into smaller goals. If you find it difficult to stay focused on reading, reward yourself with a little sticker every time you finish a page.

Change your study habits: Reflect on how you've been studying and try new ways of studying, like organizing your time better, practicing more, or studying with friends.

Stay positive: A bad grade doesn't define who you are!

Resilience is about learning from past mistakes, so you can do better in the future!

BULLYING

O believers! Do not let some men ridicule others, they may be better than them, nor let some women ridicule other women, they may be better than them. Do not defame one another, nor call each other by offensive nicknames. Quran 49:11

Bullying is the act of hurting someone by calling them names, laughing at them, pushing them, making fun of them on social media, or excluding them from your friends. Have you seen this at school? If you did, what did you do about it?

A. I ignored it.
B. I joined the bully.
C. I told a teacher.
D. I stood up to the bully!
E. I was the bully.

C and D are the correct answers. Just remember, if you decide to stand up to the bully, don't be a bully yourself!

BULLYING:

PHYSICAL BULLYING

Physical Bullying is when a bully touches someone forcefully like punching or pinching. Spitting on someone or damaging their school supplies are also forms of physical bullying. What other forms of physical bullying can you think of?





If you see someone being bullied:

Immediately tell a teacher about what's happening so they can intervene. Remember, you are helping someone who is being attacked!

What can you do if you are the one being bullied?

Don't hit the bully back. Step away from him/her and tell an adult nearby. Remember that no one has the right to touch you or your things without your permission.

BULLYING:

SOCIAL BULLYING

Social Bullying is when a group of friends ignore another friend or classmate. It also means excluding someone, spreading rumors, or embarrassing someone publicly.





If you see someone being bullied:

Be a friend to the one being bullied. Invite the person who has been left out to join you or your group. Don't participate with the bully. Tell a teacher or an adult at home so they'll know what to do.

Let others know it's not ok to bully others. And if you prefer not to take this path, you can still be a friend to the bullied person, even privately, to let them know you are there for them.

BULLYING:

SOCIAL BULLYING

> O you who believe, when it is said to you, "Make room (for others) in the sittings", then make room, and Allah will make room for you (in the Hereafter). Quran 58:11





What can you do if you are the one being bullied?

Don't blame yourself. There isn't anything wrong with you, but there is definitely something wrong with the bully and he/she needs help. Tell a teacher so they'll know how to handle the situation. Bullies like to target people who seem weak and vulnerable. Join new groups and stay connected to true friends.

BULLYING:

VERBAL BULLYING

Calling someone bad names in a way to make fun, embarrass, or hurt them is **verbal bullying**. Threatening someone, teasing them, and spreading harmful rumors are also forms of verbal bullying.



If you see someone being bullied:

You can stand up to the bully by saying, “Leave them alone” or “That’s not cool.” Never join in with the bully. Tell a teacher.

What can you do if you are the one being bullied?

Stay calm and ignore the bully. Once the bully notices they have an effect on you, they will continue to bully you. You can say “Stop it.” Or “That’s not okay.” Tell a teacher or other adult so they’ll know what to do. Surround yourself with supportive friends. Try your best to stay focused on the people and work that really matter in your life.

BULLYING:

BACKBITING

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “Backbiting is your mentioning about your brother something that he dislikes.”

...Help one another in acts of piety and righteousness. And do not assist each other in acts of sinfulness and transgression. And be aware of Allah.
Quran 5:2

At lunch, Aisha and Fatima huddled together, whispering about their classmate, Laila, who had just walked by. "Did you see what she's wearing today? She looks like she pulled that outfit out of the trash," Aisha snickered. Fatima giggled and added, "And her hair? It's like she doesn't even try to look decent." Unaware of the hurtful whispers behind her, Laila sat down alone, wondering why everyone seemed to be avoiding her that day.

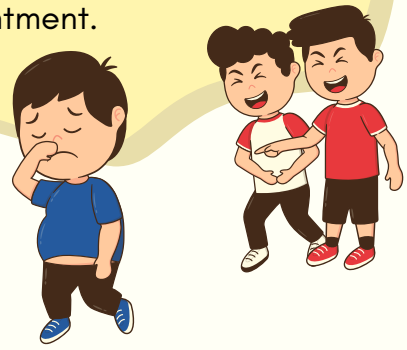


BULLYING:

BACKBITING

> The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Do not express malicious joy towards your brother’s misfortune, for Allah may have mercy on him and you may be stricken by the thing you made fun of.”

During recess, Ahmed and Yousef grinned as they overheard that Saad had failed the math test. "Finally, Mr. Perfect doesn’t get everything right!" Ahmed said with a smirk. Yousef laughed and added, "Maybe now he’ll stop bragging about being the teacher’s favorite." As they high-fived, Saad walked past them, clutching his graded paper, trying to hide his disappointment.



Did you know this secret about bullies?

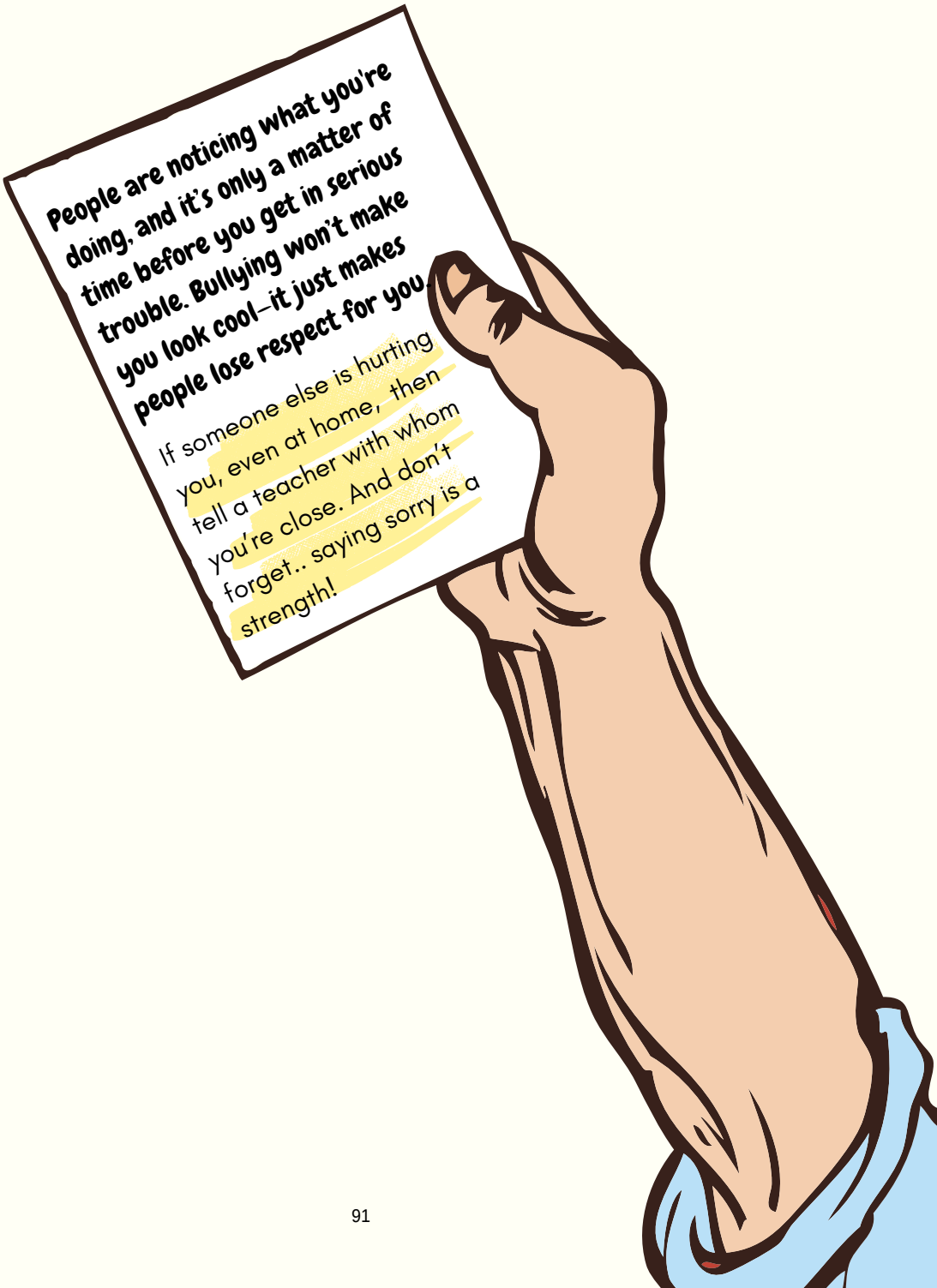
Did you know that bullies are often struggling with their own pain? Sometimes, they lash out at others because they're hurting inside and want to make others feel the same.

If you ever witness bullying, speaking up to a teacher isn't tattling—it's standing up for someone who needs help. You have the power to make a real difference!

> "No one of you should belittle himself." They said: "O Messenger of Allah, how could anyone of us belittle himself?" He said: "If he sees something concerning which he should speak out for the sake of Allah but does not say anything."

BULLYING:

HERE'S A MESSAGE FOR THE BULLY!



STRESS

Stress is your body's way of reacting to something overwhelming, like before a big test when you feel nervous. It's normal! Think of stress as a rubber band. A little stretch helps you focus and get things done, but stretching it too much can snap. Too much stress can make you feel tired or cranky, so it's important to relax and be resilient!



Middle school can be stressful with things like homework, friendship issues, bullying, trying to fit in, and parental expectations. Here are some ways to help get rid of stress:

- Take a break: Step away for 10-15 minutes and do something you enjoy, like talking to someone, walking around, or exercising.
- Break it down: Split big tasks into smaller ones to make them more achievable.
- Enjoy a hobby: Do something fun like drawing, reading, or cooking with an adult.
- Eat healthy: Try replacing junk food with fresh fruits and juices. There are so many delicious fruits in Florida! Have you tried them all?
- Positive self-talk: Replace negative thoughts with encouraging ones like instead of "I'll never get this right!" say, "I'm going to keep trying and I'll do better."

Can you think of other ways?

Here's a story about stress.

"Amira's Presentation"

Amira loved learning but was terrified of speaking in front of people. When her teacher, Ms. Layla, announced a class presentation about their favorite animals, Amira's heart sank. She worried, "What if I mess up? What if they laugh?"

At dinner, Amira told her mom, who smiled and said, "I used to get nervous too! Let's practice together. Remember, it's okay not to be perfect." For the next few days, Amira and her mom practiced her talk about dolphins. Little by little, her nerves calmed down.

On the day of the presentation, Amira still felt nervous, but she reminded herself it was okay. When she spoke in front of the class, the words came out just like she practiced. Her classmates listened, and when she finished, they clapped. Amira smiled, proud of herself for facing her fear. "It wasn't so bad after all," she thought.

Amira was stressed, but she handled her situation amazingly well! Being nervous and stressed feels like having butterflies in your stomach because you are scared about something in the future, but you also know how to prepare for it. If you are not prepared to give a presentation like Amira, then practice for it. If you think you will fail your test next week, then study for it. You can handle your future by preparing for it. Remember it's still okay to be a little stressed!

ANXIETY

You must have heard of this word before:
ANXIETY, pronounced

“ang" + "zy" + "uh" + "tee”

It comes from the root word
ANXIOUS, pronounced

“ank” + “shus”

Anxiety is like having a super active "what if" machine in your brain! It makes you worry about things that might happen, even if everything is okay.

Imagine you're getting ready for a test, and your brain keeps saying,

“What if I fail?” or “What if I forget everything?”
—even though you’ve studied hard!

Everyone feels anxious sometimes, but when that "what if" machine keeps running non-stop, it can make your body sick, even when there's no danger.

The good news? You can learn ways to calm it down and feel more in control!

ANXIETY

Here's a story about anxiety.

"Fatima's Worries"

Fatima studied hard for her math test, she couldn't shake the feeling that she was going to fail. Fatima felt worried about everything.

At night, when everyone else was asleep, Fatima thought, "What if I don't do well on the test? What if I embarrass myself in front of the class? What if something goes wrong tomorrow?"

At school, Fatima would smile and pretend she was fine, but deep down, the worry wouldn't go away. It wasn't just nervousness before a test—it was a feeling like something bad was always going to happen.

One day, her teacher, Ms. Iman, noticed Fatima looking more tired than usual. After class, she gently asked, "Is everything okay, Fatima?"

"I feel like I'm constantly worried about everything, even things that haven't happened yet," Fatima said.

"It sounds like anxiety, Fatima. That's a tough thing to carry on your own. It's okay to feel this way, but let's find some ways to help you manage these worries."

For the first time in a while, Fatima felt a little lighter. Just talking about her anxiety was a small step, but it made her realize she didn't have to face it by herself.

Who should you talk to if you think you have anxiety?







- [ ] I will reach out to my teacher to share my feelings and thoughts because I know my teacher and principal care about me so much!

- [ ] I know that I might have to speak to a school counselor.

SADNESS

Sadness is when you feel down about a bad grade or when someone makes fun of you, but you know how to bounce back, like talking to a teacher or learning how to stand up for yourself next time. Sadness can last a few hours or a few days, and with the right support, you can move forward. If there is a death in your family, your sadness may last several days or even months. The important thing is that you are still taking care of your health and are maintaining good habits.

Who should you talk to when you're sad? Share your feelings with a supportive friend, a parent, or a teacher.





DEPRESSION

We've already discussed topics like bullying, self-esteem, and body image, and if you've faced any of these challenges without talking to someone, you might be heading toward a tough spot called **depression**.

Depression is different from sadness. Feeling depressed means you are unable to recognize your strengths in difficult situations. You don't believe you are strong enough, smart enough, or even good enough to stand up for yourself. You may believe you are worthless. You also don't tell anyone about what you're feeling, so you keep these dark feelings to yourself.

Over time, these dark feelings start to take over you in ways that other people may or may not notice. You might find it hard to sleep; you may even lose your appetite—even for your favorite foods! You might also act out by teasing others or getting into trouble. You may even start to lie about feeling sick so you can skip school, and if this happens several times because of these feelings, you have to talk to someone.

On the other hand, you may be very good at hiding your depression. For example, if a classmate is very happy about an upcoming family vacation, you may show your happiness for them, but deep inside, you feel down. Hiding your depression is a very dangerous thing to do to yourself.

Who should you talk to if you think you have depression?

- I will reach out to my teacher to share my feelings and thoughts because I know my teacher and principal care about me so much!
- I know that I might have to speak to a school counselor.



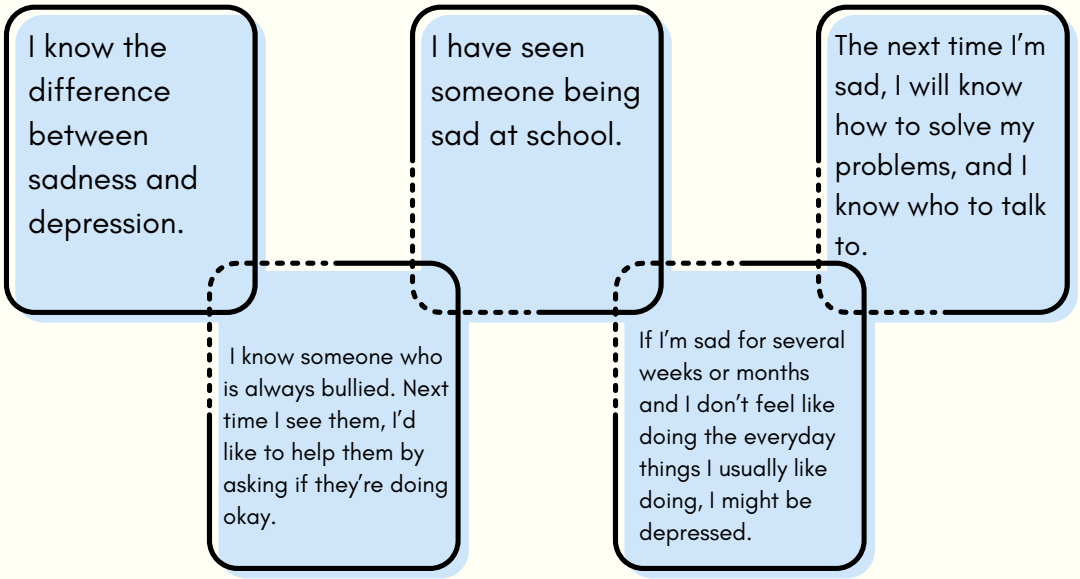
DEPRESSION

It's totally normal to feel like you're stuck in a dark place sometimes but remember, Allah tests us all with challenges. These tests help us grow and show who can be grateful and who needs support. If you ever think, "I'll never get over this," or "Why does this keep happening to me and not to anyone else," know that you're not alone.

Remember that Allah makes everyone go through trials, not just you. Allah tests His slaves, and He loves those who are patient.

Everyone of all religions feels such feelings. If you ever feel like no one will help you, remember that you might be overlooking the support around you. There are always people who care and want to help—friends, family, teachers, and community members. Don't hesitate to reach out; you'd be surprised how many people are willing to listen and lend a hand. You're not alone, and there's strength in asking for help!

Check your understanding about sadness & depression:



ONLINE GAMING



The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Online gaming is a lot of fun and can offer some cool benefits, but it's important to understand both the good and the not-so-good sides. Here's a breakdown:

The Good

Online gaming can help improve your brainpower! Many games make you think strategically, solve puzzles, and react quickly, which can enhance cognitive skills. Some games also require teamwork, which can teach you how to communicate and collaborate with others. Plus, gaming can help you make new friends from all around the world and connect with people who share your interests.

The Bad

Like anything, gaming can have some downsides if it's not balanced with other activities. Spending too much time gaming can take away from schoolwork, exercise, and socializing in person. Some games can also be competitive in ways that might make you feel frustrated or upset, especially if you're constantly losing or facing tough challenges.

The Ugly

Unfortunately, the online world isn't always a safe place. Some players can be rude, aggressive, or even bully others. Cyberbullying, inappropriate language, and negative behavior can pop up in online games, which can be really stressful or hurtful. It's important to remember that what happens in a game doesn't always translate well to the real world, and treating others with kindness should always come first.

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- Kowalski, R. M., Giumetti, G. W., Schroeder, A. N., & Lattanner, M. R. (2014). Cyberbullying: A review of the literature and implications for school-based interventions. Journal of School Violence, 13(1), 1-17.

> O you who have believed, eat from the good things which We have provided for you. And give thanks to Allah if you truly worship Him alone.
> Quran 2:172

EATING HEALTHY

Think of your body like a super cool, high-performance car! If you put in the right fuel, it runs better. That's why you need to load up on fruits, veggies, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. The next time you're thinking about chips and soda, upgrade to an apple and water. Your future self will thank you!

Halal Options: What you eat should be as good for your soul as it is for your stomach. Choose halal foods that keep you feeling healthy and blessed.

STAYING HYDRATED

Drink Water Like a Boss: Water is like your personal superhero. Need energy? Water. Losing focus? Water. Just existing? Water. Bring a water bottle to school or sports, and you'll be ready to conquer the world!

Limit the Sugar Bombs: Sure, soda and sugary drinks look fun, but they're sneaky! They zap your energy and can lead to bad habits. Even some sports drinks are loaded with sugar. So, choose water or something healthy and hydrate the right way.

> "The strong (active) believer is better and more beloved to Allah than the weak believer, while there is good in both." The Prophet (PBUH) participated in swimming, archery, running, and horseback riding.

REGULAR EXERCISE

Get Moving, Get Grooving: 30 minutes of activity each day can make you feel like a champ. Walk, bike, jump around—whatever gets you moving. It all counts!

Join a Team, Make Some Friends: School sports teams or clubs aren't just for athletes—they're for anyone who wants to have fun, stay fit, and make new friends. Bonus points if you find something you love, like soccer, basketball, or maybe even karate!

MENTAL WELLBEING

Manage Stress Like a Pro: Stress happens, but you can tackle it! Deep breathing or just taking a moment to chill can help a ton. Got a hobby? Have a look at the next few pages for awesome hobbies!

Talk it Out: Feeling overwhelmed? Everyone gets that way sometimes. Whether it's a family member, a teacher, or a friend, talking to someone you trust can make a big difference. Don't hold it in!

BEING HEALTHY:

HOBBIES



- Drawing or Painting: A great way to express yourself and improve artistic skills.
- Photography: Capture cool moments and learn about composition and editing.
- DIY Crafting: Make jewelry, friendship bracelets, or even design your own T-shirts.



- Coding or Game Design: Learn programming to create your own games or apps.
- Video Editing: Make cool YouTube videos or edit school projects with special effects.

BEING HEALTHY:

HOBBIES



- Book Clubs: Join a group of friends to discuss your favorite books or series.
- Creative Writing: Write short stories, poems, or even start your own blog.



- Building Models or Robotics: Join a robotics club or create your own models with LEGO or other kits.
- Science Experiments: Try a fun, at-home science project or join a school science club.



- Hiking or Birdwatching: Explore nature while learning more about the environment.
- Gardening: Grow your own flowers or vegetables.

BEING HEALTHY:

HOBBIES



- Volunteering: Help at local community centers, animal shelters, or food banks.
- School Clubs: Join science club or student council to develop leadership skills.



- Collecting Cards, Stamps, or Coins: Build a cool collection and learn history at the same time.



- Puzzles or Chess: Challenge your mind with brain teasers or strategic games.
- Board Games: Gather friends for fun, competitive game nights.

HIGH SCHOOL PREP



Calling all 8th graders! This will be your last year at STEMS!

Are you ready for the next chapter in your life?

You will be leaving STEMS and will be joining another school where your STEMS buddies may or may not be. Your thoughts may be making you feel anxious, excited, or sad. All of these feelings are completely normal to have!

In your new high school you may not have the same Islamic atmosphere you had at STEMS and that is okay!

Transitioning from an Islamic-based middle school to a non-Muslim high school can bring new experiences and challenges for a Muslim student.

HIGH SCHOOL PREP:

9 WAYS

Here's what you might expect, and how you can prepare!

1

Diverse Environment

- **Cultural and Religious Differences:** In a non-Muslim high school, you will likely encounter peers from various backgrounds, faiths, and cultures. You may need to adjust to being in a minority and explaining your beliefs or practices to others who may not be familiar with Islam.
- **Open Dialogue:** Other students may become curious about your faith, and this could be an opportunity for respectful conversations about Islam. Sometimes, wrong information about Islam is found on the internet these days, so being patient and open in these moments can help build understanding.

2

Prayer & Worship

- **Finding Space for Salah (Prayers):** You may need to find a quiet space to perform your daily prayers, especially during Dhuhr and Asr times. It's important to speak with school staff or administrators to request a private space for prayer, such as a library or an empty classroom.
- **Friday Prayer (Jumu'ah):** If you wish to attend Jumu'ah prayer during school hours, you may need to discuss this with teachers or administration to get permission to leave school during lunch or free periods.

3 Halal Food Options

- **School Cafeteria:** You might find that the cafeteria doesn't offer halal options. In this case, you can bring your own lunch from home or choose vegetarian or fish options.
- **Awareness:** If food-sharing situations arise, it's a good idea to politely inform friends or cafeteria staff about halal dietary requirements.

4 Fasting in Ramadan

- **Fasting in a Non-Muslim Environment:** During Ramadan, a Muslim student may fast while others around them eat and drink. This might be challenging, but it can also be an opportunity for personal growth and self-discipline.
- **Excusing from Physical Activities:** If you feel tired or lightheaded during fasting, you can request to sit out of physical activities like gym class or sports. You may ask your parents to speak to the Principal about your Ramadan needs.

5 Dress Code

- **Hijab or Modest Dress:** If you wear a hijab or dress modestly, you may feel different from your peers, but it's important to stay confident. Most schools allow religious dress, and teachers should support students in following their faith.
- **Dealing with Curiosity:** People may ask questions about the hijab or modest clothing. You can respond kindly and use it as a chance to explain your beliefs.

6 Peer Pressure

- **Staying True to Islamic Values:** High school might come with social pressures to fit in, particularly around things like dating, parties, or certain behaviors that may conflict with Islamic teachings. It's important for you to stay grounded in your values and not feel pressured to compromise your beliefs.
- **Making New Friends:** While it might be difficult at first, you can find friends who respect your values and support you in practicing your faith.

7 Muslim Identity

- **Islamophobia or Stereotypes:** Unfortunately, you might encounter misconceptions or stereotypes about Muslims. If this happens, you should stay calm and try to correct any misinformation with kindness. If the situation becomes uncomfortable, you can talk to a trusted teacher or counselor for support.
- **Being Proud of Identity:** It's important for you to be proud of your Muslim identity and not feel pressured to hide who you are. Educating others about Islam can foster understanding and respect.

8 Time Management

With the new environment, you will need to balance religious practices like prayers, Ramadan, and Islamic values with academic responsibilities. Learning good time management skills will help maintain a balance between faith and schoolwork.

9

Extra-Curricular Activities

You might find non-Muslim clubs that align with your interests, such as academic clubs, sports, or volunteer groups. Some high schools also have interfaith or Muslim student associations that provide a space for students to practice their faith and connect with others.

how to prepare:

- **Build Confidence:** Practice explaining your beliefs to others so you're prepared if anyone asks questions about your faith, hijab, or halal food.
- **Talk to Staff Early:** To make the transition smoother, speak with teachers or administrators about your needs, like a prayer space or permission for Jumu'ah prayers.
- **Find Supportive Friends:** Seek out friends who respect your values, whether they share your faith or not.
- **Be Proud of Your Faith:** Remember that your faith is a part of who you are, and staying true to it is something to be proud of.



ACCOUNTABILITY AGREEMENT

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED, REVIEWED, AND UNDERSTOOD THE CONTENTS OF THE SALAH TAWFIK ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL (STEMS) STUDENT HANDBOOK. WE AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OUTLINED HEREIN.

STUDENT NAME: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

THE STEMS WAY

VISION

Salah Tawfik Elementary and Middle School (STEMS) will provide and promote the highest level of education in a nurturing Islamic environment, raising future generations of students with a strong moral character and excellence in both Islamic and academic education.

MISSION

To Provide Quality Education in the Best Islamic Environment.

PEARL VALUES

Professionalism: Upholding high educational standards in line with Florida guidelines.

Enrichment: Developing a curriculum that fosters intellectual growth, firm faith, and good character.

Accountability: Promoting self-discipline and perseverance in achieving personal and institutional goals. (Perseverance means not giving up even when things get tough.)

Respect: Encouraging kindness and mutual respect in all interactions.

Leadership: Preparing students to be 21st-century leaders, integrating Islamic values and civic responsibilities.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Holistic Education: At STEMS, we help students grow in every way—academically, morally, and as good citizens. This is called a "holistic" education, meaning we focus on the whole person, not just grades, and base everything on Islamic values.

Dynamic Curriculum: Our lessons make you curious, help you think critically, and support your personal growth. We mix learning about academics, ethics, and your spiritual life.

Core Values (PEARL): These values help students succeed while following Islamic principles in today's diverse world.

RESOURCES

Florida Statute on Bullying and Harrassment K-12

Florida Hopeful Futures - Depression, Trauma

Parent Resource: Love and Logic

STEMS.NET website

...AND THAT'S A WRAP!

Did you finish reading this book?





1. Tell your teacher!
2. She will write your name on the certificate on the next page and present it to you.
3. Keep it in a good place so everyone can see it!

No Problem! Keep reading and have fun!

CERTIFICATE

OF COMPLETION

The certificate is presented to

For successfully completing the review and understanding of the STEMS Middle School Student Handbook. Your commitment to learning the guidelines and policies that foster a positive, respectful, and safe learning environment is commendable. This knowledge will empower you to be a responsible and contributing member of our school community.

Teacher, STEMS

Mrs. Rabia Khan
Principal, STEMS