



Al Salam Day School
Middle School (Grades 6-8)
Curriculum Overview



Al-Salam Day School: Middle School (6-8th) Grade Curriculum Overview

At **Al-Salam Day School**, we provide a dynamic, Islamic-centered learning environment where students grow spiritually, academically, and socially. Our curriculum is designed to integrate **Islamic values** alongside a rigorous academic framework, ensuring that students not only excel in their studies but also develop strong moral character rooted in Islamic teachings. Through engaging, hands-on learning experiences, students are encouraged to become critical thinkers, problem-solvers, and lifelong learners who embody the principles of Islam.

Science Curriculum

The Mysci Curriculum is a signature program of the Institute for School Partnership at Washington University in St. Louis. Mysci is dedicated to creating equity in science learning through hands-on, inquiry-based curriculum that nurtures critical thinking and creativity. Al-Salam Day School aims to reinforce Islamic values of exploration and stewardship of the Earth. Students are encouraged to investigate, experiment, and solve real-world problems, drawing connections between science and their faith in understanding Allah's creation. Each grade level builds on foundational knowledge while promoting critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

- **6th grade:** Students will explore Matter and its Properties. This includes thermal energy and phase change, structure and properties of matter, and chemical reactions. Students will also explore Ecosystems. This includes an introduction to ecosystems, cycling of matter and flow of energy in ecosystems, interdependent relationships in ecosystems, ecosystem dynamics, and functioning and resilience. Students will also learn about Human Impacts. This includes the earth's systems through a farming case study, impacts on earth's systems, and reducing impacts and restoring systems.
 - **7th grade:** Students will explore Force and Motion. This includes describing and measuring motion and force, relationships between force and motion, work and simple machines, energy, force fields, electrostatics and electric currents, magnetism, and electromagnetism. Students will also focus on Cells and Systems. This includes introduction to cells, cell structure and function, systems and system models, and information processing. Students will also learn about Human Impacts. This includes the earth's systems through a farming case study, impacts on earth's systems, and reducing impacts and restoring systems.
 - **8th grade:** Students will explore Biochemistry. This includes chemical reactions, photosynthesis, respiration, cycling of matter, and planning and carrying out investigations. Students will also explore Cycles on Earth. This includes the rock cycle, mineral formation and classification, the water cycle, and weathering and erosion shape the geosphere. Students will also learn about Human Impacts. This includes the earth's systems through a farming case study, impacts on earth's systems, and reducing impacts and restoring systems.
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Mathematics

The **Envision Mathematics** curriculum combines student-led learning with real-world problem-solving, promoting critical thinking and a strong foundation in mathematical concepts. Envision math is a proven-effective math series and provides deep conceptual understanding aided by visual models, personalized learning, and 3-act tasks. Vertical alignment across different grade levels helps schools address mathematical standards. Through engaging, hands-on activities, students will build the skills they need to succeed in today's world while also reflecting on how mathematics and logic are integral parts of Allah's creation. The curriculum aligns with **Missouri State Standards** and **Common Core Standards**, providing a comprehensive approach to learning.

- **6th grade:** Students will explore concepts such as calculating the areas of triangles and extending this understanding to other shapes, as well as determining surface area. They will deepen their reasoning skills with ratios and rates, learn and apply various methods for dividing fractions and decimals, and utilize these skills in practical calculations. The course also introduces strategies for solving equations, understanding equivalent equations, and working with expressions and equations through writing, interpreting, and applying them. Additionally, students will build their knowledge of data analysis and statistical reasoning. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on developing perseverance in problem-solving and strengthening both abstract and quantitative reasoning skills, while encouraging clear mathematical modeling and communication.
 - **7th grade:** 7th grade expands on the concepts and skills learned in 6th grade, emphasizing the understanding and application of proportional relationships. Students will explore scale drawings, use them to build a deeper understanding of proportions, and apply this knowledge to solve problems related to the circumference and area of circles. They will also work on solving equations, as well as writing, solving, and graphing inequalities. The course wraps up with units on angles, geometry, and an introduction to data analysis and statistical reasoning. Throughout the year, students will focus on developing strong problem-solving skills, persistence, and the ability to reason both abstractly and quantitatively while effectively communicating their mathematical thinking.
 - **8th grade:** Prepares students with the essential skills needed for success in Algebra I. The curriculum includes studying rigid transformations and understanding congruence, exploring similarity through dilations, and analyzing slope in the context of linear relationships. Students will practice solving linear equations and systems of equations, learn what defines a function, and calculate the volumes of cylinders, cones, and spheres. Additionally, they will examine the properties of exponents, work with scientific notation, and conclude the course by exploring the Pythagorean Theorem. This final unit introduces square roots, cube roots, and irrational numbers, providing a solid foundation for future mathematical concepts.
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English Language Arts

The **HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Company) ELA program** at Al-Salam Day School uses a variety of instructional approaches to ensure all students become proficient readers, writers, and communicators. Integrated with personalized learning tools like **Amira** and **Waggle**, the program builds foundational skills in literacy while promoting reflection on the moral lessons found in literature. Through this curriculum, students not only develop strong academic skills but also grow in their understanding of how to communicate effectively and ethically.

- **6th grade:**
 - **7th grade:**
 - **8th grade:**
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Social Studies

Our **Social Studies** curriculum enriches students' understanding of civics, government, geography, economics, and history, with an emphasis on **Islamic teachings** and the principles of justice, respect, and compassion. Aligned with **Missouri State Standards** and **Common Core Standards**, this program allows students to explore the world around them through a lens of Islamic ethics, deepening their appreciation for diverse cultures and histories.

- **6th grade:** In this course, students will explore the world through the five themes of geography: location, place, region, movement, and human-environment interaction. Students will learn and utilize social studies skills such as comparison, analysis, and inquiry. Students will conduct geographic inquiries to identify, investigate, and propose solutions to global problems. Students will also consider their roles as Muslims and global citizens in relation to geography.
 - **7th grade:** In this course, students will learn about world history from the earliest civilizations to 1500 C.E, including early Islamic history. This includes the beginning of human societies, early civilizations, economy and world trade, and human environment interaction. Students will utilize historical skills such as inquiry, analysis, comparison, and argumentation. Throughout the study, students will evaluate history using an Islamic perspective.
 - **8th grade:** In this course, students will learn about American history from European settlement to Reconstruction. Students will utilize historical skills such as inquiry, analysis, comparison, and argumentation. Throughout the study, students will evaluate American history using an Islamic perspective. This includes Foundations of a New Nation, Creating a New Government, The Early Republic, Age of Jackson and Westward Expansion, Society and Culture before the Civil War, The Civil War, Reconstruction
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Middle School Art

Middle School Computer Lab

Middle School Physical Education
