

# Al-Qalam

القلم



# Newsletter

## December 2020 - January 2021 School Updates

### January Classes Continue Online

Once again, we would like to sincerely thank all our parents, students, and staff for working hard together to do our best during this school year. With our faith in Allah, we now have some hope that the vaccine might be the solution to ending this pandemic in the next few months. We also pray that all of the suffering of hardships, disappointments, and anxieties from this virus will fade and provide us with greater strength to continue in our lives with renewed courage. We want to be able to open our schools soon so that the children can continue their education in person and increase the knowledge that Allah seeks them to know. May His mercies and blessings be upon our families.

The School Board is still following the Jackson and Johnson county reports, along with CDC guidelines. In Jackson and Johnson counties, the COVID-19 cases are still spiking at a high rate and hospitalizations are increasing. Because of these reasons and being in the red zone, **we have decided to continue with virtual online classes throughout the month of January, 2021 for health and safety reasons.**

### NWEA Fall MAP Tests Results

During November 2-19, 2020, NWEA MAP tests were given to our students in Kindergarten through 10th grade. Tables were set up in the gym with laptops spaced at least 6 feet apart. We took the temperature of each student as they entered the gym and had them wash their hands before beginning the tests. We continued to follow CDC guidelines throughout the day.

Now that we have given the MAP tests to our students, we can continue to identify those students that need tutoring and use our Title funds to provide the necessary education for them.

Your child's results were emailed to you the week of November 23rd. As far as expectations on the results, we realize that online learning is not quite as effective as in person. However, this is a problem across the nation in most schools. We pray that a vaccine will soon be available, and the virus will be defected so that our students and school can get back to normal instruction. Please make dua'a that we continue to teach the children the best that we can during these difficult times, and we pray that we will be back in school soon.



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### CONTACTS

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[www.iscgkc.org](http://www.iscgkc.org)



### IScGKC Accreditations **cognia**

We are now accredited with **COGNIA**, formally AdvancED until June 30, 2024. Our accreditation states that our school has met the criteria for educational quality established by the Cognia Global Commission.

We also have an Islamic accreditation with **CISNA**.



### VISION

Striving to be a premier Islamic progressive and scientific learning Institution.

### MISSION

To provide a nurturing environment where students aspire for excellence in education, integrity and leadership skills to better serve humanity.

### GOALS

Dedicated to produce Committed Balanced Muslims, Knowledgeable Scholars, Contributing Citizens and Community Builders.



**The best education  
is not given to them,  
It is drawn out of them.**



## Teachers Training Updates



The following Professional Development Service Workshops were provided to our teachers as follows:

**December 1, 2020 - Attended by Sister Nisha**  
Developmentally Appropriate Practice and Relationships

**December 15, 2020 - Attended by Sister Nisha**  
STEAM in Early Childhood Implementing Science and Technology

**January 21, 2021 - Attended by Sister Jaila**

DISTANCE LEARNING: Strengthening Online ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS Instruction

- **The keys to practically and successfully teach complete ELA distance learning lessons** to strengthen secondary ELA students' engagement and learning online
- **Timesaving ways to organize the ELA distance learning cycle** ... Create, assign, engage students and provide feedback to writing and other assignments, all while maintaining your sanity
- **Effective ways to use videos in distance learning** ... Enhance student and parent communication, instruction, assessment, and collaboration.

**January 26, 2021 - Attended by Sister Jaime and Sister Quiame**

Innovative, NEW Activities for Strengthening Your PHYSICAL EDUCATION Program

- Make best use of warm-up and cool-down activities for efficiently moving students between their regular classrooms and PE time
- Incorporate simple rhythmic activities that are fun and easy to teach
- Develop lead-up games and skills for a variety of sports
- Create a more inclusive PE program where all students feel included and successful
- Include classroom-based academics using high-energy games and activities
- Challenge highly competent students while meeting the needs of those with lesser skills
- Increase your repertoire of cooperative activities for building teamwork skills
- Make low-cost equipment for your PE program
- Build student confidence and strengthen their overall physical abilities



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*Alhamdulillah*

We have now received 74 MacBook laptops from Hickman Mills through our CARES funds for our school. Some of the new laptops will soon be distributed to our teachers, and the remaining laptops will remain at our school for students' use in the building.

## Teacher Evaluations

Sister Saba and Sister Farzana have now completed all teacher evaluations for the 1st semester of 2020. This year they were all digital evaluations using Zoom sessions.

The tool they used for evaluations was called **Digital Learning Environment Observation Tool (DLEOT)** and was provided by COGNIA, our accreditation team. It provided categories with a rating scale.

These evaluations are a valuable resource to help our teachers recognize their strengths and weaknesses.

***“Dear Allah,  
I want to take a minute not to ask  
for anything from you,  
But to simply to say thank you  
for all that I have.”***



# Al-Qalam القلم Newsletter

## Student Updates

### PSAT/NMSQT®



On Tuesday, January 26, 2021, we have made arrangements for students in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades to take the PSAT/NMSQT test. It is very important and highly recommended that all of our students attend this day and take the test. We will set up the testing area in the gym so that we can social distance the students.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures what students are learning in school, determines if they are on track, and opens doors for opportunities to prepare and pay for their college. **11<sup>th</sup> grades are eligible to qualify for national scholarships, if they receive high scores.** Our 11th grade students this year are Younis Turk, Jenna Shawa, Ali Banyalmarjeh, and Ahmed Hussein. 10<sup>th</sup> graders will have to wait for next year to qualify for scholarships. But, taking the test now, this year, gives them the opportunity to experience the types of questions to prepare them for next year when the test will be given again.

The test will be paid for by the school. The test will be given from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please make sure your child arrives on time because this is a timed test for each subject. The subjects that the students will be tested on are Reading, Writing and Language, Math with no calculator and Math with a calculator. They will be broken into four different test sessions with a few breaks in between test sessions.

**This test is a paper and pencil test.** It is not online using laptops like with the MAP tests we have been giving them in the past. Therefore, **students need to bring with them two No.2 pencils, an acceptable calculator, their student ID number, and their school email address. No cell phones are allowed during the test.** They may bring their cell phones to school, but the administration will keep them in a separate room until after they finish the test and everyone is ready to go home.

We look forward to offering the PSAT/NMSQT test for the first time this year, and pray that it will benefit our students in their future college careers.

If you would like further information about the PSAT/NMSQT test, please visit their website: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>

They also have **practice tests** at this website address:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice/full-length-practice-tests>



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### BE PATIENT

FOR WHAT WAS WRITTEN FOR YOU  
WAS WRITTEN BY THE BEST OF WRITERS.

## IscGKC on Facebook & Instagram

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

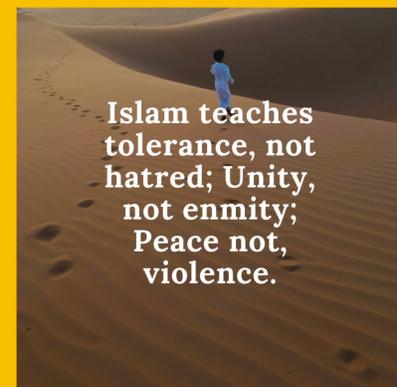


On Facebook search for "Islamic School of Greater Kansas City" with the BLUE logo.



Our 10th grade students are now creating Instagram and Facebook posts for our accounts during Yearbook class. We are creating weekly themes and messages to post to our community and followers.

Our first week's theme is "Unity & Peace" in Islam. Because of all of the conflicts occurring in our nation right now with the election of the new President, we felt there was a need to recognize how important these concepts are and remind people of what our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said to his people at the time of conflicts.



# Al-Qalam القلم Newsletter

## Congratulations to our 2nd Quarter 2020 Students of the Quarter

These students were voted on by their teachers, in addition to their GPA grades, NO discipline reports and attendance. These students will be eligible to be randomly selected for "Student of the Year" too. Who will be our next 3rd & 4th Quarter Students of the Quarter? Wait and see!



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### Student of the 2nd Quarter - 2020

4th Grade

5th Grade

6th Grade



Zuhair Tariq

Maryan Nur

Abdalrahman Benkhadra

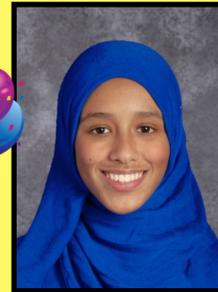
### Student of the 2nd Quarter - 2020

7th Grade

8th Grade

9th Grade

10th Grade



Rimas Dalaq

Suria SheikhOsman

Hajar Wilkes

Ghosoun Alzoubi

### Best Manners & Traits of a Good Muslim Student

- #1. Be punctual.
- #2. Speak kindly and politely to others.
- #3. Be helpful.
- #4. Work hard.
- #5. Always tell the truth.
- #6. Return lost items.
- #7. Teach others about Islam.
- #8. Learn to forgive.

### Bonus: Be cheerful always!



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IMPORTANT DATES:

December 4 Science Fair (4th, 5th and 6th) CANCELLED  
 December 14 First Semester Finals (7th-10th)  
 December 18 End of 2nd Quarter  
 December 21-31 NO SCHOOL (Winter Break)

January 1 NO SCHOOL (Winter Break)  
 January 18 NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King Day)  
 January 29 Cultural/Islamic Studies Fair (7th - 10th)

February 6 Mathcounts Regionals Competition  
 February 15-19 Book Fair  
 February 19 NO SCHOOL (Parent/Teachers' Conference)

March 6 Mathcounts State competition  
 March 9 Mathcounts Activity with Parents

NOTE: All events may need to be rescheduled according to the COVID-19 situation. If we do need to reschedule, new dates will be announced at a later time. So sorry, we truly regret missing these enjoyable events. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## Covid-19 School Announcements & Support

Just a reminder, we will be making the latest school announcements via these methods:

- Orbund Text Messages, Email, Voice Messages
- Orbund Announcements
- Email Messages
- [www.iscgkc.org](http://www.iscgkc.org) (School Website)
- IScGKC (School Phone App)
- 

Please do not respond to Alert Media messages by text or voice mail. We get charged for every text message or voice message that is returned to us through the Alert Media system.

If you need to reach the administration office, please email us as follows:

admin@iscgkc.org - Diane Ghosheh, Technical Coordinator  
 salbadiwi@iscgkc.org - Safwan Albadawi, Finance Manager  
 schooladmin@iscgkc.org - Maryam Haggins, School Administrator  
 shamouda@iscgkc.org - Saba Hamouda, Principal  
 fjabeen@iscgkc.org - Farzana Jabeen, Vice Principal

We are working at hard to keep the school running efficiently, and our school phones have been forwarded to our cell phones, if you need to reach us immediately. We are promptly answering all emails. When at home, take care of your families and be safe. Thank you for your cooperation!



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## END OF 2nd QUARTER December 18, 2020

Our 2nd Quarter ended on **Friday, December 18, 2020**. Please, keep making sure you child has all of their homework turned in so that it can be graded before the teachers submit their grades.

**Let's make the best of a bad situation, and encourage your child to work hard!**

## 2019-2020 Yearbooks

Reminder for everyone that we still have some 2019-2020 yearbooks for sell in the office for \$25.

Also, some students who paid for yearbooks already have not picked up your books yet. Please do so the next time you are in the office. **Thank you!**

## Online Payments

Online Payments can be made for school fees, lunches, registrations, yearbooks, etc., on our school website:

[www.iscgkc.org](http://www.iscgkc.org)

Just select the Payments and choose your selection from the buttons provided. **Thank you.**

## Allah The Perfect One

"Whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is on the earth glorifies Allah, the King (of everything), the Holy, the Al-Mighty, the Al-Wise."

(The Holy Quran 62:1)



## SAY YOUR DUA'A AND WASH YOUR HANDS.

Hadith on Plague: Avoid the plague but do not spread it either.

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, **"If you hear of a plague in a land, then do not go into it. If it happens in land where you are, then do not go out of it."**

