

Avicenna Academy
Parent & Student Handbook
2020-2021

*Enrollment at Avicenna Academy automatically subjects you to the rules held herein.

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INTRODUCTION

Avicenna Academy is Northwest Indiana's premier Islamic school. We provide education for students in preschool through eighth grade. The entire school community is dedicated to providing a quality education to prepare our children for success in a complex, technologically-advanced, multicultural society.

OUR MISSION

It is our mission to teach our students to be global citizens, and to provide them with the Academic and Professional Success skills they need in order to succeed in the twenty-first century global economy. At Avicenna Academy, we also instill the fundamental principles of personal faith and honorable character in a safe and happy environment; a home away from home.

OUR VISION

Our vision is that each student at Avicenna Academy is:

- Able and willing to live according to the tenants of their personal faith. For Muslim students, this means that they will be able and willing to live according to Allah's will as established in the Quran and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad.
- Capable of promoting a spirit of fun, kindness and respect towards all.
- Possessing a complement of academic skills—linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technological, physical and soft skills.
- Comfortable and confident collaborating with people from a myriad of social, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds.

GOALS

Avicenna Academy strives to:

- Please Allah (SBW) and aims to follow the guidelines of the Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).
إرضاء الله و اتباع القرآن وسنة رسوله محمد صلى الله عليه وسلم
- Recognize and honor the dignity and worth of each individual student.
- Provide a safe nurturing environment for students.
- Provide a rigorous curriculum in which students are led to learn, think, solve problems, build self-esteem, encourage one another, and have enthusiasm for the task at hand.
- Excellence and a quality education.
- Develop a lifelong love for learning, Islamic morality, and ethical standards that can be applied to daily life.

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- Build an educational program that shares the responsibility of students with staff, parents, and the entire community.
 - Teach every student self-discipline.
 - Educate Muslim-Americans to interact, understand, and live in harmony with those around them and in the world at large.

STORY OF AVICENNA ACADEMY

Avicenna Academy is a unique school founded by individuals pursuing a vision of superior education, and bound by common goals and aspirations. A long-held dream became a reality in August of 2004, when after years of careful planning, Avicenna Academy opened its doors. Since then, its reputation has encouraged many new families to enroll their children. The school has since doubled in enrollment and the size of its facility. A playground and library, both essential to meeting school goals, became realities in the fall of 2008. The school attained a State tuition payment (Choice Scholarship) to families in need. Since then the enrollment expanded and reached its peak of 85 students in the year of 2019. Avicenna has become part of the Prek My Way program for the lower level in preschool, providing an opportunity to every family with a 4 year old child to attend a learning experience at Avicenna.

OUR NAMESAKE, IBN SINA (ابن سينا)

The school is named after Abu Ali al-Husayn Ibn Abdullah Ibn Sina who was born in Bukhara in 980. Sometimes known in the West by the Latin name, Avicenna, this Persian physician became the most famous and influential of all the Islamic philosopher-scientists. His grave is still maintained in Hamadan, where he died in 1037.

Ibn Sina was trained as a physician, but he made significant contributions to philosophy, chemistry, mathematics and astronomy. He wrote *Kitab al-Shifa* ("Book of Healing"), a philosophical encyclopedia. This work combined Aristotelian and Platonic philosophy together with Islamic theology in dividing the field of knowledge into theoretical and practical parts.

Al-Qanun fi al-Tibb القانون في الطب ("The Canon of Medicine") is Ibn Sina's most famous book and it is still one of the most important medical books ever written. It served as the medical authority throughout Europe and Asia for nearly 600 years. Among the book's contributions to modern medicine was the recognition that tuberculosis is contagious, diseases can spread through water and soil, and a person's emotional health influences his or her physical health.

Ibn Sina was also the first physician to describe meningitis, parts of the eye, and the heart valves, and he found that nerves were responsible for perceived muscle pain. He contributed to advancements in anatomy, gynecology, and pediatrics. Today, Ibn Sina's portrait hangs in the main hall of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Paris as an acknowledgement to all he has contributed to the field.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors develops policies and rules regarding operation. Decisions are made by majority vote.

Executive Board Members

Dr. Hytham Rifai

Members

Dr. Almuhammad Alfrhan

Mrs. Carla Houck

Mr. Feras Musleh

Mrs. Dana Rifai

Dr. Charles Schaefer, Ph.D

FACULTY AND STAFF

Mrs. Nuha RifaiHead of School
Mrs. Maria Arter.....Academic Consultant
Mrs. Muneeza KhanAdministrative Assistant
Mr. Torrance Credit.....Seventh and Eighth
Grades
Mrs. Nicole Gustafson Sixth Grade
Mrs. Laurie Souza.....Fourth and Fifth Grades
Mrs. Danielle Bradford..... Second and Third Grades
Mrs. Summayya Suboh..... First Grade
Ms. Sahar Hamad.....Islamic Studies & Arabic Various levels
Ms. Nariman Issa.....Quran First - Eighth Grade
Mrs. Justeen Garza..... PrK and Kindergarten level
Mrs. Dania Marawi..... PrK-KG Arabic and Quran
Mrs. Baraat Abo Hamza.....PrK Arabic & Quran aid

ADMISSION POLICY

ENROLLMENT

Avicenna Academy is a family and community oriented school, offering the best possible academic and social development for its students. New students may enroll anytime. Avicenna Academy is a school whose population is mostly composed of Muslim children who demonstrate fine character, integrity, and show a good record of behavior in school. Our school's future lies with students that exhibit academic promise and have an interest in learning in the classroom and out in the community. These students have parents who support the school and are an integral part of the school community's future.

As a policy, the school reserves the right to give priority in admissions to siblings and children of faculty and staff and to determine the grade placement of entering students. The administration will make a decision as to grade placement after all assessments, interviews and consultations are completed. In some circumstances, placement may need to be readdressed after the start of the school year.

Due to the high expectations of the academic program, all applicants may be assessed to ensure that their needs will be appropriately met at Avicenna Academy. This assessment will take place prior to the student being enrolled.

At the time of testing, an interview may be held. All results are reviewed, along with the child's previous school record (s) in order to reach a decision regarding acceptance to Avicenna Academy. When classes are completely filled, the child will be placed on a waiting list. Parents will be notified upon the opening of space.

Even though applications for new students may be given to the school office at any time, the school requests all student records (medical, academic and other documentation as required by Federal or State laws) be submitted with each new application. Prospective families may visit and tour the school.

ENROLLMENT/REGISTRATION FEE

All new families will be subject to our \$150 registration fee. Returning families are subject to a yearly re-enrollment fee. The registration fee will have a discounted rate of \$100 in March, However, the registration fee returns to \$150 after spring break, plus a late fee of \$300 will be added for re-enrolling after the deadline of May 31st. The registration fee covers all students from the same

immediate family. Paying the yearly enrollment fee results in a place being held for that child or children.

ENROLLMENT FEE REFUNDS

The enrollment deposit fee is non-refundable. Any payment due or paid for the tuition balance for the year will be waived, or refunded, if the office receives written notice that the student will not be attending by July 31st.

TUITION PAYMENTS

Tuition and all fees will be paid through the main office. Monthly invoices will be sent out via email as a reminder, should you not pay your tuition in a timely manner, then the students enrollment may be dropped. All accounts should be closed by the end of the school year.

GRADE PROMOTION

Promotion is not automatic. Enrolled students must attend school at least 170 days out of 180 days. **Only 10 days are permitted** for reasons such as illness, family vacations and the like. Students must also meet the academic and behavioral standards of the school each year in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Any student who is not promoted to the next grade level may be kept in the same grade level for an additional semester under probation. In the event of probation, a clearly defined letter stating the conditions under which probation is given will be sent to the parents. A clearly stated time limit will be included, at the end of which the student must have successfully met the terms of probation in order to be kept in school and/or promoted to the next grade.

Parents are invited and encouraged to discuss their child's progress with the teacher and they will be involved in the decision making process. The best interests of the child are always of prime importance.

STUDENT WITHDRAWALS

Enrollment shall be for the entire year. If unforeseen circumstances require a student to withdraw, the enrollment deposit will be forfeited. If paid tuition is paid in advance, the parent or guardian may request the return of tuition, then the Head of School will evaluate the reasons for withdrawal and approve or disapprove the request. The Head of School will only consider leaving the area, illness of the child or other extreme situations as justification for withdrawal of a child from school.

Tuition

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Payments are due between the 1st and the 5th of each month. All payments should be paid off by mid-May in order to close all school accounts and file a tax audit for the year.

TUITION DETERMINATION

Tuition is partially based on family income and is determined by the Board of Directors. The tuition fee is subject to change each year.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP

Financial aid may be available upon request, through the school. Financial aid is based on demonstrated financial need as exhibited by parents' most recent tax returns. In addition, parents interested in requesting financial aid must submit a letter of interest stating how much they are able to pay monthly toward tuition. Parents of scholarship students are responsible for a partial amount of the tuition and all other school fees, as we do not offer 100% financial assistance.

Students who receive financial aid must maintain scores of B in every subject area, abide by Avicenna's attendance policy, and exhibit excellent behavior. Parents of scholarship fund students may be required to participate in various school ways when needed, as deemed by the Head of School. Parent participation hours are assigned per family. Financial aid is provided only on a yearly basis, and it does not automatically carry from one year to the next.

Avicenna accepts *Choice Scholarships* for families with low income, "vouchers." Proof of income is required via a 1040 tax return, or other documentation, along with a school registration form. After filing with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), the school personnel will contact the parents regarding acceptance or rejection. In the case of the "*On My Way Pre-k voucher program*," the child should be 4 years old by August 1st, must be a Lake county resident and an online application must be submitted.

The *On My Way Pre-k* program will accept or decline a child according to the information filled-in on their website. In the case of acceptance, a packet with an application is sent either by email or mail. The parents are asked to bring in the application to Avicenna to be filled by the Administrative staff. Afterwards, the parents responsibility is to set up an interview with a Gaminus employee through a number provided in the information packet.

FUNDRAISING AND SUPPORT

Avicenna Academy relies on the financial support from parents, grandparents, and friends to sustain the breadth and quality of the educational experience provided for its students. Tuition and fees cover only about 50% of the average cost of educating each child. Contributions and donations to cover a child's education is welcomed and considered Zakat Al-mal.

In addition, there will be fees incurred during the course of the school year which families will be responsible for paying. The nature and amount of such fees shall be determined by the school's board, teachers, and administration; an example of this is a field trip fee, rental of certain items, and or maintenance fees that may occur during the year. and other miscellaneous fees.

UNIFORM POLICY

SCHOOL UNIFORM

French Toast Company is the school uniform supplier. You may order uniforms through the website: www.frechtoast.com. It is imperative that the students follow the uniform dress code exactly. **Uniforms are worn every day and the policy will be enforced.** Students who are out of uniform will not be allowed to attend class unless permission has been granted by the administration: **Friday is FORMAL DAY**, all students are expected to wear their green Cardigan and not other color (starting in October) and on Jum'a prayer.

Boys Uniform:

- Khaki twill pants (no cargo pants, no corduroy). Khaki twill shorts below the knee are acceptable to wear in warm weather.
- Yellow or Green polo shirts, long or short sleeves.
 - a. No t-shirts or HOODED coats or jackets are allowed.
- Forest Green vest or Cardigan.
- Socks (Navy, black, or white).
- Black Shoes or gym shoes are acceptable.

Girls Uniform:

- Green plaid jumper for preschool through fifth grade.
- Green plaid skirt for sixth grade and up.
- **White hijab** is mandatory for all girls during prayer, Jum'a prayer, and Quran class. No other color is accepted.

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- Yellow shirt under the jumper, short or long sleeves for preschool through eighth grade.
 - Socks, stockings and leggings: dark navy or black.
 - Shoes must be black and closed-toe. NO glittery shoes. Sandals are permissible in hot weather (NO flip flops).
 - a. Boots may be worn to school in the winter after (Thanksgiving break and until Spring break).

Optional items:

- Yellow Turtleneck for winter.
- Navy or black pants under jumper/skirt for (girls).

P.E. Clothes:

- Navy, black, or gray gym pants. No leggings unless under shorts.
- Gray or white T-shirt.

DRESS CODE

Although school dress should be comfortable and practical, both parents and faculty must strictly enforce the following dress code standards.

For all students: **All students are required to wear masks at all times during the school day.**

- Clothing and shoes should fit properly, be neat, clean, modest and in good repair.
- Laced shoes must be tied.
- All sweatshirts and jackets should be labeled with the student's name.
- Girls may wear jewelry, in moderation. Boys are not permitted to wear any jewelry.
- Hair should be neat and clean.
 - a) Hair longer than 2” is not allowed for boys.
 - b) Hair longer than shoulder length must be kept in a ponytail for girls
- Children should be prepared for outdoor play in cold weather with appropriate outerwear, including snow pants, gloves, and boots. Recess will be held outdoors at 30 degree weather and a windshield of 15 degrees.
- A set of inexpensive gloves and hats must be kept in school for outdoor recess.
- Complicated fastenings should be avoided.
- Tops, coats and jackets with hoods are strongly prohibited in school by Indiana law.
- **Preschool through first grade** students are strongly required to bring another set of clothing to be kept in class in the event of an accident. It is also required in their supply list by their homeroom teacher.
- No stickers or visible fake tattoos are allowed on any student except Henna.
- Students may not wear makeup, nail polish or fake nails.

Daily prayers in school

There will be no congregational prayer in school or mosque this year due to the pandemic.

- Require hijab for girls. Each girl must have one kept in school for quran class.
- All students are to maintain their nail's length short and cut weekly.
- Clean socks should be changed daily for cleanliness.
- Observation of a student's appearance will be checked daily by their classroom teacher and weekly (Friday) by the Head of the school.

ARRIVAL

Students should arrive at school between 8:00 am and 8:25 a.m. The doors close and lock promptly at 8:30 a.m. unless the car line is still on-going. Students that arrive after this time are to go directly to their homeroom and will be marked tardy. *Parents are discouraged from stopping to talk to teachers during the morning drop-off, unless an appointment has been previously scheduled. Teachers use this time to welcome students and finish preparing for their school day.*

DISMISSAL

School dismisses at 2:30 p.m. Please be prompt when picking up your children. After the last car in the pick-up line leaves, the school doors will close. Parents must personally pick up their children from inside the school building after 3:30 pm.

RELEASE OF STUDENT(S)

The school will attempt to ensure that a child is only released to a person designated by the parents. If there is a change, addition, or deletion of authorized persons, the school must be notified. In the case of emergency changes, please call the school office at least 30 minutes in advance.

DISMISSAL FOR APPOINTMENTS

Appointments and any other commitments for children should be scheduled outside of school hours. In the event that medical, dental, or personal appointments cannot be arranged after hours, you must inform both the school office and your child's teacher. Recurring appointments scheduled during the school day should be made at varying times so that a student does not miss the same class every time.

The child should stay in the room until the parent comes to the office. A member of the office staff will call for the child. This will ensure that the child will not lose learning time. No child will be permitted to wait for his or her parents outside the school. All students must be signed - out before leaving school and must sign back-in upon their return. It is not recommended to make a dental or doctors appointment between the months of February through May as the students are testing and being absent could result in inconvenience of rescheduling the test for them.

DROP OFF AND PICK-UP

When dropping off students, parents must remain in the car. The staff will be in front waiting to help escort the children into school. As traffic pulls forward, you will also. The cars should line up in a single file line. Please do not delay the line by watching your child walk to the front door. For safety reasons, children should only exit their car from the side closest to the sidewalk. No parking is permitted nor should you leave your car unattended in front of the entrance.

CARPOOLS

Although the school assumes no responsibility for the organization or efficient operation of car pools, the office maintains up-to-date information about the location of school families. Parents wishing to join a car-pool may call the office for suggestions. To assist in planning dismissal procedures, copies of car pool lists should be given to the school office. After submitting a list, we will abide by it accordingly. If a parent decides for his or her child to be picked up by someone else, the office must be notified the day before.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance (by law) is Mandatory. Because our children are driven to school, it is very important that we all work together to provide safe conditions for children as they enter and exit the building and school grounds each day. On any day, if someone else will be picking up your child, please notify the school office in advance.

ABSENCES

Regular attendance is vital to successful learning and the development of sound attitudes and work habits. Avicenna Academy strongly discourages student absences. An effective attendance policy requires cooperation on behalf of parents, students and school faculty and staff. Avicenna Academy considers good attendance habits are vital and desirable for our students. Prolonged or frequent absence makes learning difficult.

I. Parent Responsibility

Parents are responsible for having their children in school. Indiana Law requires parents to have their children in public or private school from the age of seven (7) until the date on which the child graduates from school.

II. Absences from School (limited to 10 days per year)

Absences from school shall be as follows: a) excused and b) unexcused.

A. Excused absences:

- a. Illness of the student (a written statement by a parent or doctor must support the absence upon the child's return to school).
- b. Funerals (immediate family, or caregivers who reside with the family).
- c. Medical, dental and legal appointments. (Every effort should be given to schedule these appointments outside of school hours).

B. Unexcused absences:

- a. No parental contact with the school office giving an explanation for the absence.

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- b. No written note from the parent after an absence from the school. A note must accompany the student's return to school.
 - c. No physician's note to excuse an absence once more than five (5) continuous days of absence has occurred (see policy statement below for additional information).
 - d. Family vacations (see policy statement below for additional information).
 - e. Absences other than those defined as excused. (Included here would be absences due to inclement weather where a parent decides not to send the student to school but the school is open).

III. Reporting an Absence/Late Arrival

A parent shall contact the school office before 9:00 am on the day of an absence to report the student's absence or late arrival to school.

For excused absences only, parents who wish to pick up homework assignments for an absent child should observe the following steps:

- 1) Call the school office before 9:00 a.m., so that we may request the homework from the teacher.
- 2) Make arrangements to pick up the homework and needed books from the office in the afternoon.

IV. Frequent or Prolonged Illness

If a student is absent for five (5) consecutive days due to illness, or has contact in a contagious disease, a physician's statement shall be required for the student to return to school and continue learning as an eLearning student for not missing on work and class instructions.

V. Truancy

Avicenna Academy is obligated by the state of Indiana to report habitual truancy to the proper juvenile authorities.

Habitual Truancy may be evidenced by the following:

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- A. Refuse to attend school in defiance of parental authority.
 - B. Accumulating a number of absences without justification. (Avicenna Academy may consider more than seven (7) unexcused absences within a semester as grounds for retention).

VI. Family Trips

Avicenna Academy publishes vacation dates in advance to allow parents to plan for family trips. Use of regular school days to take family trips or extended family vacations during holidays is strongly discouraged. Parents should remember the state of Indiana does monitor school attendance. A high absenteeism can affect our school's state accreditation. In the event that a student in KG-8th grade is to go on a family trip, he or she should continue attending school with the eLearning provided for each class. Failure to show up virtually will result in unexcused absence and it is the responsibility of the parents to keep them on track and do the make-up work. It is necessary for the parent to inform the school or teacher in an email form at least three days in advance of the scheduled trip.

A student is permitted to make up all work, online. In the case of the following reasons:

- A. Illness or family emergencies
- B. Medical or dental appointments that cannot be scheduled outside of school time

VIII. Response to Irregular Attendance

If the school notices that a student has a pattern of irregular attendance, the following procedures may be used to establish a course of regular attendance:

- A. Daily calls from the school office to verify reasons for absence.
- B. If a student is absent more than five (5) days in a grading period, a request for a conference between parents and school officials may be requested to try and resolve the problem.
- C. Referral to juvenile authorities if the school is unable to satisfactorily address the problem with the

student's parents by coming to an agreed upon resolution to ensure regular attendance for the child.

IX. Tardiness

Tardiness to school is handled in the school office. All students are to be in the school building no later than 8:25 am. Avicenna Academy believes that promptness in arrival times is essential to fostering present and future good work habits. Parents are encouraged to work with their children to make sure they arrive in a timely fashion for school. If a student is going to be late and arrive later than 8:30 am, parents must call the office to advise school officials. A student arriving after 8:30 am considered tardy.

X. Medical & Allergy Forms/Illness During School Hours

A medical and allergy form is kept on file in the office for each child so that the school may contact parents when necessary. It is important that we have your child's medication information as well as doctor contact information on that sheet. School officials request that if there are any changes in the medical history of your child to notify the school at once.

When a child becomes ill during school hours, she/he may not leave before reporting to the school office. Parents will be notified and they will be responsible for getting the child home. See the "illness" section of the handbook for guidelines regarding a child's return to school after an illness.

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL AND ELEARNING DAY(S)

If a winter storm or other emergency should prevent Avicenna Academy from opening, parents will be notified by phone through an automatic call messaging system.

Avicenna Academy recognizes the problems students, parents and employees encounter when a question exists regarding whether or not schools will be delayed and/or cancelled. The following guidelines will be used when determining a change in the starting time for school and cancellations:

1. The school administration will make a decision to delay or cancel school by 6:00 a.m. and announce the decision.

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2. When a school delay is announced and inclement weather does not permit school to be in session for the remainder of the day, the school cancellation will be announced prior to 7:00 a.m. Efforts will be made to have students in school for a minimum of 4 hours.

Avicenna is a qualified eLearning school, as a result when school is closed, eLearning will be required by the teachers and students.

VISITORS

There will be no visitors allowed on campus for the current time of the pandemic. Window service will be available for all parents and visitors.

In regular times visitors are required to make arrangements with the school in advance. If a relative would like to visit the school for the day, please get permission at least 24 hours in advance. All visitors must sign in and out of the office. Parents wishing to visit the classroom during school hours must arrange a date and time with the main office.

ILLNESS

If a child reports feeling ill the teacher will treat it as a real concern. School personnel will assess the seriousness of the complaint. A child should not be in school if she/he experiences one or more of the following:

- *Communicable diseases such as chicken pox, strep throat, or pink eye (conjunctivitis)*
- *Active vomiting or diarrhea*
- *Any fever above 99.6 F*
- *Cold or cough symptoms*

If any of these conditions are present during the school day you will be called and required to take your child home. *Students must be free of fever, without medication, for 24 hours before returning to school.*

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Completed immunization records and detailed medical exams from a physician are needed for all incoming new students. At re-enrollment each year parents must make sure all medical records are up to date. If you have questions about your records, contact the school office.

ALLERGY

Each child should have an updated copy of the allergy and medication form on file in the office. Should an emergency occur, this information is of vital importance.

LICE

Avicenna Academy will conduct head lice checks periodically, especially after longer school breaks. If a student is found to have head lice, parents will be informed immediately, and the student must be picked up. The student will be allowed back in class after she/he is treated with medicated shampoo and is lice and nit free for 24 hours.

POTTY ACCIDENTS

Students must be potty trained in order to attend school. We have limited potty accidents to 3 incidents per year. Should your child exceed this limit, they may be dismissed from school until they are fully potty trained.

CODE OF CONDUCT, APPEARANCE, AND ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Avicenna Academy is a Safe Space and automatically obligates students to abide by our Code of Conduct and Appearance. We expect and require excellent behavior and appearance of our students, therefore we have a Zero Tolerance Policy. Behaviors subject to our Zero Tolerance policy are:

- 1. Bullying (verbal or physical), berating, disruption of instructional time, being loud in the hallway, uniform infraction and missing homework.**
- 2. Child Endangerment: Such as physical aggression, verbal aggression, hurtful comments, sexism, disrespect of a teacher, staff or substitute, forming of "cliques" or other exclusive groups.**
- 3. Any other behavior that poses a danger to another person or property.**

If a student violates 1, 2 or 3 above, the following procedures apply:

1. First violation, Verbal warning. Note: School furniture and building vandalism will result in a penalty of \$30 (for each offense) by the child in question. There are no verbal warnings for property damage.
2. Second violation, loss or recess and/or in-school or after school detention, and the student may be required to write a letter of apology. In addition, *the student will have an incident report written on their gradelink report.* NOTE: Out of school suspension is typically reserved for students who are repeat offenders.
3. Third violations could result in suspension, either in-school or out-of-school for a minimum of 1 day up to 2 weeks, depending upon the severity of the offense(s). During suspension the child is not allowed to participate in on-campus activities either.
4. FOURTH OFFENSES will automatically result in the student being expelled, see page 34.
 - a. Appeals Process: If a parent wishes to appeal, they must first contact and notify the Head of School in writing, and the Head of School will notify the Executive Director of the School Board.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE or Child Endangerment:

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1. MINOR Physical aggression or violence such as fighting, the student(s) will automatically receive detention. This will result in the immediate loss of recess and result in “in-school or after-school detention.”
 2. Child Endangerment or Major Physical aggression, unprovoked violence or threats will result in a minimum of 1 day to 2 weeks of in-school or out-of-school suspension.

Avicenna Academy is a Safe Kid Zone, and a comfortable place for all students, staff, teachers and substitutes, therefore behavior that counters that will not be accepted.

SUSPENSION NOTIFICATION: Avicenna Academy will be suspending kids who participate(d) in Child Endangerment, Bullying, Vaping, TikTok or other prohibited actions on campus. If you understand, and agree that Avicenna Academy has a Zero Tolerance policy against Child Endangerment activities, bullying, being disrespectful towards teachers and staff, etc,,,,ot breaking the cell phone Ipad ban; then please read and sign the Safe Kids Suspension Agreement below.

SAFE KIDS SUSPENSION AGREEMENT and LIABILITY WAIVER: If my child violates the aforementioned rules, I will be notified and accept her or his suspension from school for violating school safety rules. I also recognize that Avicenna Academy is NOT LIABLE for the negligent, willful or wanton acts of children or their parents or representatives. Sign on the line below:

HONOR ROLL: Any student involved in any of the prohibited activities above may be removed from Honor Roll.

STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY

All students in grades three through eight will be held accountable for their work habits and conduct. According to our student accountability policy, students may earn time in detention weekly for poor work habits and/or poor conduct. Weekly detentions will be during school and all students who have earned time in detention will have his/her parents notified one day in advance. This provides you with enough time to alter your pick-up schedule accordingly. School furniture and building vandalism will result in a penalty of \$30 (for each offense) by the child in question.

EXPULSION

Avicenna Academy retains the right to suspend or dismiss any student who breaks the Code of Conduct as described above. In addition, any student whose progress is deemed unsatisfactory, whose behavior in the classroom serves as a disturbance to other students, or whose influence does not serve in the best interest of the school may be dismissed at any time.

PARENT INTERFERENCE

Avicenna Academy reserves the right to restrict parent access to campus, to discontinue enrollment, and/or not to re-enroll a student if the school reasonably concludes that the actions of a parent make a positive and constructive relationship with the school impossible, or if a parent otherwise seriously interferes with the school's accomplishment of its goals. We strive for a solid, tight-knit community which is unified in our Islamic Faith, and with a common mission for our students. Any parent behaving contradictory to this mission will threaten the continued enrollment of their student(s) at Avicenna Academy.

INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY USAGE

Avicenna Academy encourages the use of technology to support and reinforce the education imbued within the brick and mortar setting and on field trips. The purpose of this technology is to: provide access to educational resources and reference materials, reinforce the specific subject matter taught, require the use of critical thinking skills, promote tolerance for diverse views, and teach socially appropriate forms of civil discourse and expression. Inappropriate use of the internet or technology, whether personal or school property, is considered a breach of our Code of Conduct and each incident will receive a consequence commensurate with the violation. Any damages to the school Ipads will result in paying half the amount of its repair by the parents.

FOOD POLICY

LUNCH

We ask parents to pack a good, healthy lunch for their child every day. NO unhealthy snack is allowed such as sugary items (cans of soda) and candies and sugary juices. In addition, include foods that are easy for children to open and eat because teachers on duty may not be able to open containers or peel fruits for each child within the short lunch period. When packing your child's lunch, please be considerate of the fact that we are striving to teach our students about nutrition and health and a nutrient-rich lunch further drives home those lessons.

Lunches that require heating are not allowed. Such as NO containers of Ramon noodles, Macaroni and cheese, popcorn bags, soup. The school does not have the means for it. Students are responsible for cleaning up any trash from their lunch at the time designated by their teachers.

SNACKS

There is a snack time in the morning as designated by the classroom teacher. Parents may be asked to bring snacks for a particular day or week. We suggest that you send fruit, crackers, pretzels, etc. Snacks are also sold in the school office for \$.50 cents an item.

BIRTHDAYS

According to Avicenna maintaining a healthy school program, Celebrating birthdays in school is not permissible.

ACADEMIC POLICY

CURRICULUM

Avicenna Academy provides a comprehensive curriculum that offers students a broad range of both academic and religious subjects, including Arabic, Quran, Islamic Studies, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Health & Physical Education. The school is dedicated to providing a strong academic program where children are challenged to learn and excel academically.

ISLAMIC STUDIES

The Arabic and Islamic Studies curriculum focuses on teaching Arabic, Quran recitation, memorization, Ibadah, Seerah of prophet Muhammad, and the other prophets of Allah.

The following aims and objectives have guided the Islamic educational program:

- ◆ To help students read, recite and understand the Quran.
- ◆ To familiarize students with Islamic beliefs, conduct, and way of life.
- ◆ To acquaint students with the life and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), his companions, and other prophets.
- ◆ To provide courses in Arabic to help them recite the Quran.

TEXT BOOKS

Students are responsible for their textbooks going home for homework. Their name should NOT be written on it. A book number will be assigned to each by their teacher. Any damage to the books, such as torn pages or erasure marks will result in a fine of \$.10 cents a damaged page. Any loss of the textbook the family will pay \$50 for the cost of the textbook.

GRADELINK

At Avicenna Academy, teachers record grades online at Gradelink.com. Parents are encouraged to access their child's grades at the end of every week to keep up-to-date on their student's progress. Similarly homework and assignments are posted on the gradlink, online. Each parent will get a code and password to be able to access it.

REPORT CARDS, MID-TERM REPORTS & PROGRESS REPORTS

At the end of each quarter of the school year, students in first grade and up receive report cards. Students in Kindergarten receive report cards after the second and fourth quarters and progress reports after the first and third quarters. Preschool and Junior Kindergarten will receive progress reports at the end of each quarter.

All students in first grade and up receiving a grade of C or below, in any subject, will be given a progress report around the third and seventh weeks of the quarter.

All students in first grade and up will receive a mid-term progress report, regardless of earned grade in class. This will be issued during the fifth week of the quarter.

CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled at the behest of either the teacher or the parent. All parents interested in scheduling a conference to discuss their students academic or social progress must call the office.

ASSESSMENTS

Avicenna Academy will be utilizing NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress for students in Kindergarten and up. This test will be given three times a year and will aid the teachers in decision making within the classroom. Annual reports will be made available to students.

In addition, Avicenna Academy, as a state-accredited school, will be administering ILEARN + and IREAD assessments annually to all students in third grade and higher.

HOMEWORK

In order to aid faculty, parents, and students, a specific homework policy has been established. Students are expected to complete homework assignments on time except for instances of illness or other excused absences. Students must come to school with all completed homework assignments.

Some homework may need to be done with a parent, such as learning a spelling list or memorizing math facts and Quran memorization. However, constant parental help with homework may slow a child's growth. We should encourage our students to work independently. Children should be reminded about neatness, completeness, following directions, etc. Parents should not revise the homework. Children will learn from their mistakes and take great pride in their accomplishments. Part of homework is an online assignment through a designated platform.

Avicenna Academy has adopted a new policy wherein homework is limited to that which is absolutely necessary. If a student does not finish class work in the allotted time, then it will become homework. In addition, spelling may be sent home regularly as the only way to learn spelling words is to practice them repeatedly.

FIELD TRIPS

We at Avicenna Academy consider field trips an essential part of the educational experience. Classroom learning is supplemented and reinforced by well-chosen and meaningful trips. (A student may be denied traveling going on a field trip for violating the school Code of Conduct prior to the trip)

Written approval from the parent or guardian is required for participation for all field trips. If permission slips are not received by the due date, the child may be excluded from the activity/trip and will be required to complete an Elearning day

Most teachers arrange for a number of field trips during the year. Some field trips for fourth grade and up may require an overnight stay. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to drive students on a field trip. They must follow the field trip driver's guidelines exactly and provide proof of insurance on their vehicle. Drivers must make sure students have their seat belts on at all times.

Students need to be aware that when attending a field trip they are a representative of Avicenna Academy, and are subject to the same rules and high expectations of appropriate behavior as if they are in school. Failure to behave on a field trip may result in a child not being allowed to attend the next field trip.

Dress code for field trips depends on the nature of the trip and will be indicated on the permission slip.

RECESS

All children are expected to go out for recess each day unless a note from the child's doctor is received stating why they should be excused from recess. Students may be required to stay in for recess to make up any unfinished work they might have. Students must, at all times, observe all recess rules and dress appropriately for the weather conditions. As a disciplinary measure, recess privileges may be denied.

The rules for recess are as follows:

- ◆ Walk to recess.
- ◆ Students are to be accompanied by a teacher adult at all times,
- ◆ No pushing or hurtful playing,
- ◆ No violent toys or figures,

In case of an injury the supervising teacher will complete and file an accident report to the school office. Should an accident requiring medical attention occur during school hours, parents will be notified.

MOSQUE

The Mosque is a sacred house of Allah. Excellent behavior is expected there. Specific rules for students for the Mosque are as follows:

- ◆ Take shoes off and place them on the shelf in the designated shoe area.
- ◆ Walk; do not run.
- ◆ Speak in a low voice.

-
- ◆ Perform Salat (prayer) respectfully and back to school.

JUM'A, FRIDAY PRAYER

Students in 2nd grade and up can attend Jum'a (group) prayer. Time of attending Jum'a prayer for Avicenna students is about 1:35 - 2:20 pm. Girls are to go in White Hijab and boys in long pants. Student (s) with no Hijab, dirty clothes, not in proper uniform, or long nails must stay in class until others come back. After prayer time is finished, everyone should be back in class to finish their daily work. There is still one hour of school remaining after Jum'a prayer. Parents are strongly discouraged from picking their students up early after prayer.

BATHROOM

Special consideration should be taken at certain times when using the bathroom areas for ablution.

Our set of rules is listed below:

- Students may not walk without shoes or slippers in the bathroom.
- 3rd graders and up will make wudu only, they will wipe over shoes.
- Student leaders and homeroom teachers are to supervise the act of wudu.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS

ISLAMIC

The school will be closed for several days for **Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha** if it applies.

NON- ISLAMIC

Although at Avicenna Academy we respect the holidays of other faiths, certain holidays will not be celebrated:

Halloween: Halloween has its roots in Pagan traditions. The school will not allow Halloween symbols for decoration nor allow students to bring Halloween treats to school.

Christmas: Christmas will fall during our winter break. During this season, the Islamic Studies Teacher may discuss Prophet Jesus (AS) and his place in Islam.

Easter: Easter is a Christian holiday, but such symbols as the Easter bunny and Easter eggs have their roots in Pagan customs. We will not promote any activities nor accept any items connected to such customs.

Valentine's Day: Valentine's Day also has Pagan roots and is directly linked to the discouraged style of love and dating. As this is contrary to the Islamic model, we will not celebrate Valentine's Day nor the use of color and decoration.

SCIENCE FAIR

The science fair is held in the fall semester and it showcases the students' understanding of the process of scientific inquiry and their problem-solving skills. Parents and members of the community are encouraged to attend to support the students.

ISLAMIC FAIR

Each year in the fall, Avicenna will hold an Islamic Fair. Our students will showcase their understanding of various aspects of Islamic faith. Parents and members of the community are encouraged to attend to support the students.

HAJJ SIMULATION

Each year and during Hajj season the students perform hajj simulation in school as a group. Parents are encouraged to attend to video record or photograph the simulation.

QURAN MEMORIZATION RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Quran memorization recognition takes place at the end of each quarter of the year. The Quran teacher will determine the students who will be recognized and awarded. This is a chance for the students to work on their tajweed and recitation skills. This will take place in the foyer area or the library, on a Friday after Jum'a prayer in order for parents to attend and take a photo of their child.

END OF SCHOOL CEREMONY

During the last week of school, the students will be acknowledged for their academic performance. Kindergarten and the eighth graders will have a graduation ceremony and all other grades will have a grade promotion. Parents and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend.

FIELD DAY

Field Day is an exciting event that takes place at the end of the school year. Teachers and students spend the day participating in fun activities such as games, painting, barbequing, etc. Parents are welcome to attend, participate and help.

In the event that we collaborate with another school to hold Field Day, parents will be informed in advance.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

After-school activities may be offered at Avicenna Academy. These activities may vary from athletic opportunities to art clubs to Robotic Club etc. These programs occur on different days and require a permission slip signed in advance to attend. There may be an additional fee for these programs. Please encourage your children to take advantage of them. A list of programs will be sent home with your children as the year progresses.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising may be done within the school vicinity in different ways. Variety of fundraisings would be such; pizza lunch, Movie & popcorn movie, M & M bags, and Ramadan Flower, donut & hot Chocolate. These fundraising are set up in advance in set dates and times. These are fun ways to make money to support our school Arabic Day and other events!

COMMUNICATION

SCHOOL WEBSITE

General information is available online at www.avicennaacademy.org However, due to security concerns NO REMINDERS of upcoming events or other information will be posted online.

WRITTEN MESSAGES

Notes requesting that students be excused early for doctor appointments, transportation arrangements, etc...must be in the office by 10:00 that morning. Parents should notify the school whenever they will be out of town, giving the office the name and the telephone number of the person who will be in charge of their children during their absence. The office should always be notified when there has been a change of transportation plans.

TELEPHONES

Students may not use the office phones except for emergencies or with special permission. They must inform their teacher and either the teacher or office staff will make the call home.

Teachers along with students cannot receive phone calls during class time. If you need to speak with a teacher, or your child, the office will be happy to take the message and the teacher or students will call back during passing time, recess, or prep time. Time on the phone takes away from instructional time.

CELL PHONES & IPADS

If a parent allows their child to bring a cell phone to school, they must understand that the school will, at no time, be responsible for the phone. Cell phones must always be turned off and kept away. If a student is caught with a phone or using their phone or someone else's phone, then the phone will be confiscated immediately and kept in the office for a period of one month. All iPads and tablets are treated the same way. Only school devices can be used in class and under the teacher's supervision. Parents should sign a technology agreement for their child to use the school network.

FAMILY CRISIS

Parents should keep the school informed about anything that might affect the performance of their children. Deaths, divorce, separation, serious illnesses, or other life crises are very private matters, and yet they can disturb students in many ways. Therefore, we urge you to share any such issue, in confidence, with the school administration so we can help your child through the difficult time.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

All lost and found articles are kept in the school office. All items that are not picked up by the end of each semester will be donated to charity. Please put your child's name on personal belongings and uniform items as this will help in returning them to the rightful owner. Parents are advised to check from time to time for missing items.

SAFETY

All doors will be locked at all times. Parents and visitors must enter from the main school entrance. Visitors must ring the bell, and a staff member will let them in. Any parent volunteering at or visiting the school must sign in and out in the office. Students are never allowed to open school doors for anyone. If a parent is picking up their child, they must wait and sign in the office and an office staff member will send the child to the office.

SCHOOL BUS

Avicenna Academy has designated a bus service for the Highland area students. The pick up and drop off will be from Highland mosque parking lot. Parents wishing to enroll their child in the bus must put a \$300 deposit to ensure a spot for their child for

the year. A monthly charge will apply to each student riding the bus. There are only 14 spots in the bus and it is based on a first come first serve.

BUS MEETING POINT AND TIMES

The school bus meeting point for morning pick up and evening drop off will be announced yearly at the beginning of the year.

DEPARTURE TIME

The bus will be leaving the first stop promptly at 7:30 a.m. If parents are late, it will be their responsibility to drive their child/en to school in the morning.

BUS RULES FOR RIDING SAFELY

All students riding the school bus, must abide by these rules:

- Must sit properly facing forward and wear seat belts.
- Place a bag by your feet or on your lap.
- Keep arms and hands inside the bus.
- Throwing objects inside or outside the bus is not allowed.
- Students must talk in low voices, the driver needs to concentrate on driving safely. Fighting, shouting, or use of obscene language is not permitted.
- dangerous objects, disturbing, or annoying objects are not permitted on the bus.
- All students should wear masks.
- Eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not allowed on the bus at all times. This rule prevents choking, allergies, and maintains bus cleanliness.
- Smoking is not permitted on the bus.
- Always follow the driver's instructions.
- Remain in the seat until the bus comes to a complete stop. No moving from seats during the bus movement.

The School Bus is considered property of Avicenna Academy as a result, the same Code of Conduct from this book applies to the bus, in particular our Zero Tolerance Policies.

RIDING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

- Students will be dropped at the school's back door.
- Students will be picked up from the school back door by the playground at dismissal time at 2:25 p.m. Bus will leave the school premises at 2:30 pm sharp.
- When riding do not push or shove. Abide by the driver's instruction.

PROMPT PICK UP & DROP OFF FROM MEETING POINT

Parents should be waiting at the meeting point with their child 10 minutes before the bus arrives. The Bus driver will not wait for late students in the morning. It is the responsibility of the parents to drive their child/ren to school if they miss the bus. Similarly, at drop off time; parents should be present and ready to pick up their child/ren promptly at the end of the day from the designated meeting point.

BUS RESPONSIBILITY

It is the decision of the Board of Avicenna Academy that any dispute between children occurring on the school bus is to be peacefully resolved by the child's parents. Avicenna Academy cannot be responsible for the behavior of your children when they are on the bus, it is up to the parents to teach proper behavior. Avicenna Academy is only responsible for student's behavior when they are on campus, not on the bus. Once the children leave the building, the children are under the care of the bus driver for their safe arrival to and from school.

However, the bus driver cannot control foul language, hitting or touching, the parents must teach their children not to behave that way. Bus rules have been passed on to all parents of bus riders, please read those rules carefully. We expect good behavior on the bus. Any misconduct is the parent's responsibility to peacefully solve and to talk with their child. Any misbehavior that disrupts Mrs. Dania's ability to drive the bus will result in having the child who caused the disruption to be suspended from the bus for one day and they must ride with his/her parents the next day. If the child disrupts safe travels again, then he or she will be suspended from the bus again.

This page must be signed and returned to the office

Two Agreements:

Agreement 1

On-Line Learning Program Agreement

First Quarter August 31- November 4, 2020

Dear Parent(s),

With the consideration to our wellbeing of our students for the upcoming Academic Year, and with the help of Allah, we have decided to open Avicenna with in-person learning and offer an online learning option for families who wish to keep their children home.

You must choose 1 of 2 academic pathways. Pathway 1 is On-Campus learning. Pathway 2 is Online learning.

By choosing Pathway 2 (online learning) that means your child cannot come onto campus for the first quarter, she or he must remain in the home online program. However, once you transition to online, then your child must remain online until the second quarter. There is absolutely no transitioning back and forth.

Agreement 2

Technology Use Agreement

To access e-mail and/or the Internet at school, students must obtain parent permission on this form. Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. The Academy Internet connection is provided for educational purposes only. Unauthorized and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of this privilege.

Avicenna Academy has implemented technology protection measures which **block/filter Internet access to visual displays that are obscene or harmful to minors. Avicenna Academy also monitors online activity of students to restrict access to material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate, and/or harmful to minors.** Parents/guardians are advised that determined users may be able to gain access to information, communication and/or services on the Internet which the School Board has not authorized for educational purposes and/or which they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume this risk by consenting to allow their students to participate in the use of the Internet. Students accessing the Internet through the school's computers assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet.

Avicenna Academy has the right to monitor, review and inspect any directories, files and/or messages residing on or sent using the Academy's computers/networks. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Student User's Name: _____ Grade: _____

School Parent/Guardian: _____

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines and have discussed them with my child. I understand that student access to the Internet is designed for educational purposes and that the Academy has taken available precautions to restrict and/or control student access to material on the Internet that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. However, I recognize that this is impossible for the Academy to restrict access to all objectionable and/or controversial materials that may be found on the Internet. I will not hold Avicenna Academy administrations and staff responsible for materials my child may acquire or in contact with while on the Internet. Additionally, I accept responsibility for communicating to my child guidance concerning his/her acceptable use of the Internet - i.e., setting, and conveying standards for my child to follow when selecting, sharing and exploring information and resources on the Internet. I further understand that individuals and families may be liable for violations. To the extent that proprietary rights in the design of a web site hosted on Avicenna Academy servers would vest in my child upon creation, I agree to assign those rights to the Academy. Teachers and the Head of School are responsible for determining what is unauthorized or inappropriate use. The Head of School may deny, revoke or suspend access to the Network/Internet to individuals who violate the **Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines**, and take such other disciplinary action as is appropriate pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct. Please check to allow internet access and care agreement.

If your iPad set is damaged and needs repair during the remote learning, bring it to Avicenna Office. While being repaired, a loaner will be given to replace it if available. When repaired the parent will be notified the iPad set is at Avicenna Office and can be picked-up when the repair charges are paid.

COST TO REPAIR AN IPAD SET

The amount to repair a damaged Chromebook fluctuates based on part availability and vendor cost.

The cost of the parts is charged to the parent to repair the damage. Labor is not included in the charge.

- Screen \$70.00
- AC adapter \$20.00
- Keyboard \$40
- Loss of the iPad set \$300

I give permission for my child to use and access the Internet at school and for Avicenna Academy to issue an Internet/e-mail account to my child. I agree to pay all repair damages and/or loss.

_____ **I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT.** (Please type your initials on the line if you agree)