

The Sunday School

September 18, 2011

Dear Parents
Aslamu Alaikum,

On behalf of all the Arabic teachers at the Sunday School, I would like to welcome you and your children to the 2011-2012 school year. I am Dr. Amal Sakr Elhoseiny, head of the Arabic language department of the Sunday School at the Islamic Center of Southern California.

In our Sunday School, we want to provide your children with a quality academic education based on high moral values in an Islamic environment. Teaching Arabic Language to our children in America is a big responsibility Allah (SWT) entrusted us with. We thank Allah (SWT) for giving us this chance to teach the most important language, which is the language of the Qur'an. The American Muslim needs adequate Arabic Language skills (listening, comprehending, reading and writing) to be able to read and comprehend the Qur'an, and to understand Islam from its authentic sources. We appreciate the continuous efforts of the Bureau of Islamic and Arabic Education (BIAE) and the Aldeen Foundation for providing us with all the helpful media tools and workshops to qualify the Arabic teachers to achieve the best level in teaching Arabic to your children.

Our goal for the students in Pre-K is to love the Arabic language while learning qur'anic words, greetings of Islam and coloring pictures that match the vocabulary the students learn. The students in Kindergarten will recognize the letters, color pictures that begin with the sounds of the letters and trace over letters. The students in 1st and 2nd level will learn the short and long vowels; so that they will be able to read, comprehend and write the vocabulary they learn. The students in the 3rd through the 5th level will be able to read and write the words and sentences they learn. To increase the students' exposure to the Arabic language, language of the Qur'an the principal of the school ensured that the Arabic teacher teaches Quran class as well. All students, according to their level will be able to recognize the letters and/ or vocabulary they learn in the verses of the Quran. Teachers go over the differences between short and long vowels' pronunciation in the class, but we still need your help at home to reinforce your children's academic learning. Please encourage your children to listen to their CDs, repeat and speak out loud with it to enhance their language skills and pronunciation. Internet websites are always useful and enjoyable tools to increase and support your child's learning, if he/ she is interested, here are some of them:

<http://www.harfkids.com/index.aspx>

<http://www.kids.jo/main/StoryCat.aspx>

<http://kids.islamweb.net/>

We are looking forward to an exciting year. If you have any question or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the school. Your support is really appreciated.

Sincerely,

Amal Sakr Elhoseiny, Ph.D.
Arabic language Dept. Head