

Assalamu Alaikum Aqsa Families,

Inshallah this letter reaches you while you are in the best of health and high iman. We pray that all are enjoying their summer while staying safe and taking all precautions to stay healthy.

We have been busy all summer closely monitoring the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to determine the best way to proceed for the upcoming school year. As we announced in the beginning of July, Alhamdulillah we were given the authorization by the Governor's office to open up the schools in August. We have studied the requirements for Phase 3 and Phase 4 openings and have been actively preparing our school for in person learning.

Our first day of school is set for Monday, August 31, 2020
Inshallah. Registration is open and forms can be downloaded from the website (www.aqsa.edu).

The school is also open Tuesday through Friday from 10am to 2pm throughout July.

Aqsa School administration has carefully consulted with the Illinois State Board and the Illinois Department of Health to implement into our school plan all recommended safety and health guidelines. This includes but is not limited to:

- All sensor hand sanitizer stations
- All sensor soap dispensers
- All sensor hand dryers
- All staff and student health intake and temperature checks daily
- Designating a quarantine space for any student presenting with symptoms
- All staff and students will be required to wear masks. Younger students will have a face shield option.
- All hallways will be one direction
- All classrooms will be set up with social distancing of desks. Students will not be seated in groups and will be front-facing.
- visits to lockers will be staggered
- Use of reusable water bottles instead of drinking directly from the water fountain.
- Hallways and certain staircases marked as one-way when possible.
- Floor markings for students to visualize the 6-foot social distancing requirement.
- lunch periods will be staggered and no more than 50 people will be in the Multipurpose Assembly Room at any given time
- Prayer will be staggered with no more than 50 people in the Multipurpose Assembly Room at any give time and each student will be responsible to bring their own prayer rug and social distancing during prayer will take place.
- Any Physical Education classes will follow the guidelines of social distancing and no contact sports.
- Stringent sanitation will take place throughout the day and in every classroom and in all areas of the school frequented by students or staff following the recommendations of the CDC, IDPH, and local health departments.
- Windows will remain open when possible to increase ventilation
- Individualized student items labeled and stored for single student use only

- In our elementary grades, carpets will be removed and students will have their own carpet square or mat which will be sanitized daily.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, however Inshallah it offers insight into the many changes and precautions we are taking for the safety and health of our students and faculty. We will do everything to keep our students and staff healthy, safe and educated throughout these uncertain times. We are doing everything we can and placing our Ultimate Trust in Allah (SWT) and pray for His Protection always.

If you should have any questions feel free to contact Ms. Ismail through her assistant, Ms. Nawab at fnawab@aqsa.edu. Jazakum Allahu Kharun!

Sincerely,

Ms. Tammie Ismail
Principal
Aqsa School