



## **Andalusia Middle School News – September and October, 2013**

---

### **Message from Sister Hanade Sarar, Middle School Instructional Leader**

Alhamdulillah, periodically Middle School will send out a newsletter. The newsletter is a communication tool to inform you of activities, outstanding issues, upcoming tests, academic issues, events, trips, and much more. I am thrilled to report that the 2013 – 2014 school year is off to a great start! The couple of months were productive and positive in every way. They were filled with exciting in class activities that have set the foundation for a great year. The first semester will end the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December. Insh-Allah you will receive your child's first progress report the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November. The report reflects your child's overall progress in all the subjects up to date. Please work with your child to improve areas of concern.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony is coming soon. Andalusia Middle School is a chapter in the NJHS for two years now. The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) are the nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serve to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship. These characteristics are a must to be nominated. Please look for a letter inviting you to celebrate your child's success.

**Upcoming Trips:** Andalusia Middle School is planning to go on a field trip Dec 4th, 2013. We are going to Chamber Theatre Production. They will be in Terry Town NY that day. Chamber Theatre Productions has provided students and teachers of literature and language arts with original adaptations of classic short stories. Rather than present only one story per performance, they have developed a unique format of presenting five separate short stories by five different authors within a 90-minute time frame, allowing them to offer a broad range of styles and genres for teachers to highlight within their classroom. Besides being used as a valuable teaching tool, their productions provide students with a field trip experience that is both educational and entertaining. This trip is mandatory for all middle school students.

#### **Policy Reminders:**

**School Uniform:** Students are required to wear a full uniform to school every day. Please comply with the school uniform policy. If you need a copy of the uniform policy you can find it on line at [www.andalusiaschool.org](http://www.andalusiaschool.org)

#### **Arriving to School on Time:**

It is critical that your child arrives to school on time, ready, and prepared every day. This will enhance your child's performance. Three days of lateness is considered one day absence.

### **In The Class:**

In Middle School **English** class this year, students will do many types of activities and focus on different aspects of English (literature, writing essays/short stories, Common Core workbook activities, Scholastic high interest reading, etc.). Currently in 6<sup>th</sup> grade we are focusing on writing compare and contrast based essays. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we are focusing on adding details to our writing and pulling context clues to better write an essay. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade we recently focused on how to write a research paper. Alhamdulillah, we have covered a lot within the last couple of months and soon we will begin reading novels and integrating technology into our learning.

The **mathematics** curriculum at Andalusia Middle School develops students' knowledge, skills, and proficiency in numerous mathematical areas and topics. The curriculum stresses problem solving, applications, and connections across subject areas. The curriculum embodies the learning goals supported by the Common Core of Standards. Students investigate multi-faceted, real world math applications and problems in order to develop a deep understanding of the underlying math concepts and principles. Assignments that require students to explain, justify, and communicate their strategies and solutions reinforce these concepts and procedures.

Middle School **Arabic** at Andalusia School is off to a great start. Students have been placed into either the Novice or Intermediate Level based on placement testing. This will better enable us to track Student progress and advance student learning. Speaking, listening, reading and writing are developed in Andalusia's Arabic program by utilizing Islamic texts. Our ultimate goal in teaching the Arabic language is for students to be viable and fluent in all aspects of reading, writing, comprehension and conversation.

It is significant that students comprehend materials presented. In middle school **science**, teacher utilizes easy to understand language to introduce every lesson. Students are assigned distinct vocabulary relating to the topic. They are to listen and take notes during lecture. Often, teacher uses video and practical demonstrations. Students are regularly assigned to work in cooperative groups and make class presentations. Reading text and handout is essential when they are assigned class work and homework.

In **Social Studies** we are focusing on learning history through literacy by reading and comprehending non-fiction text. Parents play an important role in developing their child's reading skills. Please encourage your child to read at least once a week a non-fiction text such as a newspaper article. Reading changes lives so encourage your child to read. Also, please encourage your children to prepare for the test by reviewing their class notes, textbook and study guides.

Middle School **Computer** class's goal is for these topics taught to introduce your child to educational uses for computers that will allow them to succeed not only in their other classes here at Andalusia School, but in future studies and jobs as well.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER: Congratulation!

<b>QURAN</b>	<b>Abida Rohana Gr-8</b>
<b>ARABIC</b>	<b>Khalisa Gafur Gr-7</b>
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>Khadijah Kamal Gr-6</b>
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>Qusay Alomari Gr-6</b>
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>Afsana Rahman Gr-7</b>
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>Aysha Dzhambekova Gr-6</b>
<b>COMPUTER</b>	<b>Sarah Alaeddin Gr-8</b>

Andalusia Middle School teachers are required to call or email and communicate with parents on a regular basis. I hope you had the opportunity to do so with your child's teachers. Please find the list of your child's teachers email addresses below.

<b>Subject/Grade</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
English/ 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Yaminah Logan	yaminah.logan@gmail.com
Math/ 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> <b>MS Instructional Leader</b>	<b>Hanade Sarar</b>	<b>hanade1@netzero.net</b>
Science/ 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Ramin Choudhury	raminulchoudhury@yahoo.com
Social Studies/ 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Sonia Chinn	chinnsonia@yahoo.com
Arabic Level A/ 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Othman	ibmurtala@yahoo.com
Arabic Level B/ 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Ibrahim Murtala	ibmurtala@yahoo.com
Quran/ 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sherin Hedyia	sherinhedyia@yahoo.com
Quran/ 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>	Ibrahim Murtala	ibmurtala@yahoo.com
Islamic Studies/ 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Ismail Rashid	ismailrashid19@gmail.com
Computer/ 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Umme Ayisha	uayesha4@gmail.com
Physical Education- Boys	Alaa Huda	aladin20@gmail.com
Physical Education- Girls	Dina Abdel-massih	dina.abdelmassih@gmail.com
Art	Amina Erika	erikaamina@gmail.com
Andalusia Main Office	Office staff	andalusiaoffice2@gmail.com

Thank you for being a critical part of our school community and for your continued efforts to help our students succeed. Your commitment to being part of our team has a profound impact on our student's academic achievements and success. Now is the time for students (and to a certain extent, parents) to make appropriate adjustments in study skills and environment to prepare for continued success. Parents should make sure their children are studying in a well-lit and spacious area where they will not "space out" and will be able to focus on and stay interested in their studies during homework time. Parents should create an environment where children can practice what they learn at school. Also, you should keep computers in a central location so they can be monitored, so fast fingered students aren't clicking away on Face book. Just a few helpful hints as we begin November. Remember, by establishing good habits now, we are setting our students up to be successful at the next level!

We look forward to sharing our excellence with you throughout the year in many different venues. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions or concerns.

School news  
at your fingertips

