



Andalusia Middle School Newsletter - 1st Trimester 2014/2015

Thus far our Middle Schoolers had an awesome start of the year with tons of energy and eagerness to learn. Alhamdulillah, we have a strong team of professionals this year who are trying their best to strengthen your child's reading, writing, and critical thinking skills aligned with the new NY State Common Core Standards. Furthermore, the staff is working hard to integrate and implement the Islamic characters and morals that we hold dear to our hearts. We must come together in collaborating and investing in our future leaders. This periodic newsletter is aimed at briefing parents and informing them of our news, activities and endeavors in Middle School. We strongly recommend and urge your consistent cooperation and involvement.

Upcoming Events:

National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony is coming soon. Andalusia Middle School is a chapter in the NJHS for three 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:

Place: Hudson Valley Museum in Yonkers NY. **Date:** January 21st, 2015

The Hudson Valley Museum is a complex that includes six art galleries, the Andrus Planetarium, and Glenview Mansion, an historic house museum of 1876. Students will be viewing fine art, learning about our solar system, and visiting a classic mansion once owned by Early Colonial Americans' elite. Teachers will also integrate what they have learned at the museum into their lessons.

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

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.

Tips for Success:

With the New Common Core Standards, New York along with other States, has taken a large leap in standardizing academics. There is much more emphasis now on critical thinking and deep conceptual analysis as opposed to the prior information-based instruction. America is preparing our children to compete with the rest of the world with real life productive skills in areas like critical thinking, mathematics, technology, science, and so forth. Below are some links to important websites that students can look to for common core standards and to also help with individual subjects

<http://www.corestandards.org>

<http://www.khanacademy.org>

<https://learnzillion.com>

<https://www.brainpop.com>

Username for Brainpop: Yonkers26 Password: yonkers

In The Classroom:

In Middle School **English** class this year, students will work with various texts to develop proficient reading and writing skills. We will utilize fiction novels, informational texts, Common Core workbooks, and other materials to bolster these skills. Currently, all classes are reading and working with texts that allow them to learn about new cultures and challenging environments. In 6th grade, we're reading a fictional novel, *The Lightning Thief*, in which teenage hero Percy Jackson applies his knowledge of ancient Greek mythology to save the world. Our 7th graders are focused on *A Long Walk to Water*, a narrative written from two young Sudanese perspectives, each trying to overcome hardship in a desolate environment. Finally, in 8th grade, we're reading *Inside Out & Back Again*, a collection of poems which detail one family's struggle to survive war-torn Vietnam.

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**, students are learning about the vast history of our complex and dynamic world as we know it today. Students are motivated in unlocking the mysterious and mystical treasures of our past. Brother Ala is integrating learning Social Studies through literacy and critical thinking. He's also taking it a step further and continuously asks the students to look at events and history through the lens of their Islamic intuition.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE MONTH FROM SEP - NOV 2014

SUBJECT	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
MATH	Sameeha Tasnim	Ayoub Rached	Abdullah Naqv
ENGLISH	Mohammed Yousef	Fatima Zahra	Khalisa Gafur
SCIENCE		Qusay Alomary	Fatima Zahra
SOCIAL STUDIES		Brendon Ramos	Khadijah Kamal
ISLAMIC STUDIES	Tasnima Ihsan	Sameeha Tasnim	
QURAN	Sameeha Tasnim		Jenna Masoud
ARABIC	Sumai Bin Hussein	Kareema Ghaswala	Mohammed Yousef

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.

Subject/Grade	Teacher	E-mail
English/ 6 th -8 th	James Finnan	jfinnan21@gmail.com
Math/ 6th-8th MS Instructional Leader	Hanade Sarar	hanade1@netzero.net
Science/ 6 th -8 th	Luqman	luk-lek@hotmail.com ,
Social Studies/ 6 th -8 th	Aladin Huda	aladinh20@gmail.com
Arabic Level A/ 6 th -8 th	Nagla Abdel Karim	nonaruffai@hotmail.com
Arabic Level B/ 6 th -8 th	Ibrahim Murtala	ibmurtala@yahoo.com
Quran/ 6 th	Rania Albashayreh	rwalomari@gmail.com
Quran/ 7 th and 8 th	Ibrahim Murtala	ibmurtala@yahoo.com
Islamic Studies/ 6 th -8 th	Ismail Rashid	ismailrashid19@gmail.com
Computer/ 6 th -8 th	Umme Ayisha	uayesha4@gmail.com

Physical Education- Boys	Abdul Wali	
Physical Education- Girls	Radeyah Khan	radeyahikhan@gmail.com
Art	Nahed Sarar	nsarar83@yahoo.com
Andalusia Main Office	Office staff	office@andalusiaschool.org

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.

