

Welcome to Kindergarten A ~ The Shining Star's Class Family!

2021-2022 School Year

ISI VISION

To be the Islamic school of choice in North Texas weaving academic excellence with highest morals and ethics.

MISSION

To provide our children an environment which will enable them to achieve their highest potential, founded on Islamic morals, scholastic excellence, and good citizenship.

As Salamu Alaikum Dear KGA Families,

By the grace and mercy of Allah (swt) I have been with ISI since 1997. I hold a degree in Child Day Care Management and I am a National Geographic Certified Educator.

I am your sister in faith, a mother, and a grannymama! I enjoy the outside world, as it brings me a sense of inner-peace as well as reflections upon the creations of Lord, Allah (swt).

Again, it is my pleasure to be your child's teacher.

If at any time you feel the need to contact me, you may do so by email brenda.bleakney@islamicschoolofirving.org, *Make sure you state your child's full name. You may also call the front office 972-812-2230 to set up an appointment.

Sister Brenda aka Auntie B.: Homeroom Teacher

Email: brenda.bleakney@islamicschoolofirving.org

Sister Shahina: Assistant Teacher

Jazak'Allahu Khaiyran

Families in Islam,
Wa Alaikum As Salam,
Sister Brenda Bleakney

Curriculum areas we will focus on this year include:

ELAR: Students will read and write about the units listed below. As they progress through each unit, they will develop and apply key comprehension skills that good readers use along with social emotional skills. Families , Friends, Transportation , Food, Animals, Neighborhood, Weather,Plants, Amazing Animals, and I Know A Lot!

Math: Calendar Skills, Match & Sort, Order & Number, Shapes, Measurement, Geometry, Patterns, Graphing, Capacity, Skip Counting, Addition & Subtraction Skills, Telling Time, and Money Skills

Science: Safety & Rules, Investigating Weather, The Five Senses, Animals are Amazing - Life Science, Earth, Plant Life, Physical Science,

Social Studies: Families, Friends, Homes, Neighborhoods, Globes & Maps, Country & City Life, Rules & Laws, Leaders & Role Models, Holidays, Many States - One Country, Citizens Rights & Responsibilities, Ecomcomics, Inventions - History

Students are asked to bring the following supplies to school before August 16th, Insha'Allah.

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| 1. Pencil Box | Please keep the following at home until needed: |
| 2. Two Pencils | 1. Colored Construction Paper |
| 3. One Large Eraser | 2. Ziplock Bags |
| 4. Pair of Child Safety Scissors | 3. Kleenex |
| 5. Box of Markers | |
| 6. Box of Colored Pencils | |
| 7. Box of Crayons | |
| 8. 2 Elementary Primary Story Writing Notebooks (*Marbled Front Cover) | |
| 9. 2 Pocket Folders with Brads | |
| 10. Watercolor Paint Set | |
| 11. 1 Tablet of Watercolor Paper | |
| 12. 2 Dry Erase Markers | |
| 13. 1 Small Dry Erase White Board with Dry Erase Eraser | |
| 14. 2 Glue Sticks | |
| 15. 1 Small Package of Playdough | |

Home Reading ~ Homework: Old-fashion quality time with the family.

Weekly Reading logs: We request that you read with your child 20 minutes each day.

*Once we are cleared, Insha'Allah, from the safety procedures of COVID.

*If you would like to come and read a story to the class, please email me. We would love to have you! *I also encourage fathers to come and read to our class.

Communication / Meetings:

I wish to express the importance of open communication between each of us. Building our communication bridge will help improve your child's education & social skills. Remember, what is said between you and I regarding the wellbeing of your child, will stay between us, unless other school personnel need to be informed.

Our KGA ClassDojo will be set up soon. It is a form of communication & a look into our weekly activities. An email will be sent out explaining further instructions.

Salat:

Alhumdulillah, Monday – Thursday we will be praying in the class. Please help reinforce the manners and actions for salat (prayer). Your continuous help is very much appreciated.

Regarding our little girls and dress code for salat. As we know, it is not mandatory for them to wear hejab, however if they would like to wear one it is perfectly fine. They may keep a hejab in their backpack. I suggest that you place it inside of a zip-lock bag before it goes in the backpack.

Needed: Small Prayer Mat

Lunch & Snack:

Alhamdulillah, here at ISI we strive for healthy foods. Candy bars, sugary drinks, etc. everyday is a no-no. Soda is not allowed. Carrot sticks, fruit, nuts, banana chips, pudding, and much more are better for our growing minds and bodies. Kindergarteners will have a mini snack break. Please provide snacks in your child's lunchbox.

Little Sweet notes for your child: you may wish to brighten their day with a lunchbox surprise! A note from Mama & Baba. It's a delight to see their faces light up when they find it!

Water Bottles:

Your child must bring a water bottle each class day. Please have their name written on it. Also, please make sure it is not a screw off cap as water may spill.

Outside Exploring Time:

Sun Safety: Sun cap, sunglasses, and sunblock are encouraged to wear when we go outside. I don't mind if they bring in a small toy for playground time. **(No play guns, swords, or other play fighting toys will be allowed.)**

Walking to our Neighborhood Library:

Once we feel we are ready to learn library skills, we'll be walking to our Irving library. Alhamdulillah, the library is next door to our school. I will be teaching them the manners of a library. Story time by Ms. Debbie is also an excellent learning experience. Permission slips will be sent out and kept on file.

Social and Emotional Learning is about helping students develop a range of skills they need for school and life. Social-Emotional skills include the ability to:

- set and achieve positive goals
- feel and show empathy for others
- establish and maintain positive relationships
- make responsible decisions
- understand and manage emotions

All of these skills are necessary to function well in the classroom, in the community, in college and careers. Not only are these skills vital for the above but also one's own personal life. It is my personal opinion that SEL should be taught as a core subject.

Classroom Toolbox

Learning the skills to be mindful of self helps a student to learn to focus more while in the time of need. Our class Tools for Learning are the following:

Breathing Tool: I calm myself & check-in by placing one hand on my heart and the other on my tummy. I take three deep breaths - inhaling & exhaling - with the last breath I hold and gently release saying Bismillah.

Quiet / Safe Place Tool: I remember where my quiet place is & use it when needed.

Empathy Tool: I care for **Myself** & I care for **Others**.

Personal Space Tool: I have the right to my own space & so do you.

Using Our Words Tool: I use my manners *kindness* when speaking about **Myself & Others**.

Please & Thank You Tool: I treat **Myself & Others** with kindness & appreciation.

Apology & Forgiveness Tool: I admit my mistakes & work to forgive **Myself & Others**.

Patience Tool: I am strong enough to wait.

Courage Tool: I have the courage to do the right thing.

School Special Events: Keep a lookout for our weekly newsletters!

Please mark those dates on your calendar. Studies show that parental involvement in a child's education is one of the strongest indicators of student success. We hope you will make it a priority this year to attend as many school-sponsored events as possible.

We are looking forward to seeing each of you Monday morning, Insha'Allah.