

Al-Huda School Fall 2020 Plan

Mon, Jul 13, 2020, 8:46 AM

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh,

Dear Parents,

I hope this email finds you in the best of health and Eman.

On June 28, we held a parents meeting in which we discussed the various options we were considering for reopening. We also solicited your feedback on Al-Huda's distance learning program last year as well as your feedback on the next year. We have also been researching and reading the news about COVID-19 cases across the country and specifically in Maryland, as well as guidelines from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We gathered the following key information:

1. [According to the CDC](#), the virus has been proven to spread quickly from person-to-person contact - within 6 feet. This puts schools settings at the highest risk.
2. [According to Maryland's COVID-19 tracker](#), Prince George's County has the largest number of COVID-19 cases, followed by Montgomery county (which is right next to PG county, and where a large number of Al-Huda School students come from).
3. In a survey of parents conducted in PG county, only 12% of the parents felt comfortable returning to school in the Fall.
4. In the survey we conducted with our parents, only about 1/3rd of the parents felt comfortable returning to a face-to-face learning environment. Half of the survey respondents did not feel comfortable or were not sure about returning to a face-to-face environment.
5. In considering a hybrid option, several Al-Huda School classrooms were set up to test how many students could be accommodated in a classroom. In the largest of our classrooms, only 10-12 desks/chair could be placed with social distancing guidelines.
6. There are several of our school community members - including students, parents, and staff - who have health conditions due to which their immunity may be compromised.
7. For a lot of our community families, there are elderly parents/grandparents who live with the students, thereby putting them at a higher risk of severe illness in the unfortunate event of a COVID-19 outbreak in our community.
8. Even in a hybrid model, our staff would be required to come to school every day, putting their and their families' health at risk. This idea has left [many teachers in other counties and school districts very concerned](#).

One of the main aims of our Deen, Islam, is **preservation of life**. In light of all of the above information, it seems that we will best be able to achieve this aim by being cautious and safe.

Decision on School Reopening

As such, Al-Huda School and the Hifzh School of Dar-us-Salaam will restart the 2020-2021 school year **fully online** In Shaa Allah, and will continue online learning for **at least the first quarter**, which is until the end of October/beginning of November. As the situation evolves, we will make a decision by October 15 about how we will continue during the second quarter.

When will school start?

The first day of school will be during the last week of August In Shaa Allah. A detailed school calendar will be released within the next two weeks. We will diligently work on training our staff and families to enhance our students' online learning experience.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me. May Allah continue to keep all of you safe and healthy!

Jazaakumullaahu Khayran!

Br. Haroon Baqai
Principal