



# ISM Today

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The Salam School PTA held a parenting workshop led by the Family and Youth Institute on Saturday, April 28th, 2018. This was a free and open workshop for all parents in the community to discuss the topic "Communication with Teens". The workshop was free to attendees because it was fully funded by a

generous anonymous donor from our community. The workshop included many ideas for parents regarding how they should connect with their children, especially during their teen years. The presenter spoke about many of the problems and pitfalls that are faced by our children as they are growing up, and discussed many of the challenges faced by our children.

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## Message from the President of the ISM

Assalamu alaikum dear brothers and sisters,

I write you on this very special occasion to mark the silver jubilee of our very own Salaam School. Since its inception in 1993, Salaam School has empowered generations of youth throughout our community to achieve academic excellence, and, as importantly, has done so by nurturing and developing thousands of students to embody the spirit of Islamic morale. Over the past 25 years, our students have gone on to achieve many great things, including by having been accepted to some of the most prominent universities countrywide. Today, our youth – the next generation of Muslim male and female leaders – are studying a diverse spectrum of professional fields. Others have already begun working, much to the pride and awe of their parents.



Of course, these successes were and continue to be made possible through the tireless efforts of the Salam School staff and administration (including the very dedicated teachers), the Salam School Advisory Board, the religious leadership, and, most importantly, to the parents – those mothers and fathers who trusted the idea that a modest, private school in the heart of Milwaukee could compete with hundreds of others, and succeed at retaining some of the most talented teachers in Wisconsin. To the parents of our youth, who made the decision to entrust their children's education in the capable hands of our community leaders, I thank you.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank all Shura members – past and present – for their ongoing support to maintain Salam School as a pillar of academic excellence and a source of pride for our community. Thanks to these individuals, and by the Grace of Allah, every year we are able to offer our students more advantages and opportunities to foster their growth. For example, plans are currently underway to construct a new, state of the art gymnasium and high school building with modern lab facilities for our students. Every donation made to the Salam School goes to support the daily lives and needs of our students. On behalf of them, the community is indebted.

Having been an academic all my life, I thank Allah for his blessings, and close with great pride: Congratulations to Salam School's graduating class of 2018. May Allah bless you in everything that awaits you, in this world, as well as the hereafter.

Sincerely,

Your President,

I. Khan

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## Message from the Principal of Salam School

As-Salamu alaikum, dear brothers and sisters.

For the eleventh year, here I am talking to you about our beautiful children at Salam School. Justifiably, you may ask what new things I would say to you after being in the office for such a long period of time! Initially, it does not feel to me that I have been the school's head principal for eleven years. Also, the progress Salam School continues to make leaves me with many items to share with you—following are a few.

Celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, Salam school continues to grow in leaps and bounds. Not only it has passed the State of Wisconsin's report card but also to date the total enrollment of Salam School has reached 850 students. 550 of them are housed in Salam Elementary School, which now includes sixth grade. Under the effective leadership of Mrs. Asmar (SES Principal), our children in the elementary grades continue to flourish academically, socially, emotionally and athletically. Their academic achievements continue to rise; their community involvement is attested by the many coat and food drives they organized; and to top it all, our fifth and sixth grades' basketball teams proved undefeatable for the season.



Salam middle school is no middle child either. Its teaching cadre includes some of the most veteran educators in Salam School. They continue to give to our children from their time and talent with no limit. This year, Salam Middle School has expanded into three classes per grade—another growth spurt Salam School is experiencing. Our eighth grade basketball team has gone all the way to compete regionally in Padre Serra Tournament—what a wonderful, longed-for accomplishment!

Salam High School welcomes its new assistant principal, Mrs. Zehra Tahir. She is not new to Salam School at all, as AP Tahir has taught in the three Salam Schools, ES, MS and HS during the past 15 years. Both AP Tahir and AP Clarke have effectively led the alignment of Salam High School curriculum to the ACT Standards, provided guidance to teachers on best practices and engaged the students in rigorous academics, social service and college preparation. This resulted in boosting the overall caliber of Salam High School students. This year's graduating class has so far collected over a million dollars in scholarships. Further, its students have been admitted into premier colleges and universities—four of them are going UW-Madison on full-ride scholarships.

On behalf of Salam School family: staff, board and administration, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the huge trust you have put in us. Not only do we take your trust in us very seriously, but we solemnly promise you to continue to raise our children in a manner that will, insha'Allah provide them with success in this life and in the hereafter.

Salam, Wanis H. Shalaby, Head Principal

## 2018 AP Results for Salam School

At the publication of this newsletter, the results of the Advanced Placement (AP) Tests were delivered to Salam School. The Advanced Placement classes are college level classes taken by high school students. At the end of the school year, students take exams covering the work covered by them during the school year. Exams are graded between a 5 (the highest score possible) and a 1 (the lowest score). Generally, students who received a grade of 3, 4, or 5 receive college credit for the class. Alhamdulillah, Salam School students who took the exams in 2018 performed tremendously well. 88% scored 3 or above. This is an amazing number which exceeds the national average of the highly selective students who take AP exams. This is a major accomplishment for Salam School, its students and its staff.

One of the most difficult AP exams is AP US History. In 2017, the national average of those who scored 3 or higher was 50.9%. For Salam School students, in 2018 100% received a score of 3 or higher. Over fifteen percent received a score of 5 and seventy percent received a score of 4. In Calculus AB, the national average of those who scored 3 or higher was 57.5%. For Salam School students, in 2018 80% received a score of 3 or higher. Twenty percent received a score of 5 and twenty-seven percent received a score of 4.

In World History, which is an AP course that offered to high school sophomores at Salam School, the national average of those who scored a 3 or higher in 2017 (which may include juniors and seniors at other schools) was 55%. The Salam School sophomores, 100% scored a 3 or higher. Twenty-five percent scored a 5, and one third scored a 4.

Congratulations to all Salam School students (and their awesome teachers) for a great job!!



# Salam School Overview

*Salam Alaikum, May the Peace and Blessings of Allah (God) Be With You*

**By: Sister Khawla Asmar, Principal, Salam Elementary School**

Alhamdulillah, this year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Salam School. It was started in 1993 with a few students and has grown exponentially. The current 2017-2018 enrollment at Salam School tops 850 students, making it one of the largest in the US, if not the largest. With all praise to Allah, annually, new enrollment applications are received and a waiting list is ever prevalent for admission to the school. The faculty is very diverse and highly qualified in their respective fields. Four highly competent administrators and the Salam School Advisory Committee oversee the school operations, track student achievement and implement policies to ensure academic, Quranic, Islamic, and co-curricular activities. Salam School operates under the auspices of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. As the community continues to grow, matters pertaining to same are analyzed, researched and implemented.

As far as anniversaries go, Salam School, similar to many Islamic Schools in the nation, is in its infancy. With diligence, hard work and dedication of educators, they will continue to grow and prosper. As of this writing, Salam High School, only 10 years old, has graduated 210 young people, all of them moving on to higher education. The first alumni dinner was held on March of 2018. But more on the high school later in this essay.

Salam School had less than 300 students in grades K4 through 8<sup>th</sup> in 2001. There was one section of each grade and, on average, about two dozen 8<sup>th</sup> graders transferred to high schools in the greater Milwaukee area after exiting the school. An early attempt to start a high school did not meet with success. Salam School earned its first accreditation, by WRISA, the accrediting agency that was the standard for parochial schools. At the same time, the gymnasium and additional classrooms were built to accommodate an ever growing Muslim community and expanding school enrollment. The Milwaukee Parental Choice (MPCP) offered families living in Milwaukee the opportunity to enroll their children in private schools without the burden of financial responsibility, after meeting certain criteria. Space was at a premium at the campus on 13<sup>th</sup> Street so the organization had to come up with plans for the continued growth of the school.

In the 2006-2007 school year, a new principal was hired to lead the school, Mr. Wanis Shalaby. His resume and plethora of experience in the field of education and administration took the school in yet another direction. In addition to leading the school, he was given the very complex task of starting Salam High School. He formed a committee of specialists and educators that were tasked with development of a curricula for the soon to be high school. That committee worked on Saturdays and the direction of Salam High School was firmed up. It was to be a college-prep high school modeled after some of the best high schools, locally and nationally. Once that was done, the plans for Salam School's future became clear. In August of 2008, Salam High School welcomed its first 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. The class of 2011 was its first graduating class. Eighteen students graduated from Salam High School that year and sent off to colleges around the state. Many students from the class of 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 have completed their college coursework and are employed in their respective field. A few have become teachers and have been hired by their alma mater. Some of our graduates have also returned to the school as coaches for various athletic programs. We are really proud of all of them.

In 2008, the ISM had purchased a property about four blocks east of the 13<sup>th</sup> Street location and part of the building was to include a new school. The vision of the Salam School Advisory Board, Shura (legislative council) and principal was that a student should be able to receive a comprehensive education, which included Islamic Studies and Arabic/ Quran. Construction crews began modifying the new facility at 8<sup>th</sup> and Layton and in August of 2008, Salam Elementary School moved in to the new space. The campus on Layton Avenue became the Salam Middle and High School, housing about 250 students in grades 6-10, while the new elementary school welcomed about 316 children.

Classrooms were added annually at the elementary school so that each grade triple tracked, with about 25 students in each classroom. In 2017-2018 school year, space was designated for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, moving it to the elementary building. The elementary school has 540 students enrolled while over 300 students are at the middle and high campus. To accommodate and increasingly growing population, an expansion of a third building is in the planning phase. It is the goal to build a new high school facility to separate the middle and high students into their own space. Look for more information on the expansion in upcoming editions of this newsletter.

Salam School has been accredited not only by WRISA, but by the NCA/Advanced, a world renowned accreditation agency. Rigorous criteria have been met in numerous areas and a diploma from Salam High School is recognized anywhere in the world. This very monumental task was accomplished in the 2011 school year. Under the leadership of

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Salam School Overview Continued...

Mr. Shalaby, Salam School has passed four separate accreditations. Salam School is mandated to follow strict guidelines for operation and standardized testing from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Salam School continues to grow and prosper with a bigger vision on the horizon.

New land was purchased by the Islamic Society of Milwaukee and one of the goals for the development of that tract land is to build a new high school. For the Muslim community in Milwaukee, which is expanding, the school will continue to grow to meet the needs of our community. May Allah bless this organization, this school and continue guiding us on His path.

By: Mrs. Khawla Asmar

## Congratulations Class of 2018

### Salam School Graduates

Shaakirah Abdur-Rahim

Ranya Abuayyash

Huda Ahmad

Jameelah Albadawi

Fathiya Alhato

Hanan Ali

Muqtdir Ali

Nurhayati Ali

Omar Ali

Naghah Aljalous

May Allan

Suhailah Amer

Ali Amin

Mohammad Assad

Athraa Awda

Alvina Aziz

Hala Barakat

Asma Dasan

Faizan Eshai

Noor Hamdallah

Mutaz Hamdan

Mohammad Hammad

Anisa Hassan

Samira Hassan

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Ahmad Kadadha

Qosai Kadadha

Yousef Kamal

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# Congratulations Salam School

*“Where Faith and Learning Come Together”*



Academic Excellence College Prep Islamic Identity Arabic & Quran Leadership Diversity Character Education Service Athletics Citizenship

## Salam School: Where Faith and Learning Come Together!

By **Zehra Tahir** Vice Principal & School Counselor  
Salam Middle/High School

The year 2018 marks a historic milestone for the Islamic Society of Milwaukee's most successful program, Salam School, which has progressed from a grade school to a college preparatory school of excellence over the last twenty-five years! Salam School has grown exponentially and made remarkable progress since its inception! It is accredited by a world-renowned accreditation agency: AdvancED, and a local state agency: WRISA (Wisconsin Religious Independent Schools Association).

Salam School offers rigorous academics, character education, sports, clubs, leadership, service and co-curricular programs in an Islamic environment. It strives to provide all its students with a challenging and engaging education that instills the faith, knowledge, skills, attitude, and work ethic necessary for success at the college level and beyond. Students and parents meet school counselors every year to develop an individualized Learning Plan (ILP) that is personalized to help every student succeed. Salam School offers standard, honors, and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, and students are always able to choose the track that best fits their skills and maximizes their potential. Courses that are designated as Advanced Placement (AP) courses, align to rigorous, college-level standards set by the College Board. AP courses prepare students to take a subject specific exam, which can potentially earn them college credit. Salam School offers AP courses starting from freshman year. AP courses offered include: AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP English Literature & Composition, AP English Language & Composition, AP Statistics, AP US History, AP Human Geography, AP US History, AP World History, AP Psychology and AP Computer Science. Besides core subjects, an array of elective courses are offered in various disciplines, to enhance student knowledge and skills and widen their repertoire.

The mission of Salam School aims “to empower students to achieve Islamic and academic excellence. Salam School seeks to develop citizens who embody the spirit of Islam and strive to improve their society through faith, perseverance and service to others” The goal of the Islamic Studies program at Salam School is to help students gain Islamic knowledge, build taqwa, internalize Islamic values and become productive, proud American Muslims. Salam School's Islamic Studies program is designed to expand students' foundational knowledge and understanding in four focus areas; aqeeda (Islamic creed), fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence), akhlaq wa adaab (Islamic morals and manners) and tareekh (Islamic history). Seniors take a course called Contemporary Issues in Islam, in which they learn about various historical and contemporary issues related to religion and politics. Major topics of study include Islamophobia; the history of Islam in the U.S.; an understanding of American culture; understanding of other faith traditions, the relationship among bioethics, science, and religion; gender roles and relations and marriage and divorce; freedom of religion, expression, and thought; religion and spirituality. Discussions, debates and critical thinking opportunities equip them to be strong ambassadors and confident representatives of Islam on the college campus. The Arabic & Quran program at Salam School focuses on developing and reinforcing Arabic language skills, including reading, listening, grammar, writing and vocabulary. It also focuses on Qur'anic studies, including memorization and Telawa of verses from the Holy Quran and knowledge and implementation of tajweed rules. The Arabic program incorporates technology in order to maximize student learning and engagement.

Evidence of leadership is a major consideration in college admissions. Salam School provides several opportunities for participation and leadership in school clubs, athletics, and co-curricular activities. Student Council, National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society offers several leadership opportunities. Clubs include: Snow Club, Pep Club, Chess Club, Technology Club, Theatre, Mock Trial, Bowling Club, Runners Club, Art Club etc.

Cultivating a love for volunteerism is the cornerstone of the Salam School Service program. Completing 60 service hours is a mandatory graduation requirement, and students who complete 100 hours and more of community service are recognized at the senior graduation and receive a Service Award.

*(Continued on page 9)*



The Salam Athletic Department is a vibrant and active entity in Salam Middle and High School! The repertoire of sports offered has increased steadily over the years and presently includes varsity and junior varsity teams. Salam School offers girls' volleyball, girls and boys cross country, boys soccer, girls and boys basketball, boys football and girls' and boys' track. Salam School has also started a co-op program with St. Francis. With the inception of the high school, Salam School joined the WIAA, played an independent schedule in both boys' and girls' basketball, joined the Indian Trails Conference and participated in the Padre Serra Tournament as well. (Continues on page 9)

In order to graduate, Salam High School students must attend a minimum of two retreat camps during their high school years. The camp experience helps them learn independence, decision making, social and emotional skills, character building and values in an atmosphere of creativity and enrichment, with positive adult role models. Students participate in archery, canoeing, horse-back riding, rock-climbing and field games and enjoy the camp-fire with their peers. The outdoor experience away from technology, school and the internet is truly invaluable!

Salam High School graduates its eighth senior class this year. Our students' college placements are a testimony to our holistic and academically rigorous program. Salam High School graduates have been accepted in some of the top universities, including UW Madison, Marquette University, UW Milwaukee, UW Parkside, UW Whitewater, Carroll University, Cardinal Stritch, Averno, Loyola University in Chicago, and many more. Students earn over a million dollars in scholarships every year! This year three seniors who will graduate in May received a full four year scholarship to UW Madison that includes free tuition, housing (on or off campus), books and supplies!

The journey of our growth continues, as do our challenges! Salam School is validated by the success of our Salam Alumni. These successful college students and college graduates, return to our campus to celebrate their accomplishments with us. This is the reward that motivates us and fuels our desire to improve.



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# Salam School Convention





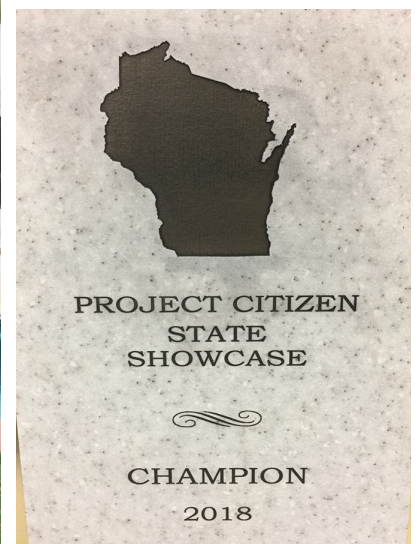
# Salam School Convention



## First Place! - Project Citizen Award

Salam Middle School Project Citizen Club earned first place in the competition held in Madison, Wisconsin. This is a huge accomplishment, MashAllah!

Congratulations to Mrs. Ranjbar and her team for their dedicated work.





# Salam School Alumni Banquet

On Saturday, March 24, 2018, Salam School hosted their first annual Salam School Alumni Banquet. The purpose of this banquet was to celebrate the graduates of Salam School and their accomplishments. During this program, Salam School Alumni were able to engage and strengthen ties between other Salam School Alumni, the ISM community and Salam School. Alumni were able to network with other Alumni.





# Alumni Banquet Continued...



# Salam School Alumni

## Osayd Assad

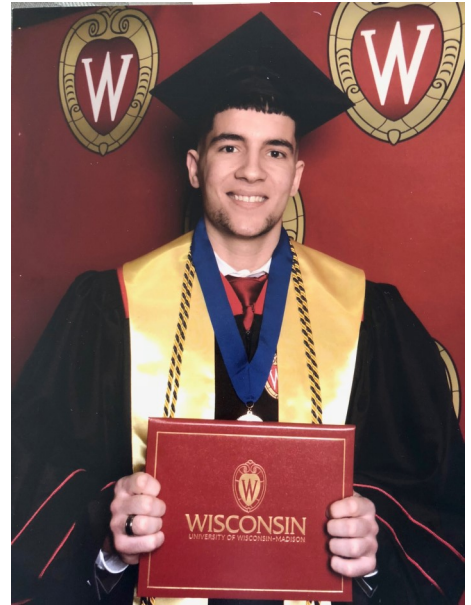
After just two and a half years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Osayd earned his Bachelors of Science in Biology. During his undergraduate career, Osayd was volunteering at multiple hospitals as well as the Muslim Community Health Center. He chose to pay forward by also donating his time to the Boys and Girls Clubs as a tutor and panelist for populations of incoming college students who came from underserved communities. Osayd has also been leading several discussion sections a week for the past 3 semesters at UW-Madison for the Biochemistry 501 course. It is usually juniors and seniors who take this 500 level course, but Osayd, as a sophomore, was already teaching it. During this time he worked as an insurance agent, after starting up his own agency in 2014, while also working in a Dermatology Oncology Lab: studying the pathogenesis of squamous cell carcinoma.

Osayd Assad is a first generation college student. Due to his outstanding academic achievement, Osayd was inducted to the Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society UW-Madison chapter as a Junior. This Honor Society recognizes academic excellence, inviting only the top 7.5% of the Junior class at that university.

After taking his MCAT and applying to medical school as a sophomore, Osayd was interviewed all around the country. He was accepted into multiple schools. Furthermore, Osayd plans to stay in Wisconsin and attend the Medical College of Wisconsin in Green Bay, which is a 3-year integrated MD program. The average age for a medical school graduate is 29, God willing, Osayd will only be 24 years young when he receives his medical degree. In the future, Osayd plans to match into a surgical residency and specialize in Cardiothoracic Surgery and work in the Milwaukee area. MashAllah he has proven to be an inspiration to the Muslim community and others as well.

### Awards:

Dean's List 2015  
Dean's List 2016  
Dean's List 2017  
Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society



**We are looking to feature more students in future editions of ISM Today.**

**If you are a former student, please drop us a note at:  
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**Provide us with a short statement and a photo!**

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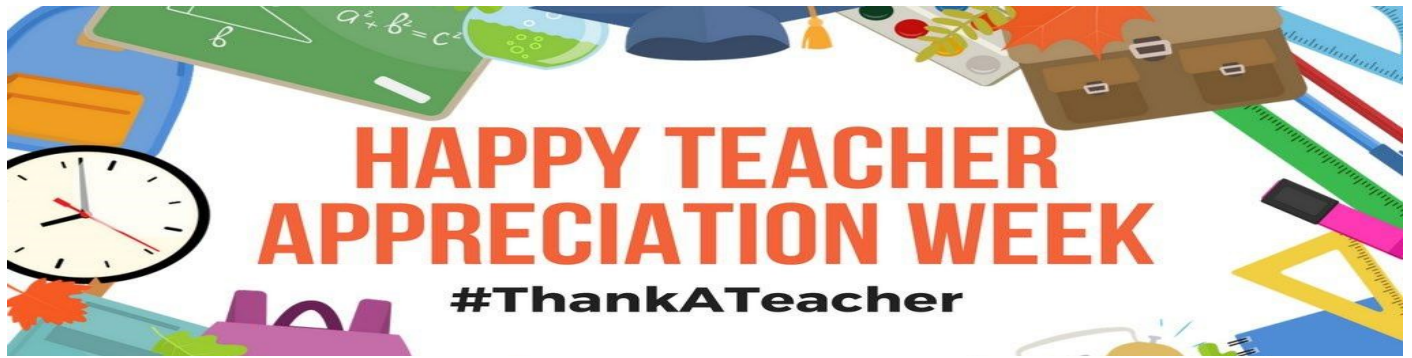
# Salam School Sports



Salam School Stars Soccer  
“home game” brought  
another WIN! 5-3  
Congratulations!

## Salam School Father Son Bowling Night





Salam School celebrated "Teacher Appreciation Week" during the first week of May. Teachers and staff were given different gifts throughout the week to show appreciation and thanks to them. On Thursday, May 3rd, 2018, the Salam School held their Annual Teacher Appreciation Lunch which was held in the ISM gym this year. During the program, teachers thanked their fellow co-workers for their hard work at Salam School throughout the year.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE SALAM SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STAFF! WE APPRECIATE YOU!**

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# Community News



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## Iqama Schedule - 13th & Layton

### July/August

Day	Fajr	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
<b>July</b>					
1-10	4:30	1:10	5:15	+5 min	10:30
11-20	4:30	1:10	5:15	+5 min	10:30
21-30	4:30	1:10	5:15	+5 min	10:15
<b>August</b>					
1-10	4:45	1:10	5:00	+5 min	10:00
11-20	5:00	1:10	5:00	+5 min	9:45
21-31	5:15	1:10	5:00	+5 min	9:15

## Faithful Rainwater Harvesting

**FaRaH**  
Wisconsin



How harvesting rainwater can bring people  
of faith together to celebrate caring for Earth  
-our common home-

<https://WisconsinGreenMuslims.org/FaRaH/>

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## Thank You Donors!

We are pleased to acknowledge the generosity of the following donors who contributed to the Islamic Society of Milwaukee during the blessed month of Ramadan:

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## VIP Father Daughter Camp

Since January of 2018, the VIP Girls Youth Leadership Committee of the ISM has worked hard to organize and lead a Father-Daughter Camp called “Adventures with Baba”. The camp took place on April 21st-22nd in Oregon, IL, and was open to all high school girls in our Muslim community, along with their fathers. “Adventures with Baba” was intended to emphasize the importance of strengthening the relationship between fathers and daughters, along with encouraging the idea of spending time with one another. The Committee incorporated countless exciting and memorable activities, which enabled campers to bond with their father/daughter. These activities included epic ziplining, competitive human foosball rounds, a scavenger hunt, a competitive obstacle course contest, sports fields, and much more. Not to mention, the campers were delighted to be outdoors without having to worry about the unpredictable Wisconsin-like weather (AKA. “Spring snow”) seeping its way into Oregon, IL. The weather was beautiful, and all of our “weather” duaas were answered, Alhamdulillah.

Our team of 10 female Muslim youth leaders worked tirelessly to organize and invite a variety of professional speakers onboard, in order to give lectures and workshops to all attendees. Some of the workshop and lecture sessions included: the beauty of modest hijab and it’s creative opportunities in fashion, the importance of female and youth leadership in our Muslim community, the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH) and his daughters, father-daughter conflicts, discussions on mental health, and effective communication along with trust building between parents and their children. Throughout several of these sessions, fathers and daughters volunteered to discuss their conflicts and share past memories to the audience. All of the lectures and discussion sessions were key to allowing a more realistic and beneficial learning experience for camp attendees. All participants were able to pick up on valuable information that they can further apply to their daily lives.

To top off the useful discussions that took place, we had a heartwarming bonfire together on Saturday night, which involved telling stories, singing camp chants, eating s’mores and ice cream, tea (for the babas), and hundreds of glow sticks. One of the brothers present shared some stories with us, which all tie back to the importance of staying devoted to Allah SWT no matter what type of circumstances we find ourselves in.

Before departing camp, we all sat together in a circle to convey our goodbyes. We received uplifting words from the campers about how the Father-Daughter camp equipped them with the valuable knowledge they can apply in their relationships. Several campers cried because their gratitude were beyond words. The VIP Girls Youth Leadership Committee left the camp in the hopes of positively impacting the fathers and daughters in their community. The committee is thankful and proud of all attendees who attended, and they look forward to upcoming events to benefit our community and build a loving atmosphere, inshAllah!





## VIP Father Daughter Camp Pictures





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