



# MIDDLE SCHOOL CATALOG

## 2017-2018



*Excellence in Islamic Education, Academics, Tahfeez, Aadaab, and Akhlaq, so that we become the school of choice for parents in New Jersey.*

An-Noor Academy's middle school program is aligned with New Jersey Student Learning Standards in English, math, science, social studies, physical education/health, technology, and arts. The Quran/Arabic/Islamic studies curriculum is comprehensive and is based on well-researched knowledge and best practice. Our middle school curriculum provides students with a strong foundation in academic and Islamic disciplines; prepares them rigorously for high school, college, and the real world; and enriches their learning experience with honors' classes, electives, and extra-curricular activities.

**An-Noor Middle School Program includes:**

- Quran Studies
- Tahfeez in grades 6 and 7
- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science
- Arabic
- Islamic Studies
- Health & Physical Education
- Fine Arts
- Computer Technology
- Electives

## Middle School Course Sequence

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
English 6	English 7	English 8
Math 6	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I
Science 6	Science 7	Physical Science
Ancient Civilizations	The Americas	US Government
Arabic 6	Arabic 7	Arabic 8
Quran Studies 6	Quran Studies 7	Quran Studies 8
Islamic Studies 6	Islamic Studies 7	Islamic Studies 8
Health & Physical Education 6	Health & Physical Education 7	Health & Physical Education 8
Fine Arts 6	Fine Arts 7	Fine Arts 8
Computer Technology 6	Computer Technology 7	Computer Technology 8
Electives	Electives	Electives

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

The Language Arts curriculum at An-Noor Academy is aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLs) and the Common Core State Standards. Students study writing, reading/literature, grammar, vocabulary, listening and speaking.

#### **Writing:**

Students demonstrate their writing proficiency through daily writing, in-class writing assignments, and long-term writing reports. Students learn to write descriptive, narrative, persuasive and personal pieces. Writing instruction will cover: planning using the writing process, persuasive writing, analysis using evidence, and the essay format including: introductory paragraphs, developing the essay through support, and concluding paragraphs.

Students will write creatively in imitation and extension of various literary styles. Students will also practice research skills. Core texts include literature and reading from Glencoe, Grammar for Writing from Sadlier, and vocabulary books from Pearson.

Middle school students partake in a well-rounded study of literature from various parts of the globe. The literature delves into cross-curricular knowledge, while peaking the interests of students to acquire more knowledge on the subject matter. The novel studies focus on developing reading skills, vocabulary acquisition, historical context, evidence-based learning, writing to a thesis, and extension activities.

**Reading/Literature:** Students will study mythology masterpieces such as Homer’s Odyssey; Shakespearean works such as “Julius Caesar”, with dramatic renderings of the most popular scenes; fiction such as “the Giver”; historical fiction such as Mark Twain’s the Prince and the Pauper; short stories; and non-fiction texts from selected reading materials.

**Grammar:** The following topics will be covered: parts of speech; the sentence; agreement; using verbs correctly; using pronouns correctly; and punctuation. Supplementary website programs such as IXL.com are used to further develop student grammar acquisition.

**Listening and Speaking:** Students will participate in classroom activities in response to the literature studied. Participation will require the practice of listening and speaking skills, and technology-driven presentations.

**Vocabulary:** Formal vocabulary study will be drawn from the words presented in the literature texts and from lists of roots, prefixes and suffixes.

## **MATHEMATICS**

Grade 6 math includes ratio concepts and reasoning to solve problems; the number system; dividing fractions by fractions; multiplication and division of multi-digit numbers and finding common factors and multiples; the system of rational numbers; expressions and equations; applying arithmetic into algebraic expressions; solving one-variable equations and inequalities; solving real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and statistics and probability.

In Pre-Algebra, grade 7 students take a broader look at computational and problem-solving skills while learning the language of Algebra. Students translate word phrases and sentences into mathematical expressions; analyze geometric figures; solve problems involving percentages, ratios, and proportions; graph different kinds of equations and inequalities; calculate statistical measures and probabilities; apply the Pythagorean Theorem; and explain strategies for solving real-world problems.

In Algebra I, grade 8 students are introduced to symbols, language, and concepts which form the basic foundation for later studies in both math and science. Algebra I includes the study of solving and graphing equations and inequalities, solving word problems, graphing on a coordinate plane, solving simultaneous equations, properties of exponents, operations with polynomial expressions, working with quadratic functions, data analysis, rational expressions and radical expressions.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

In grade 6, students study ancient civilizations and medieval times, including the rise of Islam and its global expansion. In grade 7, students learn about the history, culture, and geography of the American continent. In grade 8, students are introduced to the branches of US government and the electoral process.

## **SCIENCE**

In grade 6, students study the growth, development, and reproduction of organisms; matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems; interdependent relationships in ecosystems; force and motion; types of interactions; and astronomy.

In grade 7, students learn about the structure and properties of matter; chemical reactions; organization of matter and energy flow in organisms; structure and function of living and non-living things; body systems; inheritance and variation of traits; and Earth's systems.

In grade 8, students study the fundamentals of physics and chemistry. They explore the universe we live in, including motion, energy, the nature of matter and atoms, how chemicals mix and react, and the forces that hold the universe together. Among other subjects, students study structure of atoms; elements and the Periodic Table; chemical reactions; forces, including gravitational, motion, acceleration, and mass; and energy, including light, thermal, electricity, and magnetism.

## **QURAN STUDIES**

In Quran Studies, students learn Makharij and Sifat al-Huruf (Articulation points and characteristics of Arabic letters). They continue the recitation of the whole Quran with proper application of Tajweed rules, and memorize the prescribed Surahs. They learn the Tafseer of Surahs, the occasion of revelation of Surahs under study, and make connections between the teachings of the Quran and the world they live in.

## **ARABIC**

Arabic is taught by levels: beginner and intermediate/advanced. Beginners start with elementary principles of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They build good pronunciation skills and acquire a functional vocabulary, while working toward the goal of adequate proficiency in the language. In the intermediate/advanced level, students keep developing their language skills with emphasis on spoken and written communication, thus enabling them to apply what they have learned in familiar and unfamiliar contexts; for example, writing about open-ended topics and engaging in discussions using Arabic only.

## **ISLAMIC STUDIES**

Islamic Studies provide students with opportunities to learn aspects of faith such as Iman, the unseen (Ghayb), and afterlife (life in the grave and Akhira). They learn about Salat rulings, voluntary prayers, Zakat, and fasting, in more detail. In Seerah, students study the lives of Prophets and the Messenger (SAWS), with particular focus on the Madani period, in addition to the study of some prominent companions. In hadeeth, students learn about manners, halal and haram, and the importance of following

the Sunnah. In Akhlaq, they study the Adab of modesty, the etiquette of Islamic clothing, and the qualities of patience and thankfulness. Islamic Studies curriculum is enriched by an Islamic Values program that instills the teachings of Islam in students' hearts and minds on a weekly basis.

### **HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Students learn how to develop movement skills in diverse physical activities that include rhythmic movements, games, sports, and cardiovascular exercises. Lifelong health and physical fitness are supported through challenging units of study that are developmentally and age appropriate. Students develop personal fitness goals and track progress towards attaining those goals over time. The curriculum is developed to ensure an individual focus on achieving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle that supports physical activity, analytical skills, team-building skills, goal setting, and self-assessment.

### **FINE ARTS**

Fine arts develop both students' hands-on and creative thinking skills. The arts' curriculum provides opportunities for students to develop their aesthetic skills through the study of drawing, painting, ceramics, collage, printmaking, and other forms of artistic expression.

### **COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY**

Computer class is designed to assist students in becoming proficient in new digital and information technology. Each grade level will have custom projects/assignments designed for that grade's developmental and proficiency levels. Topics covered will include computer and Internet history, web design, Microsoft suite, processing software, online safety, digital etiquette, cyber bullying, appropriate use of social networking, plagiarism, copyright and fair use, how to conduct effective searches, and how to evaluate sites for accuracy and bias. Students will use communication and collaboration tools in class such as Edmodo and Google Apps for Schools. They will create products using common productivity tools such as Google Apps for Schools, Microsoft Office and other web-based applications.

### **ELECTIVES**

The middle school program provides students with electives that would help them acquire the skills necessary to thrive and succeed in high school and beyond. Some examples of possible electives include journalism, career exploration, and creative writing.

### **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

All middle school students will take part in several, short multi-disciplinary research projects to build research skills in a cumulative manner. Students will be able to apply and transfer library research and note taking skills to compose a multi-paragraph essay based upon an identified set of essential questions or enduring understandings, as determined by teachers. This will be taken through the formal writing process and incorporate media and technology skills.