

August 6th, 2020

Update Regarding Next Year

Respected Parents/Guardians,

Assalam Alaikum,

I would like to congratulate you all on Eid Al-Ghadir. May Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) make us among the sincere Shi'a of Muhammad wa Aali Muhammad (*alaihim assalam*).

I pray you are all doing well. May Allah (*subhanahu wa ta'ala*) protect you and keep all harm away from you.

AlBaqir Academy is pleased to welcome students back to its campus for the 2020-2021 academic year. The Academy invested over \$10,000 on personal protective equipment and solutions to ensure the Academy is prepared to have students back in a safe environment. Moreover, several new measures are to be implemented to pave the way for efficient learning while maintaining safety standards that exceed provincial recommendations. In order for us to keep everyone safe and facilitate learning, we truly need your cooperation and assistance in adhering to our safety policies and requirements. The Minister of Education mandates that we strictly follow the guidelines so that safety is not compromised.

The following measures are to be implemented and strictly adhered to:

1. The first day of school for High School students will be August 17, 2020.
2. The first day of school for Senior Kindergarten to grade 9 students will be August 31, 2020.
3. The first day of school for our Junior Kindergarten students will be September 8, 2020.
4. Education will be offered in-school and online as follows:
 - a. The Academy purchased face shields and will be providing each student with one complimentary face shield. Moreover, students will also be provided with one disposable face mask and one reusable face mask. It is the Ministry's requirement that all students in grades 4 and up be wearing a face mask, while it is optional for younger students. AlBaqir Academy mandates that younger students wear either a face mask or a face shield.
 - b. Hand sanitizers will be available in every classroom and by the washrooms. Students will have to sanitize their hands every time they enter the class and whenever they leave the washrooms.
 - c. Washrooms will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day.
 - d. Students will have to sanitize their desks at the end of each day.
 - e. Shared equipment will be sanitized after each use.
 - f. Students are expected to be in-school by 8:25 a.m. Monday to Friday, except the indicated holidays and P.D. days.
 - g. In-school instruction will end at 12:50 p.m. and students are expected to be picked up by then.
 - h. During the time at the Academy, students will receive instructional periods that include English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Qur'an. Unfortunately, given the difficult circumstances, the Academy will not be offering Physical Education, French and Arabic for this academic year.
 - i. Students will receive two, ten minutes break to have a quick snack at their desks. Students will have their lunch at home.

- j. Snacks must not be shared among students and should not require heating. Students will not be allowed to use the microwave ovens.
- k. The Friday Pizza lunch program will not be held this year. Moreover, students must not bring any food to the Academy to share with other students.
- l. After going home, students will have to log in online at 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. to receive additional instruction. This login is mandatory, and attendance will be taken.
 - i. Students who attend in-person instruction at the Academy will have to be wearing their uniform during the online sessions.
 - ii. Please ensure you have enough devices to have all your children separately logged on at the same time.
- m. For students taking the bus, our bus service will resume just like last year, as follows:
 - i. Students will be picked up from Northgate Mall's parking lot at 7:30 p.m. and brought back by approximately 1:30-1:45 p.m.
 - ii. According to Ministry regulations, all students in grades 4 and up must be wearing a face mask on the bus, while the Academy mandates younger students to be wearing either a face mask or a face shield.
 - iii. Students will be assigned seats in the bus. Those students who will leave their seat or act inappropriately will be suspended from using the bus for a week. If this behaviour repeats a second time, then the student will be **suspended from riding the bus**, and it will be the parents' responsibility to arrange for transportation.
- n. Every student's temperature will be checked daily by touchless thermometers. Any student with a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or higher will be isolated in a room and the parents will be contacted to immediately come and pick him/her up. It is strongly recommended for you to check your children's temperatures from home to avoid any inconvenience that may be caused to you and not to jeopardize the safety of our staff and students.
- o. Any student exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, will be isolated and the parents will be contacted to come and pick him/her up immediately. The student has to be tested negative for COVID-19 or remain home for two weeks before returning back to the Academy. In some cases, a student may be asked to remain at home for at least one week even after testing negative for COVID-19.
- p. All students, parents, visitors and delivery drivers who enter the Academy will have to answer the survey provided in Appendix A.
- q. Students in Junior and Senior Kindergarten (JK and SK) will have to enter their classroom from the classroom's door.
- r. Students in grades 5/6 will have to enter their classroom from their door.
- s. Students in grades 3/4 will enter the Academy from the back of the Academy using the door of the gymnasium.
- t. Grade 1/2 students will have to use the back entrance.
- u. Grade 7/8 students will enter the Academy using the entrance of their classroom.
- v. Our High School students will enter the Academy using the back-entrance door to the Science lab.

- w. Parents will not be allowed to enter the Academy unless they have a pre-booked appointment with one of the Staff members.
 - x. At pick up, parents will stand outside on the designated spots that are 2-meters apart, and their children will be brought to them.
 - y. During the online instruction, students will receive additional support and further instruction to assist them in understanding the subject matter.
5. Tuition:
- a. The annual tuition will be as follows:
 - i. JK to grade 6: \$3,750
 - ii. Grades 7-9: \$4,000
 - iii. High School: \$5,000
 - b. If the tuition is paid in full by September 15th, 2020, then the tuition for each student will be reduced by \$200 (i.e. JK – grade 6: \$3,550; Grades 7-9: \$3,800; High School: \$4,800).
 - c. If a student is withdrawn from AlBaqir Academy after October 15th, 2020 then the parents/guardians will be responsible to pay the tuition in full.

On August 12, 2020, the uniform company will be at AlBaqir Academy to measure and size your children. There will not be fitting on that day. The company will inform you what sizes you need to order for your child(ren). Parents will have to sign up online and attend in groups along with their children to ensure everyone's safety. Please wear a face mask when coming. We will send you a link for the online booking by the end of this week.

You will also receive the Supplies List required by teachers.

If you have any questions or concerns, then please do not hesitate to send me an e-mail at ualatar@albaqiracademy.com or the Office Administrator at sawada@albaqiracademy.com. If, however, you wish to speak to me personally, then kindly book an appointment over e-mail to see me at the Academy on or after August 17 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. If you wish to see me earlier, then please send me an e-mail and I will try my best to accommodate your request. I humbly request that you **DO NOT** contact me or any of the staff members on our private mobile numbers regarding any school-related matter. We appreciate you respecting our privacy.

I truly appreciate your continued support, especially during these difficult times. I am sure that we have gained your trust in demonstrating our excellency in surpassing your expectations. Rest assured that AlBaqir Academy is going above-and-beyond to enhance students' learning and will continue to provide your precious ones quality education in a safe and caring environment. Your children are my responsibility, and I will strive to make learning fun, safe and educational for them, *inshallah*.

Jazakum Allahu Khaira



Dr. Al-Atar
Principal

Appendix A – Screening Questionnaire

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS MUST USE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO DECIDE IF THE STUDENT SHOULD ATTEND SCHOOL

Risk Assessment: Initial Screening Questions

1. Do you, or your child attending the program, have any of the below symptoms:

CIRCLE ONE

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fever | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cough | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chills | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painful swallowing | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling unwell / Fatigued | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unexplained loss of appetite | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of sense of taste or smell | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle/ Joint aches | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headache | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) | YES | NO |

2. Have you, or anyone in your household, returned from travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days?

YES NO

3. Have you or your children attending the program had close unprotected* contact (face-to-face contact within 2 meters) with someone who is ill with cough and/or fever?

YES NO

4. Have you or anyone in your household been in close unprotected contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?

YES NO

* “unprotected” means close contact without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

If you have answered “Yes” to any of the above questions, please DO NOT enter the school at this time. You should stay home and use the **COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool** to determine whether you need to be tested for COVID-19.

If you have answered “No” to all the above questions, you may attend school.