

Assalamu Alaikum

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH & SCIENCE

NEWSLETTER

Grades 6–8 | Welcome to the 2026–2027 School Year!

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the new school year! I am excited to work with our **6th, 7th, and 8th grade students** in both **English Language Arts and Science**.

This year, students will be challenged to become stronger **readers, writers, communicators, thinkers, problem-solvers, and learners**.

My goal is to create a holistic classroom environment where students are **safe, respected, responsible, engaged, and motivated to do their best**.

I hope that every student has a **productive, successful, and enjoyable school year!**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS OBJECTIVES

Across Grades 6–8, students will strengthen their ability to read, write, speak, listen, and think critically.

Students will:

- Read and analyze a variety of literary and informational texts.
- Determine **central ideas, themes, and main ideas**.
- Identify and analyze **text evidence**.
- Make inferences and draw conclusions.
- Analyze characters, settings, plot, and author's purpose.
- Determine the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary using context clues.
- Develop strong **grammar, usage, spelling, and vocabulary** skills.
- Write organized paragraphs and essays.
- Develop **argumentative, informative, and narrative writing**.

- Support ideas with relevant evidence and explanations.
- Participate in respectful classroom discussions.
- Give oral presentations and communicate ideas clearly.
- Revise and edit writing to improve clarity and organization.
- Develop independent reading and study habits.

English Focus:

Read deeply. Think critically. Write clearly. Communicate respectfully.

SCIENCE OBJECTIVES

Students will develop scientific knowledge while learning how to think and work like scientists.

6th Grade Science

Students will focus on:

- Scientific method and **scientific inquiry**
- Lab safety
- Measurement
- Observation and inference
- Data collection and analysis
- Tables and graphs
- Scientific vocabulary
- Asking questions and developing explanations
- Understanding science in everyday life

6th Grade Focus:

Ask questions. Investigate. Observe. Learn.

● 7th Grade Science

Students will focus on:

- **Cells**
- Cell structures and functions
- Living organisms
- **Microorganisms**
- Relationships between living things and their environment
- Scientific evidence and data
- Models, diagrams, and scientific explanations
- Scientific vocabulary and communication

7th Grade Focus:

Understand living things and how they function and interact.

● 8th Grade Science

Students will focus on:

- **Atoms**
- **Elements**
- Molecules and compounds
- Matter and its properties
- Physical and chemical changes
- Scientific models
- Evidence and data
- Problem-solving and scientific reasoning
- Communicating scientific explanations

8th Grade Focus:

Understand matter and use evidence to explain how the world works.

HOW YOUR GRADE IS CALCULATED

The grading system for English and Science is:

Category	Percentage
 Tests	25%
 Quizzes	25%
 Classroom Work	20%
 Homework	15%
 Participation/Behavior	15%
TOTAL	100%

Tests — 25%

Tests measure your understanding of major concepts and skills taught during a unit.

Quizzes — 25%

Quizzes provide regular opportunities to demonstrate your understanding and prepare for larger assessments.

Classroom Work — 20%

This may include:

English:

- Reading assignments
- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Writing
- Reading responses
- Discussions
- Projects
- Presentations

Science:

- Pearson workbook assignments
- Notes
- Vocabulary
- Diagrams
- Investigations
- Demonstrations
- Projects
- Scientific writing

Homework — 15%

Homework provides additional practice and reinforcement of classroom learning.

Participation/Behavior — 15%

Students earn this portion of their grade by:

- Participating appropriately
- Following directions
- Staying on task
- Coming prepared
- Asking questions
- Completing assigned work
- Working cooperatively
- Showing respect
- Demonstrating responsible behavior

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Learning is about more than grades. Students are also developing the skills they need to become responsible, confident, and respectful young adults.

Throughout the year, we will work on:

Self-Awareness

Understanding our strengths, challenges, emotions, and learning needs.

Self-Management

Managing emotions, staying focused, completing responsibilities, and persevering through challenges.

Responsible Decision-Making

Thinking about the consequences of our choices before we act.

Relationship Skills

Communicating respectfully, cooperating with others, and resolving disagreements appropriately.

Social Awareness

Understanding and respecting the feelings, perspectives, and experiences of others.

Our SEL Message:

"Mistakes are opportunities to learn. Challenges are opportunities to grow."

Students should never be afraid to ask for help or say:

"I don't understand yet."

ISLAMIC VALUES IN OUR CLASSROOM

Our classroom will emphasize values that support academic success and good character.

Ihsan — Excellence

Students should strive to do their best work and take pride in their learning.

Do your work with excellence, even when no one is watching.

Amanah — Responsibility

Students are responsible for their work, behavior, materials, and commitments.

Our responsibilities are a trust, and we should treat them accordingly.

Adab — Good Character and Manners

Students should demonstrate respect through their words, actions, patience, listening, and treatment of others.

Seeking Knowledge

Students are encouraged to remain curious, ask questions, seek understanding, and appreciate the opportunity to learn.

Learning is not simply about earning a grade; it is about becoming a knowledgeable, responsible, and thoughtful person.

RESPECT FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our classroom is a community, and every person has a responsibility to help make it a positive place to learn.

RESPECT YOUR SCHOOL

Take care of school property, keep our classroom clean, and represent your school positively.

RESPECT YOUR TEACHERS

Listen when teachers and staff are speaking, follow directions, and communicate respectfully.

RESPECT YOUR CLASSMATES

Treat your classmates with kindness, patience, and dignity.

No student should feel bullied, embarrassed, excluded, or disrespected in our classroom.

RESPECT YOURSELF

Take pride in your work. Believe that you can improve. Give yourself permission to make mistakes and learn from them.

CLASSROOM LEARNING & PORTFOLIO

Students will maintain a classroom portfolio to document their learning and growth throughout the school year.

The portfolio may include:

English

- Writing assignments
- Reading responses
- Vocabulary
- Grammar activities
- Essays
- Projects
- Reflections

Science

- Science notes
- Vocabulary
- Workbook assignments
- Diagrams
- Investigations
- Lab reflections
- Projects
- Exit tickets

Students will have opportunities to look back at their work and recognize their academic growth.

WHAT I EXPECT FROM EVERY STUDENT

BE RESPONSIBLE

Come prepared and complete your assignments.

BE RESPECTFUL

Treat teachers, classmates, and school property with respect.

BE READY TO LEARN

Listen, participate, ask questions, and stay engaged.

BE SAFE

Follow classroom and laboratory safety rules.

BE HONEST

Take responsibility for your work and your choices.

BE YOUR BEST

Give your best effort, especially when something is difficult.

A MESSAGE TO MY STUDENTS

Dear Students,

This year, I want you to challenge yourself.

You will encounter assignments that are easy and assignments that are difficult. You may make mistakes. You may not understand something the first time.

That is part of learning.

Do not give up because something is difficult.

Ask questions. Try again. Learn from your mistakes. Help one another. Be willing to grow.

Your grades are important, but **your character, effort, responsibility, and growth are important too.**

Remember:

Be curious. Be responsible. Be respectful. Be persistent.

I hope that this will be a **productive, successful, meaningful, and enjoyable school year** for every student.

I look forward to learning and growing together throughout the year!

 CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: ldiop@icccommunity.org

Curriculum Notice

Please note that the curriculum and instructional plans outlined in this newsletter are **subject to change and may be amended throughout the school year**. While I will follow the established curriculum, standards, and instructional goals for each grade level, lessons, topics, pacing, assignments, and activities may be adjusted as needed.

These adjustments may be made to respond to **student learning needs, classroom progress, instructional opportunities, school activities, and other circumstances** that arise during the school year.

My goal is to provide each student with meaningful, engaging, and appropriate learning experiences while ensuring that we continue to meet our academic objectives and standards.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work together to help your child have a successful school year.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your student's **English or Science coursework, assignments, classroom expectations, or academic progress**, please feel free to contact me by email.

I look forward to working together to support your students' success throughout the school year.