

CIMIC Family Night:
Is an Islamic Private School right for your family?

Introducing Hidaya Academy



HIDAYA ACADEMY
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Board of Directors and Committee Chairs



Dr. Tojan Rahhal
Chair

Biomedical Engineer, BS

Pharmaceutical
Engineering, PhD

Dispute Resolution, LLM

CEO, Engineering World
Health

**All board members are volunteers and have no financial interest
in Hidayah Academy**



Dr. Ghada Adhami
Co-Chair

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Pathology, MA CCC-
SLP

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Sr. Mai Taha

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Why an Islamic School in Champaign- Urbana?

**Last Fall Survey:
About 50% would enroll All
children in Islamic School**

**Majority elementary age
parents**

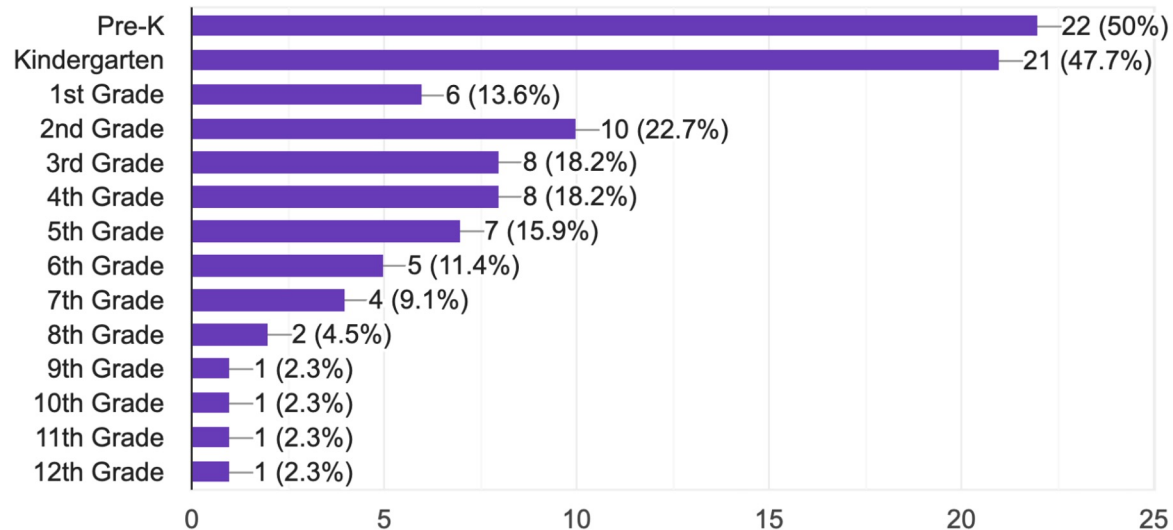
Row Labels	Count of Phone Number
☒ I would enroll ALL of my children in the C-U Islamic school.	22
12th Grade	1
2nd Grade, 4th Grade, 6th Grade	1
7th Grade	1
Kindergarten	2
Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	2
Kindergarten, 4th Grade, 5th Grade	1
Kindergarten, 5th Grade	1
Kindergarten, 5th Grade, 7th Grade	1
Pre-K	6
Pre-K, 1st Grade	1
Pre-K, 1st Grade, 4th Grade	1
Pre-K, 3rd Grade	1
Pre-K, 4th Grade	1
Pre-K, 4th Grade, 7th Grade	1
Pre-K, Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	1
☒ I would enroll SOME of my children in the C-U Islamic school.	13
1st Grade, 6th Grade	1
5th Grade, 8th Grade	1
Kindergarten	1
Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 4th Grade, 8th Grade	1
Kindergarten, 2nd Grade	2
Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade	1
Kindergarten, 4th Grade, 6th Grade	1
Pre-K, 2nd Grade, 5th Grade	1
Pre-K, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade, 6th Grade	1
Pre-K, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade, 7th Grade, 10th Grade	1
Pre-K, Kindergarten, 3rd Grade	2
☐ I'm not sure if I would enroll my children in the C-U Islamic school.	2

Community Responses:

Need for elementary school based on interested families

What are the grades of your children?

44 responses



Parents indicated the most important features are:

- Strong Core Academic Curriculum
- School Teachers and leaders who serve as Muslim role Models
- Strong Islamic and Quran Curriculum
- Certified teachers and Safe Physical Environment

Current Options for a Holistic Islamic Education

- Homeschool
- After-school
- Weekend
- Tutoring or supplemental classes

Hidaya Acadmey will be a drop-off elementary school that serves students from Kindergarten through 5th grade. In the next few years Inshallah, we plan to expand to grades 6th through 8th as well. The location of the school is yet to be determined.



HIDAYA ACADEMY

أكاديمية الهداية

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA



Who we are?

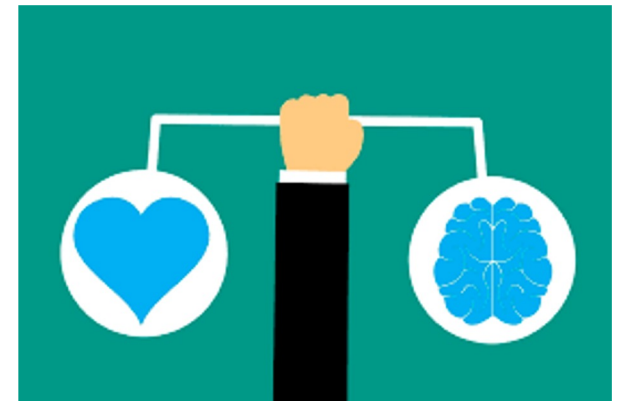
An Islamic School for the
Champaign-Urbana community



Mission: To create an Islamic nurturing environment for our youth that produces compassionate and creative leaders with a strong Muslim Identity, founded on Islamic ethics, community service and strong citizenship by focusing on the education of the whole child.

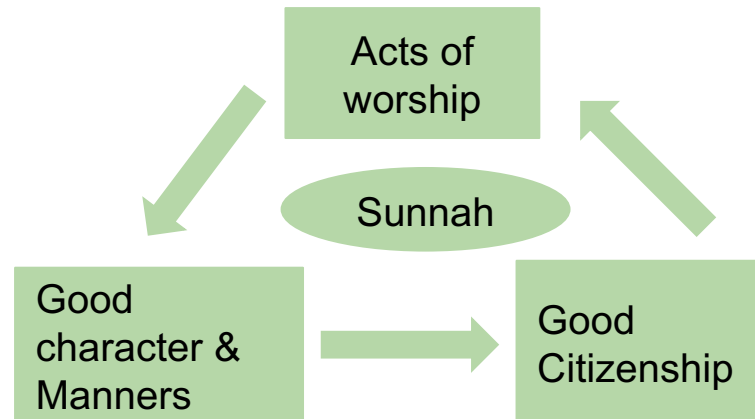
Guiding Educational Philosophy

Hidaya Academy views education as encompassing the “whole child” -- i.e. the **spiritual, social-emotional, academic and physical needs** of a student. It realizes that this is the only true way to prepare a child for success in this life, and the next.



Guiding Educational Philosophy: Spiritual

Spiritual: Allah swt tells us in the Qur'an that true honor and success is achieved by those who are conscious and mindful of Him.



O believers! Patiently endure, persevere, stand on guard, and be mindful of Allah, so you may be successful.

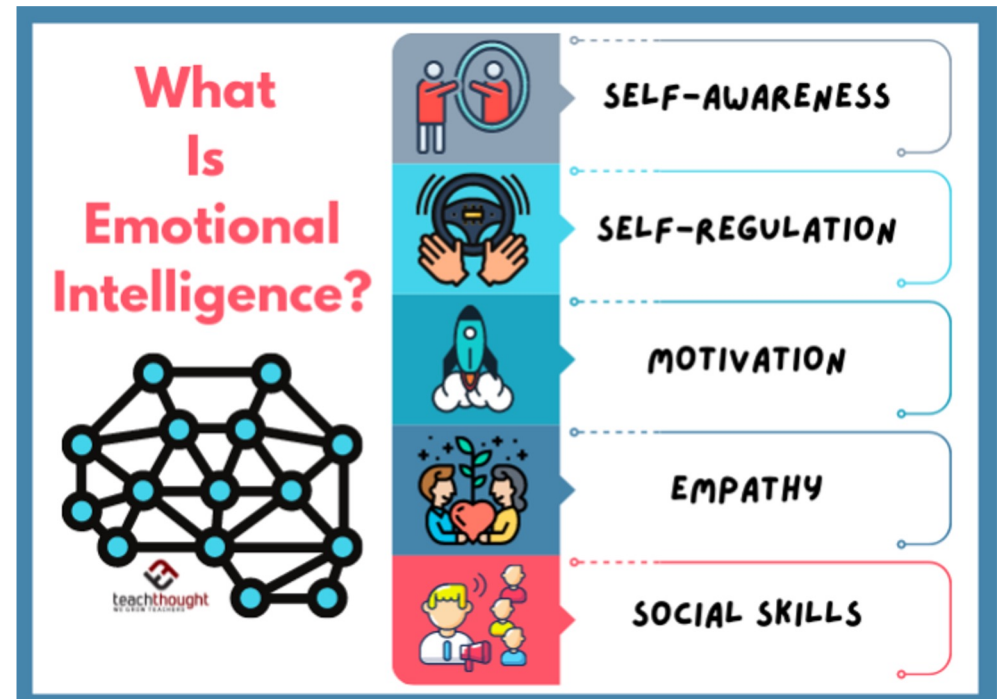
(Qur'an 3:200)

Guiding Educational Philosophy: Social-Emotional

Social-Emotional: According to a Forbes report in 2015, people with average IQs outperformed those with the highest IQs 70% of the time.

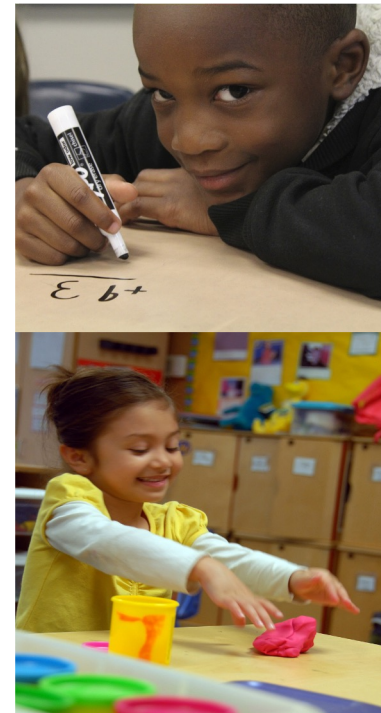
What characteristic allowed those individuals to be more successful?

Emotional Intelligence



Guiding Educational Philosophy: Academics

- Illinois State Standards as guidelines
- Differential Learning
- Engaged
- Critical Thinking
- Creative/Applied



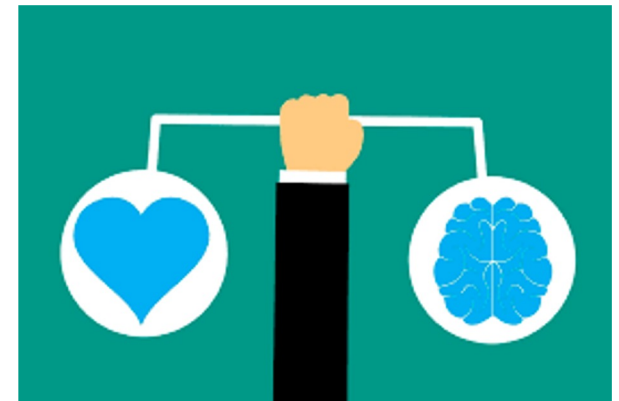
Guiding Educational Philosophy: Physical

Hidaya promotes the understanding that our bodies are an *amanah*, a *trust* from Allah, and that taking care of them is an important part of our faith.



Guiding Educational Philosophy

Hidaya Academy views education as encompassing the “whole child” -- i.e. the **spiritual, social-emotional, academic and physical needs** of a student. It realizes that this is the only true way to prepare a child for success in this life, and the next.



What will this approach look like?

- Daily chants, affirmations, and duas
- Character education infused in classes
- Student behavioral expectations in alignment with Sunnah
- Sadaqa projects
- Volunteer activities
- Family Service day
- Islamic Daily Schedule
- Teachers and Admin aligned with our values
- Healthy Growth mindset: mental and physical
- Ramadan and Eid celebrations



Parental Involvement

An adult individual from each family must volunteer for a minimum of **6 hours a month**. Volunteers will complete tasks such as teacher assistant, lunch monitor, helping students travel to and from classrooms, the playground, and the gym. This can also include remote assistance via activity planning, organizational tasks, etc.

Parents unable to volunteer can opt out with a financial contribution. Amount for the financial contribution is yet to be determined.



Elementary School Differential Learning

**KG
&
1st**

**2nd
&
3rd**

**4th
&
5th**

Proposed Classrooms (organization subject to change based on enrollment)

1-2 teachers per classroom

1:10 Teacher: Student Ratio with a max of 20 students.

Speciality Classes: Arabic, Islamic Studies, Quran

Additional Electives: PE, Art

Curriculum

Curriculum will be guided by, but not limited to the Illinois State Standards.



- **Education Committee**
 - Surveying common books, curriculums and project-based learning initiatives
 - Comparing to national private and public schools
- **Education Consultant** with 12 years of experience with developing Islamic Schools in the USA

Sample Schedule



The image shows a tablet displaying a weekly schedule titled 'Stundenplan'. The schedule is a grid with days of the week as columns and time slots as rows. The days are Monday through Friday. The time slots are numbered 1 through 6. The grid is color-coded by day: Monday (yellow), Tuesday (light blue), Wednesday (light green), Thursday (light purple), and Friday (light green). The tablet is placed on a wooden desk. In the background, there is a ruler, a protractor, and some colorful geometric shapes.

Zeit	Montag	Dienstag	Mittwoch	Donnerstag	Freitag
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

4- 6 levels of each course to accommodate merged classroom spaces dependent on enrollment needs

Classroom A		Classroom B		Classroom C	
K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Morning Assembly	Morning Assembly	Morning Assembly	Morning Assembly	Morning Assembly	Morning Assembly
Math	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
English	English	English	English	English	English
BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
Islamic Studies	Islamic Studies	Islamic Studies	Islamic Studies	Islamic Studies	Islamic Studies
Arabic	Arabic	Arabic	Arabic	Arabic	Arabic
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Quran		Science/ Social Studies		PE/ Art	
PE/ Art		Quran		Science/ Social Studies	
BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
Science/ Social Studies		PE/Art		Quran	

Hidaya Calendar

- Start Date: Mid-August, End Date: Late May
- Public Holidays
- Winter Break closely following Unit 4 schedule
- Late Morning Start in Ramadan
- Adjusted Ramadan Monthly Schedule
- Eid Holiday
- Teacher Service days



What about Illinois Education Standards?

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Process

Launch Aug. 2023

- Fundraising
- Enrollment
- Hiring
- Launch

Register Oct. 2023- July 2024

ISBE has some basic data about the school.

- Simpler form
- Must meet minimum days/hours requirement

Makes transfers out of school easier

Recognition Aug. 2024 - Jan. 2025

ISBE confirms school follows policies, procedures and files

- Rigorous Application and requirements
- Review team assessment and visit
- Recommendations
- Recognition granted

Access to government funds for students and teachers

Accreditation

- Third Party assessment
- Confirms curriculum is rigorous
- Not required by ISBE
- Dependent on Accreditation agency

What are the requirement needed to Register as a private school in Illinois?

- Full time teachers must hold a bachelor's degree or higher
- Proper background checks of all employees
- Professional Development of staff
- Formal evaluation of teachers every 2 years.
- Registration with the ISBE (Illinois State Board of Education)
- 176 school days, with at least 5 hrs of instruction. 880 hr total/ year
- Must report to the ISBE student immunizations and health records

What are the qualifications of the teachers?

Must have a Bachelor's degree

2-3 experience in Elementary Education

Drug testing, Background checks

2-3 Professional References

Applicants will be assessed on strength of overall application process: interview, teaching demonstration, and “fit” (synchrony with Hidaya’s mission, vision, and spirit of education).

Admissions

- Pre-K2 MUST be 4 years old by September 1st.
- Kindergarten MUST be 5 years old by September 1st.
- Elementary and Middle School need to provide proof of successful earlier grade completion.
- Every incoming child will be assessed in terms of his/her ability to:
 - Attend to and follow developmentally appropriate instructions
 - Reading, Math, and Qur'an/Arabic levels

Transfer to Other Schools

Parents whose children transfer to other schools may use the following items to inform other schools about academic levels:

- School transcripts/report cards/progress notes
- MAP Growth Tests
- Portfolios of student work
- Schools will evaluate student per their policies
- Registration with ISBE will make this process easier

How much will a Private School Cost?

Market Research:

What are the Private Schools Available in CU?

Countryside School

Montessori School

Next Generation School

University Primary

Catholic Private Schools



Countryside School



Combined classes K/1, 2/3, 4/5

Allows for students with different skills levels to achieve appropriate academic goals

For example if a kindergartener is at a 1st grade English level, they will take the 1st grade English Class

Small Class sizes

Multiple electives including: Music, Spanish, Chinese

Tuition: \$**16,384 + \$500 supply fee**



Next Generation

Individual Classes for each grade level

2 teachers per classroom

Multiple electives including: Spanish, Music, Robotics,

After School activities and STEM afterschool program

Tuition: **\$18,000 + \$565 fees**



Montessori School



Combined classes K/1, 2/3, 4/ 5

2 Classrooms per teacher

Students independently learn with minimal instruction from the teachers

Lacking facilities: currently renting a dance studio

Montessori style education

Tuition: **\$9,750 + \$400 fees**

University Primary

University of Illinois supported Elementary school

Combined classes K/1, 2/3, 4/5

2 teachers per classroom

Minimal Facilities: no playground for children, old building

Elective: Spanish

Tuition: **\$10,260 + \$550 fees**



Market Research: Islamic School Tuition in the Area?



Islamic Foundation
School, Villa Park IL

Tuition: **\$7000-
7600/yr**

Fees **\$500/yr**

10% discount for
siblings



Universal School,
Bridgeview IL

Tuition **\$7900/yr**

Fees **\$768-1105/yr**

\$100 off each additional
sibling



CPSA, Chicago
Preparatory School of
America, Lombard IL

Tuition **\$6800/ yr**

Fees **\$595/yr**

10% discount off each
additional sibling



How much does it cost to operate an Islamic School?

- 3 Full Time Elementary School Teachers
- 2 Full Time Preschool Teachers
- 3 Part Time teachers
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 Principal
- Utilities
- Insurance
- Supplies
- Rent

\$500,000-\$700,000/ year

Goal: 36-40 Elementary kids

15 preschool kids

Employees: 8-10 FTE

Hidaya Academy Tuition (K-5)

Tuition: **\$650-850/month** (10-months)

Tentative School Hours: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Before and After school Care (+\$200/month)

7:30 am - 8:30 am, 3:30 pm - 5:45 pm

Fees: **\$500-600/ yr** (individual student-specific supplies)



Hidaya Academy Preschool

4 year old classroom- 20 Students

Preschool Hours: 7:30 AM - 5:45PM

Instructional time: 8:30-3:00pm

Naptime provided

1:10 class ratio

2 teachers per classroom

Full time teachers receive tuition discount

~\$240-270/ week



Tuition Scholarship Process

We understand that there is great diversity in families' income and assets.

The **indexed tuition program** recognizes those differences and provides a range of tuition so that we charge the rates that are right for our families.

FAST process: Independent third party that will assist Hidaya in finding the appropriate tuition for each family to maintain confidentiality.

Tuition Scholarship Process

FAST application (\$48/family): Independent third party that will assist Hidayah in finding the appropriate tuition for each family to maintain confidentiality.

- Dependents
- Income
- Assets
- Liabilities
- Other expenses

FAST Worksheet

For your convenience, we have included a worksheet for you to use when gathering the necessary information that will be asked on the FAST application. If you are unsure what is required for a particular field, there is a Glossary available at the end of this book.

Application Information – Student

(Fill out 101-107 for each student)

101 Name _____
102 Birth Date _____
103 Gender _____
104 Grade Entering _____
105 529 Savings _____
106 Social Security Income _____
107 Child Trust _____

Parent/Guardian

(Fill out 201-212 for each parent in the household.)

201 Name _____
202 Gender _____
203 Birth Date _____
204 Address 1 _____
205 Address 2 _____
206 City _____
207 State, ZIP _____
208 Country _____
209 Phone (Home, Cell, or Work) _____

Dependent Adult Information

(Fill out 350-352 for each adult dependent.)

350 Name _____
351 Birth Date _____
352 Does this dependent live at the same address as applicant(s)? _____

Real Estate

(Fill out 401-411 for each property.)

401 Mortgage Payment (monthly) _____
402 Mortgage Interest Paid (annual) _____
403 Is your home owners insurance included in your mortgage? _____
404 Original Mortgage Value _____
406 Year Purchased _____
407 Purchase Price _____
408 Present Market Value _____
409 Have you refinanced? What year? Refinance amount _____
410 Principal Remaining _____
411 Property Tax Paid _____
412 Is your property tax included in your mortgage? _____

Link available: <https://hidayaacademycu.com/tuition-and-financial-aid>



- ▶ Log in / Log out
- ▶ Instructions
- ▶ Account Settings
- ▶ Applicant Info
- ▶ Household Info
- ▶ Dependent Info
- ▶ Real Estate / Vehicles
- ▶ Assets / Liabilities
- ▶ Income
- ▶ Expenses
- ▶ Letter / Agreement
- ▶ Application Status
- ▶ Payment
- ▶ Quick Processing

Downloadable Worksheet

Financial Aid Application

Hidaya Academy of Champaign-Urbana

IMPORTANT! If this is not the school to which you are applying, go to your school's homepage and click on the FAST logo.

START APPLICATION

RESUME APPLICATION

English

Tuition Scholarship Process

We understand that there is great diversity in families' income and assets. We value accessibility to the process and school, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Every scholarship will come with associated parent volunteer hours.

Availability of scholarships is 100% dependent on donations from the community.

Interest Form Questions

Q: Where will Hidayah Academy be located?

A: We are currently searching for a location in Champaign-Urbana that will fit our students and provide a safe and conducive learning environment.

We are open to discussing ideas/locations with community members. We will likely start in a facility that can meet our current needs and grow into our own facility.



Q: Will Hidayah Academy's teachers be Muslim?

A: Hidayah Academy teachers will be chosen based on their commitment to Hidayah's mission, vision and educational philosophy, as well as the overall strength of their qualifications, interview and teaching demonstrations. The academy is open, but not limited to, Muslim applicants.

Q: What employment opportunities does Hidayah Academy have?

A: All employment opportunities are dependent of enrollment for 2023 school year.

Anticipated Openings:

3 Full Time Teachers

Speciality Teachers in Arabic, Math, English/ Reading,
Islamic Studies, and Quran



Full Time Teachers will receive a discount in tuition or Need Based Financial Aid, whichever is greater

Q: Will Hidayah Academy be able to provide services for special or different student behavior and learning needs?

A: Hidayah Academy does not have the special needs resources for specialized instruction.

Q: Will Hidayah Academy require uniforms?

A: We will have a dress code for students to adhere to, however not a uniform. Inshallah we will explore this in year 2.

Q: How do I secure my Child's spot at Hidayah Academy for August 2023?

www.HidayahAcademyCU.com/Admission

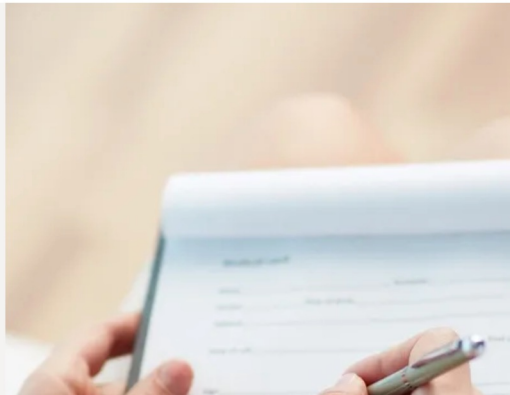


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Admission

Hidayah Academy admits students of any race, gender, or religion to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to its students. The academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, or religion in administration of its educational policies and programs. Unfortunately, Hidayah Academy does not have the special needs resources for specialized instruction. As a result, we can only admit students whose needs can be met with the available resources.

Health Requirements



Application Forms

The following forms are required in addition to the application form.

- Copy of the student's birth certificate
- Copy of report cards (K-5)
- State of Federal Government Issued Picture ID
- Billing statement (Address must match picture ID)
- Physical records as listed above
- Dental records as listed above
- Vision records as listed above
- Asthma Action if applicable
- Food Allergy Emergency Action Plan if Applicable

Please complete the form below to start the registration process. After the completion of the form below, a member of Hidayah Academy will send an application packet to complete. All application packets must be completed by March 31st. Families will be notified of their acceptance by April 10th. A \$300 non- refundable deposits must be submitted by April 17th to secure your spot.

APPLY TODAY



Q: How do I secure my Child's spot at Hidayah Academy for August 2023?

1. **Now:** Complete the Registration Form
2. **Early March:** Hidayah Academy will send a full application packet
3. **Early March:** Complete FAST form to determine scholarships
4. **March 31:** Application packet due for rolling admissions
5. **By April 14:** Acceptances and scholarship award value sent out
6. **April 17:** Security deposit due
7. **August:** School starts

Secure a spot: <https://tinyurl.com/hidayahCU>



Thank you!

Thank you to all of our volunteers that are working with us to make Hidaya Academy come to life! There are many of you in the community and outside of the community believing in our mission and share our joint intention to create a future for our kids as Muslims.

Jazakallahu kheir!

Questions?



HIDAYA ACADEMY

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Mission: To create an Islamic nurturing environment for our youth that produces compassionate and creative leaders with a strong Muslim Identity, founded on Islamic ethics, community service and strong citizenship.

Vision: To be a professional, sustainable Islamic school, infused with research driven teachings that will weave into developing students' mindsets on how Islam shapes their identity and the world we live in. We strive to increase students' skills, knowledge, and dispositions to thrive in and serve our communities and our world and to inspire confidence-based principles that solidify their Muslim character.

HidayaAcademyCU@gmail.com
HidavaAcademvCU.com

