



ILM ACADEMY
Official Newsletter

ILM insider



السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

MAY THE PEACE, MERCY & BLESSINGS OF ALLAH BE UPON YOU

Alhumdullilah, we are halfway into the first quarter of the 2020-21 academic year. We would like to send a special thanks and Dua to our parents, students, and staff for working together so patiently through these unprecedented times. Despite some early setbacks of this school year, as a few of our respected coworkers parted ways with us, we also welcomed other amazing members to our ILM staff community. We are incredibly grateful for our parents' and students' understanding, as everyone has adjusted to this new way of learning. We realize how essential it is for students and teachers to build an in-person bond in the first few weeks of the school year. Our diligent teachers have been creating virtual relationships with their students successfully. In addition, our students have done a fantastic job of learning to navigate the multiple platforms introduced to them for instruction.

With high impetuses and clear directions, ILM Academy's Administration continues to maintain the quality of education of our institution, strive for building an ideal nurturing environment for our students, and serve our committed teachers to be the most effective in educating our students. For the continued success of our cyberlearning program, we urge you to reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns, or to provide your feedback.

MISSION

- Provide an environment to produce Muslims whose thoughts and actions are devoted to Allah (SWT).
- Focus on teaching Language Arts, Science, Math and Arabic.
- Utilize the most effective teaching methods (teaching philosophy) and tools (technology).
- Make learning appealing, interesting, fun and interactive. Instill discipline in students.
- Inculcate a strong foundation of Islamic principles.

VISION

To develop strong Muslims, nurtured to excel academically and fostered to be productive members of their community and society at large.

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

SEPT 13

FCS WATER
ART COMPETITION

SEPT 30

END OF FIRST QUARTER

OCT 9

PARENT TEACHER CONF.
NO STUDENTS

OCT 12

TEACHER WORKDAY
NO STUDENTS

OCT 13

PD & ELECTION DAY
NO STUDENTS

NOV 03

HOLIDAY
NO SCHOOL

NOV 23-27

WINTER MAP TESTING

DEC 14-18

END OF SECOND QUARTER

DEC 18

WINTER BREAK
NO SCHOOL

DEC 21-31

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

CYBERLEARNING PARENTS' FEEDBACK

Parents were surveyed on their children's virtual learning experience in an effort to improve the quality of educational instruction. Our parents' feedback is important to us to make informed decisions and bring essential changes to the virtual learning program's processes. We received an average of 53% participation from parents in PreK - High School. Montessori received an overwhelming response of 90% of parents participation on their survey.

Please click [here](#) to see detailed parents' response data.

TAKE AWAY POINTS FROM THE PARENTS FEEDBACK

We will continue to make data-driven decisions based on parents' feedback to preserve a vital communication bridge between ILM Administration and the parent body.

AREAS WHERE ILM ACADEMY IS DOING WELL

- Students have adjusted, and cyberlearning is going well for them.
- Most parents can manage online learning for their children.
- Overall the lessons being taught online are engaging, and teachers are providing explicit instruction to the students.
- Top 5 online features which students are benefiting from:
 1. Clickable ZOOM link schedule
 2. Use of online tools to reduce the need of printing, scanning, and uploading
 3. 15 minute break between classes
 4. School supplies and learning material provided by ILM
 5. School Laptops (KG - 8th Grade) & Morning Assembly

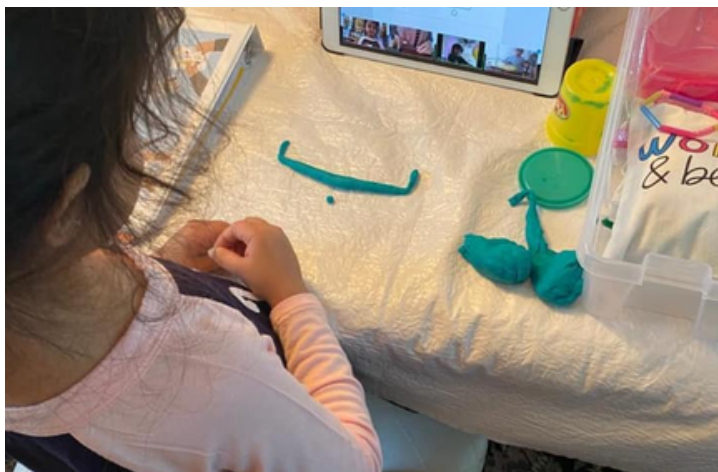


AREAS WHERE ILM ACADEMY IS WORKING TO IMPROVE THE CYBERLEARNING EXPERIENCE

- Reducing live sessions or adjusting live session length across PreK - 4th Grade.
- Making live sessions optional for students who can work at their own pace and can complete their assignments independently.
- Increasing the use of workbooks and notebooks to give students screen-free time.
- Adjusting the curriculum and pacing it to fit the current learning situation without compromising the foundational skills students need to succeed in each subject area.
- Choosing the material box drop-off and pick up time, based on the parents' majority's choice (Primary & Elementary Montessori).

AREAS WHERE PARENTS CAN HELP IMPROVE THE CYBERLEARNING EXPERIENCE

- Partner with your child(ren)'s teachers and communicate with them if you have concerns with online learning.
- Check ALMA regularly to keep up to date with your children's assigned work & assessments.
- Ensure that students take the built-in breaks between sessions, instead of staying on their screens and watching videos or playing online games.
- Encourage independence by teaching your child(ren) to communicate with their teachers if and when they need help.
- Encourage and establish a routine during school days and set time limits to complete any assigned work.
- To lesson screen times, establish a routine to read printed books daily.



Overall MAP Testing Results

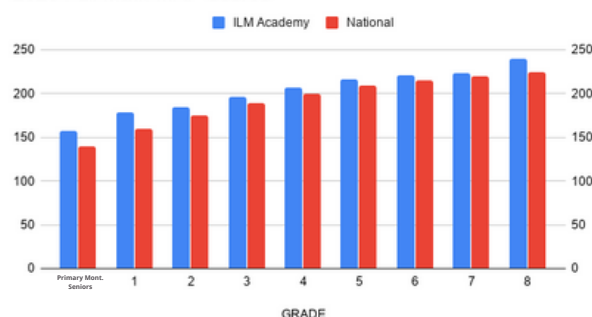
Fall MAP testing is conducted three times (fall, winter, spring) during the school year and is used as a diagnostic tool to gauge students' strengths and weaknesses in Math, Reading, and Language Arts. Teachers use the results to set individual goals and plan instruction to optimize student learning.

In the second and third weeks of cyberlearning, ILM students (Grades 1 - 8, Elementary Montessori, & Primary Montessori Seniors ONLY) participated in the Fall MAP Testing. Alhumdulillah, online testing went smoothly, and the results show that ILM Academy's students have scored exceptionally well compared to the national 2020 norms. Note that the Georgia State's MAP norms are comparatively lower than the national average means (not shown).

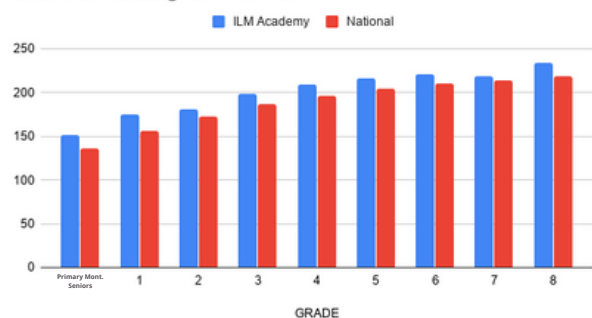
The Fall MAP test results show that our students start the academic year on an average one to two grades above their current grade level. Does this mean that we accomplished our goal? Absolutely not! Though it is a remarkable outcome for our students, it also sets the bar higher for ILM Academy to ensure that we provide our students with an appropriately engaging and challenging education to achieve their estimated growth.

Since Fall MAP scores are used as a diagnostic tool for the teachers to plan instruction, ILM Academy shares the Spring MAP Test scores with the parents to see the academic growth and progress. Fall MAP scores are available upon request.

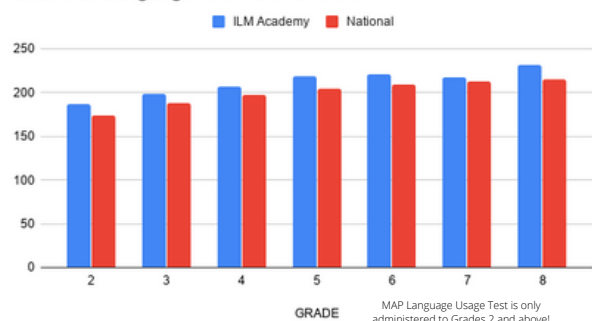
2020 Fall Math MAP Scores



2020 Fall Reading MAP Scores



2020 Fall Language Arts MAP Scores



ILM ACADEMY BOARD UPDATES

Alhumdulillah

We have completed the first four weeks of school. We are very grateful to the staff for putting in lots of time and effort in making sure that our students are getting the education they need in order to achieve continued growth. The accomplishments of the first four weeks show the dedication and commitment of the staff members, students, and the parents. Insha'Allah we expect to see similar progress going forward to strengthen ILM's community during these unprecedented times.

The Board Nomination Committee (BNC) has successfully kicked off the process of bringing new members to the Board. Consolidation and finalization of the candidates will be followed by interviews by the BNC and review with the parent body. Insha'Allah, we expect this process to complete in the next two weeks. Please look out for an email announcing the next steps.



ILM Finances

The Finance Committee and Business Office have started the financial review to prepare for the audit. We are in the process of finalizing the financial statements which will help us get a clearer financial projection for the rest of the school year based on the current situation.

We are continuing to work with our bank to go through the PPP loan forgiveness program. We are still waiting on the application process to open for us. We will keep you posted as the process goes forward.

Alhumdulillah we were able to secure funds from Title II and Title IV. From Title II, we are approved for \$8,728 that can be used for staff PD during the current school year. From Title IV, we are approved for \$3,112, which will be used to provide additional services, staff programs, or online subscriptions and materials. With Title IV funds, we have purchased Gallopade subscription (Social Studies curriculum) for Grades 1st to 8th. Earlier we were approved for \$29,097.44 with Cares ACT. Unfortunately, per a federal judge ruling Fulton County School District has temporarily halted the program for all private schools. For further details please visit [this article](#).

COVID-19

We pray that all of you are keeping safe, healthy and productive during the ongoing disruption caused by the pandemic. The Board and Administration have been actively monitoring the situation on a regular basis and are committed to re-opening the school for in-class instruction as soon as it is safe to do so. We will continue to do our level best to keep the parent body informed as the situation progresses.

As you have seen in the news, many schools and colleges in Georgia have had their students and faculty directly impacted by COVID-19 due to opening their doors too soon or too fast. We strongly feel it would be premature to take similar actions at this point in time. ILM team has started taking steps to get the plans in place for the phased return. We are looking at safety, facility and operational needs to put together a concrete plan.

As mentioned in our meetings during summer, to achieve the above mentioned goals we will require additional funding. Insha'Allah, we will share the plans and financial needs as we get to final details of the plan.

Parent Initiative

Following the recommendation of some parents, the Business Office contacted parents to see which families would be willing to opt out of the cyberLearning discount. Alhumdulillah, twenty two families have opted out of the discount which resulted in \$3,064 per month of additional revenue. Any families still wanting to take part in this voluntary opt out of the discount, please reach out to the Business Office. In addition, in the last couple of weeks, some families have stepped up to give donations to bridge the financial gap.

Staff Initiative

Alhumdulillah, many staff members have come forward to offer voluntary salary reduction to help the school reduce the financial challenge. We are very grateful for their generosity. At this time, we are making all efforts to manage finances without causing any hardship to our staff members and their families by reduction in salary.

We would like to thank all parents and staff who have come forward to help the school in such a difficult financial situation. May Allah(swt) reward you all with the best in this life and the hereafter. Ameen!



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

General Operations And Notifications

administration@ilm-academy.com

Elementary (PreK - 4th Grade)

Umme-Kulsoom Huda (Somi)

elementary@ilm-academy.com

Montessori (Primary & Elementary)

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Middle School (5th - 8th Grade)

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