

SALAM Islamic Weekend School Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQs”)

Q1: What are your purpose, goals and mission?

Answer: As an Islamic Weekend School, we have a holistic approach to instilling the main teachings of Islam in our students. We teach Islam as a way of life; teach students how to succeed in being responsible and practicing American Muslims; and provide a congenial and Islamic environment in which our students can engage socially while developing leadership skills. We truly believe we are educating the next generation of American Muslim leaders.

Q2: What are the school dates every year?

Answer: The exact dates change from year to year due to holidays. Generally, Fall semester begins in mid-August and ends mid-December. Spring semester begins early January and ends in early May. We offer ~30 weeks of instruction per year. For the most current/correct semester schedule, please always check our website.

Q3: We’re a returning family and have been attending SALAM for years. Why do I have to fill out all my information online this year when I haven’t done so before?

Answer: In 2018-19, we are moving entirely to an online registration system and, for administrative and safety purposes, we need all registration information to be consistent and accurate. Many of the records from returning families have out of date, incomplete, and inaccurate information. By having all students register in the same way, it allows our administration to keep accurate records. As fiscal officers of SALAM, it is our duty to have proper records. We appreciate your help in this.

Q4: Why do I have to enroll every semester instead of once a year?

Answer: To make it financially easier on our families, we do not charge tuition for the whole year at one time. Our tuition is semester based and so we have separate enrollments for each semester.

Q5: What is your tuition and what does it cover?

Answer: Our tuition is \$200/student per semester. It covers the cost of overhead, teacher and TA salaries, technology upgrades, classroom supplies, and teacher trainings.

Q6: Do you offer multiple child discounts?

Answer: Yes, we can do. Every additional child is given a 10% discount on the original tuition per child (i.e. every additional child’s tuition is \$180). We have carefully analyzed the costs required to run the program effectively and we have set the price at the lowest tuition per child possible.

Q7: I just cannot afford the full cost of the tuition at the time of registration. What do I do?

Answer: We offer an installment payment plan which allows families to spread out the payments into 3 payments per semester. If you need to utilize this option, please be in touch with the WES administration (weekendschool@salamcenter.org). We require the first payment at the time of registration. The school will need two post-dated checks or a credit authorization for the second and third payment to be put the file at the time of registration.

Q8: Even with the installment plan, I just cannot afford it. Can’t you just give me a discount because I asked for one? I’d like to negotiate these costs down.

Answer: The pricing is set and we are unable to negotiate our tuition because it really is the lowest amount we can offer without causing SALAM financial harm. However, if you have a financial need and would like to apply for

financial aid, please fill out this form: <https://goo.gl/forms/2yRBB3gkK3jr0Xt02>. We have a very limited pool of financial aid funds available and award these on a first come-first serve/ income need basis. The primary recipients of these funds are typically those who are low income and/or refugee families. We cannot guarantee that all those who apply will receive aid.

Q9: Do you have a deadline for registering my child for semester classes?

Answer: We do not have a set deadline to register your children. However, please note that we do not pro-rate our tuition and that we recommend that you talk to the WES administration and the teacher(s) if you are registering your children after Week 8 in the semester, especially in Spring.

Q10: If I miss the Early Bird registration dates, can I still get the 15% discount anyway?

Answer: We provide the Early Bird discount as an incentive to our families to register early and in full. This helps the WES administration with its planning for the next semester, impacts our hiring decisions, and how many supplies/textbooks we order. If families wait until the last minute to register, the WES does not gain any advantage, so the incentive no longer applies. If you plan to attend next year, we encourage you take advantage of the discount while you can. We will not provide it after it expires.

Q11: Do you teach this program in Arabic or English? What if my child doesn't know English?

Answer: Our courses are all taught in English and we expect our students to have the **basic understanding of English appropriate for their age/grade level**. While some of our teachers are fluent in languages other than English, we do not expect our teachers to teach in multiple languages. As such, even the Arabic and Qur'an Memorization classes are taught in English with an expectation that all students will do the work necessary to keep up with the pace and requirements of the classes.

Q12: I really only want my child to learn the Qur'an and/or to learn Arabic. Can I just enroll them in those classes?

Answer: It is our mission to provide a holistic Islamic education to our students. Therefore, you cannot enroll your child by subject only in the Core Curriculum. We do offer Elective classes in Arabic and Qur'an; you can enroll your children for those courses only. Please see our website for more details or talk to a WES administrator.

Q13: I want my child(ren) to memorize the entire 30th Part of the Qur'an (Juz 'Amma) from beginning to end and in order. Can I put them all in Kindergarten since that's where you start that curriculum?

Answer: Our students are expected to join the class that is **appropriate for their age/grade level** that matches their placement in their "regular" school. After consultation and approval from the WES administration, some students may be placed in a grade level one below or one above their own. However, this is handled on a case-by-case basis and is not generally recommended. In order to ensure success for all of our students, we are unable to offer special education for students who require extra help and we do not place students many grade levels above or below their own age/grade level group.

Q14: I want to support the School and SALAM. How can I help? Can I teach or volunteer?

Answer: Please consider donating to our financial aid fund at <https://www.salamcenter.org/sponsor-a-student>. If you are interested in teaching/volunteering, please send an e-mail with your interest and CV to weekendschool@salamcenter.org. Someone will be in touch with you to discuss options and opportunities.

Have a question that wasn't answered here? Contact weekendschool@salamcenter.org to set up a time to speak with an administrator over the phone or in person.