

# THE FURQAAN HERALD

GUIDED BY THE QUR'AN, STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!



A QUR'ANIC GENERATION, A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

### WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL – A YEAR OF GROWTH AND ENLIGHTENMENT

Dear Parents, Instructors and Staff,

As we embark on the 2025-2026 academic year, we are reminded of the profound value of seeking knowledge—a journey deeply cherished in our faith. The Quran teaches us:

“رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا”

“My Lord, increase me in knowledge.” (Surah Ta-Ha, 20:114) This verse inspires us to approach learning with humility and dedication, recognizing that true understanding is a gift from Allah (SWT).

#### Our Commitment to Excellence

This year, let us strive to embody another Quranic teaching:

“يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ”

“Allah will elevate those of you who believe, and those who are given knowledge, to high degrees.” (Surah Al-Mujadila, 58:11)

Education is not merely about academic success but about nurturing character, compassion, and wisdom. We encourage students to: approach challenges with curiosity and resilience, respect teachers and peers as partners in learning, seek knowledge as a means to serve humanity and honor our Creator.

#### A Message of Reflection

Allah (SWT) reminds us in the Quran:

“اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ”

“Read in the name of your Lord who created.” (Surah Al-Alaq, 96:1)

May this verse guide our classrooms, labs, and discussions, reminding us that every discovery connects us to His infinite wisdom. Together, let's make this year one of growth, unity, and enlightenment. Welcome to Furqaan and its Vision!

Best Regards,  
Nazia M. Jalali, M.Ed.  
Principal

## ACTION ITEMS

From Your School Administrator

- **Please be advised that your child's current Certificate of Child Health Examination must be submitted by October 5th, 2025.** Failure to submit the required documentation by this extended deadline will result in your child being prohibited from entering the school premises.
- **Please make sure to add all Furqaan Academy and Gradelink email addresses to your address book or safe sender list immediately.** This will ensure you do not miss any important communication from the school or your child's teachers.
- **We kindly ask that you avoid sending unhealthy snacks to school.** In the coming weeks, these items will be collected and not allowed during the day, as they may impact student behavior and focus. Examples include chips, candy, soda, and other highly processed or sugary foods.
- If someone other than a parent is picking up your child, we require updated authorization and written or emailed confirmation for that day. **For safety, children will not be released to unfamiliar individuals.** All authorized individuals must present the Family Number pickup card.
- **Furqaan Academy does not create, manage, or participate in WhatsApp groups for individual grades.** We kindly request that privacy and respectful boundaries be maintained at all times. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

“اللهم انفعنا بما علمتنا وعلما ما ينفعنا”  
 “O Allah, benefit us with what  
 You have taught us, and teach  
 us what benefits us.”

Ameen

- A Beautiful Dua from  
 Principal Nazia M. Jalali, M.Ed.

## UPCOMING DATES

**OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER ENDS

**OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY  
 TEACHERS IN-SERVICE DAY  
 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

**OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup>**  
 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR  
 (3<sup>RD</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADES)

**OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**  
 PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

**OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**  
 E-LEARNING DAY  
 FAMILY NIGHT  
 PUPPET SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA  
 (PRESCHOOL - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADES)  
 4:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

“I find great joy in working at Furqaan Academy where I get to connect with the youth every day and see them develop a love for the Quran and grow closer to Allah SWT. The close knit environment of Furqaan Academy makes everyone feel like family, where together, we work towards making a lasting impact on the future generation.”

-Imam Faisal Fatani  
 Full-Time Hifdh Instructor

# THE HEART OF OUR HALLS: MEET THE STAFF



*Ms. Zoya Jakrani - Sayani*

**School Administrator**



Ms. Zoya joins us with an impressive track record in education, leadership, and community engagement. With extensive experience in designing and leading Deen-centered youth programs, teaching early childhood, and providing inclusive instruction and enrichment opportunities, she is more than prepared to foster a nurturing and empowering atmosphere for our students.

Beyond her educational prowess, Ms. Zoya brings exceptional organizational and leadership capabilities, developed through her background in operations, finance, and project management. As she pursues her second degree in Computer Information Science, her commitment to growth in educational leadership shines through. Mrs. Zoya is eager to collaborate with our students, families, and staff to create a school culture grounded in faith, excellence, and community.



*Ms. Rasheeda Pesharwarwala*

**Administrative Assistant**



Ms. Rasheeda is a distinguished professional with a Bachelor's degree in Microbiology, where she achieved an impressive third place ranking statewide, along with an Advanced Diploma in Multimedia.

With more than two decades of experience in graphic design and marketing, she has developed compelling videos, animations, and advertising strategies for leading brands while also making significant contributions to print media. As a creative director and strategist, Ms. Rasheeda has successfully led marketing teams through various projects.

Ms. Rasheeda's warm demeanor and collaborative spirit have made her a valued member of the Furqaan Academy team, where she supports daily operations with efficiency and grace.



*Ms. Nabila Fatima*

**Pre-K Homeroom Teacher**



Ms. Nabila holds a Bachelor's of Science in Computer Science Engineering, graduating in 2022 with the highest rank, showcasing her dedication and commitment to excellence. Ms. Nabila brings a genuine passion for early childhood education and is dedicated to fostering a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment for our youngest learners.

With her creative approach to teaching, she utilizes patience and engaging hands-on activities to spark curiosity and develop essential foundational skills in our Pre-Kindergarten students. She is committed to collaborating with parents and fellow educators to support the academic, social, and emotional growth of each child.



*Hafidha Atika Baloch*

**Grades 1-2 Quran Instructor**



Ms. Atika is a dedicated instructor who has successfully completed her Hifdh and Alima courses at Darul Uloom Chicago. She is currently working towards her Ijaza in Hafs, further deepening her knowledge of the Quran. With approximately six years of experience teaching Quran to both children and teenagers, Ms. Atika has cultivated a passion for making the learning process engaging and enjoyable.

Originally hailing from Chicago, Illinois, she believes that every child has the potential to connect with the Qur'an in a meaningful way, and she strives to instill a sense of love and respect for the Holy Text. By incorporating interactive and creative teaching methods, she ensures that her lessons are not only informative but also memorable.

# THE HEART OF OUR HALLS: MEET THE STAFF



*Ms. Fatema Noor*

**Grade 5 Mathematics Instructor**



Ms. Noor holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). During her time at UIC, she worked as a Learning Assistant for two years supporting students in developing strong foundational skills in math and building academic confidence.

Ms. Noor is passionate about education and plans to pursue her Master's degree in the near future. She brings a caring and energetic approach to teaching, with a focus on creating a positive learning environment that encourages curiosity and growth. She is excited to begin her journey at Furqaan Academy and looks forward to inspiring her students both academically and spiritually.



*Mr. Omran A. Darali*

**Gym Instructor**



Mr. Omran A. Darali is an accomplished professional in the field of Physical Education, holding both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree from National University. With a steadfast commitment to promoting physical fitness and sportsmanship, he has established himself as a dedicated Physical Education instructor with extensive experience in the field.

In addition to his teaching role, Mr. Darali is an experienced referee, having officiated high-level tournaments, including the prestigious Asia Qualifiers 2025. His expertise in officiating is further solidified by his International Basketball Table Referee License, which showcases his proficiency in managing competitive sports events.

Mr. Darali is passionate about fostering a love for physical activity among his students, emphasizing the importance of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. He employs innovative teaching methods to engage students and inspire them to achieve their personal best, both in sports and in life.



*Mr. Baracka Cirincione*

**ELA, Social Studies Instructor**



Mr. Baracka holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education from Western Governors University. With a profound commitment to shaping young minds and fostering inclusive learning environments, he is an accomplished educator holding the Illinois Professional Educator's License. He is a certified instructor for grades 1-6 in general studies and specializes in K-12 special education, equipping him with the tools to support a diverse range of learners. Currently, he is in the final semester of his master's program, on track to become a Certified Behavior Specialist, a role that will enable him to further assist students in navigating their behavioral challenges.

Mr. Baracka believes in the transformative power of education and is passionate about creating engaging, supportive spaces where every child can thrive. Outside the classroom, he enjoys exploring innovative teaching methods and collaborating with fellow educators to enhance the learning experience. His dedication is not just to teach but to inspire, empower, and uplift every student he encounters.



*Ms. Ala Matarich*

**Grade 1 Instructor**



Ms. Ala holds a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development from Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. Ms. Ala has been in the field of education for over 15 years, working closely with children and families to create meaningful and enriching learning experiences. Her passion lies in helping young learners feel supported, confident, and inspired to reach their full potential.

Ms. Ala's goals are to provide a positive, engaging, and respectful classroom where each student feels valued. She believes that strong communication and collaboration with families are key to a successful school year. Ms. Ala is looking forward to partnering with you every step of the way.

## HEARTFELT REFLECTIONS FROM OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

FURQAAN FEELS LIKE FAMILY, AND I'M GRATEFUL TO BE PART OF SUCH A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT. WORKING HERE INSPIRES ME EVERY DAY THROUGH ITS VALUES AND STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY.

-MS. NABILA FATIMA  
PRE-K INSTRUCTOR

WHAT I LOVE MOST ABOUT WORKING AT FURQAAN ACADEMY IS THE GENUINE SENSE OF COMMUNITY. I FEEL SO BLESSED TO BE PART OF A MISSION THAT HELPS SHAPE THE NEXT GENERATION TO BE CONFIDENT, KIND, AND GROUNDED IN THEIR DEEN. EVERY DAY HERE IS SPECIAL, BECAUSE I GET TO INSPIRE LITTLE HEARTS AND MINDS WHILE ALSO CONTINUING TO GROW IN MY OWN FAITH, SURROUNDED BY SUCH A SUPPORTIVE AND CARING TEAM.

-MS. MARYAM FATIMA  
PRESCHOOL INSTRUCTOR

I LOVE WORKING AT FURQAAN ACADEMY BECAUSE OF THE STRONG FAMILY ATMOSPHERE, THE SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP STUDENTS CONNECT WITH AND GROW IN THEIR DEEN - WHILE ALSO NURTURING THEIR MINDSET, WELL-BEING, AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AS A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR.

-MS. ZOYA JAKVANI-SAYANI

I LOVE WORKING AT FURQAAN ACADEMY; WHAT MAKES MY ROLE SO REWARDING IS THE DYNAMIC CHALLENGE OF ADAPTING COMPLEX STEAM PRINCIPLES TO CREATE THAT 'AHA!' MOMENT FOR EVERY STUDENT—WATCHING LEARNERS OF ALL AGES TRANSITION FROM KNOWLEDGE RECIPIENTS INTO TRUE INNOVATORS

-MR. KHEIR ALAWADI  
STEAM/ROBOTICS INSTRUCTOR

I WANT TO CONTINUE WORKING AT FURQAAN ACADEMY BECAUSE IT IS LED BY A PRINCIPAL WITH AN INSPIRING VISION FOR GROWTH AND SUCCESS. I ALSO VALUE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY, WHICH IS DEEPLY MEANINGFUL TO ME. IN ADDITION, THE STAFF IS KIND AND COOPERATIVE, CREATING A SUPPORTIVE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT THAT MAKES THE SCHOOL A WONDERFUL PLACE TO WORK.

-MS. ETAF ELKHATIB  
KINDERGARTEN INSTRUCTOR