

THE COAST TO COAST NETWORKED SCHOOL FULL-TIME ISLAMIC SCHOOL WITH INTEGRATED HIFDH

# A GUIDE FOR NETWORKED LEARNING CENTERS

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## 1. ABOUT US

Furqaan Academy Online is a 1st – 12th grade Full-Time Islamic School with Integrated Hifdh. Our vision is to raise good Muslim citizens who are strong in faith, well-grounded in the Quranic knowledge, and have a strong foundation in academics.

Furqaan Academy, founded in 2008, is the manifestation of Al-Furqaan Foundation's vision to develop students who are grounded in the Quran – a Quranic generation. As an organization devoted to the service of the Quran in the west, the Al-Furqaan Foundation wants to ensure that the upcoming generations will come closer to the Quran by understanding its language and by proper training of implementing the Quran and Sunnah in their daily lives. The choice of being a Muslim should be a natural choice, due to their understanding of the deen and not merely as a virtue of being born in the faith.

Following the success of a couple of schools on the same model, Al-Furqaan Foundation launched the Online school in September 2022.

## 2. OUR VISION

Furqaan Academy Online aims to create and empower generations of students who are confident of their Muslim identity and are able to pursue and excel in any field of study with a strong grounding in Islamic knowledge.

## 3. OUR MISSION

Furqaan Academy's mission is to provide a balanced education that combines both revealed and acquired knowledge by integrating a Qur'an centered education program with a comprehensive state education program that prepares our students to:

- Display exemplary Islamic morals and character
- Meet the modern challenges of our diverse society without compromising their identity
- Attain excellence in any field of study
- Become contributing leaders of our Ummah and the society at large
- Grow in a healthy Islamic environment with experienced teachers who have high ethical & Islamic values
- Become self-disciplined, confident, humble, pious, God-conscious, and service oriented
- Develop a real love for learning to make them lifelong learners

## 4. OUR PROGRAM

Furqaan Academy Online offers an opportunity for Muslim students to attend a full-time Islamic School with all state recommended subjects that are typically taught in a physical Islamic School.

Our program focuses on all the core subjects such as Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies with special emphasis on Islamic Studies, Arabic Language, reading and memorizing the Quran. The Online Academy follows the curriculum provided by Furqaan Academy Bolingbrook which is accredited through COGNIA and CISNA.

## 5. OUR GOAL

Our goal is to make Islamic education available to communities that do not have the resources to build an Islamic School. Over the past few years, there has been an increased number of Muslim families opting for homeschooling for their children as a solution to counter a morally degrading and un-Islamic environment. While homeschooling may have been the only solution, Furqaan Academy presents two alternate models: Fully online Live Instruction Model and Masjid Based Blended learning Model.

## I) Fully Online LIVE Instruction Model

Unlike many online schools that offer a video/self paced online solution, Furqaan Academy Online is a LIVE online solution where students are attending a networked classroom replicating a regular classroom environment. Our qualified teachers conduct live instructional classes, evaluate progress, grade and provide the educational support students need. This relieves the burden of the parent to work with students daily.

## II) MASJID BASED Blended Learning Model

This unique model combines the convenience of the above model with the structure and support of on-campus instruction.

In this model, students from the local community assemble daily at the masjid under the supervision of a Furqaan Staff member. There they sit in a multi grade classroom for students and attend their respective grade class virtually through their computer station. Each child is equipped with a laptop, and a headset to attend their respective class. The staff member ensures the students participation and engagement.

Homeschool	Majid Based Model	
1. Home Environment	1. Structured classroom(s) at local masajid	
2. Flexible Learning Schedules	2. Fixed schedule that establishes routine	
3. Self paced Learning	3. Live instructional classes	

#### III) The Masjid Based Model Difference

4. Monthly/Quarterly or no meetups with teachers	4. Daily interaction and teacher support	
5. Lack of Socialization	5. Social interaction with peers in an Islamic environment.	
6. Lack of Social Opportunities	6. Clubs and extracurricular activities.	
7. Low Physical Activity	7. Recess and play time with peers.	
8. Parental stress as a result of being overburdened with at-home teaching, monitoring, grading and tracking student success.	8. Reduced burden and stress for parents. Teachers grade and monitor student growth and success. Parents are just responsible for supervising homework activities	
9. Praying at home	9. Praying in congregation at the Masjid	

## 7. WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A NETWORKED LEARNING CENTER

- Educational Option: An alternative to the public school system which makes islamic education accessible to your community at no cost to you.
- **Value- based Education**: Play an active role in shaping the future generations of the community by providing an educational environment that aligns with **Islamic values**.
- **Community Outreach:** Families become more socially active, serve and engage with the community.
- Attachment to Masjid: Students will be able to attend prayers in congregation, which make them attached to the masjid.
- **Preserve** Arabic language and Islamic culture.
- **Preserve** Islamic identity of Muslim children and make them contributing members of the community.
- **Long term impact** on the lives of the students both academically and spiritually and for the betterment of the society as a whole.
- A **\$50 incentive** will be extended to the masjid per student per month, if needed.
- An onsite location supervisor will be hired by Furqaan Academy to supervise the students.

## **8. FACILITY REQUIREMENTS**

In order to become a Networked learning center, the masjid should meet the following requirements.

• A secured facility during the school hours

- Provide access to the location supervisor for entering the facility.
- Assign rooms for the students' use from 7:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
- Must have classroom furniture, such as desks and chairs.
- Must have a secure Internet connection and provide access to wifi passwords for staff and students' electronic devices.

## 9. YOUR ROLE AS A NETWORKED LEARNING CENTER

#### 9.1 Management

Furqaan Academy Online is centrally managed by our administrative team. We will appoint a location Supervisor who will be present at the networked learning center when classes are in session. We will recruit more staff and volunteers as needed based on the enrollment of students. However, a point of contact from the masjid must be provided in case of an emergency.

#### 9.2 Maintenance

The Academy will charge \$50/ student/month as a facility fee (optional), at the discretion of the Masjid. This could be utilized for monthly maintenance of the Networked learning center. The Academy will use the existing janitorial services at the masjid.

#### 9.3 Marketing

The masjid is included in recruiting students by supporting our marketing needs. Our ads must be placed in any advertising materials sent out to the community on a regular basis. Initially, a survey will be conducted to gauge the interest in online islamic education. We will work with the masjid to share the surveys within the community. Weekend School parents are a good resource

## **10. HOW TO BECOME A NETWORKED LEARNING CENTER**

Signing up with us is simple and easy. To become a center you must meet the requirements outlined in Section 8, Facility Requirements of this document. Please fill out the attached sign up form and send it to us.

By Mail:	Scan and Send to the following Email:
Furqaan Academy Online - Management Team	
401 W. Boughton Road	fao@furqaanacademy.org
Bolingbrook, IL -60440	

## **11. APPROVAL AND NEXT STEPS**

Our management team will review your application and will respond to you within two weeks of receiving the application.

Once your application is approved, our representative will reach out to you to implement the next steps.

- Location Name: Your location will be called FURQAAN ACADEMY ONLINE MASJID NAME .
- Contract with the approved Networked Learning Center
- Parent Surveys: Surveys will be handed to the community to gauge the interest.
- Open House: Virtual open house will be conducted to educate the parents with our program and Masjid Based Learning Model. Our staff will be available to answer any questions the parents may have.

We look forward to partnering with your masjid.



## **NETWORKED LEARNING CENTER APPLICATION**

This application is for the Masajid, or Islamic Organizations to register as a Networked Learning Center for Furqaan Academy Online. Please complete the form and submit pictures.

#### I) ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Organization Name:		Organization Phone Number:
Organization's Physical Address:		
	Street Address	
City	State	Zip Code
Organization's Website:		

#### II) MAIN CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Contact Name:	Main Contact Phone Number:	
Main Contact Email:		

#### III) SUPPORT

1. Will there be someone onsite everyday	1.	Will	there be	someone	onsite	everyday	?
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YES

NO

If you checked **YES**, please mention the times below:

2. Is this contact the same as the Main Contact?

If you checked **NO**, please answer the question below. Otherwise, skip to Section IV

#### 3. Onsite contact information:

Onsite Contact Name:	Onsite Contact Phone Number:	
Onsite Contact Email:	I	

#### **IV) FACILITY DETAILS**

- 1. How many rooms are available for Furqaan Academy Online use?
- 2. Please list if you have and the quantity of any classroom furniture that is available for student/staff use.

FURNITURE	QUANTITY
Student Desks	
Chairs	
Teachers' Desks	
Other:	

3. Do you have a secured internet connection and will be able to provide Wifi access to Furqaan Academy staff and students?

YES		NO
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4. What additional areas for student use does your facility have? These could include playgrounds, gymnasium, cafeteria, etc... Please note listing these would help us advertise your location.

#### V) PHOTOS

Please attach and label pictures of the following:

- □ Outside of the building showing the front entrance and parking spaces.
- □ Floor Map
- □ Classroom(s) and Classroom furniture
- Gym, playground or Cafetaria, if applicable.