



**FURQAAN
ACADEMY**
A DIVISION OF AL-FURQAAN FOUNDATION

Online

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

Furqaan Academy Online Quarter 4 Newsletter

Theme of the Month:

Ramadan /Eid Al Fitr

Laylat Al-Qadr

Laylat al-Qadr, often called the Night of Power or Night of Decree, is a very special night in the Islamic faith. It's the night when the Quran, the holy book of Islam, was first sent down from heaven to the world. During this night, many blessings and good things can happen, and prayers made on this night are very powerful.

This night is so important that it's said to happen during one of the last ten nights of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Muslims around the world spend these nights in prayer, hoping to catch Laylat al-Qadr. If you pray sincerely on this night, it's like praying for a thousand months! So, it's a time for Muslims to be extra pious, pray a lot, and ask for forgiveness and blessings from Allah. It's a night full of hope and special meaning for Muslims all over the world.

Hafidh Omar I. 8th Grade

Newsletter edited by: Jenna

A. Donyia R. Faduma A.

Rayann S. and Noor K.



Upcoming Events!

March 20 2024

Quran Competition

April 1-5 2024

Spring break

April 8-12 2024

Eid Al-Fitr Break

April 15 2024

School Reopens

April 24 2024

**Arabic Spelling Bee
Competition**

May 6-8 2024

Spring Map Testing

May 20-24 2024

6-12th Finals

May 27 2024

Memorial day/No school

May 31 2024

**Students' Last Day / Sem. 2
ends Award Assembly**

FAO CLUBS

Mondays - 6-12th Newsletter club

Tuesday, Wednesday -

6-12th Homework club

Tuesday - Elementary Reading Club

Thursday - Middle School Debate Club



Furqan Academy Quran competition winners 2023-2024

First category: Al-Fajr - Al-Nas

1. Waleed Rabei
2. Jacob Willis

First category: Al-Fajr - Al-Nas

1. Arfa Ali
2. Sakinnah Mohammed

Second category: juz' 30

1. Aya Atiq
2. Rayann Sufyan

Third category: Juz' 29 + 30

1. Noor Kiwan
2. Nabihah Alam

Fourth category: juz's from 30 to 20

1. Omar Ibrahim
2. Hafidh Mustafa Ahmed



Eid Prayer

On the first day of Eid, I woke up super early to attend the Eid prayer. I wore my best clothes and drove to the mosque, arriving fifteen minutes early. We said the Takbeerat, "Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La Ilaha Illallahu, Wallahu Akbar, Wallahu Akbar, Wa Lillahilamd," for fifteen minutes. Then we prayed the Eid prayer, similar to regular prayer but with more takbeers. After the prayer, the imam gave two khutbahs, discussing how we got closer to Allah during Ramadan and avoided haram activities.

He also mentioned five things that cleanse your heart: 1) reciting the Quran with thoughts, 2) not over reacting, 3) praying in the middle of the night, 4) being mindful, humble, and remembering Allah in the early mornings, and 5) spending time with righteous people. After the khutbahs, the mosque gave gifts to the kids, and I asked for some too because why not? We then drove back home, and I went back to sleep because I was tired.

Eid Mubarak!

Noor. K 7th Grade



The Life-Changing Trip

I will never forget; it was a Tuesday night. My mom called my brother and me to tell us some important news. To our surprise, we found out that we were going to Umrah. We were so happy and excited for our Umrah trip. After our long 10-hour flight to Turkey from Chicago, we had to catch the next plane to Jeddah as our flight was delayed. We caught it a few minutes before take-off. We got on the flight. It was a pretty interesting 4-hour 30-minute flight. We entered into Ihram there, and we also made our intention at the miqat. Intention: (Labbayka Allahumma Umrah). What you say after intention: (Labbayka Allahumma labbayk labbayka laa sharika lakka labbayk, inna al hamda wa niamata laka wal mulk la sharika lakka labbayk) repeat until the flight is over (after the miqat). We arrived in Jeddah, where we got picked up at the airport. We rode in the car, and it was a short trip. When we arrived, my brother and I were knocked out. We slept in the lobby, in the executive lounge, and in the hotel room. We slept for the rest of the day, probably until 7:00 PM. Then, we got ready for our Umrah. We came out of the hotel and walked to Masjid-Al-Haram. It was tough to get to the Mataf Area (Tawaf Area), and our Umrah stated.



Ibrahim K. 6th Grade

How Arfa Celebrated Eid

This Eid Al Fitr was filled with joy and celebration. On the first day, my brother and I received \$100 each from my grand father. Then, we went to one of my aunt's houses where she hosted an Eid party, which was nice. We received presents and gifts, and the parents gave \$5-10 to everyone. We spent at least two hours there eating food. Later, my mom gave me my Eid present, a Stanley Water Cup, and a French nail kit. On the second day of Eid, we went to another aunt's house for an Eid and a birthday party too. We enjoyed the food and took many pictures. Finally, we went to my cousin's house for the last Eid party, which was also my mom's birthday. We cut the cake, and exchanged presents, and then my friend Alishba and I decided to have a sleepover at her house. That was how my Eid went!

Arfa A. 6th grade

Arabic Spelling Bee winners 2023-2024

Elementary - level 1

AbdulMalik Adams, 2nd

Middle School - level 1

Arfa Ali, 6th

Middle school - level 2

Noor Kiwan, 7th

High school - level 1

Dunya Rabei, 10th

High school - level 2

Mustafa Ahmed, 10th

High school - level 4

Rayann Sufyan, 10th

High School - level 6

Jenna A. 11th



Eid Break

Eid Al Fitr morning was bright and beautiful! I woke up at eight so I could attend the Eid prayer. After completing my wudu, I got dressed and attended the Eid prayer with my family. We visited a new mosque in Frankfort, IL, and I was pleasantly surprised at how nice people were when they greeted us. There were many beautiful women in their Eid outfits and many cute babies. The lecture was beautiful, focusing on being friendly and respectful.

After the Eid prayer, I went home and had a healthy breakfast, then I put on my special Eid outfit. After dressing up for Eid, I went to visit my sister's house. I was very excited! My family and I gave our nieces their Eid gifts. I have three beautiful nieces, and they were all twinning, wearing beautiful pink dresses with gold accents. Their hair was up in beautiful ponytails.

I visited my aunt and had a very refreshing iced coffee she offered me. Then, I visited my grandparents' house. It was an amazing and beautiful experience. I loved being around my cousins, family, and friends. My uncles and cousins met us at my grandpa's house, and it was a very fun time. I played video games with them, which was very enjoyable as well.

That was my Eid Al Fitr of 2024. I loved it so much! I am so grateful to be able to celebrate my Eid with my family, receive great gifts from them, and appreciate them. I am also looking forward to Eid Al Adha, inshallah. I will have more fun!

Huda A. 10th



Mental Health

A few of the habits and behaviors I would like to adopt and how I will work on them in Ramadan are my mental health, my physical health, staying focused, and keeping a schedule. There are many ways to improve bad habits, but the only way to accomplish that is with consistency. Some bad habits are harder to get rid of than others, but it all depends on how used to it you are.

Mental health is an important thing that acts as a barrier from insanity or keeps insanity near. For those who don't want to become delusional, working on mental health must be one of your top priorities. So, how to improve mental health? There are many ways to improve your mental health, but what I have been trying to do is not keep myself secluded from others. I've been figuring out that not socially interacting with people does have a great effect on human mental health -in a negative way-. You can also help your mental health by keeping fit and staying in shape; a healthy body can help with the growth of a healthy mindset.

Physical health can help with everything related to self-improvement and eliminating bad habits. When you're physically healthy, you usually have more energy to do things and the ability to do more good things. It also helps with many feelings that come with being lazy and unfit. Keeping in good shape keeps health problems like obesity at bay, and you can also develop good habits along with this. Eating healthier and cutting down on sugars is a popular way, or going on a diet. But, slimming down doesn't require a lot of effort. Make a scheduled run a day or do some exercises every hour; this will help with organization as well.

Keeping focused is something many people struggle with, and for many good reasons. Sometimes you are simply unable to lock in on certain things because of a disorder or health problem, or maybe the thing you are doing doesn't capture your interest. Reading more can help with your focus since reading requires a lot of attention; you can't just look away. Trying exercises to focus better is another way that can help with this problem. Doing things you enjoy or maybe doing an activity that requires a lot of focus and dedication can get you going as well.

Keeping focus is an important thing that is hard for most to accomplish, but even with that, people have been able to retain focus and lock into things they're supposed to do. Keeping a consistent schedule is difficult for most since many random things come up, and you can't do anything about it. I propose a looser schedule, like scheduling the beginning of your day, scheduling your breakfast, lunch, and dinner, scheduling activities and plans. Rather than hard schedules that require a lot of planning to make, then they're so complicated they look almost impossible to follow for one day -which they probably are-. Starting simple and gradually going harder is the natural order of things, you can't just change that. So start small and easy before you decide to pressure yourself into more stress than you need.

Bad habits are things that can be solved easily or in a very difficult manner; no matter how hard it is though, they are always solved in a step-by-step order. Many things can help with bad habits, and there are so many things people want to improve about themselves, but these things don't come without effort. With effort comes good harvests, and the completion of your goals. Start easy and don't overwhelm yourself with things that are almost impossible for you to do at the exact moment. Build up to be able to complete harder goals and gain better achievements.

Hanifa S. 7th Grade

My Eid Celebration

This Eid was a tape of treasured memories mixed with love, tradition, and the warmth of family relationships. As dawn shone in the sky, I woke with a heart full of excitement for the day ahead. After praying the Eid prayer in my best clothes, we set off on the first part of our day, to my sister's home. The air was filled with the beautiful smell of celebration as I shared warm hugs and sincere Eid greetings with my loving sister and her family. We had a great time chatting and laughing as my nieces opened their Eid gifts.

Following a great time at my sister's house, the day continued, with each second filled with joy and connection. Our next stop was my aunt's house, where the smell of freshly brewed coffee welcomed us. Amidst laughter and joyful conversations, we drank the rich brew, tasting not just the coffee but also the bonds that unite us. After we drank our coffee, we prayed duhr and got ready for our next stop.

As the sun reached its peak, we went to my grandmother's house, a place of love and wisdom. In her loving hug, time would stand still as we swapped memories from the past eids and shared the simple joy of each other's company. Her presence, a calming comfort for my soul, reminded me of the timeless perfection of family bonds.

With the golden shades of sunset coloring the sky, we made one more visit, this time at my grandfather's house. I was very happy to be there, sitting by my uncles' joyful conversation and cousins' heartfelt laughter. Surrounded by generations of love and laughter, I saw the strength of family relationships and admired their beauty.

As darkness fell, laying a gentle shadow over the land, we headed home, my heart full of thanks for the day's blessings. With a wonderful meal shared with loved ones, I thought of the events that made Eid special and meaningful. And as I fell asleep peacefully, I took with me the precious memories of a day spent in the embrace of family, knowing that in their love, I had found my greatest Eid blessing.

Jenna A. 11th Grade



Arfa Interviews Alishba

1. Where are you from?

I am from Maryland, United States.



2. How are you going to spend your Ramadan?

I'm going to fast, by performing a lot of dhikr and keep up with my salah. I'll help my mom cook too.

3. Do you have any plans for preparing for Ramadan?

I am getting into the habit of praying more often I am fasting now without anyone reminding me.

4. What's your favorite food that you want to eat in Ramadan?

Lasagna and dates



5. What are your goals in Ramadan?

I want to finish reading the whole Quran. I intend to read a juz every day and do more dhikr. I also want to complete the Islamic studies chart that Mrs. Saira, my Islamic Studies teacher requested from me.

6. How are you going to celebrate Eid Al Fitr?

I am going to be visiting my cousins to celebrate Eid Al Fitr and throw a party insha'a Allah.

7. Do you prefer indoor activities or outdoor activities?

I prefer outdoor activities, but I don't mind staying inside once in a while.

8. What are some sports that you like to do?

Swimming, biking, hiking, going on trails and the like.

Arfa A. 6th Grade



Yaamin Interviews

Mohammed I. 6th grade

When were you born?

Answer: I was born in September, 2011

Where were you born?

Answer: I was born in London.

When did you get your first computer?

Answer: In 2018

How did you get so good at math?

Answer: I always practice math

When did you join Furqaan Academy online?

Answer: I joined FAO in September 2023

What is your favorite place to go?

Answer: The city of London

What is your dream place to visit?

Answer: I would like to visit Hawaii

Where: What kind of books do you read?

Answer:

What did you make progress in at FAO?

Answer: I was able to fix my pronunciation in Quran class

What do you like to do in your free time?

Answer: go to the gym or play sports

Eating a lot! I'm getting into the habit of praying more often whenever I am fasting, without anyone reminding me.

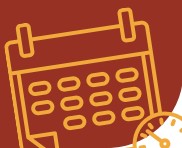


Yaamin M. 6th Grade

Handling classes at FAO

You can manage classes at FAO (Furqaan Academy Online) by completing your work on time and not delaying it. Avoid waiting until the last minute to complete tasks. School is hard and in my experience, I have gotten many low grades. I had low grades because I didn't complete my homework and classwork. What I did to fix this was to work on all of my missing homework on the weekends. I started paying more attention in class to fix my grades. Work becomes easier when you get used to it so you should try your best to complete your work and listening to your teachers' instructions and try not to procrastinate.

Yaamin M. 6th Grade





Recipe



Kebab Halla



Ingredients

2 1/4 pounds (1kg) boneless beef chuck, trimmed and cut into 1-inch cubes

Kosher salt and

Freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons (30ml) ghee or neutral oil like canola oil,

4 medium yellow onions, thinly sliced (about 8 cups)

3 medium cloves garlic, minced (about 2 teaspoons)

1/2 teaspoon ground allspice 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional) 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander

1/2 teaspoon sweet paprika 1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin

1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg 1/2 cup (120ml)

homemade beef stock or low-sodium chicken broth, One 3-inch cinnamon stick

2 bay leaves Roughly chopped, flat-leaf parsley to garnish (optional)

Cooked white rice, preferably Egyptian or other long-grain rice such as basmati, for serving

Warmed pita, for serving



Recipe

1. Pat beef dry with paper towels and season all over with salt and 1 1/2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper.

2. Heat ghee over medium-high in a heavy-bottomed pot until shimmering.

Add beef in a single layer and cook until evenly browned on all sides, 6 to 8 minutes.

Transfer to a clean plate. Repeat with remaining beef.

3. Add onions and cook, stirring often, until they begin to soften and brown, about 5 minutes; add additional ghee

or oil if pot becomes too dry.

Add the garlic along with the allspice, cayenne, coriander, paprika, cardamom, cumin, and nutmeg, and continue

to cook, stirring, for 1 minute. (You don't need to caramelize the onions all the way as they will brown further

during the slow cooking process.)

4. Return the beef and any accumulated juices to the pot. Stir in the broth along with the cinnamon stick and bay

leaves. Bring to a boil then cover and reduce heat to low. Simmer, covered, until meat is tender, 2 to 2 1/2 hours,

checking every 20-30 minutes to make sure that the braise does not become dry and adding more water or broth

if necessary.

Once meat is tender, uncover, increase heat to medium-low, and simmer gently to reduce the sauce until thick,

20 to 30 minutes; season with salt, if needed.

The braise is ready when the meat is fork-tender and the onions have completely melted into a thick sauce.

5. Transfer to a deep serving dish. Garnish with fresh parsley leaves, and serve hot with rice and/or pita bread

Sakinah M. 6th Grade





HARIRA: A North African Soup



Harira is a tasty North African soup with chickpeas, lentils, and warm spices like turmeric. It's popular in Morocco and Algeria, especially during Ramadan, when it's eaten to break the fast. Harira is great for Ramadan because it's filling, satisfying, and provides protein and fiber filled spices that help keep you full and energized during fasting. Overall, it's a delicious and healthy soup perfect for breaking the fast or any time you want a hearty meal.



Recipe:



Step 1: Cook onions and celery in olive oil until soft.

Step 2: Add meat and soup bones, if using, and cook until browned.

Step 3: Add tomato puree, chickpeas, lentils, salt, pepper, warm spices, smen (if using), and 3 cups of water. Bring to a boil, cover, and cook until lentils are soft (about 45 minutes).

Step 4: Add the chopped parsley and cilantro, and rice or vermicelli. Cook until tender (15 minutes for rice, 5 minutes for vermicelli).

Step 5: Slowly add tedouira to thicken the soup to your desired consistency.

Step 6: Simmer for 5 to 10 minutes.

Step 7: Serve and enjoy!



Donyia R. 10th Grade





Congratulations Graduates!



Graduation Speech by Hafidh Omar I. 8th Grade

First FAO and El Paso NLC Graduates

Assalamu Alaikum, Everyone

Today, we come together online to celebrate finishing middle school and getting ready to start high school. It's a big moment where we look back on what we've been through, the tough times, and the help we've had from others.

This year was different because we had to attend school online. It was hard to stay focused without being in a regular classroom. Sometimes it was tough to know when to study and when to relax because we were at home.

But we managed to overcome these challenges with hard work, determination, and help from others.

Sometimes it was hard to focus and I would get distracted easily. I found ways to stay on track like having a special study area, making a schedule, and taking breaks. It was tough at times, but I kept going by celebrating small wins along the way.

I learned that being organized and managing time well is really important this year. It helped me balance schoolwork and personal time. These skills will be useful in high school and the future.

I want to thank my classmates for being there for me and working with me on group projects and study sessions. Even though we couldn't meet in person, our online interactions helped us bond and support each other. I appreciate all the good times and the help I received from each one of you. This school year had tough parts but also lots of fun and special times. We did things like virtual Presentations and various Ramadan Activities that let us show who we are in different ways. We found new things we liked, learned new stuff, and became better people.

As we go to high school, let's remember what we've learned and the good times we've had. Let's keep helping each other and aim to do our best.

Things will be good, and we're prepared for whatever comes next.

Thank you teachers for working hard and adapting to new ways of teaching, and thank you families for supporting us.





Congratulations Graduates!

Graduation Speech by Jacob W. 8th Grade First FAO and El Paso NLC Graduates

Assalamu alaikum,

Welcome esteemed teachers, proud parents, and my fellow graduate Omar Ibrahim!!!,

I.. Am... overwhelmed with gratitude and a sense of accomplishment... This year has been an incredible journey filled with growth, challenges, and unforgettable experiences.... First and foremost, I want to extend my deepest thanks to my peers. You have been more than classmates; you've been my companions, my confidants, and my source of inspiration. Together, we've laughed, we've learned, and we've overcome obstacles that seemed insurmountable. Your support and camaraderie have made this year truly special. Next, I must express my heartfelt appreciation to my parents. Mom and Dad, your unwavering love, guidance, and sacrifices have shaped me into the person I am today. Your encouragement has fueled my determination, and your belief in me has been my greatest motivation. Thank you for always being there, motivating, inspiring, and pushing me every step of the way. To my dedicated teachers of our school, including Mrs. Ghada, Mrs. Kimberly, Mrs. Mayada, Mrs. U-Ahk, and Mrs. Saira, thank you for your tireless efforts in educating, nurturing, and inspiring us. Your passion for teaching has ignited our curiosity and instilled in us a thirst for knowledge that will last a lifetime. Your patience, guidance, and wisdom have not gone unnoticed, and we are immensely grateful for everything you've done for us. Of course, I can't forget about Mrs. Haiat Bousmaha, Our principal. She pushed me to do things I did not want to, such as take pictures and write articles. However, I have benefited from these experiences. Thank you Mrs Haiat. Reflecting on this past year, I can't help but marvel at how much I have grown, both academically and personally. I've embraced new challenges, discovered hidden talents, and forged lifelong friendships. I've learned the value of resilience, adaptability, and perseverance in the face of adversity. Each day brought new lessons and opportunities for growth, and I'm proud of the progress we've made together, such as group assignments, lots of Ramadan activities, Pi day, Quran competitions, spelling bee competitions, Arabic spelling bee competitions, and more!

As we stand on the threshold of a new chapter in our lives, let us carry with us the lessons we've learned and the memories we've shared, like when Mrs U-Ahk was teaching us about the pythagorean theorem: " $a^2+b^2=c^2$ " and by using this we were able to find unknown sides of right triangles. Let us approach the future with confidence, courage, and determination, knowing that we are equipped with the skills and knowledge to succeed. Though our paths may diverge, we will always be bound by the bond we've formed as classmates and friends.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who has played a part in making this year one to remember. Together, we have made memories that will last a lifetime, and I am honored to have shared this journey with every one of you.

Now, I would like to share a hadith that relates to the relationships formed here at Furqaan Academy Online حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْعَزِيزِ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، حَدَّثَنِي ابْنُ أَبِي الزُّنَادِ، عَنْ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ الْحَارِثِ، عَنْ عَمْرِو بْنِ شُعَيْبٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ جَدِّهِ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: لَيْسَ مِنَّا مَنْ لَمْ يَرْحَمْ صَغِيرَنَا، وَيَعْرِفْ حَقَّ كَبِيرِنَا.

'Amr ibn Shu'ayb reported from his grandfather that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, "Anyone who does not show mercy to our children nor acknowledge the right of our old people is not one of us."

OUR SCHOOL "FURQAAN ACADEMY ONLINE is a perfect example of what this hadith demonstrates !

Thank you!





THE ISLAMIC SCHOOL REIMAGINED
INTRODUCING THE FURQAAN ACADEMY ONLINE (FAO) NETWORKED LEARNING CENTERS (NLCs)
EVERY COMMUNITY IN THE USA CAN NOW HAVE A FULL-TIME ISLAMIC SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

May 18, 2024 | Time 11 am - 12 pm (CDT)

Meet Our Amazing Staff | Learn About Our Curriculum

- Balanced Educational Program - Knowledge of Both Deen and Dunya
- Daily Live Instruction in All Subjects
- Builds Foundational Skills in Reading, Writing and Math in Addition to Academic Excellence in Science and Social Studies
- Comprehensive Islamic Education that includes Quran, Arabic and Islamic Studies (Fiqh, Aqeedah, Hadith, Tafseer & Islamic History)
- Hifdh with Focus on Tajweed and Correct Pronunciation
- Academic Credit Recovery Program for High School Students
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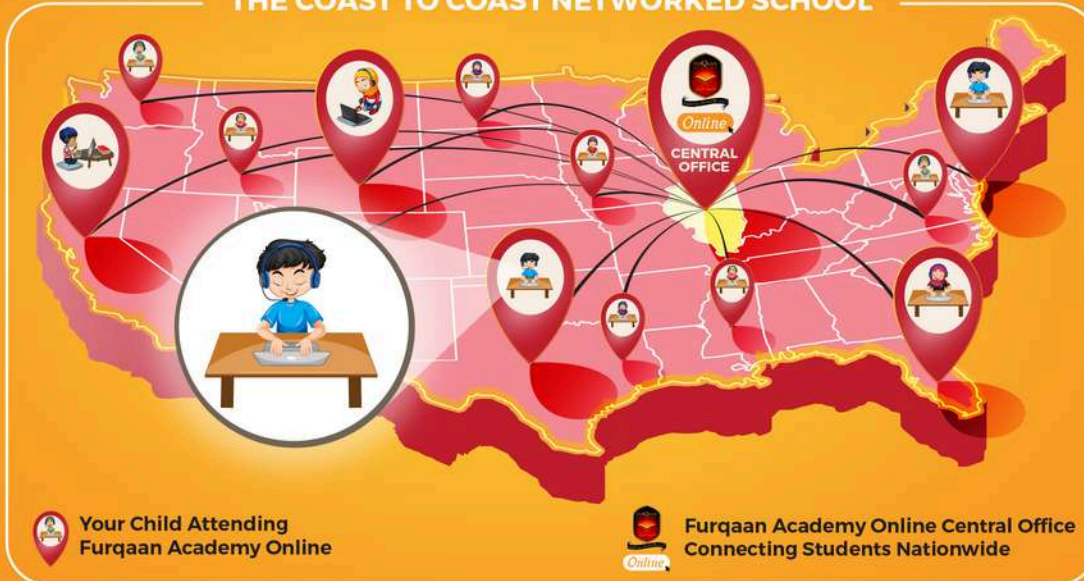
ENROLLMENT OPEN

For 2024-2025 School Year

LIVE INSTRUCTION DAILY

8:00 AM - 4:15 PM CDT | 9:00 AM - 5:15 PM EDT | 7:00 AM - 3:15 PM MDT | 6:00 AM - 2:15 PM PDT

THE COAST TO COAST NETWORKED SCHOOL



 HYBRID CLASSES	 SELF PACED	 LIVE INSTRUCTION
 FULL TIME	 GRADES 1 st - 12 th	 NATIONWIDE STUDENTS



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