

BUILDING OUR WAY TO A BEAUTIFUL FUTURE.

Annual Report 2025



BRIGHT
HORIZON
ACADEMY

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Yasmine Khatib
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Board of Directors

Zia Siddiqui, *Chairman*
Suzanne Shama, *Secretary*
Aniqa Hijazi, *Treasurer*
Amir Fahid
Christopher Ellis
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Table of Contents

2

ABOUT
BHA

8

TEACHER
SPOTLIGHT

14

CONSTRUCTION AND
FACILITIES

3

MESSAGE FROM
LEADERSHIP

10

STUDENT LIFE AND
EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS

16

FINANCIAL
OVERVIEW

4

OUR
STORY

12

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT

17

LOOKING
AHEAD

6

ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE

13

COMMUNITY
IMPACT

About BHA

Bright Horizon Academy (BHA) is a WASC Accredited Islamic school and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, proudly serving as San Diego's only full-time Pre-K through 12th Islamic school.

BHA's mission is to provide students with academic excellence rooted in Islamic values, while developing confident Muslim leaders who are prepared to succeed in college, career, and community life. BHA is committed to nurturing strong character, high achievement, and leadership through rigorous instruction, faith-based learning, and enriching student programs that help students grow into impactful, well-rounded individuals.



Message from Leadership

Assalāmu ‘Alaykum wa Raḥmatullāhi wa Barakātuh

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, we do so with heartfelt appreciation for the generosity and trust of our community. For more than thirty years, families have entrusted Bright Horizon Academy with the education of their children. With your support, our school continues to grow and our students thrive because of supporters who believe deeply in the lasting value of Islamic education.

This year, the impact of your generosity has been especially evident across our campus. With the help of our generous community members, we successfully completed the final phase of our Upper Elementary section expansion, creating much-needed additional space for a proper learning environment that supports our growing numbers. We also completed the installation of our long awaited soccer field, which has quickly become a vibrant part of student life. In addition, we initiated the installation of the Ansari Science Lab, laying the foundation for meaningful, hands-on learning experiences in STEM that will benefit our students for years to come. New lighting installed across our campus has further improved campus security and expanded the ways our facility can be used throughout the day.

Beyond these physical improvements, your support allowed us to serve our students holistically. Teachers were supported in their professional growth, academic programs were enriched, and students learned in an Islamic environment shaped by care, intention, and high expectations for success. These investments helped us ensure that our students are not only well prepared academically, but also confident in their Muslim identity.

At our school, Islamic identity and academic excellence go hand in hand. With your support, our students develop the skills, character, and confidence they need to succeed—standing out in classrooms, leadership spaces, competitive environments, and future pathways as proud Muslim leaders who make meaningful change in the world around them.

As the Board of Directors and Administration, we are deeply grateful for the partnership of our donors, parents, educators, and community members. Your contributions represent a lasting investment in our future generations. With your continued generosity, your ṣadaqaḥ jāriyah keeps us committed to serving our students and strengthening our community, in shā’ Allāh.

With sincere appreciation,

Zia Siddiqui
Chairman, Board of Directors

Muhammad Qassimyar
Head of School, Lower Campus

Najwan Naserelddin
Head of School, Upper Campus

Our Story

From its humble beginnings in 1992, starting with just three grades (Kindergarten through 2nd grade) and about 12 students, Bright Horizon Academy has steadily grown to serve over 330 students today. By 2009, under the leadership of Ms. Sharifa, the school received its first accreditation for grades K through middle school. In 2018, BHA launched its high school program, expanding to a new campus in Allied Gardens and adding one grade at a time until reaching full accreditation through 12th grade. In the most recent WASC review, the Academy was praised for its achievements and improvements, earning a renewed accreditation for another six years. Today, BHA serves over 330 students from Pre-K through 12th grade, with more than 40 dedicated staff members, including administration, teachers, teacher supports, and staff members.

With each milestone, BHA continues to grow as a nurturing, fully accredited educational community committed to excellence and the development of future Muslim leaders who embody Islamic values in all they do.



BHA at a Glance

PRE K-12th

GRADES

352

STUDENTS

6

ADMINISTRATORS

24

CORE TEACHERS

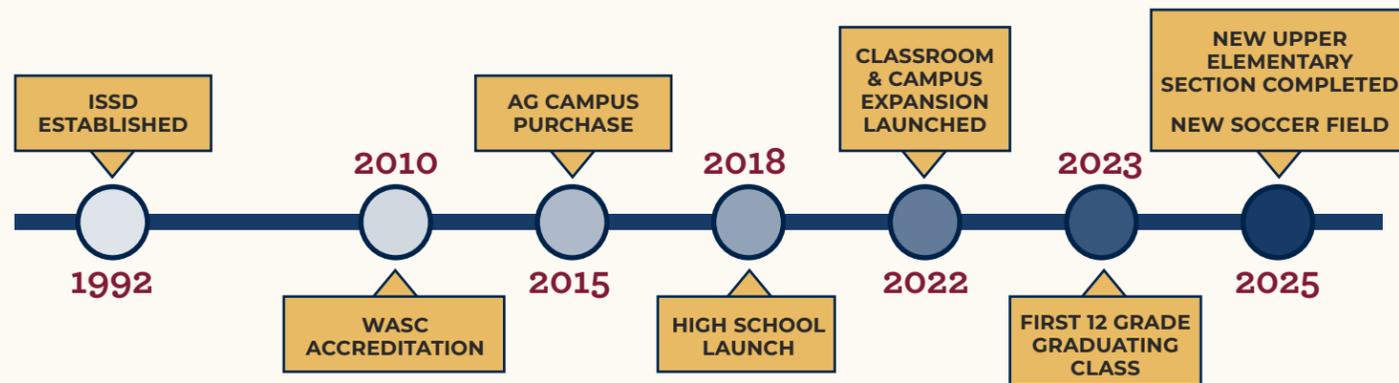
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QIAS TEACHERS

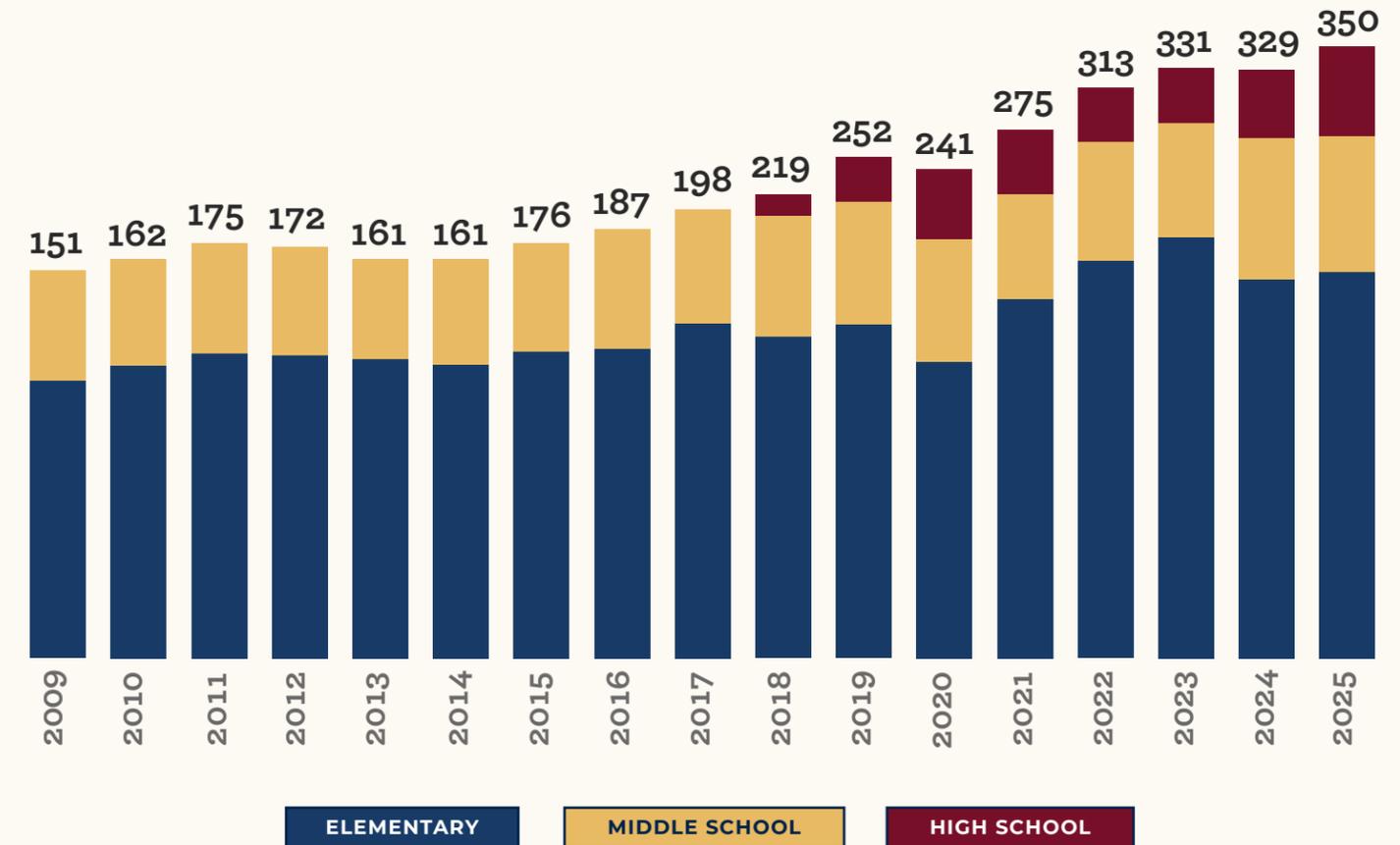
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SUPPORT STAFF

Celebrating 34 Years at BHA!



Enrollment Growth



Academic Program Overview

Bright Horizon Academy offers a rigorous, college preparatory academic program that develops strong thinkers, confident communicators, and capable problem solvers. Rooted in Islamic values, BHA builds both academic excellence and character, preparing students to succeed in higher education while growing into principled Muslim leaders who contribute positively to their communities.



Curriculum Strengths

BHA provides students with advanced academic opportunities that strengthen college readiness and expand future pathways. These include Advanced Placement courses, dual enrollment options, UC approved courses, and Career Technical Education pathways in Computer Science and Engineering. BHA students consistently demonstrate outstanding performance on AP exams, with the majority earning top scores of 4s and 5s.

Instructional Approach

Instruction at BHA is purposeful, student centered, and designed to help every learner thrive. Teachers use differentiation, small group instruction, hands-on learning, and strong writing integration across subjects to deepen understanding and promote mastery. Classrooms focus on engagement, critical thinking, collaboration, and real academic growth.

Assessment and Student Support

BHA uses data driven instruction to strengthen learning outcomes across all grade levels. MAP testing and IXL diagnostics help identify student strengths, address learning gaps early, and provide targeted academic support through interventions and structured progress monitoring.

Across both Math and English and Language Arts, a strong portion of students score in the top national percentiles, including the **top 20 percent** and **top 10 percent**, reflecting consistent academic growth and high achievement.

Academic Excellence

College Placement

Bright Horizon Academy is proud to celebrate the exceptional outcomes of our graduating students. Across our recent high school graduating classes, BHA has produced 24 total graduates, with students earning admission to highly competitive universities across California and beyond.

These results reflect more than college acceptances. They represent years of academic preparation, strong mentorship, and a school culture built on purpose and perseverance. With a 100% high school graduation rate and 100% college placement, BHA continues to prove that excellence is not just a goal, it is our standard.

100% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND COLLEGE PLACEMENT RATE



Teacher Spotlight



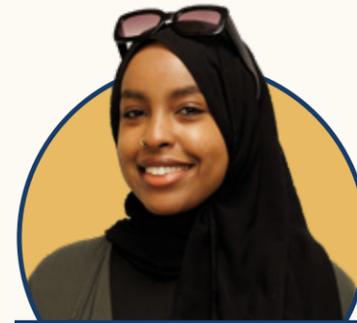
MS. IQRA FATIMA

Ms. Iqra is a Kindergarten Core Teacher and Robotics Team Lead, now in her fourth year in education and second year at the school. With a background in software engineering, she brings creativity and problem-solving into early learning. Teaching at an Islamic school allows her to educate young Muslims, which she believes is sadaqah jariyah, with an impact that lasts a lifetime. Ms. Iqra's teaching style is interactive and innovative, using technology, problem-solving, and social-emotional learning to foster curiosity and confidence. She values differentiated instruction and is proud to lead the lower elementary robotics team. Above all, she hopes students remember that learning takes effort, kindness matters, and Allah rewards sincerity and perseverance.



MS. SARAH HUSSEIN

With over eleven years of experience in education, including eight years at the school, Ms. Sarah brings a deep love for the Arabic language and the Qur'an into everything she does. She pours her heart and soul into her classroom, using a warm and enthusiastic approach to help students connect with the language of the Qur'an, understand their faith, and develop strong Islamic values that guide them in their daily lives. Through supportive, structured, and engaging instruction, she especially enjoys interactive reading, where students build confidence and joy in learning while helping one another grow. Ms. Sarah hopes her students leave her class with a lasting love for Arabic and the Qur'an, along with the confidence, patience, and responsibility they can carry beyond the classroom.



MS. IFRAH NOOR

Ms. Ifrah is a fourth-grade homeroom teacher in her fourth year in education and second year at the school. Inspired by a desire to be a safe and supportive space for students, she brings a nurturing presence and a strong growth mindset into her classroom each day. She enjoys project-based, hands-on learning and collaborative activities that encourage students to take risks, learn from mistakes, and grow together. Ms. Ifrah believes real learning happens through challenge and reflection, and she works hard to instill empathy by reminding students to be mindful of how their actions affect others. She is proud of her diverse professional background and is especially excited about the monthly student book club she introduced to build both literacy and community.



MS. TAWNY DE ALVA

Ms. Tawny is a fifth-grade multiple-subject teacher with over twenty years of experience in education, joining the school this year. Inspired by a first-grade teacher who deeply believed in her, she creates a classroom culture that feels safe, family-like, and rooted in care. Ms. Tawny balances kindness with firmness and structure with warmth, holding high expectations while helping students understand that effort directly impacts outcomes. She especially values daily class meetings, where students exchange feedback, solve problems together, and build community. Ms. Tawny is proud of introducing individual goal trackers to help students take ownership of their learning and is excited to move toward student-led conferences. Students affectionately describe her as "mom," reflecting the care she brings to her classroom.



Student Life and Extracurricular Programs

- Robotics
- Sports Programs
- Science Fair
- County Spelling Bee
- National Honor Society
- National Arabic Spelling Bee
- National STEM Honor Society
- Hifdh Program
- Students Clubs and Organizations
- Jr. Mentoring
- Leadership Opportunities
- Art

Bright Horizon Academy offers a dynamic student life experience that helps students grow into confident leaders and well rounded individuals. Through these programs students build leadership, teamwork, and lasting skills beyond the classroom. BHA students continue to represent the school with excellence through competitive achievements at the county and state level. These opportunities reflect the strength of BHA's programs and the foundation our students carry wherever they go.



Science Fair Success

2025 marked an exceptional year for BHA's young scientists. Fifteen students advanced to the county level, earning first- and second-place awards across their categories—an achievement that reflects the strength of our STEM program. Seven first-place winners went on to compete at the California State Science & Engineering Fair, where two students were recognized among the top competitors statewide. Yusra Salem earned second place in the Cognitive Science division, and Alya Hammad received an Honorable Mention in the Microbiology category.

Nationally, BHA earned 2 Thermo Fisher Scientific Equity and Inclusion Awards, selected from only the top 10% of 600 middle school participants, placing our students among the most outstanding nationwide. In addition, 3 BHA middle school science projects earned the California Governor's Award, an honor awarded only to the Top 11 projects out of 600, highlighting the elite level of innovation and excellence BHA students continue to reach.



Hifdh Program

Our Hifdh Program is a source of great pride at our school, reflecting dedication, discipline, and a deep connection to the Qur'an. Through consistency, perseverance, and strong mentorship, students are supported in their journey of memorization and character development.

We are honored to recognize Hafiz Adam Abdulkadir and Hafizah Princess Hafsa Ali for their remarkable achievement. They represent the values of excellence, patience, and sincerity that define our Hifdh program, and we are incredibly proud of their accomplishment.

Spelling Bee Achievement

Bright Horizon Academy is proud to celebrate Duaa Ouznali's outstanding achievement as the 2025 San Diego County Spelling Bee Champion. Her incredible success earned her a place at the National Spelling Bee, where she represented both BHA and San Diego County with excellence.



Robotics

For over 15 years, our robotics program has been a story of innovation, excellence, and growth. From humble beginnings in competitions like FIRST Lego League (FLL) and Botball, BHA has made a major leap into the highly competitive FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)—a level that demands advanced engineering, intense collaboration, and real-world problem-solving. As the only Islamic school in California competing at the FRC level, our students rose to the challenge, earning the Rookie Award in their first year. Beyond building robots, the program develops leadership, resilience, and technical mastery, serving as a launchpad for future innovators and leaders.



Alumni Spotlight



Ali Ali

Graduated from BHA: May 2025

Current University: University of California, Riverside

Major: Mechanical Engineering

After graduating from Bright Horizon Academy in May 2025, Ali Ali began pursuing a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering at UC Riverside, with plans to continue on to a master's degree. Reflecting on his time at BHA, Ali describes an environment where no day felt boring, shaped by a strong sense of community and connection. During his time at BHA, he served as ASB President, Junior Robotics Coach, and a member of the National Honor Society—roles that strengthened his leadership skills and passion for teamwork. Ali's journey reflects a strong work ethic, dedication, and genuine commitment to growth, and the BHA community is proud to celebrate his continued success and see him carry these values forward.

Safwa Khan

Graduated from BHA: June 2024

University: University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Major: Electrical Engineering



Safwa Khan graduated from Bright Horizon Academy in June 2024 and went on to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering at UCLA. Safwa values the opportunities at BHA that allowed her to grow academically and creatively, particularly through hands-on learning and collaboration. While at BHA, she was deeply involved in robotics and science fair, served as a member of the National Honor Society, worked as an Art Coach in STEAM, participated in NSTEM, supported students as a Math Teacher Intern, served as Student Council secretary, and founded the Crochet Club. At UCLA, Safwa continues to build on this strong foundation through her involvement in IEEE, HAM Radio, and Women in Science—achievements the BHA community is proud to celebrate as she continues her journey in engineering and leadership.

Student Engagement and Community Impact

Over the years, our community service initiatives have been at the heart of who we are. From visiting senior homes to share flowers, gifts, and meaningful conversations, to brightening dialysis centers with thoughtful tokens of care. We've raised funds through bake sales to aid communities facing disasters, such as earthquake relief in Pakistan and support for Gaza. Our students have also tutored refugee children in Arabic and Quran, and brought hands-on STEM and robotics experiences to various community events. And with joyful Ramadan festivals, we've celebrated and strengthened the bonds with our wider community. Each of these efforts reflects our commitment to service, empathy, and shared growth.



Providing sustainable access to education is central to the school's mission and its responsibility to positively impact the broader community. Currently, 46 students across multiple grade levels qualify for Title I funding, underscoring the ongoing need to support students from lower-income backgrounds. In recent years, the school has steadily increased its financial aid budget; however, in the past two years, awarded aid has exceeded the allocated budget by more than 10%. Financial aid is 100% donor-funded, with no support from state grants, endowments, or other government programs. While donations have grown annually, reliance on a single funding source presents sustainability challenges, making it essential to explore alternative streams such as private grants, endowments, and named scholarship or legacy funds to better support students in need.

Financial Aid Budget & Allocation

Academic Year	Total FA Budget Allocated	Total FA Amount Awarded	Percent Exceeded
2022-2023	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	0.00%
2023-2024	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	0.00%
2024-2025	\$40,000.00	\$45,425.00	13.56%
2025-2026	\$45,000.00	\$50,000.00	11.11%

need for additional support

Financial Aid Funding Sources

Academic Year	Donations
2022-2023	\$30,000.00
2023-2024	\$35,000.00
2024-2025	\$41,000.00
2025-2026	\$45,000.00

opportunity to supplement with endowment gifts, private grants, and named scholarships

Construction and Facilities

Overview of Construction Projects and New Campus Development

In response to our school's continued growth and the increasing demand for high-quality Islamic education, we have made significant strides in upgrading and expanding our campus facilities. Four years ago, we embarked on the expansion of our elementary section to accommodate rising enrollment. Alhamdulillah, this project was successfully completed in early 2025, providing our Upper Elementary students with more spacious, engaging, and modern learning environments.

As part of our commitment to student well-being and safety, the school also completed a series of infrastructure improvements funded by a \$250,000 security grant from the State of California. These upgrades have strengthened our campus security and emergency preparedness.

New modulares - upper elementary



Old elementary section



Old science lab

Sarah and Athar Ansari Science Lab - Phase 1



Improvements to Learning Environments

This year, we also celebrated the installation of a new soccer field and lighting system on campus, a major step forward in enhancing our physical education and athletic programs. Most recently, we began a major upgrade of our science laboratory to further support our thriving STEM program. This investment reflects our long-term commitment to academic excellence and innovation, ensuring our students have access to hands-on, inquiry-based learning opportunities that inspire curiosity and prepare them for the future. These developments mark not just physical growth, but a shared dedication to nurturing the minds, bodies, and spirits of every student we serve.



Soccer field construction



Lighting project

Soccer field project



Financial Overview

Financial Stewardship and Sustainability

We are committed to responsible financial stewardship that supports both our mission today and our vision for the future. Through thoughtful planning, disciplined budgeting, and careful oversight, we ensure that resources are used intentionally and sustainably. Every decision is guided by a long-term perspective—one that prioritizes educational excellence, financial stability, and the enduring strength of our school community for generations to come.

2025 Statement of Activities (CY P&L)

Revenue Summary	
Tuition and Fees (Net)	\$2,302,027
Donations & Grants	\$666,823
Operations & Programs Income	\$399,150
Total Revenue	\$3,368,000

Expenses Summary	
Payroll and Benefits	-\$2,363,786
Educational & Operational Expenses	-\$679,857
Facilities & Equipment	-\$315,205
Total Expenses	-\$3,358,848

Excludes non-recurring ERC Credit



Looking Ahead

As we look toward the next ten years, our vision is clear: to strengthen the foundation of our school in every way academically, structurally, and spiritually. To meet the needs of our growing student body and the rising cost of living in California, we must continue to invest in human resources, attract and retain top educational talent, enhance our campus facilities, and supplement our STEM program resources.

Yet perhaps our most significant and urgent priority lies in the very infrastructure that houses our mission. Our current campus, originally built in the 1970s, has served us well but the time has come to plan for new construction to carry our school forward for the next 20 to 50 years. This is not just a matter of bricks and mortar; it is a bold investment in the future of our children, our faith, and our broader community.

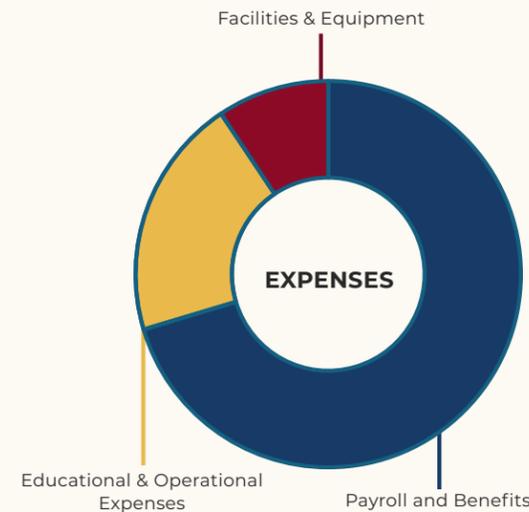
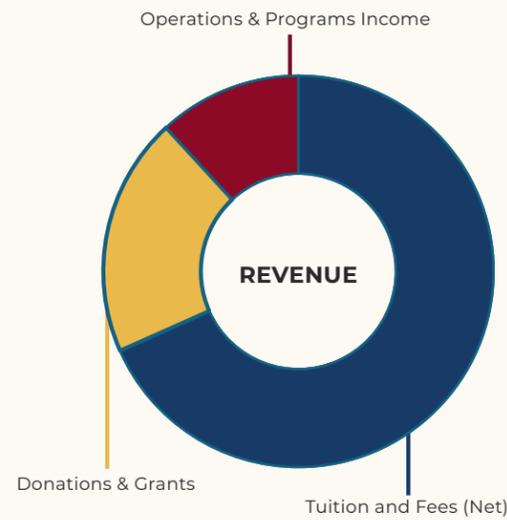
To realize this vision, we will need the continued partnership, generosity, and dua of our donors, parents, and community leaders. Together, we have already accomplished so much. With your support, we will build a campus and a legacy that will serve generations to come, Insha'Allah.

A phased approach to immediate and long-term campus growth

Phase 1: Expanding to Meet Immediate Needs
To support growing high school enrollment, two modular classrooms will be added to campus, providing much-needed instructional space and flexibility. This phase also allows for the creation of a dedicated science lab to strengthen the STEM curriculum and immediately relieve capacity constraints.

Phase 2: Building for a Unified Secondary Campus
The next phase includes constructing a new, purpose-built facility for Middle and High School students. The building will feature modern classrooms, collaborative learning spaces, and a dedicated administrative wing to streamline operations and better serve families, reflecting our commitment to academic excellence, leadership, and spiritual growth.

Phase 3: Renewing the Heart of Our Campus
The final phase involves retiring the original 1970s infrastructure and replacing it with a redesigned parking lot, upgraded sports grounds, and improved street access. These improvements will enhance campus safety and traffic flow, modernize the campus, and strengthen our role as a good neighbor within the surrounding community.



Thank you for your support

Ways to Support



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