



SILICON VALLEY ACADEMY

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Note From Principal Mona

Assalamu Alaikum Dear Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you have had a wonderful winter break. This year, **Silicon Valley Academy is celebrating 30 years masha'Allah!** This milestone is a testament to Allah's blessings and to the dedication of generations of families, educators, and students who believed in the importance of an Islamic learning environment. For three decades, our school has worked to prepare students not only for academic success, but to become confident Muslims, thoughtful leaders, and effective contributors to their communities. As we look ahead, we are excited to celebrate our journey, honor our past, and continue building a future rooted in Islamic values and academic excellence.

In honor of our 30 year anniversary, we are launching the **Future Scholars Initiative** to provide scholarships for students that meet certain merit and financial criteria for the 2026-27 school year. This is an exciting initiative to help more students access an SVA education than ever before. Check out svaschool.org for more information.

And as we look towards the next academic year, please join us for an **Open House** to learn about each of our programs: **PreK, Elementary, Middle School, and Accelerated High School.** We are particularly excited to announce the launch of an **expanded two-year Accelerated High School program** for the 2026-27 academic year! The expanded program will build off of SVA's one-year accelerated program that has been offered at the school for over a decade with a proven track record of success, launching advanced students on a fast-track to college. The Accelerated High School program will be offered for the first time to rising 9th graders outside of the SVA student community, as well as to those who have graduated from SVA's middle school, through an application process. The program will continue to serve advanced learners within an Islamic, values-based environment. Please join us on Thursday, January 15 at 9 am to learn more about the program's emphasis on academic excellence, character development, and leadership.



Important Dates

	Monday, January 5th <i>No School - Staff Development Day</i>
	Thursday, January 12th <i>Khalil Center Parent Workshop The Balanced Child: School, Activities, Sleep, and Play</i>
	Thursday, January 15th <i>Last Day of First Semester</i> <small>Families without 15 volunteer hours will be charged \$450 on Gradelink.</small>
	Friday, January 16th <i>Soul Shoppe</i>
	Monday, January 19th <i>No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>
	Friday, January 23rd <i>KG-8th 2nd Quarter Report Cards Posted</i>
	January 27th <i>Parent Talk: Mindful Muslim Reader How to Raise a Reader</i>
	January 28/29th <i>Book Fair & Book Character Dress-Up day (only the 28th is Dress-Up Day).</i>

SVA Open House Schedule

Learn more about our programs before enrollment begins in February

 PREK Monday, January 12th 9am-10am	
 ELEMENTARY KG-5TH Tuesday, January 13th 9am-10 am	
 MIDDLE SCHOOL Wednesday, January 14th 9am-10am	
 ACCELERATED HIGH SCHOOL Thursday, January 15th 9am-10am	

IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS



Traffic Flow: Please enter from Washington Ave. and exit on Leota Ave. Right turn only on Leota.



Park in SVA lot: Please do not park outside of entrance gate.



Gate Timings: Please exit the school before gates close at 8:30 a.m.



Playground: Please refrain from playing on the play structure after school hours.



SVA's Book Fair will take place this year on January 28 and 29 inshaAllah! This special event nurtures a love of reading in students while supporting both academic growth and Islamic learning. Book fairs encourage students to explore new genres, discover authors, and build excitement around reading. Choosing and reading new books helps children develop independence, confidence, and a lifelong connection to learning. Reading regularly strengthens vocabulary, comprehension, creativity, and critical thinking skills—benefits that support success across all subject areas. Our Islamic Book Fair through MCA Bookstore offers age-appropriate books that inspire faith, character development, and a deeper understanding of Islamic values. This is a great time to purchase books in preparation for Ramadan, helping children engage with Islamic stories, lessons, and reflections during this special month. Our Scholastic Book Fair provides a wide variety of engaging titles to spark curiosity and imagination. Check our more (including how to set up an eWallet for your child to easily purchase books) [HERE](#):

Event Details:

- January 28:** Students can dress as their favorite book character and bring the corresponding book. They will visit the book fair with their classes during the school day, and the fair will also be open after school for families.
- January 29:** The book fair will be open after school.



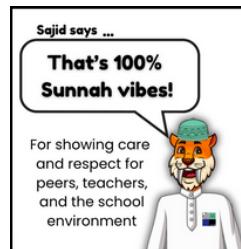
Islamic Manner of the Month

For December, our focus was on **Gratitude (Shukr)**—recognizing and appreciating Allah's countless blessings. In Islam, gratitude (imtinaan/shukr) is more than saying "thank you" — it's a way of life. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ showed gratitude even in hardship, teaching us that a thankful heart brings peace and closeness to Allah. When students practice gratitude, they become more mindful, positive, and respectful, creating a joyful, caring school environment.

As we begin the new year, January's theme is **Forgiveness ('Afw)** — letting go of hurt, choosing kindness, and seeking Allah's mercy. Forgiveness is a powerful act of strength in Islam, reflecting Allah's beautiful name Al-'Afuww, The Most Forgiving. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ forgave others even when wronged, teaching us to heal hearts, restore relationships, and grow in character. When students learn to forgive, they develop empathy, emotional resilience, and a deeper sense of unity within our school community.

🎉 Congratulations to 2/3 A & B as well as 4th/5th A & B for earning 300 Sajid Reinforcers! Your teamwork and excellent manners set a wonderful example for all.

★ A special shoutout to our 3rd grade students Fatima Mirza and Omar Mohammed as well as 2nd grade student Meryem Kaya for earning 100 Sajid Reinforcers! We are so proud of your dedication and positive choices.



A few of our Sajid the Sabertooth Reinforcers!



Preview of Ramadan @ SVA

Inshallah, Ramadan begins on February 18th! A few things to keep in mind in advance:

- Our school day will shorten, with **pickup at 1:45 p.m. all month.** All afterschool activities and extended care will begin at 2 p.m.
- Please save the date for **SVA's Annual Iftar on Friday, February 20th!**
- SVA will be raising funds and packing food for the ICNA Relief Food Drive before Ramadan. Food packaging will occur on **Friday, February 13th!**



ICNA Relief Food Drive & Fundraising

SVA will be collecting donations to create Ramadan food baskets for families in need in partnership with ICNA Relief. Each box costs \$100. Participating in the food drive teaches our children empathy and charity, while making a real difference in the lives of others.

Students will have the meaningful opportunity to pack the food on Friday, February 13, and the baskets will be distributed from campus that same day. Parents are encouraged and welcomed to join us! Please donate generously to help those in need [HERE](#):



Pickleball



Quran Class



Crochet Club



Elevate Adolescent Program



Castle Chess



We're excited to share that 19 Multi-Sports and Arabic Calligraphy classes will be launching later this semester. More information coming soon!



Parenting Talk with Mindful Muslim Reader

How to Raise a Reader



SVA will be hosting Mindful Muslim Reader for a parent talk on **Tuesday, January 27th at 9 a.m. on svaportal.com**, to share the importance of encouraging healthy literacy for our Muslim children in advance of the SVA Book Fair!

Mindful Muslim Reader is an organization dedicated to supporting reading in a way that builds language, fortifies character, and increases the understanding of truth. To that end, the Mindful Muslim Reader website recommends books worth reading—ones that build the rational mind and fortify the spiritual heart. Mindful Muslim Reader chooses books based on quality and how well each book develops a child's ability to think Islamically: books that shape the Islamic mind beyond the Muslim identity.

The parent talk will share why literacy is crucial and how to find the best books for your children with positive values that align with our faith. Please join to learn more about how we as parents must support our children's academic and spiritual development through literacy! Learn more about Mindful Muslim Reader [HERE](#):





SVA Enrollment Preview: Academic Year 2026-2027

Enrollment

Registration on Gradelink for the 2026-2027 academic year at Silicon Valley Academy will begin in February! Please mark your calendars:

- **Returning students:** February 9 at 8:30 a.m.
- **Siblings of returning students:** February 16 at 8:30 a.m.
- **New students:** February 23 at 8:30 a.m.

***Please make any outstanding payments on Gradelink before re-enrolling your student. If an outstanding balance on Gradelink exists, your child will be placed on the waitlist until the balance is paid.**

Scholarships & Tuition Assistance

At Silicon Valley Academy, we are committed to making our exceptional Islamic education accessible while fostering a culture of excellence. This year, we have restructured our financial support into two distinct pathways to better serve our diverse families: Merit-Based Scholarships and Tuition Assistance. We encourage you to review the options below to see which path fits your family best. To view the eligibility calculator or download application checklists please visit our new website at www.svaschool.org

(1) The Future Scholars Initiative (K-8 Merit Scholarships) - For students ready to lead, serve, & achieve.

We are moving beyond standard discounts to create a scholarship program where grants are earned through character and commitment. This initiative empowers students to take ownership of their education through age-appropriate achievements, linking tuition support to personal growth for eligible families.

- **The Budding Scholar (K-2):** Students submit a "My School" art poster and sign a kindness pledge.
- **The Junior Innovator (3-5):** Students complete a "Micro-Service Project" and submit a reflection log.
- **The Future Leader (6-8):** Students simulate the college prep process with a resume, leadership proposal, and a Scholarship Committee interview.

Why Apply? This is not just about tuition reduction; it is about partnering with the school to build a "merit mindset" in your child. Students who complete the requirements receive the title of "SVA Scholar." Please, refer to our website for more details and information on application deadlines.

(2) SVA Tuition Assistance & Pre-K Support - For families seeking financial support to bridge the affordability gap.

For families requiring deeper financial support or childcare relief, our traditional Tuition Assistance program offers substantial aid. This pathway is strictly confidential and includes two specific tracks:

- **General Tuition Assistance:** Supported by community donations and/or Zakat, this track provides need-based aid for K-8 families after an independent financial assessment. Please review eligibility on our website.
- **NEW: Pre-K Tuition Relief:** To support working families meeting certain income eligibility, we are introducing a dedicated Pre-K tier this year. We now offer tuition relief of up to 40% for Pre-K students. This option is available for students entering Kindergarten the following fall, and subject to eligibility.

Join "The Builders' Circle": Our ability to offer scholarships and tuition assistance relies on the generosity of our community. We have launched The Builders' Circle, a tiered giving program that allows you to direct your support:

- **Community Friend (\$100+):** Covers student learning materials.
- **Scholar's Guardian (\$1,000+):** Subsidizes tuition and includes a handwritten student thank you note.
- **Leadership Partner (\$10,000+):** Fully funds a merit grant. Donors receive an anonymized "Impact Report" detailing the student's achievements.
- **Legacy Founder (\$20,000+):** Anchors the fund with the ability to name a scholarship after your family

[Make a donation today at svaschool.org!](http://svaschool.org)

Parent of the Month

We are excited to honor **Sandrine Djemai** this month as our Parent of the Month in the "Behind-the-Scenes Heroes" category! Sandrine is the sole member of SVA's Teacher Treats Committee, and has provided our beloved teachers with a special treat each month this semester. She has used creativity and thoughtfulness to show our teachers how much they are valued by our community. May Allah bless Sister Sandrine for all of her contributions!

Remember to nominate parents who go above and beyond to support our school by emailing the PTO at pto@svamail.com.



Sajid says...

What to learn more about SVA's educational programs? Or know someone who does? Mark your calendar and share SVA's Open House schedule with family and friends:

- **PreK:** Monday, 1/12 @ 9 a.m.
- **Elementary:** Tuesday, 1/13 @ 9 a.m.
- **Middle School:** Wednesday, 1/14 @ 9 a.m.
- **Accelerated High School:** Thursday, 1/15 @ 9 a.m.



Key Quick Links

Use the link OR scan the QR code

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

<https://shorturl.at/AKvAT>



HOT LUNCH

<https://www.svaschool.org/assets/hot-lunch-2025.jpeg>



GRADELINK

<https://secure.gradelink.com>

*Check your balance using
School ID: 2923



PARENT PORTAL

<https://www.svaportal.com>

*use your child's google
classroom login



Be GLAD NOTEBOOK

Strategy Spotlight: Inquiry Charts

The Inquiry Chart is a GLAD strategy designed to activate and assess students' background knowledge at the start of a unit while supporting oral language development and reinforcing key English Language Arts (ELA) skills in an authentic context.

Teachers create a simple two-column chart on chart paper or a shared document. One column is dedicated to student hypotheses (what students think they know), and the other captures student questions about the topic. Students first engage in a "turn and talk" to discuss their ideas with their peers before sharing with the class, allowing time to negotiate meaning and creating a low-stress, supportive learning environment. Teachers then record student responses verbatim, along with student initials. This practice honors student voice while providing authentic opportunities for modeling editing and revision skills. The process is then repeated for the questions column.

Throughout the unit, the Inquiry Chart remains an interactive, living document. Students may add new hypotheses or questions as their learning evolves. As instruction progresses, the class revisits the chart to confirm or revise initial ideas, answer questions, edit language, and cite sources when validating information.

This strategy allows teachers to gauge students' prior understanding of a topic, assess their use of academic language, and intentionally model ELA skills such as concepts of print, punctuation, and grammar.

Because it can be used across all subject areas, the Inquiry Chart also helps educators tailor instruction to better meet students' needs.