



*Instilling the Islamic Vision
Excellence without Excuses*



*Celebrating 31 Years as an Independent Islamic Institution
Fully Accredited Since 1995*

Community Meeting Report

October, 2011

Achievements for the 2010-2011 School Year:

- Ended the school year without a deficit (first time in three years)
- Graduated 20th high school class – 22 graduates with 99% college acceptances, more than \$500,000 in grants and scholarships, and six scholarships from Muslim agencies
- High school's drama class and Mohammed Schools Thespians Guild students wrote, produced and performed their own musical called "Extant" at the Porter Sanford III Performing Arts Center
- Successfully ended the 2010-2011 school year with the first-ever Community Choice Awards fundraiser, honoring the individuals selected by the community for recognition. The event raised \$40,000.00 and more than 1500 attended the events of the weekend.
- Advanced Placement courses were added to the curriculum in English and Honors courses in math.
- Founders Week 2010 included the first museum of primary sources of historical significance honoring the legacy of our founders, with the daughter and family of Imam Warith Deen Mohammed as the curator. Once a permanent site has been designated, the museum will become a permanent addition to the curriculum as a living history classroom and research center for students and the community.
- Mohammed Schools staff and students hosted and dialogued with International Muslims and other faith traditions from Afghanistan, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, and India under the auspices of the State Department and the Georgia Council of International Visitors, continuing a five year tradition.
- Mohammed Schools staff completed the major portion of work on Islamic standards in the various disciplines to ensure that the curriculum is Quranically based.
- Four veteran teachers were selected to participate in the prestigious and highly selective Zora Neale Hurston conference this past summer(Quran Shakir, Bayyinah Bahar, Zarinah Abdur- Rahman, and Aisha Squire).
- New teacher, Hafeezah Abduljaami was selected to attend the prestigious African American Artisans conference this past summer.
- W. Deen Mohammed High School was named as one of the Best High Schools in Atlanta.
- Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters featured the Mohammed Scholars in their programming for the second year in a row.
- The school instituted the Federal National School Lunch Program through the Department of Education.
- Instituted the first Summer Arabic Academy which was open to students throughout the community,
- The music and art departments initiated the first outdoor Spring Concert and Art Exhibit at the Atlanta Masjid.
- The Mohammed Schools served as the site for a joint collaboration and service project for local schools, including Drew Charter, Atlanta International School, and Tech High. The project was funded by American Express, and Delta Airlines. More than 250 students and adults participated.
- Three staff are pursuing doctoral degrees (Safiyah Shahid, Qur'an Shakir, and Zakiyyah Ware)
- Two staff passed the GACE (Georgia Assessment for Certification of Educators) – Tanzania Ruffin and Yusef Roberts

Achievements for the 2011-2012 School Year - First Quarter:

- Began the year with a new structure that includes a director, a principal, and a lead instructional teacher. This new structure has allowed us to hone in on specific areas to improve and enhance regarding professional development for teachers, academic achievement for students, and the climate and culture of our school system.
- Of the eight new staff that were hired this school year, two were alumni (Now, we have a total of five alumni working at the school.)
- Began a Hafiz program to help with memorization of Al-Qur'an, a major accomplishment for the growth of Islamic

education. We have 10 enrollees. (We are still accepting students.)

- We have a new Yusuf Ali Science Lab for the elementary school, donated by parent Yusuf Ali. This lab is helping us to meet our goal of a strong focus on science and technology.
- Youth Vibe is the new vendor for the breakfast, lunch, and snack program.
- The kitchen has been upgraded with a new stove, refrigerator, and steam table.
- New initiatives within the school include:
 - Ta'budiyyah (early morning worship) with the entire school, including teachers, lead by the Director of Islamic Affairs or teachers from the Islamic Studies department of the school.
 - Gender-based classes in the high school
 - In addition to offering Arabic as a foreign language, we now offer Spanish classes to students in Kindergarten through 8th grades.
- 12 scholarships have been awarded through the Georgia Tax Credit Program. This program generates income for the school and opportunities for students to attend our school.
- Four new teachers have been enrolled in the Pride program through the DeKalb County School System.
- Two new DeKalb County Title 1 teachers are on board this year, increasing our staff diversity. .
- The principal, lead teacher, counselor, discipline coordinator and other staff have taken professional development sessions with local educational agencies
- Alumni continue to serve in positions of leadership for the school and the Masjid, including serving on the Consultative Board of Advisors, the IPTSCA, and the Masjid's Ansari Committee

Enrollment:

End of 2010-2011 School Year: 202

Current Enrollment: 178 (approximately 40 are children of alumni)

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- Race for Education – Saturday, October 22, 2011, 7 a.m.
- Eid breakfast 2 – first day of Eid al Adha
- Annual Bake Sale – November and December
- Day of Majesty/International Festival kick-off - December

Upcoming Events:

- Red Ribbon Week – last week in October. Join our parade.
- **Founders Week** – First week of November, a major focus for the school annually
- Monthly Read Around – come listen to passages, poems, and literature being read. Sign up to read your favorite passages, poems, and literature. The Read Around program will be right after Jumah.
 - October 28 – Hajj: The Journey of a Lifetime
 - November 18 – Giving Thanks
 - December 16 – The Wonders of Winter

School Needs/Concerns:

- Need to increase enrollment. Need at least 20 additional full-paying students to meet the new budget
- Need more volunteers from the community to assist with monitoring of students, security, and school upkeep.
- Improving student behavior and adaab
- Improving student performance in reading and math
- Acquiring additional computers for the computer lab and classrooms
- Science lab upgrades for middle and high school

