

MCWS Sunna Saturday Program

The Sunna Saturday program was launched in the fall of 2010 with the intent of providing high school aged youth with an outlet to learn about their faith in a means that was pleasing and fulfilling to them. The program seeks to give young people a means to access the knowledge of their faith while fostering strong bonds amongst the participants as well as seeking to connect them to the reality they live in. Finally it is a primary concern of the organizers of this program that the youth enjoy their time in the program, that they have a say in its development, and that they leave changed seeking to help others change.

The Sunna Saturday program has six main parts. Although each year will differ undoubtedly, the same core aspects of the program remain.

I) The first element is a course that will be taught on any number of subjects concerning the faith. Everything from basic acts of worship to selections from ahadith and Qur'an to topics of great concern to our youth will be taught and discussed in a normal course format. Each year will have its own material and focus.

II) The second element of the Sunna Saturday program is a discussion based section. In this section group leaders or instructors will use prompts (videos, texts, questions, images) to initiate conversations and dialogue revolving around contemporary issues facing the world today. The idea is to spark interest and to give participants a voice. There will be questions already prepared but the idea is to get a conversation to naturally guide itself and to try and reach some type of understanding of various issues while respecting differences of opinion.

III) The third element is activities. The intent of this part of the program is to have the students work together or in small groups to accomplish tasks both at the masjid and off grounds. This idea was actually initiated by the youth themselves who suggested that we put together projects where the youth themselves get to create, build, and improve things in the community.

IV) The fourth element is recreational. Physical activity as well as social interaction are both key to the wellbeing of not only young people but people of all ages. Therefore we provide a portion of the time at the program for the youth to engage in organized and non organized recreational outlets. We will be using the gym for a multitude of sporting activities as well as facilities nearby. The basement will be used for certain sessions merely to give the students an opportunity to enjoy themselves in a non structured format.

V) The fifth and last element is providing meals to the students. Since the students will be there for a decent amount of time we will be providing them with a meal either by catering from halal restaurants or coordinating with parents of the students to provide meals on given days. If you would like to donate your time and effort to provide food for the students please contact us and let us know.

VI) The final element is a few field trips. Again, the idea behind this part of the program is to spark interest, motivation, drive, discussion, and learning while the students enjoy themselves. There will be ample time given to parents before we go on a trip and the trips vary in destinations but will not be far from Canton.

Sunna Saturday 2011-2012: Divine Revelation and Prophetic Guidance 101

Course Materials

- 1- A copy of the Qur'an
- 2- An English commentary on the Qur'an titled, "The Qur'an (Oxford World Classics) by M.A.S. Abdel Haleem.
- 3- Supplementary material by the instructor with commentary and translations of ahadith we are covering as well as other related material.

The schedule for the day (with the exception of field trip days) will consist of:

- 1- Class topic
- 2- Discussion section
- 3- Activity
- 4- Rec time
- 5- Food

Course Description:

This year's focus will be on introductory Qur'an and hadith studies. The course will be using half of the last juzu' of the Qur'an as well as the famous 40 ahadith of Imam an-nawawi as a building block to discuss issues relevant to our daily lives. The intent of the course is to provide a bridge into the words and meanings of divine revelation as well as prophetic inheritance.

Discussion sections:

Last year we found much success in prompting the students through video clips, photographs, short reading passages, and questions, to discuss important issues our community was facing. The hope is that this year's discussion sections (after brief review of last year) can work on solutions to problems they choose to fix in a means they think is plausible for their age and skill level. We will be executing the solution during the program and outside of it.

Activity:

For days in which we have moved past discussion into action we will be doing activities that coincide with the solution the youth have sought to execute. Whether it is building something, painting, writing, or filming, we hope to provide answers to certain problems.

Recreational time:

It was suggested that we do some light athletics before any organized sport and so we will begin with a light work out and then move to one of the mentioned organized sports or activities: Basketball, football, frisbee, mafia, dodgeball, or lounge time.

Food:

Meals will either be catered from a halal establishment or from volunteer parents.

Field trips:

We will be visiting the graveyards in the area as well as bringing in and possibly visiting the work place of some professionals in the area.