

SCHOLAR QUARTERLY

Spring Edition

11th Grade

COLLEGE ROADMAP

February

As you're progressing through the semester, make sure you keep track of which [SAT Subject Tests](#) you might be able to take at the end of the school year. Wondering why taking subject tests in May or June may be beneficial? Studying for your subject tests will help you prepare for final exams and AP exams in those subjects at the same time! Keep in mind that some colleges require SAT subject tests as part of the college application!

As Spring Break approaches, start thinking about visiting colleges that you may consider applying to in the Fall! If these schools are close enough, you might be able to take a road trip to do a formal college visit and see if you are interested.

March

Although Spring Break is a great time to tour colleges in-person, you can always research schools online if you are unable to physically visit. You can also try to connect with current students or alumni from colleges you're interested in to hear more about their experiences! Resources like the [Ismaili Student Network](#) can help you connect with students and alumni.

School guidance counselors are great resources that have a ton of useful knowledge. Connect with your counselor regarding any concerns about test scores or questions about classes! They have information about college requirements and can even help you decide if you need to retake any standardized tests, give you information about summer opportunities, and help you plan courses for next year.

April

You're almost done with junior year! Plan to meet with your guidance counselor to start working on a list of colleges to apply to next year. He or she can help you decide which ones might be a good fit and can also provide ideas to help you strengthen your application for your 'reach' schools!

This is also a good time to reflect on what you've learned so far this year. Is there anything you would have done differently or something that you think really benefited you? Take time to share those reflections with students in the grade below you and give them advice based on your experiences! This can help many students learn how to navigate each grade and can provide valuable insight to help them succeed like you!

"The spirit of Islam is to share knowledge and I always tell the community not to think in material terms. Think in terms of knowledge and think what you can offer our institutions in various parts of the world."

- His Highness the Aga Khan
Interview with Gulf News, Dubai, April 2008

WELLNESS CORNER

As the weather warms up, it's time to head outside! Hang out with your friends at a park or play some outdoor sports to take advantage of the warmer weather!

Wellness includes physical health as well as mental health because a healthy body and mind go together! [Exercise has been shown to improve mental health by reducing anxiety, depression, and stress levels and improving brain function and mood!](#)

Finding Financing

Many people don't know where to look for scholarships or know that you can start applying for scholarships as early as 9th grade! Scholarship websites such as [Fastweb.com](#), [Scholarships.com](#), [Zinch.com](#), and [Moolahspot.com](#) can help you identify and apply for any scholarships you qualify for throughout high school. College financing can be stressful but there are many scholarships out there that anyone can apply for!

Looking for a Mentor?

Mentors can provide guidance and be a great source of information for any questions you have about careers or school! Through programs like the [Ismaili Pre-Health Mentoring Program \(IPMP\)](#), [Ismaili Professionals in Education and Academia \(IPEA\)](#), and the [Ismaili Professionals Network \(IPN\)](#), you can identify students and professionals who can help you achieve your goals!

Scholarships

[Muslim American Journeys Scholarship](#) - \$1,000 - due March 1

[Platinum Federal Credit Union Academic Scholarship](#) - \$2,500 - due March 24

[Frame My Future Scholarship](#) - up to \$5,000 - due April 1

[Exceptional Youth Scholarship](#) - \$5,000 - due April 30

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

WHAT IS A PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE STUDENTS IN THE GRADE BELOW YOU THAT YOU WISH YOU HAD LAST YEAR?

“Don't slack off. There's a million things to figure out senior year and waiting until the last second is not an option. Watching Netflix may seem important now, but applying to schools and scholarships are more important for your future.”

HAVE YOU DONE ANYTHING DURING YOUR SUMMERS THAT YOU RECOMMEND STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN?

“I volunteered at Piedmont Hospital over the summer and it was a great way to gain insight into the field I am interested in. I advise you find some way to gain experience in and learn more about whatever field interests you.”



Ziya Altaf

12th Grader - Atlanta, GA