

SCHOLAR QUARTERLY

Spring Edition

12th Grade

COLLEGE ROADMAP

February

Since applications are out of the way now, you must be relieved! Be sure not to slack off on school, though! You still have to send final transcripts to the school you end up choosing at the end of the academic year so be sure to maintain your GPA during this last semester.

If you haven't submitted your financial aid information to the school of your choice yet (FAFSA and/or CSS Profile), be sure to do that ASAP! Colleges are unable to give you an estimate of your financial aid award without these items so you have to submit them as soon as possible. Continue applying to scholarships during this time as well! There are many scholarship opportunities that you can still take advantage of.

March

You will start receiving admission decisions from most schools during March and it's important that you identify which factors are important to you when deciding on the best college for you. These factors could range from cost and class size to location and research opportunities. Form a pro/con list for each school you are considering so you can methodically evaluate the best option for you.

You can also try to connect with current students or alumni from schools you've been accepted to if you want to hear more about real-life experiences! Resources like the [Ismaili Student Network](#) can help you connect with students and alumni. This will be another way for you to learn more about the school and ultimately help you decide whether or not this particular college would be a good fit for you.

April

You're so close to the end! Plan to meet with your guidance counselor to confirm that you are on track to graduate and to ensure that you have no outstanding graduation requirements.

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

Education Financial Assistance & Scholarship (EFAS) - 50% Grant/50% Loan - due March 21

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?

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I found that the key to excelling in my classes was not by being a hard worker - it was by being a smart worker. We're often told that the harder we work, the more hours we put into a task, the better our results will be. However, I found that this theory isn't always true. Don't get me wrong - it's very important to work hard and try your best, but that shouldn't be your only focus. You want to make sure that you keep your eye on the prize, strive to do your very best, and trust the process.

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

I would recommend getting an internship or gaining some volunteer experience in a facility that aligns with what you could see yourself potentially pursuing for your career. Experience is a very necessary tool that will help you immensely in your future.

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Arisha Kassam
College Freshman - UC Davis