

Instructor: Ms. Mimi AlSuhaimi (Ustadha AlSuhaimi)
Contact: malsuhaimi@pps.net
School: East–West Sylvan Middle School
Room: 12
School Year: 2011–2012
Course title: Arabic 1
Grade Level: 7
Credits: 0.5
Text: Alif Baa: Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds

Welcome to **Arabic 1!** In this course we will be doing lots of dialogues and hands–on activities to help build your Arabic speaking, writing, reading and comprehension skills. These activities are also designed to increase your knowledge and understanding about the cultural practices seen throughout the Arab world. **This year we will study:**

- The Arabic Alphabet + Numbers
- Days of the week + months of the year
- Traditional greetings + How to introduce yourself (Age, where you live, etc.)
- How to communicate likes + dislikes
- Daily routines as seen in your life + lives of Arabs
- The classroom + school environment
- Family
- Food

I believe that **every student** is worthy of dignity and respect. I am here to help you feel safe and grow as a learner and as a person. I commit to know you as a person and student. I will not give up on anyone. Materials will be engaging and challenging. I am available to talk with you and your parents.

Classroom Community Expectations:

We are here to learn
Support one another
Strive to excel
Be role models
Participate

Rules:

Respect yourself and others
Clean up after yourself
Respect materials and equipment
Take care of yourself first

To be successful in our class, you need to:

Be prepared for class
Use your agenda daily to keep track of assignments and due date
Turn in work on time into turn in basket
Write your name and date on all assignments
Make up late or missing work

Be responsible for making up work missed due to absences

Ask intelligent and important questions

Behavior consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. Conference with teacher and student
3. Call/email home
4. Conference with the teacher and Mr. Fitz
5. Behavior referral–removal from class

Bathroom Policy:

Each student has five bathroom passes per semester. Use them wisely! When these have been used up, the student will not be allowed to leave the classroom except in cases of emergency.

Required Materials

You are required to have a **notebook** for this class (it may be spiral–ring or otherwise bound).

You are also required to purchase blank **index cards** of any type, which you will use to make flashcards at home for all the vocabulary and letters we learn in class.

Grading

A--- 90% or better

B--- 80% to 89%

C--- 70% to 79%

D--- 60% to 69%

F--- 0% to 59%

In this class, you will be graded on:

- **Participation** – 25%

How do you know if you are participating correctly in this class?

Participation consists of the following:

- You come to class with your materials ready.
- You are quiet and attentive when others are speaking, whether myself or your classmates.
- You speak when it is appropriate—that is, during speaking activities.
- You stay on–task during class: you follow directions and focus on completing the assigned activities.
- You use your time productively if you finish an activity before the rest of your classmates

- You are present in class. An excessive number of absences, will drop your grade
- You are willing to take risks and offer answers in Arabic even when you are not sure if they are right. You respond respectfully to your classmates who have made mistakes.
- You use Arabic as much as possible in class. After we've learned the word "yes" in Arabic, for example, I don't want to hear you say it in English!

- **Homework** - 30%

You must complete and turn in homework at **the beginning of class** on the day it is due. You may turn in homework one day late for half credit. Homework will not be accepted more than one day late, with the following exception: You will also receive one **homework pass**, which you can use to turn in one late homework assignment (a small one—not a project!) for full credit at any time. If you have not used your homework assignment by the end of the semester, you can receive **extra credit** for it.

If you are **absent**, you may have a number of days equal to the days that you were absent to make up the homework. unless the homework assignment is a longer project that was assigned far ahead of time. In that case, the homework assignment will be considered late.

- **Quizzes** - 30%

We will have quizzes roughly every two weeks. Quizzes will be announced beforehand. There may be pop quizzes; one pop quiz will have the same value as a single homework assignment and will not be part of your quiz grade.

- **Tests**- 15%

We will have tests at the end of each unit. Tests will be announced at least one week beforehand.

What should you do if you are absent?

Take the following steps, in this order:

1. Ask a classmate what material we covered during your absence and copy down the homework assignment that this classmate wrote in his/agenda during the time you were absent.
2. Take down any notes that this classmate wrote down during the lessons that you missed.

3. Come see Ustadha AISuhaimi outside of class with questions about what you missed and what to do on the homework.
4. Turn in the homework you are missing in an appropriate amount of time. You will have one day to complete the homework for each day you missed; i.e., if you are absent for two days, you may take two days to complete the work you missed.

Extra credit:

You may receive extra credit by attending an Arabic-related or Middle Eastern-related cultural event outside of class and writing a one-page analysis of the event (in English).

Ask Ustadha AISuhaimi for more details about this option **BEFORE** you write your analysis.