

Dear school administrators/teachers,

We are the parents of _____. As the new school year begins we wanted to inform you that August ___, 2010 through September ___, 2010 marks the holy month of Ramadan for Muslims. Many students who follow the Islamic Faith will be fasting from dawn until sunset, abstaining from food and drink. This religious ritual is to develop God-consciousness and discipline regarding the physical and spiritual being. We would like (you) to inform the teachers to keep a few things in mind as our children and other Muslim students fast and participate in the month's activities: (Customize the first four to active request as per your situation)

1. Students might feel tired, especially the first few days of their fast.
2. Students might request to sit separately from other students at lunch time.
3. Students might request to do an alternative assignment for physical education classes.
4. Students may attend the daily evening prayer service at the masjid. (prayer center) which lasts approximately 1-2 hours. Students may become tired with repeated attendance. This may affect daily homework time.
5. During this month there is a higher level of socializing within the Muslim community due to dinners offered by friends and family. Once the daily fast is completed, a time of great festivity is often felt. (Similar to the feeling of festivity during the month of December for Christians.)

We understand that this month should not hinder the educational learning of our son/daughter, but we ask that teachers be supportive of him/her during this time. While attending Generic High School, we want our child to grow spiritually as well as academically. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be very happy to arrange a presentation for your staff or _____, our son or daughter can present it to his/ her class. This is will help broaden your students' education as it promotes a healthy respect for diversity in our multicultural society.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Muslim

Adapted from Muslim Cultural Education Resource Guide