



**A Community Development Project to Create
Markham's FIRST Islamic Accredited Private School***

(*Dependent on available funds)

FAITH, LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY, STEM
CURRICULUM, ATHLETICS & VOLUNTEERISM

USMAN SHAKER MOUNT JOY - ISLAMIC SCHOOL IN MARKHAM

*Islamic Centre of Markham-
1330 Castlemore, Markham, Ontario, Canada*

USMJ SCHOOL

PREFACE

Assalam-O- Alaikum,

USMJ education committee is very excited to introduce the Usman Shakir Mount Joy (USMJ) School website to the Muslim community. Our Ontario public school system is without a doubt, one of the best in the world; however, it does not address one of our major needs: religious education.

We felt that it is important for our identity as Muslim Canadians, to provide our children with proper faith-based education for the development of good Islamic values and high moral character along with sound education based on the Ontario curriculum.

With that in mind, we are offering you this combination at USMJ School to ensure that our students will achieve the high standards of moral and academic excellence for the successful journey in life, both as good Muslims and as good Canadian citizens.

Expectations are ever-increasing: of Canadian-society at large, the demand of global challenges, and the aspirations of Muslim parents - we want our students to excel in each of these areas.

A value driven school such as USMJ can meet the high expectations of the community when all the stakeholders generously support its programs with the resources it requires to produce creative thinkers and great scholars. Insha'Allah USMJ will bring out the best in your child, academically, morally, and socially.

We will have state of the art facilities, exciting programs, well qualified and enthusiastic academic staff, competent Ulmas and a safe healthy environment to nurture the growth and development of our students. We will provide fun filled extra-curricular and sport programs, outdoor education and a variety of inter-school tournaments to complement our academic and spiritual excellence. We will engage our students in healthy discussions, and debates on current affairs and through interfaith dialogue and cross cultural exchanges to establish good rapport, harmony and understanding amongst our students.

We will be focused on producing excellent scholars, great athletes, and ethical leaders in all areas of society, all the while developing a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) to ensure our students have a solid foundation for their future.

Through our charitable work experiences, we will provide training opportunities for our students to develop very humble and caring attitudes and learn to love, cherish and respect all human beings without prejudice.

Children are our greatest asset and we must take good care of them. Insha'Allah together we will achieve great success in educating, nurturing and mentoring our wonderful children. Equipped with high quality education, proper teaching of Quran and excellent character our students will not only be good Muslims and good citizens but will also become our best ambassadors and role models for others.

Thank you for considering USMJ School to be the cradle of your child's development and education.
Jazakallah Khairan

Sincerely,

USMJ School Education Committee

USMJ SCHOOL

Project Summary

INTRODUCING THE GREATER TORONTO AREA'S NEWEST ACREDITED ISLAMIC SCHOOL: THE USMAN SHAKIR MOUNT JOY SCHOOL (USMJ), BASED IN MARKHAM, ON, CANADA

“Our trailblazing school will have a strong Islamic ethos, underpinned by an appreciation of Canadian culture and our country’s core values. With an emphasis on educational excellence, outstanding outcomes and community service, we have every faith that Usman Shakir Mount Joy School will quickly establish itself as Toronto’s premier Islamic private school, and that the students we educate will become civic-minded leaders of tomorrow, contributing to the economic prosperity of our country and becoming pillars of their local communities”



USMJ SCHOOL

Located in the north-central quarter of Markham, the Usman Shakir Mount Joy School (USMJS) will be the first private, accredited, not-for-profit Islamic school in the city of Markham. It is located in York Region, just a short drive from Toronto, up the Don Valley Parkway / 404 corridor.

The school is within a short, 15-minute drive accessible to over 250,000 families living in the surrounding communities of Markham, Stouffville, Scarborough, and Richmond Hill.

Markham is presently celebrating its 223rd anniversary. The city celebrates its rich cultural and small-town past while reaching towards its dynamic future as a leading multicultural and innovative community.

Markhamites' hard work ethic, positive attitude and future visioning, have always been the foundation of its growth. Markham has a diverse community from all over the world with skills, dreams, and friendship that support family values and individual entrepreneurship.

These resources, have allowed Markham to develop a worldwide reputation as the 'technology capital of Canada'.

The Usman Shakir Mount Joy School is being built in Markham to provide world class educational experience with an Islamic ethos to take advantage of this unique "under one roof building", which will focus on these three core pillars of development: Faith, Education & Service to Community

USMJ SCHOOL

Introduction

The Islamic Centre of Markham, Canada purchased an 88,000 sq. ft. building in October 2014 with the goal of establishing a Muslim Family Life Community Centre and launched a project encompassing three core pillars: Education (Kindergarten, primary and high school) , and future extension for Community Service plus a place of Worship . The objective is to serve the expanding Muslim community in Markham, the greater York Region and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

As Markham's population has grown and become increasingly diverse, there has been an increase in the number of schools in the community.

University of Toronto study for Islamic schools in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) reveals that these schools help to develop Islamic values for Muslim students, and are becoming increasingly known for their high academic standards. For Muslim families, the Islamic schools serve as an alternative education choice.

The school's greatest strength is the close relationship with the Mosque. As the only school in York Region sharing its location with a Mosque, USMJS students and parents will have multiple opportunities to integrate their faith with daily academic life and family activities.

From daily Arabic and Islamic Studies, clothing drives, food collections, prayer times or other religious activities, the school is there to help serve community activities.

Through leadership-based curriculum initiatives, students will be provided with opportunities to participate in community initiatives such as the Markham Fair, Markham Main Street winter activities, Canada Day celebrations or environmental /parks activities.

High school students will eventually have access to local business experiences through a formal partnership program.

CURRICULUM at USMJS will be knowledge-based using the Ontario Standard Curriculum with a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). During each school day, formal, daily lessons will be infused with individual student challenges, technology / e-learning experiences, Islamic values, and community volunteer activities.

USMJ SCHOOL

Hands-on learning tasks, especially in mathematics, will be emphasized. Student assessment techniques will include regular report cards; formal Ministry EQAO testing; the Fraser Institute Analysis; and formative and summative testing within the classroom.

Enrichment and remedial programs will be developed as needed. By 2021, our grade 8 students will be eligible for Ministry OSSD credits as part of the 'Reach Ahead' program.

VISION, MISSION, GOALS:

VISION

USMJ School is a creative learning institution where we strive to achieve high quality academic growth, develop exemplary moral character and serve our local and global communities.

MISSION

Service to humanity is service to Allah. Our students will be respectful of all humanity and global environment, and will diligently work towards bringing harmony and understanding among people of all faiths. We believe, together we can make a difference.

GOALS Usman Shakir Mount Joy School proudly inspires to educate, mentor, and nurture our young Muslims to work hard and to prepare them to serve humanity, with passion and humility, as they acquire leadership skills to be used in our Canadian and global society. USMJ goals will reflect the following:

- Provide a choice for Muslim parents and guardians to send their children to a high quality Islamic school where Ontario Curriculum, Islamic curriculum and the Quran is taught with meaning and scholarly understanding of its application in the modern era.
- Provide sound moral character for students to inculcate civic responsibilities: to be a good citizen and to learn to respect and be respected.
- Provide exchange opportunities for Inter-faith dialogue to develop harmony and understanding among religions.
- Opportunities to think clearly and act creatively. Provide forums to identify and promote talent and exceptional qualities of students to their maximum potential.
- Provide opportunities to deepen the knowledge, skills and attitudes that are necessary to achieve academic and professional excellence in a highly competitive, digital, modern society.
- Opportunities for intense preparation to excel academically and obtain high scores for securing admissions in prestigious universities in Canada and abroad.
- Usman Shakir Mount Joy School goals of high academic performance and moral growth will be vigorously supported by a committed professional staff, state of the art technologies, deeply involved parents, and caring community.

Phase One of the Islamic Centre of Markham – Our School

Usman Shakir Mount Joy School (USMJS) will be phase one of the Islamic Centre of Markham's three pillar approach; Faith, Education and Community Service. The Centre was initiated in 2014 with the purchase of the 88,000 sqft building on Castlemore Ave., in Markham, greater Toronto, Canada. The Centre will serve as a Muslim Family Life Community Centre within Markham, with a hope of supporting the ever-expanding Muslim community in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Opening our school doors, in September 2017* (*depending on funding), the Usman Shakir Mount Joy School will start with blended Kindergarten age students, up to grade-4. Each year thereafter, one additional grade will be created. With individual boys' and girls' classes from grade-6.

Insha'Allah, by 2020, our first high school classes will be established and USMJS will become an Ontario Ministry of Education 'inspected private school'. Our fees will be in line with other private schools in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Ongoing fund raising activities will be pursued to keep fees as competitive as possible and to provide the most up to date classroom and school resources. There is abundant land around the school to develop an athletic field and running track for the students and community

USMJS staff

Staff will be nurtured by a creative, energetic educator who values student learning strategies, technology, communication and daily physical activities. We plan to reach into our Muslim community to find this Principal / Lead Instructor early in February so his/her experience can be used in organizing the day to day operations of the school and be a direct contact for parent enquiries.

Qualified, motivated staff will be hired in the Spring as grade assignments develop through our registrations. These homeroom teachers will be 'curriculum coaches' stressing academic skills, teamwork, enrichment and task completion for our world's future leaders. A small student-teacher ratio is anticipated.

Subject specialists will teach French, Arabic, Islamic Studies, Library, Guidance and Gym as required. Ontario College of Teachers graduates will be actively sought to form the USMJS staff. Ongoing professional development will keep staff up to date with new teaching strategies and curriculum initiatives.

An administrative assistant / secretary, with a big smile, will be hired to establish our school office staff.

Interested teachers should visit the website for September '17 positions.

USMJS Classrooms

USMJ's classrooms will be new, brightly lit, and well-equipped with technology and learning resources. Presently, we are working with the architect to convert the empty space into modern, interactive classrooms. Moveable walls will allow staff to change room size and configuration to meet various functional needs and learning centers. Space abounds within our school building to provide for two full sized gymnasiums / community meeting places, and eventually, a formal library and lunchroom. Additional classrooms will be added each year, along with 2 science labs, special meeting rooms, and language areas for both French and Arabic lessons. Some unique spaces will be created to promote quiet meeting, communication areas for students.

Student Life at USMJ

Students at USMJ will attend school from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily in age appropriate classes following the regular Ontario school year routine. Each one will participate in a challenging, active, problem-solving curriculum with high academic expectations within a safe, happy, success-oriented environment. Attendance, behavior, achievement and effort will be continuously evaluated.

Student academic gifts and talents will be identified and used in our developmental leadership lessons. Students will be guided to be respectful of each other and their community environment. Academic support will be provided when required.

Unfortunately, we may not be able to initially, take in students with special learning / physical needs. A student government or house system may be set up to promote interschool relationships between various age groups.

Students will wear a formal uniform for class activities, designed with staff and parent input. A separate uniform will be worn during gym. A meal plan will be instituted to help parents provide healthy, interesting choices for their children.

Classroom websites will post information and communication for students and parents about the class, student achievements and school activities.

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM at USMJ

CURRICULUM at USMJ will be knowledge-based using the Ontario Standard Curriculum. During each school day, formal, daily lessons will be infused with individual student challenges, technology/ e-learning experiences, Islamic values, and community volunteer activities. Hands-on learning tasks, especially in mathematics, will be emphasized.

Student assessment techniques will include regular report cards; formal Ministry EQAO testing; the Fraser Institute Analysis; and formative and summative testing within the classroom.

A leadership theme will be a major component in the learning experiences for all students.

Enrichment and remedial programs will be developed as needed. By 2019, our grade 8 students will be eligible for Ministry OSSD credits as part of the 'Reach Ahead' program.

Additional Programs at USMJ

Additional Programs at USMJS will grow with the school. An intramural house system will be set up eventually leading to interschool athletic participation (September '19) with other community private schools.

The Arts will be supported through art clubs and ongoing activities. Opportunities for participation in academic contests / competitions will be created.

A Preschool & Childcare Centre will be initiated as late as year 5 in the school's development. Extended Day / Before and After School programs may include Islamic school, special community clubs/activities, and athletic events.

As our numbers grow, USMJS will partner with the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) to provide 'Enrich It' after school, holiday, and weekend programs

USMJ SCHOOL

FACILITIES at USMJ

FACILITIES at USMJ School will grow to include two large gymnasiums with change-rooms and stage, 2 large science labs, a library, 2 smaller multi-purpose community areas, a senior student lunch area and direct access to the community Mosque.

Outside, a protected kindergarten area will be created.

Down the street is a hockey arena and soccer dome along with a bowling alley for student activities on “participation / activity days.” USMJ is also a short walk from the Markham Historical Museum.

The Community and USMJ

Our greatest strength is our close relationship with the Mosque. As the only school in York Region sharing its location with a Mosque, USMJ School students and parents will have multiple opportunities to integrate their faith with daily life and family activities.

From daily Arabic and Islamic Studies, clothing drive, food collections, prayer times or other religious activities, the school is there to help serve community activities.

Through our curriculum Leadership initiative, students will be provided with opportunities to participate in community initiatives such as the Markham Fair, Markham Main Street winter activities, Canada Day celebrations or environmental /parks activities.

Our high school students will eventually have access to local business experiences through a formal partnership program.

USMJS Website

Please follow us on our website www.usmjs.com as the school project progresses. Sign up for our e-Newsletter

How to Register

Registration Form is posted on the website so parents can register their children; a fee schedule is also listed for your information.

Financial Support

Financial Support information for the establishment of USMJ School is available on the website.

Professional Associations

Professional Associations: Private School Association of Ontario and the Ontario Federation of Independent Schools

USMJ SCHOOL

Architectural Drawings – CONCEPTUAL DRAWINGS for School within the Islamic Centre of Markham

