Averroes High School Work During the Pandemic

Averroes High School serves a community impacted disproportionately by the COVID pandemic. At least 25% of our students’ families suffered a loss of income severe enough that they cannot afford school tuition. Many live in multigenerational homes with high-risk family members. Others have become responsible for caring for younger siblings and monitoring their online schooling.

The generous grant from GTU has provided scholarships that allowed Averroes students to stay in school this year despite the financial hardships they are facing. Below are a few videos showing some of their work:

A 10th Grade Social Studies class: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tDnQpjVYds

Sports highlights: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-vjhUdKKa4

Averroes school culture: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20AYKTTo_s4

Meet the faculty: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAib7CaMP7I

Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v03CT9-llxBY

During the pandemic, we’ve also been able to:

- Hold in person PSATs (after offering COVID tests and getting students cleared)
- Conduct classes online, and hold in-person outdoor half days
- Continued sports (outdoors and indoors w/masks)
- Continue clubs like student council, and launch new ones like Literacy Club, Astronomy Club and Amnesty International Club

During the Spring semester we are planning:

- Community hikes and volunteering days with other Islamic schools
- A moonsighting seminar and practicum
- A month-long Ramadan program featuring activities that develop students’ spiritually, mentally and physically, and 5 events
When safe, Averroes held optional once per week outdoor, distanced in person meetings to lessen students isolation and promote connection and mental health.

Averroes students coordinated the distribution of state donated PPE materials to Bay Area Islamic schools.
Averroes held distanced PSATs in January 2021

Averroes teacher, Dr. Najib Azhar, leading pandemic-friendly science labs by zoom

“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”

Nelson Mandela