



Bismillah arRahman arRahim
AL-RAHMAH SCHOOL



ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE

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Excellence in Knowledge, Character, & Service

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu,

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in our school. Alhamdulillah, we are delighted to share information about our school. We offer a Kindergarten through Grade 8 program on the campus of the Islamic Society of Baltimore, ISB, in Baltimore County, Maryland.

Al-Rahmah School (ARS) is a registered non-public educational organization that holds a Certificate of Approval by the Maryland State Department of Education, MSDE. It is also accredited by the Middle States Association Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS). Accreditation by MSA-CESS is a self-evaluation process that Al-Rahmah school voluntarily uses to demonstrate meeting a defined set of research-based performance standards. These standards comprehensively examine the school. The process facilitates the school to use the student-testing data to provide a complete measure of a school's performance and chart strategic and realistic goals and actions for continuous school improvement.

At ARS, we strive to maintain a conducive learning environment that prioritizes students' holistic learning. Alhamdulillah, Al-Rahmah School Education Program consists of three major segments, Value-Based, Secular Academics, Arabic, Islamic Studies, and Quran. We are teaching our students to strive academically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally. Ibadah, aadab, and akhlaq are the core beliefs for all ARS staff and students. We embrace and incorporate 21st-century skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, perseverance, and critical thinking skills to learn to adapt and thrive in our rapidly changing, increasingly challenging, and globally-connected world.

We understand how important continuity in instruction is to student achievement. That is why, when the sudden state-wide closure caught most schools off guard during the pandemic, we were among the first in our area to develop and implement a comprehensive virtual learning program for our students. Since then we have adopted layered preventive strategies to maintain safety and protect our staff, students, and their families against COVID-19. This is just one of the many examples of the commitment and dedication of our team, the strength of our program, and the resilience of our students.

Al-Rahmah School believes it is critical to have a collaborative partnership with the parents to help facilitate and inculcate values before your child graduates, insha Allah.

- a strong sense of their Islamic Identity;
- a desire to use their unique gifts to serve Allah and the community;
- a solid foundation with quality instruction; and
- an understanding that success is only by the will and permission of Allah SWT.

We are confident that our program will meet or exceed your expectations. We look forward to welcoming you into the ARS family, inshaAllah.

JazakAllah Khair,
Mehnaz Fatima



2023-2024 Admissions Guide For **NEW** Students

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Admissions Policy	2
Documentation & Records	2
Parent and Student Interview	3
Admissions Testing	3
Home School	3
Age and Promotion Requirements	4
Admissions Process At-A-Glance	4
STEP 1 Application for Admission & Application Fee	4
Forms Library and Checklist	5
STEP 2 Student-Parent Interviews	6
STEP 3 Admissions Testing	6
STEP 4 Admissions Decision	6
STEP 5 Tuition and FACTS Account Set	7
Resource Fees	7
Tuition Assistance	8
FACTS Account Setup	8
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	13



Introduction

As Salaamu 'Alaikum. Thank you for your interest in Al-Rahmah School. Al-Rahmah School's (ARS) vision is to cultivate excellence in Islamic character and academics, foster leadership skills, and develop global awareness. ARS welcomes all students and families who are committed to the mission and vision of ARS.

We have prepared this quick reference guide to assist you in navigating the admissions process. Please feel free to contact our Admissions Team at admissions@alrahmah.org if you have questions or need assistance.

Admissions Policy

A. Documentation & Records¹

1. Transcripts, Records, and Evaluations: All transcripts and student records from all previous schools must be received by the school administration within 10 days after the parent or guardian formally applies. Based on the student interview, additional records and pertinent evaluations may be requested from previous schools.
2. All information requested by ARS must be received before a student is considered officially enrolled.
3. Students without transcripts, pertinent records, and the latest report cards will be given provisional placement status. Parents will be notified of their child's status in writing.
4. Immunizations/waivers must be up-to-date, and proof submitted before ANY student is admitted to class. NO EXCEPTIONS.*

**Religious waivers for immunizations will be accepted and must be submitted before the student is admitted to the class.*

B. Parent and Student Interview

¹ We recognize that current emergency school closures may impact parent's ability to obtain student records. Official records must be on file with Al-Rahmah School and accepted prior to the first day of attendance.



1. Student applicants will be interviewed by ARS staff, including but not limited to school leadership, administration, and school counselor.
2. The mother, father, or legal guardian will be interviewed in person by the above-mentioned ARS staff.

C. Academic Acceptance

1. All students must have been promoted to the next grade level from previous schools at the end of the year.
2. Transferring elementary students must have passing grades in all the following subjects: reading, math, and language. Students who fail to meet the above requirements may be placed provisionally.
3. Students who have exhibited behavioral difficulty: ARS may require additional documentation and assessment from the school counselor before admission will be granted.
4. Students who have been suspended or expelled from another educational institution will not be accepted without further review and assessment.

D. Admissions Testing

1. New students will be tested in English and Mathematics.
2. Diagnostic tests in Math and or English will be given as needed.

E. Home School

1. Parents must submit transcripts, evaluations, and standardized test results, maintained by accredited homeschool providers within ten days of applying with ARS.
2. The parent must submit in writing an outline of the curriculum, test results, and evaluation of the student's performance from the home school instructor.
3. All students will be placed in the grade to which they were promoted by the previous school as indicated by the school's official transcript.
4. If needed, Home-school students will be tested to further assess the appropriate placement.



F. Age and Promotion Requirements

1. Minimum age requirements upon entering*:
 - i. Kindergarten – 5 years old before September 1st. First Grade – 6 years old
 - ii. Second Grade – 7 years old
 - iii. Third Grade – 8 years old
 - iv. Fourth grade – 9 years old
 - v. Fifth Grade – 10 years old
 - vi. Sixth Grade – 11 years
 - vii. Seventh Grade – 12 years
 - viii. Eighth Grade – 13 years

*Age will not be the only criteria in placing a student in the appropriate grade.

Admissions Process At-A-Glance

Step 1 - Application for Admission & Application Fee

Step 2 - Student-Parent Interviews

Step 3 - Admissions Testing

Step 4 - Admissions Decision

Step 6 - On-Boarding

STEP 1 | Application for Admission & Application Fee

These instructions are designed for new students enrolling in Al-Rahmah School for the first time. **The first step in the admissions process is completing the Application for Admission and paying the non-refundable Application Fee.** The Application Fee of \$125 will be due at the time of application submission and is **non-refundable**.

Seats are limited, on a first-come basis (application must be completed). Seats cannot be reserved or held.

The application is facilitated through FACTS. The software will provide feedback to you throughout the process to help you complete the enrollment. A yellow caution symbol will appear in the menu if required information is missing from a section of the application. A green checkmark will appear in the menu once all required information has been entered.



Forms Library and Checklist

A checklist of the Forms required to complete enrollment is below. The information you share on these forms is confidential and will be available only to that health and education personnel who have a legitimate educational interest in your child.

For your convenience, we have created a [FORMS LIBRARY](#) where you can access the forms needed for your child's enrollment.

Admissions Forms & Upload Checklist	
Form/Upload	Required for...
Copy of Driver's License/Photo ID of Parents/Guardians	✓ All students
Record of Physical Examination (Form 1)	➡ Students entering Kindergarten, Grade 6, or a Maryland school for the first time
Current Immunization Record	✓ All students
School Medication Administration Authorization Form (Form 2)	➡ Students who take prescribed medication (such as inhalers, insulin, etc.)
Consent for Administration of Approved Discretionary Medications (Form 3)	✓ All students (to receive over the counter medication, i.e. tylenol)
Blood Lead Testing	➡ Students under the age of six (6)
Custody Orders/Documents	➡ Students with active court orders
IEP/504/Modified Instruction Plans	➡ Students with prior or active plans
Teacher or Counselor Recommendation (Form 4)	➡ All NEW students to ARS



STEP 2 | Student-Parent Interviews

After completing your application you will receive an email for further instructions and the link to schedule your child's testing.

STEP 3 | Admissions Testing

Students will be invited to take a diagnostic test that evaluates their readiness for grade-level instruction. We currently utilize the following assessment tools:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
Kindergarten	Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)
1st to 8th	Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in Reading & Math

STEP 4 | Admissions Decision

Our Admissions Office will review your child's application, documents, admissions test results, and interview to make an admissions decision. You will receive your admission decision by email.



STEP 5 | Tuition and FACTS Account Set

Tuition Fees

Tuition Rates for 2023-2024 are as follows:

Grades	Yearly	Monthly Installment	Monthly Installment (ISB Members)
K to 8	\$8219.00	\$822.00	\$817.00

Sibling discounts are available as follows:

Sibling	2nd Child	3rd Child	4th Child or more
Discount Amount*	20%	25%	30%

**When more than one child is enrolled, the child at the highest tuition level is considered to be the first child.*

Resource Fees

Resources fees help offset the cost of assessment and instructional materials we use to implement our educational program. These costs include, but are not limited to, textbooks, online programs, and testing software. The Activity Fee off-sets the cost of class field trips. The Class Dues (8th grade only) offset the cost of graduation gowns and supplies.

The Resource Fees for 2023-2024 are due July 1, 2023, as follows:

Grade Level	Fee Amount
Kindergarten Technology/Textbook/Testing	\$175
1st to 5th Technology/Textbook/Testing	\$200
6th to 8th Technology/Textbook/Testing	\$250



2023-2024 Admissions Guide For **NEW** Students

Kindergarten to 8th	Activity Fees	\$50
8th	Class Dues for Graduation	\$40

To secure a child's seat, Parents/Guardians must pay for the first monthly tuition installment. The balance of tuition charges is typically billed monthly, over ten months. You may prepay the tuition in full at any time.

Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance is available to eligible families on a first-come, first-serve basis based on available funding. **If you are interested in Tuition Assistance for your child(ren), please contact us at financialaid@alrahmah.org.**

Tuition Assistance may also be available in the form of scholarships through the [Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today \(BOOST\) Scholarship Program](#) (state-wide) and the [Children's Scholarship Fund](#) (Baltimore City residents only). These programs are publicly and privately funded, respectively. Award determinations are made by the program administrators.

FACTS Account Setup

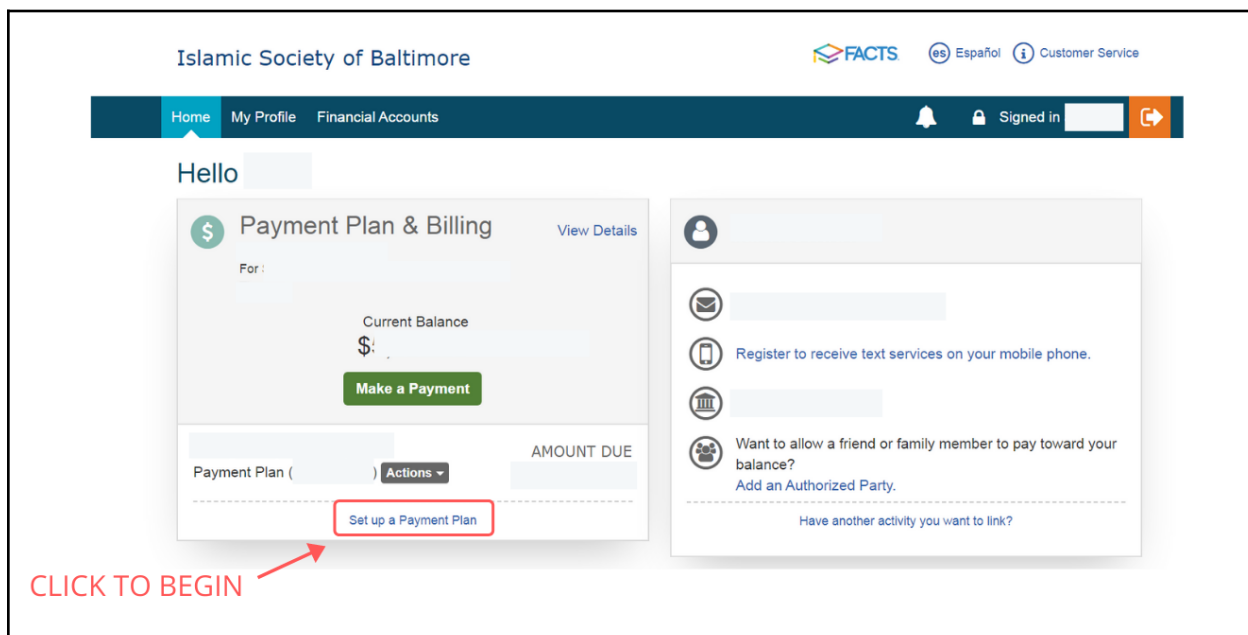
New students who are admitted to ARS are required to set up a student account in [FACTS Family Portal \(Formerly Renweb\)](#), our management system, and a FACTS Tuition Management account for billing. Families who are already set up in FACTS will have their new students added to their accounts.

Please follow the instructions below to create a FACTS Family Portal Account. This step should only be complete AFTER an admissions acceptance has been received.

1. Click the **FACTS** link in the **Tuition & Fees Section** of the On-boarding Application, **OR** go to online.factsmgt.com/SignIn.aspx
2. Click the gray **Register** button
3. Select **Search for my Institution**. An Institution Search window will open.
4. Enter our Zip Code **21244** and click the green **Search** button. Select **Islamic Society of Baltimore** from the list.
5. If you are a New FACTS User please select the gray **Create a username & password** button on the right side of the page to begin.
6. Then click on the **Set Up a Payment Plan** link.

To select your payment plan. Please follow the screenshots on the next page.

Step 1 - Scroll down on your FACTS homepage to the bottom of the screen. Click “Set up Payment Plan”



Islamic Society of Baltimore

FACTS Español Customer Service

Home My Profile Financial Accounts

Signed in

Hello

Payment Plan & Billing View Details

For:

Current Balance
\$:

Make a Payment

Payment Plan () Actions

AMOUNT DUE

Set up a Payment Plan

CLICK TO BEGIN

Register to receive text services on your mobile phone.

Want to allow a friend or family member to pay toward your balance?
Add an Authorized Party.

Have another activity you want to link?



2023-2024 Admissions Guide For **NEW** Students

Step 2 - Select the 2023-2024 School Year.

Step 3 - Click the green “Begin” button to confirm/modify your payment plan.

2020-2021 School Year **LIVE**

Please select a term

- ☒ 2020-2021 School Year
- ☐ 2019-2020 School Year

Welcome [Want to designate another payer? ?](#)

⚠ A payment plan for 2020-2021 School Year already exists.

- If you need to setup another payment plan, please click Begin.

Thank you for choosing to set up a payment plan.

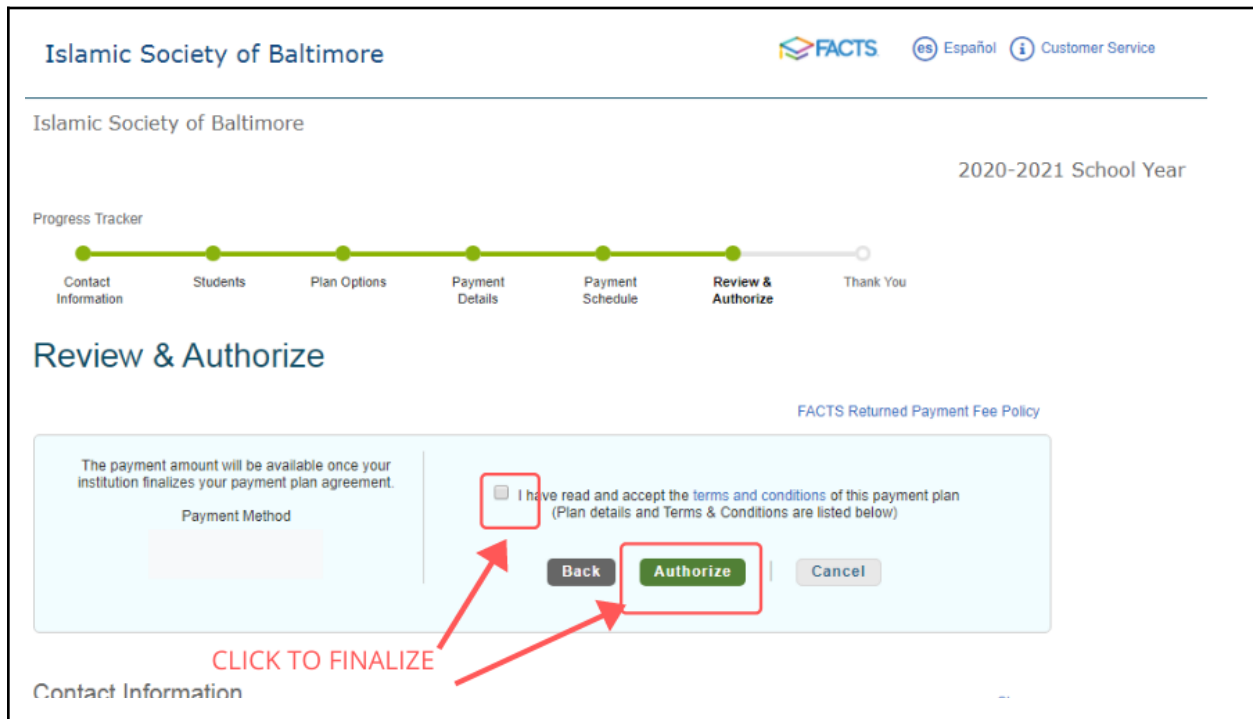
****Please only set up one payment plan that includes all students.**

Click the **Begin** button to get started.

CLICK TO PROCEED. FOLLOW PROMPTS UNTIL YOU REACH "REVIEW & AUTHORIZE"

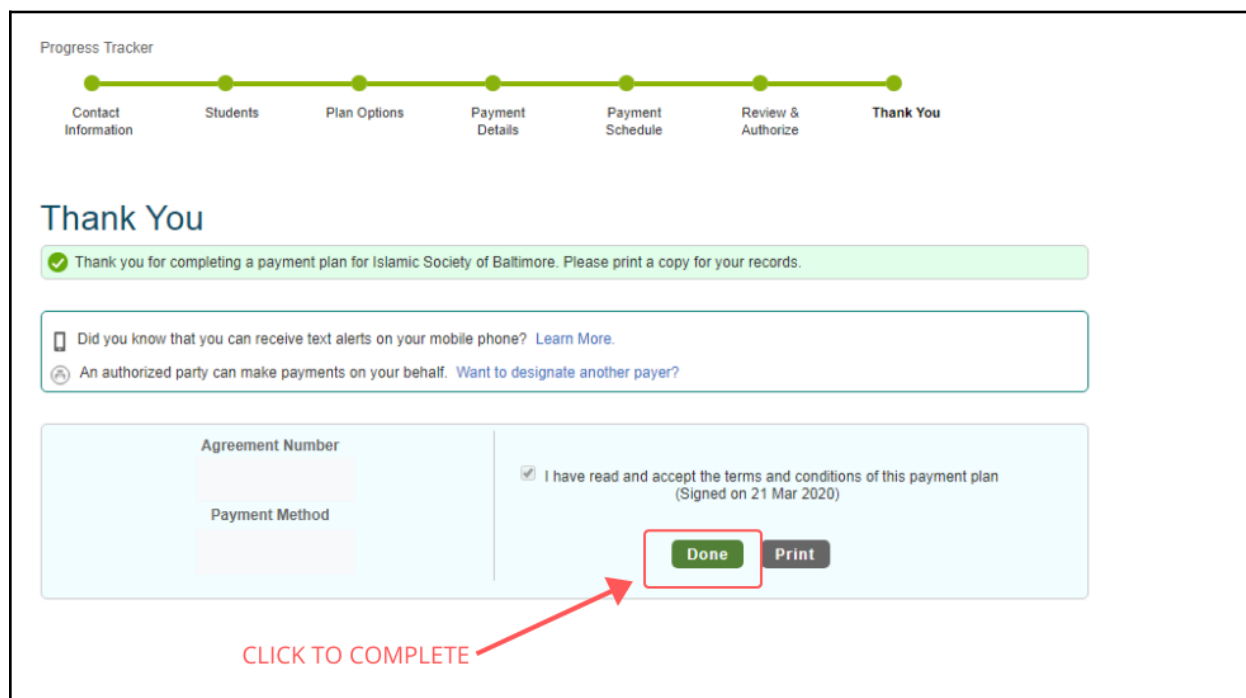
Begin | Cancel

Step 4 - Once your plan has been confirmed/updated, check the acknowledgment box and click the green “Authorize” button in the Review & Authorize section



The screenshot shows the 'Review & Authorize' section of the FACTS payment plan process. At the top, the header includes 'Islamic Society of Baltimore', the FACTS logo, and links for 'Español' and 'Customer Service'. Below the header, the school name 'Islamic Society of Baltimore' and the '2020-2021 School Year' are displayed. A 'Progress Tracker' shows a sequence of steps: Contact Information, Students, Plan Options, Payment Details, Payment Schedule, Review & Authorize (the current step), and Thank You. The main content area is titled 'Review & Authorize' and includes a link to the 'FACTS Returned Payment Fee Policy'. On the left, there is a section for 'Payment Method' with a text box. To the right, there is a checkbox labeled 'I have read and accept the terms and conditions of this payment plan (Plan details and Terms & Conditions are listed below)'. Below the checkbox are three buttons: 'Back', 'Authorize' (highlighted in green), and 'Cancel'. A red arrow points from the text 'CLICK TO FINALIZE' to the 'Authorize' button. Another red arrow points from the checkbox to the 'Authorize' button.

Step 5 - Click the green “DONE” button to exit the payment plan section of FACTS.



Progress Tracker

Contact Information Students Plan Options Payment Details Payment Schedule Review & Authorize Thank You

Thank You

✓ Thank you for completing a payment plan for Islamic Society of Baltimore. Please print a copy for your records.

📱 Did you know that you can receive text alerts on your mobile phone? [Learn More.](#)

👤 An authorized party can make payments on your behalf. [Want to designate another payer?](#)

Agreement Number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have read and accept the terms and conditions of this payment plan (Signed on 21 Mar 2020)
Payment Method	

Done **Print**

CLICK TO COMPLETE

If you have completed all of the steps below, your child's seat will be reserved for the 2023-2024 school year:

- **Admissions Acceptance**
- **Onboarding Forms Completed & Accepted**
- **FACTS Payment Plan Verified**
- **Resource Fees Paid**
- **First Tuition Installment Paid**

Do you still have questions about the admissions process? We're happy to help. Please review the Frequently Asked Questions on the next page. You can also contact the Admissions Office at admissions@alrahmah.org.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: When does Open Enrollment for New Students begin?

A: Open Enrollment begins February 21, 2023. Enrollment for both Returning and New students is on a first-come-first-served basis until the capacity of the grade level class has been reached. Once capacity has been reached, the grade level class will be closed for all students (new and returning) and a waitlist will be implemented.

Q: Where can I find the Application for New Students?

A: The application, once launched, will be available on our website at <https://alrahmah.org/admissions/how-to-apply/>.

Q: When is the Application Fee due? How much is it?

A: The Application fee is due at the time you submit your application. The Application Fee for New Students is \$125.00. The fee is non-refundable and does not guarantee admission.

Q: What happens after I submit an Application?

A: You will receive a confirmation email that your application has been received. Our Admission Office will review the Application and invite your child for admissions testing and interviews

Q: What forms will I need to complete enrollment?

A: On **page 5** of this guide you will find a checklist of the forms your child(ren) may need. Some forms are required for all students. Others are required for students who meet the criteria. If you have questions, please contact our Admissions Office.

Q: Can I start an Onboarding Application (Step 6) and complete it at a later time?

A: Yes, after you have received an admissions decision. As you complete each section, be sure to save your entries by clicking the Save button at the bottom of the section window. Students who receive an admissions acceptance will be provided a link to the onboarding packet.

Q: If I don't have a required form, can I upload a placeholder or blank file and submit my Application?

A: No. All form uploads must be actual documents, as required for your child(ren). Incomplete or blank submissions will be rejected and the application will be returned to Incomplete Status in our system. Applications will not be considered complete until required forms are uploaded and verified.



2023-2024 Admissions Guide For **NEW** Students

Q: How can I tell which Onboarding Application sections need to be completed?

A: Once logged in, you can review the entire onboarding packet (Application) at any time by selecting the Enrollment Packet Review option on the left menu. From here, you will also be able to print a PDF of the onboarding packet in its current state.

Q: I already have another child enrolled in ARS. How do I link my children in FACTS (RenWeb)?

A: Linking of sibling accounts in FACTS (RenWeb) must be completed by an administrator. Please contact our Operations Coordinator, Donna Khan at donna.khan@alrahmah.org.

Q: I need help completing the application online - can I come to the school?

A: Please email your inquiry to admissions@alrahmah.org with your name and phone number where a staff member can contact you.

Q: I have completed my forms - can the school scan them for me?

A: If you do not have the means to scan your forms using a computer please contact us at admissions@alrahmah.org for further instructions.

Q: For the BOOST scholarship application, what should I use for proof of enrollment?

A: When you complete the application, you should receive an automated email confirmation from admissions@alrahmah.org with the subject: *Online Enrollment Received - Student Name*. You may print a PDF of this confirmation email and upload it to your BOOST application for each student. Please be mindful of the application deadline posted on the BOOST website.