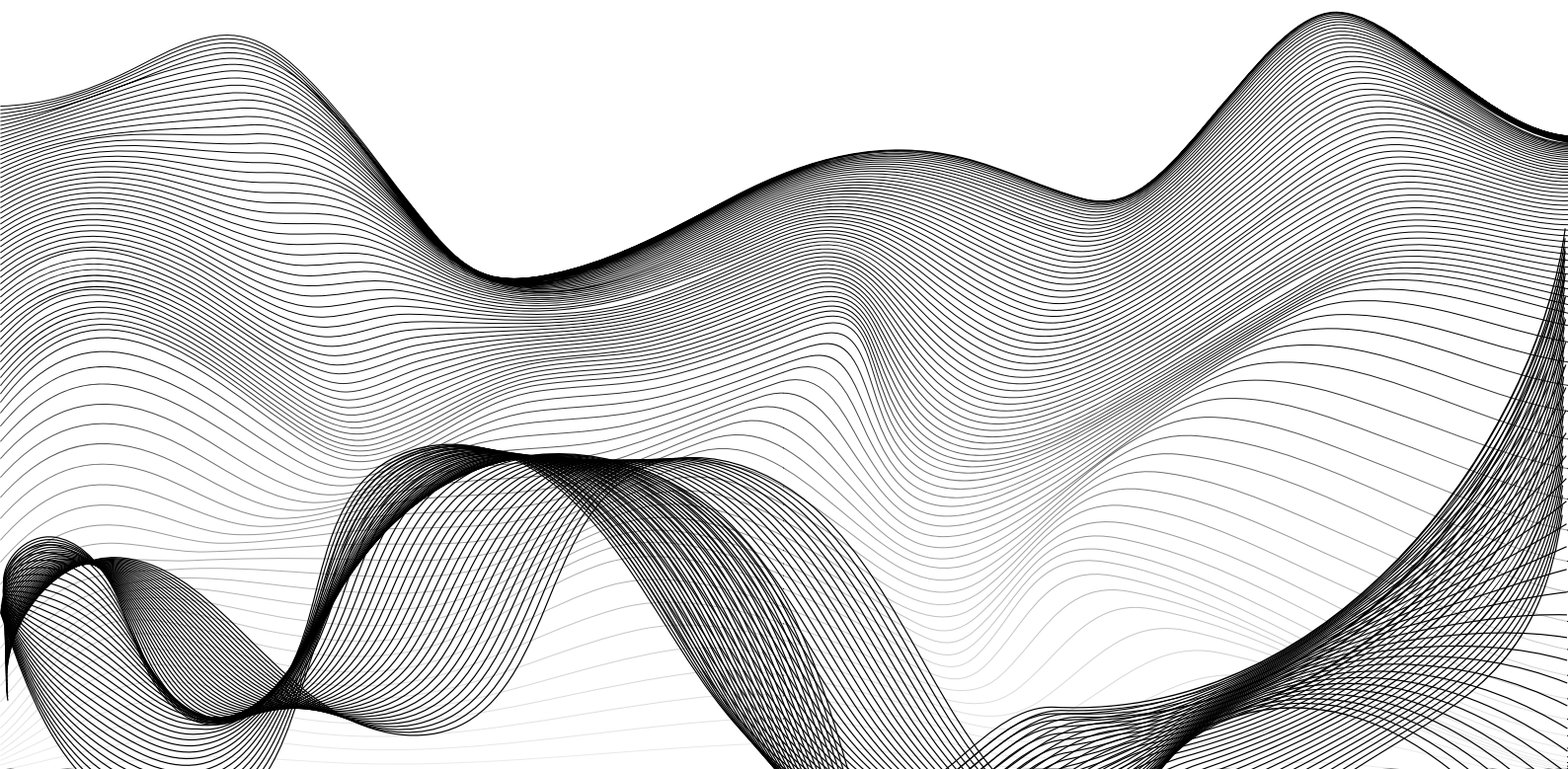


2011 - 2026

the Wellspring Model

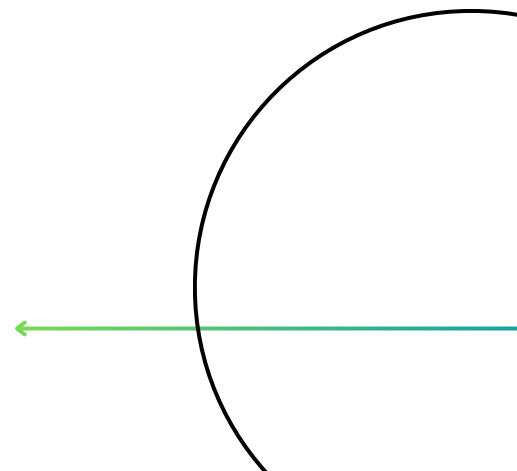
We are different.



THE CON TENT



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VISION

Learners master their talents and skills to reach their maximum potential.

MISSION

To provide fun learning experiences rooted in inquiry and creativity that allow for the discovery and development of unique talents.

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It's not a job.
It's a mission.

The Wellspring Model emerged to solve the problem of untapped human potential.

Its architect, Shakiel Humayun, a seasoned entrepreneur, recognized sparks of brilliance in job interviewees, including those who doubted their abilities.

Motivated by these observations, Shakiel set out on a mission: to establish a route for individuals to uncover and nurture their latent talents from a young age. Leveraging his background in education, entrepreneurship, and Islamic sciences, he envisioned a transformative educational paradigm.

This vision materialized into an educational framework that champions inquiry and critical thinking as tools for talent discovery. Creativity became the cornerstone of instruction, with principles rooted in the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah. This educational journey started early, ensuring that learning was not only informative but also enjoyable, inspiring, and practical.

In 2011, Shakiel founded the Wellspring Schools in Queens, NY at NYCMC and began implementing this model.

In this supportive atmosphere, a culture of excellence blossomed among both students and educators.

Literacy rates surged beyond grade-level expectations. Creative thinking and problem-solving became instinctive. The Qur'an echoed wherever the students went, and behavior was guided by Islamic values. The exploration of entrepreneurship and technology further propelled individuals towards their maximum potential.

Identifying and nurturing talent early on can help set the stage for future success, as it encourages young individuals to develop a growth mindset, resilience, and the ability to overcome challenges in pursuit of their goals.



Think
beyond.

INQUIRY

The Wellspring model adopts an inquiry-based learning approach, aiming to cultivate divergent thinkers who are firmly grounded in Islamic morals and values.

In the Wellspring learning environment, curiosity is the driving force, and students are encouraged to imagine, reflect, and critically solve problems. By building upon their own reflections, talents, and skill sets, students can develop their own theories and ideas, putting them into action.

The Wellspring Model inspires students to think beyond the conventional—to question and respond with more than mere factual knowledge. To foster higher-order thinking skills, Bloom’s Taxonomy is incorporated into lesson planning and teaching.

At Wellspring, students engage in research without feeling burdened, as if they are doing work for its own sake.

Drawing inspiration from the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who used inquiry to drive curiosity while teaching, we encourage students to ask meaningful questions. The Prophet's queries, such as "What is the greatest verse of the Qur'an?"¹ and "What is the right of Allah on humans?"² exemplify the power of inquiry.

Moreover, the Prophet ﷺ nurtured thinking skills. When faced with a question about making up an obligatory fast for a deceased mother, he leveraged the person's prior knowledge of paying off financial debts for the deceased. His ﷺ response: "So the debt of Allah has more right to be fulfilled."³

Bloom's Taxonomy serves as a measurement tool for thinking, providing an organizational framework for establishing objectives and executing them effectively in the classroom. This taxonomy classifies educational objectives, experiences, learning processes, and evaluation questions and problems.⁴

1. Sahih Muslim 810

2. Sahih al-Bukhari 7373

3. Sunan Abi Dawud 3310

4. Armstrong, Patricia. "Bloom's Taxonomy." Center for Teaching | Vanderbilt University, 2010.



Break
free
from the
ordinary.

CREATIVITY

The Wellspring Model of education seamlessly integrates creativity into daily school experiences. The model's primary focus is to create an environment where students can cultivate intellectual curiosity, fostering growth in academic, emotional, and spiritual dimensions.

Creativity has a four-fold definition in the Wellspring Model:

1. **Fresh Ideas and Enhancement:** Creativity, as Wellspring defines it, involves using fresh new ideas or enhancing existing ones. It's about breaking free from the ordinary and exploring novel approaches.
2. **Fun Learning:** Wellspring believes in making learning enjoyable. Creativity thrives when students find joy in the process. Learning becomes an adventure, not a chore.
3. **Real-World Relevance:** Creativity flourishes when learning mirrors real-life situations. Wellspring strives to make learning as authentic, active, and as relevant as possible.

4. Higher-Order Thinking: Wellspring's mission is to develop higher-order thinking skills. Students engage in critical analysis, problem-solving, and creative synthesis.

Within our classrooms, students encounter:

Multimedia and Manipulatives: Wellspring enriches the curriculum by incorporating multimedia and manipulatives. These tools allow students to discover and develop their talents.

Aesthetically Pleasing Environment: Each classroom is thoughtfully designed—filled with inspiring student work, content-appropriate posters, and content area libraries.

Technology Integration: Access to iPads, laptops and interactive whiteboards ensures that technology is seamlessly woven into the learning experience.

Inspiration for creativity comes from the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ himself. He used creative methods to illustrate concepts:

Drawing in the Sand: On multiple occasions, he drew lines in the sand to elucidate articles of faith, such as the timeline of life and human tests.¹

Emphasizing Meanings: By joining his two fingers together, he conveyed the closeness between those who care for orphans and their reward in the hereafter.²

Creativity invites freedom into the classroom, encouraging students to explore, question, and learn beyond the standard.

Research shows that creative approaches offer flexibility, benefiting diverse learning styles. Moreover, fostering interpersonal connections helps students stay motivated and engaged.³

1. Sahih al-Bukhari 6418

2. Sahih Muslim 2983

3. Kirkendall, Abbie, and Anjala S. Krishen. "Encouraging Creativity in the Social Work Classroom: Insights from a Qualitative Exploration." Taylor & Francis Online, December 8, 2014.



Joyful
engagement.

The Wellspring Model emphasizes the importance of fun learning, recognizing that joyful engagement enhances students' educational experiences. Wellspring allocates ample funds for educational materials and resources to ensure that Wellspring's curriculum is not only comprehensive but also delightful.

Wellspring's approach diverges from conventional instruction by emphasizing active, hands-on learning. This method empowers students to take charge of their educational experiences.

Administration regularly reviews lesson plans to guarantee that they are both entertaining and stimulating. With the integration of technology, Wellspring offers a diverse array of engaging learning activities, including online and hybrid programs, project-based learning, gaming elements, and investigative research.

Wellspring's commitment to making learning enjoyable is key to fostering student engagement. Fun-filled lessons prompt students to remain receptive to new knowledge, both within and beyond the classroom walls.

Additionally, Wellspring encourages physical activity by utilizing our rooftop field and indoor basketball court, providing our students with opportunities to unwind, relish in outdoor education, and play.

The Wellspring Model underscores the significance of joyful learning, drawing inspiration from Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ teachings, which highlight the virtue of spreading joy among Muslims as a cherished act in the eyes of Allah.¹

Studies have demonstrated that outdoor play and social interaction prime students' minds for learning. The freedom of unstructured play has been shown to enhance problem-solving abilities, self-assurance, autonomy, communication skills, and creativity.²

1. Al-Mu'jam al-Awsat 6026

2. Bento, Gabriela, and Gisela Dias. "The Importance of Outdoor Play for Young Children's Healthy Development." ScienceDirect, April 6, 2017.



Recognize the
diverse
learning
continuum.

CHOICE

The Wellspring Model is designed with creativity at its core, treating curriculum materials as a flexible guide rather than a strict mandate.

This approach encourages educators to adapt and expand the curriculum by incorporating various elements, fostering a deeper connection across different subjects for enhanced student comprehension.

At the heart of the Wellspring Model lies a commitment to recognizing and nurturing each student's distinct talents and passions, customizing their educational experience accordingly.

The Wellspring Model emphasizes individualized instruction by adapting content and processes, utilizing continuous assessments, and employing flexible groupings to cater to diverse learning styles. This instructional flexibility ensures that every student benefits from the educational materials and environment.

A fundamental aspect of effective teaching and discipline is understanding the learners' needs.

This concept is illustrated by an anecdote involving the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who provided differing guidance to two individuals regarding the same query, based on their ability to manage their emotions, thereby preserving the integrity of their fast.¹

Carol Ann Tomlinson's research validates the effectiveness of differentiated instruction, highlighting its capacity to recognize the diverse learning continuum within the classroom. This approach not only assists teachers and students in identifying the most effective learning strategies but also empowers students by acknowledging and leveraging their unique strengths, fostering a sense of competence and self-assurance.²

1. Sunan Abi Dawud 2387

2. Erickson, Christina. "Differentiated Instruction: Applying the Work of C.A. Tomlinson in the Primary Literacy Classroom." University of Victoria Libraries, 2010.



Cooperate in
righteousness.

COOPERATION

At Wellspring, we champion collective excellence over individual competition. Wellspring's educational approach is rooted in cooperation, fostering shared growth responsibilities.

In Wellspring's classrooms, group collaboration is encouraged, allowing students to merge their ideas and inquiries, which has proven advantageous for both individual development and the school's atmosphere. This cooperative spirit enables students who may struggle, to progress in a nurturing and secure setting. Instead of competing to surpass others, Wellspring cultivates an environment where excelling together is the norm, and there's a genuine aspiration for communal success.

The principle of "Cooperate in righteousness and piety,"¹ as stated in the Qur'an, encapsulates our engagement philosophy. Wellspring instills in our students the value of mutual cooperation towards common objectives.

1. Qur'an 5:2

Historical examples from Islamic texts, such as Dhul-Qarnayn's collaboration with the people to erect a barrier against Ya'juj and Ma'juj¹, and the joint efforts of Ibrahim عليه السلام and his son Isma'il عليه السلام in establishing the Ka'bah², underscore the power of collective action. These narratives illustrate that working in unison, rather than in opposition, leads to triumphant collaborative endeavors, which is particularly true in fostering a robust educational setting.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ likened the solidarity among believers to a structure whose parts support one another, further emphasizing the strength derived from unity.³

The educational theories of Lev Vygotsky validate that students reap greater cognitive rewards through cooperation than competition. While individual effort may suffice for some, it is through teamwork that a broader group of students can attain these cognitive gains. Cooperative learning grants students, who might otherwise falter alone, the chance to thrive with the support of their peers.⁴

1. Qur'an 18:94-98

2. Qur'an 2:127-129

3. Sahih al-Bukhari 2446

4. Stahl, Gerry. "Theories of Cognition in Collaborative Learning." ResearchGate. Accessed March 18, 2024.



Effort is
ever
appreciated.

EFFORT

The Wellspring model promotes a holistic reward system that acknowledges the efforts of all students. By valuing effort over mere achievement, Wellspring teaches our students that setbacks are merely milestones on the journey to success. It's essential for our youth to understand the importance of perseverance, regardless of immediate results.

At Wellspring, we believe that true motivation stems from recognizing hard work and dedication, rather than just the end result. This philosophy not only fosters long-term value but also aligns with the belief that our endeavors' outcomes are ultimately determined by Allah, while our responsibility lies in the effort we put forth.

As the Qur'an states, "But whoever desires the Hereafter and exerts the effort due to it while he is a believer - it is those whose effort is ever appreciated [by Allah]."¹ Furthermore, "And that there is not for man except that [good] for which he strives. And that his effort is going to be seen - then he will be repaid in full for it."²

1. Qur'an 17:19

2. Qur'an 53:39-41

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ illustrated this principle through the example of a man who gave a single silver coin in charity, earning more reward than one who gave 100,000, due to the proportionate sacrifice involved.¹

Empirical evidence supports the notion that intellectual growth in students is better nurtured by rewarding their efforts rather than the outcomes.

This approach not only encourages intellectual development but also builds confidence, empowering students to tackle more demanding challenges and develop a preference for them over simpler tasks.²

1. Sunan an-Nasai 2527

2. Clay, Georgia, Christopher Mlynski, Franziska M. Korb, Thomas Goschke, and Veronika Job. "Rewarding Cognitive Effort Increases the Intrinsic Value of Mental Labor." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2021.



Impact of positivity.

POSITIVITY

Discipline is a vehicle for learning, whereas punishment often only inflicts pain. The Wellspring Model is grounded in the principles of positive discipline, which emphasizes mutual respect, effective communication, and problem-solving skills.

This method encourages a feeling of community and responsibility without relying on negatively phrased language. Clear expectations and consequences are integral to this model, with continuous communication, teaching, and modeling of expected behaviors.

Anas ibn Malik's experience with the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ exemplifies the impact of positive reinforcement over harsh criticism. For ten years, Anas served the Prophet ﷺ, who never uttered a harsh word to him, fostering a relationship built on trust and respect.¹

1. Sahih al-Bukhari 6038

The Wellspring Model advocates for proactive discipline that guides and instructs, rather than punitive actions that merely react to misbehavior. The Wellspring Model ensures that conflicts are resolved with dignity, without shaming or belittling, thus maintaining a safe and supportive school environment.

The Prophet's ﷺ approach to correcting mistakes was to address the behavior without embarrassing the individual.¹ His ﷺ interactions with his ﷺ followers, such as guiding a young man away from sin through understanding and compassion², or gently instructing Mu'awiyah ibn al-Hakam after a mistake during prayer³, demonstrate the effectiveness of gentle teaching.

Studies have shown that punishment alone can lead to discouragement and a lack of motivation to improve behavior. Additionally, research indicates that a "Zero Tolerance" policy, which treats all infractions equally without considering the context, is not only ineffective but also counterproductive, as the nuances of discipline are complex and varied.⁴

1. Sunan Abi Dawud 4788

2. Musnad Ahmad 22211

3. Sahih Muslim 537

4. Yang, K. Wayne. "Discipline or Punish? Some Suggestions for School Policy and Teacher Practice." eScholarship, 2009



School–family
dynamic
ensures.

PARENTS

Active parental involvement is crucial for fostering effective communication between the school and families, thereby supporting each student's growth and success.

Wellspring nurtures this connection through Blackbaud's Parent Portal, offering parents access to essential information about their child's academic journey, including grades and attendance. This portal also serves as a direct line to teachers for urgent communications.

The Wellspring Model diverges from the traditional Parent-Teacher Association approach. Instead, Wellspring fosters a school-family dynamic, involving parents, teachers, administrators, staff, and students in the educational journey.

The school-family dynamic also ensures that each individual has an independent and equal voice, rather than allowing a vocal minority to overpower or misrepresent the silent majority. This inclusive approach promotes a balanced and harmonious environment within our educational community.

The Wellspring Model facilitates parental engagement through an organized protocol, aligning parents' strengths and expertise with the school's needs. The objective of this parental involvement model transcends mere social club creation; it aims to advance the school's vision and mission in a targeted manner that benefits the entire school community.

To cultivate a harmonious relationship between parents and the school, Wellspring encourages parents to steer clear of rumors, slander, or baseless discussions. Parents are also expected to uphold and support the administrative team's professional judgments.

In line with the teachings of the Qur'an, "O believers! Avoid much negative assumption. Indeed, some assumptions are sin. And do not spy or backbite each other..."¹, Wellspring strives for a community built on trust and mutual respect.

1. Qur'an 49:12

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ cautioned against suspicion¹, advocating for brotherhood and positive regard for others, which fosters a communicative and problem-solving atmosphere.

While the Wellspring Model values parental engagement, it's important to recognize that excessive scrutiny or overprotectiveness can adversely affect a child's mental well-being and independence. Wellspring promotes individual growth, which can be hindered by overly controlling parenting.

Research underscores the significance of a collaborative home-school partnership in advancing students' educational and developmental outcomes. Studies highlight the benefits of parental participation in enhancing the educational experiences of children, prompting the Wellspring Model to encourage parents to support their children's learning both at home and in school.²

1. Sahih al-Bukhari 5143

2. Cotton, Kathleen, and Karen Reed Wikelund. "Parent Involvement in Education." Multicultural Education, May 1989.



Harmonious school environment.

CULTURE

A school's culture is the heartbeat of its educational environment, setting the tone for learning and interaction. The culture should be a positive one, where good character is not only taught but exemplified in every aspect of school life. This culture of integrity, respect, and empathy is a shared responsibility, upheld by students and parents alike.

Students are the primary ambassadors of the school's culture. They are encouraged to embody good character through their actions, words, and interactions with peers and teachers. By doing so, they set a standard of excellence and foster an environment where everyone can thrive.

Parents play a crucial role in reinforcing the school's culture by supporting the school's values. This helps create a consistent message about the importance of being positive in thoughts, words, feelings, and actions. Parents are collaborators in education, and their involvement is crucial in maintaining a culture that nurtures positive development.

The school staff, embodying teachers and administrators, exemplify the school's values through their professionalism and commitment to student achievement. Their dedication to fostering a positive, inclusive learning environment is evident in their daily interactions with students and parents.

By setting lofty standards and offering supportive guidance, the staff plays a crucial role in nurturing a positive school culture. Their efforts, in conjunction with students and parents, facilitate a harmonious and effective educational setting.

Together, students, parents, and staff create a dynamic and supportive community that values good character, ensuring that the school's culture is one of positivity and growth.

Mutual respect, active listening, and personal care among parents, students, and staff cultivate trust within the school, reinforcing a sense of safety and community. This harmonious collaboration enhances the school's culture, positively impacting student achievement.

The development of Islamic virtues from a young age is crucial, aligning the conduct of students and staff with the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah. Wellspring Schools embody Islāmic values through exemplary morals and conduct.

Guided by the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ Sunnah, we strive to live with integrity and mindfulness as Muslims, adhering to the principles of moral excellence and virtue.

The Qur'an instructs, "Call to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided."¹

Imparting wisdom and sound advice is essential in cultivating an Islamic ethos within our community.

Emphasizing virtuous character is paramount in preserving this ethos. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ informed us that on the Day of Judgment, nothing will weigh more heavily in a believer's favor than good character.²

1. Qur'an 16:125

2. Sunan Abi Dawud 4799

He ﷺ also taught, "The most complete of believers in faith are those with the best character."¹

Furthermore, he ﷺ advised, "Be mindful of Allah wherever you are, follow a bad deed with a good one to erase it, and engage with people in a good manner."²

In conclusion, the role of parents, students, and staff in fostering a positive environment within a school cannot be overstated. Their active participation and positive attitudes significantly contribute to a conducive learning atmosphere. This positivity not only enhances academic performance but also promotes emotional well-being and cultivates a sense of community.

Therefore, it's imperative for all stakeholders to work collaboratively, ensuring that our school remains a nurturing and supportive space for everyone. This collective effort will undoubtedly lead to a more effective educational experience and a harmonious school environment.³

1. Sunan Abi Dawud 4682

2. Jami' at-Tirmidhi 1987

3. Wilson-Fleming, LaTerra, and Dylinda Wilson-Younger. "Positive Classroom Environments = Positive Academic Results." Alcorn State University, October 22, 2012



Treasure trove of learning.

In conclusion, the journey through the realms of inquiry and creativity-based education has revealed a vibrant landscape where learning is not just a task, but an adventure that captivates the young mind.

This model, with its roots in curiosity and branches reaching towards innovation, has shown that when children are engaged in fun, their capacity for knowledge absorption and creative expression knows no bounds.

Creativity isn't a mere brushstroke; it's the masterpiece waiting to emerge. As Wellspring nurtures creativity, we reveal the kaleidoscope of talents that will shape the future of our world.

It's clear that the future of education lies in fostering environments where questions are the keys to unlock the treasure trove of learning, and creativity is the map that guides young explorers through the thrilling terrain of education.

May this be the guiding star for educators, parents, and policymakers alike, illuminating the path towards a brighter, more imaginative future for our children and the world they will inherit.

END



Values that
define us.

NYCMC's 10 Principles

1. Islam is not owned by any human.
2. Share what you know, whether little or much.
3. Our intention to do what's right unites us all. Our perspectives are open for fair discussion.
4. Authentic evidence and the sound use of such evidence are pillars of guidance.
5. Build or let build, destroying is never an option.
6. We do not chase rumors, accusations, or slander. Time is too precious.
7. We live in America.
8. Relying only on donations will stunt growth. Revenue must be generated to produce quality programs and recruit talent. Professionalism is not bid'ah.
9. Build the future.
10. It's a tough journey, but the rewards are too many to abandon it.

TEN