

<i>Islamic Center of Nashville</i>	<i>Al Farooq Mosque</i>	<i>Salahadeen Center</i>	<i>Masjid Al-Islam</i>
2515 12th Ave South	1421 4th Ave South	364 Elysian Fields Ct.	3620 Buena Vista Pk
Nashville, TN 37204	Nashville, TN 37206	Nashville, TN 37211	Nashville, TN 37218
Phone: 385-9379	Phone: 313-8844	Phone: 333-0350	Phone: 726-3695

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Date: August 7, 2007

Subject: A Few Minutes off for Prayer and Time off For Friday Prayer

Dear Principal:

Muslims are supposed to follow the tradition according to their Holy Book, the Qur'an, and Sunnah, the practice of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Accordingly, Muslims are obligated to perform prayer 5 times a day during certain fixed times. Please allow your Muslim students the appropriate time to perform these prayers when they coincide with their school and an appropriate place. The 5 prayers are as follows: 1. Fajr (morning prayer), which is performed about an hour before sunrise; 2. Dhuhr (noon prayer), which is performed anytime from noon till the afternoon; 3. Asr (afternoon prayer), which is performed anytime in the late afternoon; 4. Maghrib (evening prayer), which is performed around sunrise; and 5 Isha (Night Prayer), which is performed during the night time. 5 to 10 minutes is all that is usually needed to perform these daily prayers. The Noon prayer is most likely to coincide with school, especially during the wintertime.

In addition, **Friday** is a day of congregational worship (just as Saturdays & Sundays are for the Jewish and Christian faiths, respectively). It is a compulsory duty on all mature Muslim males to attend the Friday noon congregational prayer, called Jumuah. The Friday prayer is held at the Islamic Center of Nashville at **1:00 PM** and ends by 1:40 PM. The Islamic Center of Nashville would appreciate students be given a break from **12:45 to 2:00 PM** on Fridays, so that they can attend the obligatory prayers. Those who can not attend the prayer due to personal constraints such as transportation, then we request that they be provided a room on Fridays to hold their prayers for about 20 minutes.

The Muslim faith, which has almost 10 million adherents in the U.S. alone and about 20,000 in Nashville, has requirements such as five daily prayers, fasting, pilgrimage and other religious practices. Such religious expressions are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution, which expresses the free exercise of religion. Upon request and for additional information, a summarized guide entitled "**An Educator's Guide to Islamic Religious Practices**" is available.

Please allow for these accommodations. If you have any questions, please contact any of the Mosques or myself (480-6146).

On behalf of the Muslim community in Nashville, Salahadeen Center of Nashville, Al-Farooq Islamic Center, Masjid Al-Islam and Islamic Center of Nashville, thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Rashed Fakhruddin,  
Islamic Center of Nashville, Director of Education