

EIA offers a high quality education, embedded in Islamic values, to enable students to become  
**RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, SUCCESSFUL**  
leaders and contributors to society.

# BAG TO K SCHOOL

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful  
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## GRADE 7 | NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME LETTERS

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### UNIFORM POLICY

###### **Junior High Girls:**

Girls are required to wear a grey school abaya and a royal blue school hijab. Both are available for purchase in the school.

###### **Junior High Boys:**

Monday through Thursday Boys are to wear their black uniform pants and grey uniform polo shirt (long or short sleeve). On Fridays, Boys are to wear the blue uniform dress shirt and black tie, or a thob or similar form of cultural clothing. If boys want to wear an extra layer, a school hoodie with the school logo is permitted.

**Note: Only school hoodies with school logo are allowed for all Junior High students.**

# ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL / JUNIOR HIGH

Amanah Eljaji // [amanah.eljaji@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:amanah.eljaji@islamicacademy.ca)

Assalamu Alaikum,

In the name of Allah, the most Beneficent and Merciful, we will commence this 2023-2024 school year. I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and high spirits. Although I have had the pleasure to meet most EIA families throughout the years, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Amanah Eljaji. I have been blessed by Allah to undertake the responsibility of the newly appointed Junior High Assistant Principal. I look forward to working constructively and cooperatively with you, so that your child may mature intellectually, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually in a supportive Islamic environment.

My journey in education has been deeply fulfilling, and I bring with me 23 years of experience as an educator. Alhamdulillah, I graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor's degree in Education in 1998 and Master's Degree in Education in 2019. I began my teaching career at the Edmonton Islamic School in 1999, where I taught junior high for eight years. Then in 2006, I moved to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia where I taught high school and first year university students. In 2013, I returned to Canada and to my roots at EIA. I taught grade nine and served as a Humanities Coordinator (English and Social Studies) for the secondary department until today. I am now here to serve as Junior High Assistant Principal.

Throughout my years as an educator, I have witnessed the tremendous impact that strong collaboration between parents, teachers, and administrators can have on student success. I am dedicated to fostering open lines of communication and building partnerships with you to ensure the well-being and academic growth of our students. I believe it is essential for building trust and maintaining a strong connection between home and school.

As an Assistant Principal, my goal is to support the exceptional work that EIA is known for. I will be working closely with a dedicated team of teachers and staff to provide a well-rounded and rigorous educational experience that prepares students for future challenges. I am committed to fostering a culture of continuous improvement, and I will strive to ensure that our school maintains high standards of excellence in all areas while maintaining a respectful, responsible and successful learning environment where every student can thrive.

However, I believe that a student's success is not just measured in academic achievements, but also in their personal development and Islamic character. Each student has unique strengths and talents, and I am dedicated to providing opportunities for their individual growth and development. Together, we can empower your child to achieve their full potential and become lifelong learners.

Jazakallah Khairun for entrusting EIA and myself with the education and well-being of your child. I am excited about the journey ahead and the opportunity to work together to create a positive and enriching educational experience for your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share at [amanah.eljaji@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:amanah.eljaji@islamicacademy.ca) or leave me a message at 780-454-4574. I am here to listen, support, and collaborate with you.

Sincerely Yours,

*Amanah Eljaji*

## ISLAMIC STUDIES 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E

Warda Nadjai // [warda.nadjai@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:warda.nadjai@islamicacademy.ca)

In the name of Allah, the most beneficent the most merciful  
Dear parents, guardians, and students,

Assalamu alaikum Wa rahmatullahi Wa barakatuh,

My name is Ouarda (Warda) Nadjai. I praise Allah (SWT) who honored me with teaching Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic studies. My teaching career started right after graduation (2003) from the Islamic University in Algeria (faculty of Qur'an and Hadith sciences). After coming to Canada, I worked at Calgary Islamic school and Horizon Academy Institute (Calgary) as a Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic studies teacher. At the same time, I provided Islamic lessons to sisters in Calgary in different mosques and Musallas. It is my pleasure to be part of the big EIA team for the 6th year, Alhamdulillah! I feel so blessed to be your child's Islamic studies teacher for this academic year inshallah. I ask Allah (SWT) to help me share my experience as an Islamic teacher with you and your child in a fruitful and rewarding way. I believe in great communication between teachers, students, and parents. It is all possible and beneficial when everybody shares responsibility and care. Therefore, I aim to include every student in the learning process and I really appreciate the involvement of parents whenever possible. Together inshallah we will make learning achievable and enjoyable. Google classroom and REMIND app will be used to stay organized and to ease communication, please make sure to check the codes below and to join both platforms as soon as possible!

Your questions, concerns, and feedback will certainly play a significant role at improving the learning experience of your child. So please feel free to share your advice for this sake.

Warmest Salams,  
Warda Nadjai

#### RESOURCES:

- ★ Google class code: plokz7
- ★ Remind code: @wnadj

## ARABIC STUDIES

Sheikh Nazih Yafi // nazih.yafi@islamicacademy.ca

Assalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

My name is Sheikh Nazih and I will be your child's Arabic teacher this year Insha'Allah. I am very glad to be teaching this year once again at EIA and I ask Allah SWT to grant us a school year filled with success, sincerity, and many great learning opportunities.

As some of you may not know me, I would like to give you some information about my background. My main focus throughout my life and my teaching career has been perfecting my recitation of the Qur'an and passing on that knowledge to my students. I started studying as a child with my father and I finished memorizing the Qur'an at 13 years old Alhamdulillah. Since then I have participated in many national and international Qur'an competitions and I have earned several Ijazat. I also hold a Bachelor's Degree in Islamic Studies with a major in Qira'at from Jinan University in Lebanon.

I started teaching over a decade ago in Australia. I taught Arabic and Qur'an in many Islamic centers, schools, and mosques, while also working as an Imam. When I moved to Canada six years ago, I continued my work as a teacher and an Imam, and I also co-founded a Qur'an center in Montreal. My goal this year Insha'Allah is to help my students continue to build their knowledge of the Arabic language and to apply what they have learned to the study and memorization of the Qur'an and the rules of recitation.

May Allah SWT bless you and I look forward to getting to know all of you this year.

Sincerely,  
Sheikh Nazih Yafi

#### RESOURCES:

- ★ Remind code: @7cde-2
- ★ Google Classroom code: wmbu6gq

## ARABIC STUDIES

Raghda Abdelqader // raghda.abdelqader@islamicacademy.ca

Dear parents,

Assalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

It is with great honor that I introduce myself as the secondary Arabic teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. My name is Raghda Abdelqader. I have a Bachelor Degree in English literature and a Diploma in Education from the Islamic University of Gaza, Palestine. I also have a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Alberta, Canada. I hold the Alberta Interim Professional Certificate (2020), and cumulatively, I have over ten years of professional international and domestic experience in the field of education. In addition, I presented my capping project which was about raising bilingual children (Arabic and English) in Canada at two local conferences and it was a great success.

I am very pleased to start teaching Arabic to junior high students this school year. As a mother and teacher, I can really understand what you want for your children, which is to master Arabic language skills and manage to read the Quran fluently. I ask Allah (SWT) to help me in carrying this Amanah, so I can help my Muslim community here at EIA. Although Arabic can be a challenging subject for a lot of students, I truly believe that each student is capable of learning, and that with patience and hard work, everything can be achieved.

My teaching philosophy is a holistic approach, which views each individual as the sum of their distinctive parts. Some of the most salient aspects of my philosophy include considering the pre-existing knowledge of each student and building rapport between all class participants. By establishing a safe zone in the classroom, students are free to take charge of their own learning process. As well, engaging students through a genuine commitment for their successes promotes relevant and meaningful educational exchanges.

I wish all of our students a wonderful school year filled with successes and great achievements Insha'Allah!

Sincerely,  
Raghda Abdelqader

#### RESOURCES:

- ★ Remind code: raghda789
- ★ Google class code: ihmt4

## ARABIC STUDIES

Abir Salla // [abir.salla@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:abir.salla@islamicacademy.ca)

In the Name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful.

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Beloved Students,  
Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh,

Insha'Allah this letter finds you and your family well. My name is Abir Salla. Insha'Allah I will be your child's Arabic teacher this year. It is an honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to be teaching the Arabic Language in Edmonton Islamic Academy this year. I am very excited and thrilled to have your children in my class. My teaching journey started in 2004 where I started teaching in an amazing school back home in Lebanon for 4 years. I taught classes from KG to Grade 3. I received professional training and attended various workshops for class management and teaching methods. Then, I began to work with Mrs. Haymour for 4 years. It has been a great experience working with her. I have also taught in Edmonton Islamic Academy from 2010 to 2012, as well as being an Arabic and Islamic substitute teacher (grades 4 -9) for the 2022-2023 school year. I taught most of your children and it was a lovely experience.

As an Arabic teacher, I believe that cooperation between the teacher, parents and students is the key for a better and successful learning environment. My goal is that all students will enjoy the journey of learning the Arabic language and reading it fluently. Insha'Allah that will concur together and all students will work towards mastering the Arabic language to memorize the holy Quran. Success isn't just measured by how much our children learn or memorize, but also by the love of their faith. Insha'Allah we will plant the love of knowledge and learning of the beautiful Arabic language in their life, for it is the language of the Holy Quran. May Allah SWT bless us in making this school year successful. I look forward to working cooperatively with you and your children.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any concerns and matters about your child's learning. Your feedback is very much appreciated and taken into consideration. Feel free to email me at any time at [abir.salla@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:abir.salla@islamicacademy.ca)

Sincerely,  
Abir Salla

#### RESOURCES:

- ★ Remind code: lvl2abir
- ★ Google classroom code: xmfc2zc

## ARABIC STUDIES

Karine Kheireddine // [karine.kheireddine@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:karine.kheireddine@islamicacademy.ca)

Dear Parents, Guardians and Respected Students,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and enjoying the excitement of another amazing academic year! Allow me to express how thrilled I am to be your Arabic teacher and to have you in my class!

Being originally from Lebanon, it is heartwarming to carry my beloved mother language overseas and use it as a tool to benefit our students to the fullest. Having started my teaching journey at the age of 18, I have taught at UN organizations and undergone various trainings related to active learning, test design, classroom management and much more. I aspire to create student-centered learning environments in which the student is in the driving seat of their own learning. My lessons are always focused on the specific needs of my students, working hard to differentiate learning abilities so that each student's unique skills are emphasized. While I like to see students enjoying themselves in class, I also insist on hard work and focus on the task at hand. Therefore, I set high standards and high expectations by promoting growth mindsets among my students where they know that I expect them to try their hardest and strive for improvement every day.

Moreover, I'm a firm believer in keeping an open line of communication between home and school. After all, we have a very unique interest in common, which is your child! You are my eyes and ears at home. Saying this, if you notice your child struggling please encourage them to ask any question either during or after class. As for you my beloved

students, you are the spring of knowledge, learning and the hope of an entire generation. You are the builders of the future, so build very well! Likewise, always remember that having access to a good education changes lives; it means dreams and hopes... being fulfilled!

In a nutshell I conclude with one of my favorite verses from the holy Quraan "My Lord, increase me in knowledge". Asking the almighty to empower you with the ability to fulfill your hopes and aspirations towards more success and progress!

Sincerely,  
Karine Kheireddine

## ENGLISH 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E

Amal Saleh // [amal.saleh@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:amal.saleh@islamicacademy.ca)

My name is Ms. Saleh, and I am super excited to be your child's Language Arts teacher this year Inshallah. InshAllah, together, we will be able to successfully complete this year while keeping everyone safe and healthy. To do this, we will need all stakeholders to collaborate together to ensure the safety and success of our children. Yes, they become my children too once they enter my classroom and my life; I will be spending my time and energy during and outside school hours looking out for their best interest inshAllah.

To introduce myself, I will first begin with my credentials and then tell you about my philosophy and passions. I graduated from Yarmouk University in Jordan with Honors in English literature in 2001 and in 2004 completed my Bachelor of Education at Brock University in Ontario. I have since been teaching at various levels, and I am looking forward to teaching grade 7 Language Arts for the sixth time inshAllah. Despite my 20+ years of experience in teaching Language Arts and other subjects, every year brings with it new experiences and new opportunities for growth. My curriculum is always evolving and I am always looking for more engaging and innovative ways to teach the students who ultimately determine my choices. I am an ongoing learner and I know there is no limit to knowledge and if there is an opportunity for growth you can be assured I will jump right on it. "A good teacher cannot begin or continue to inspire learning without being a learner" herself and therefore I have been actively involved in multiple professional development opportunities such as the TKT (teaching knowledge test) which was a two-week's course offered by the British council, and a one-week long AP course to enhance my AP English program and have just recently completed a graduate course through Athabasca University on Media studies in the classroom and I am currently taking a photography course. I love learning new things. Aside from covering the grade outcomes, I have also a passion for poetry and poetry recitation and have therefore continued to organize poetry competitions at different grade levels. Our talented students have won first place, three years in a row in The Poetry In Voice Junior Level Competition Nationals. I am a very enthusiastic teacher and I wear my passion for literature and teaching on my face. This is my 13th year at the Academy and I look forward to many more Inshallah. Some of my main interests are reading (when I get a chance to) or listening to audiobooks when I don't have time, building puzzles and exploring new trails and beautiful places to visit in our beautiful city of Edmonton or outside of Edmonton.

My ultimate and ongoing goal is to provide all students with an educationally challenging, yet fun experience in my classroom. As partners in our children's success, please don't hesitate to contact me and please monitor your children's progress and please follow up with their assignments and tasks. Please use the Remind link below or my email provided above to contact me.

### RESOURCES:

- ★ To contact me, to receive announcements or reminders on HW and assignments for Language Arts please enroll in Remind by sending a text to: (778) 402-6346
  - 7a: @saleh7a
  - 7b: @saleh7b
  - 7c: @saleh7c
  - 7d: @saleh7d
  - 7e: @saleh7e
  
- ★ Google Classroom Codes for students enrolled only:
  - 7a:bbymhip
  - 7b:qptvdue
  - 7c:iuevr62
  - 7d:bcs2kl5
  - 7e:snxdooe

## SOCIAL 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E / GRADE 7 OPTIONS -DRAMA

Nadine Kassab // [nadine.kassab@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:nadine.kassab@islamicacademy.ca)

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh Parents and Guardians,

It is with great honor that I introduce myself as the Social Studies and Drama educator of the Edmonton Islamic Academy for the 2023-2024 school year. My name is Nadine Kassab. I graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education. However, I do not plan to stop there! I will continue my education journey by attaining my Master's Degree in Education while specializing in school counseling. My ultimate career goal is to be an assistant principal or school counselor so I can assist and guide students through their academic journey.

In addition to my Education background I have spent time as a Resilience Family Support worker with Alta Care Resources where I assessed and facilitated families into creating goals and strategies to reproduce balance back in their homes. I have gained much experience in building relationships, observing the needs of youth in their education, and attaining knowledge on youth psychology. I was born and raised in Edmonton, completed my introductory field experience at Killarney Junior High School and my advanced field experience at Archbishop O'Leary High School. As a youth I have attained multiple EMAAN awards for my academic achievement in honors and several Merit and Service awards for leadership work I have executed in prior schools and communities.

I come from a background with much involvement in youth education and at a young age is when I began to recognize my career path as an educator, for I was heavily involved in tutoring, study buddy, and leadership programs. I find pleasure in volunteering my time to fundraisers such as the Islamic Family and Social Services Associate, Stollery Hospital, and Edmonton Humane Society. Also, I enjoy going to the theater to watch plays, or musicals and I like to spend time reading! I have a passion for teaching and believe in embracing the roots of each individual student under my tuition and use this to students' advantage by producing an inclusive classroom through building upon their identities, proficiencies, interests, and understandings.

As a result, my prospect is to help students engage, retain, and connect with educational material to become striving intellectuals in their society. I plan to create a classroom environment where your child will feel safe, respected, and know that the teacher is there to help them to achieve success. I aim to do that by building relationships with the youth and creating connections between their interest and curriculum material. I am very excited and eager to teach your children for the remainder of the year!

I highly believe in collaborative work with colleagues and members of the community such as parents. I invite you to contact me anytime you have any questions by calling the school at 780-454-4573, or email at [Nadine.kassab@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:Nadine.kassab@islamicacademy.ca)

## RESOURCES:

- ★ Google Classroom:
  - 7A: [ljdz5te](#)
  - 7B: [uldgiad](#)
  - 7C: [a6fy6gc](#)
  - 7D: [nv3ua5x](#)
  - 7E: [yssx3i6](#)
- ★ Remind:
  - 7A: [socst7a](#)
  - 7B: [socst7b](#)
  - 7C: [socst7cc](#)
  - 7D: [socst7d](#)
  - 7E: [socst7e](#)

## MATH 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E

[Rayann El Didi // rayann.eldidi@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:rayann.eldidi@islamicacademy.ca)

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh dear Parents and Families,

My name is Rayann El Didi and I am very excited to be your child's math teacher and the homeroom teacher for 7A for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year! Inshallah we will have an amazing year filled with learning, success and growth. I recently graduated this spring from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with a major in mathematics and a minor in biology. During my student teaching practicums, I had the opportunity to teach both junior high and high school math and I am very excited to be able to begin my journey as a teacher here at the Edmonton Islamic Academy.

My passion for teaching began at a young age when I would help my mom who is also a math teacher decorate her classroom over the summer break and laminate posters. As a student, I was always involved in school events and leadership and throughout university, I became a regular tutor at a high school where I helped students in all levels of Math and Science. I am beyond excited to share my passion and love for math and learning with your students this upcoming year. I plan to create a classroom environment of mutual respect where all students feel welcome, safe and excited to learn. I believe in collaboration, and making math engaging and interactive while also challenging my students to reach their highest potential.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at [rayann.eldidi@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:rayann.eldidi@islamicacademy.ca)

Inshallah we have a great year!

## RESOURCES:

### ★ Remind :

- 7A: @eia7amath
- 7B: @eia7bmath
- 7C: @eia7cmath
- 7D: @math7deia
- 7E: @7ematheia

### ★ Google Classroom: ykmdam4

## SCIENCE 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E/ GRADE 7 OPTIONS - ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP

Mustafizur Rahman // [mustafizur.rahman@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:mustafizur.rahman@islamicacademy.ca)

As-salaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatu Allahi Wa Barakaatuhu

Dear Respected Parents and Guardians of Grade Seven:

I am excited to begin the school year of 2023-2024 at the Edmonton Islamic School. I invite you to join in partnership with me in support of your child's educational progress.

Teaching your child is a tremendous responsibility and Inshallah, I will do my best to ensure that each student has a safe and motivating learning experience in this upcoming year. However, I cannot do this without the help of you, the parents. We are partners in the learning process.

Moreover, it's my belief that we are working together as partners in the education of your child. As partners, we should both be fully aware of your child's progress. During the school year, I will be sending work and assignments home and I ask that you sign this as an acknowledgement that you have seen it. Each student should be using an agenda and writing all assigned (sufficient help and assistance given to do the work in class) homework, dates of any upcoming assignments, projects, quizzes, tests on the agenda and will ask them to sign it by you and show it to me the next day. In my 20+ years in the education field, I have found that the parents who have regularly consulted their children's agendas were well informed and able to assist their children and so they had a successful year.

Please be assured that my goal is to work with parents and families in ways that I would want my child's teacher to work with me. I believe it is very important to communicate between home and school and will do my best to keep you informed. Should you have any questions, comments or concerns at any time throughout the year, please contact me at the school at (780) 454-4573 or via email at [mustafizur.rahman@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:mustafizur.rahman@islamicacademy.ca). (If it is an urgent message, please call the school office. I will make every effort to respond as soon as I possibly can.)

Remind App: [Grade 7 Science: @srg7 || 7C Homeroom: @f7ahm to 81010.

\*\*\*To be part of my "Remind App Group", you will be required to input the child's first name, last name, and grade section. For example, Mustafa\_Rahman\_6D\*\*\*

Jazakum Allahu Khayran ('May Allah reward you with good').

Sincerely,



-----  
Mustafizur Rahman ATA, OPC, OCT

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION (GIRLS)

Shanya Shwetz <[shanya.shwetz@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:shanya.shwetz@islamicacademy.ca)>

Hello and welcome back!

This is my fourth year teaching at EIA and I couldn't be more excited to be back in the classroom and starting the new year. Following High School I was lucky enough to receive a full ride scholarship to play Varsity Women's Hockey where I obtained my Bachelor of Science Degree at MacEwan University. Realizing I had a passion for coaching and teaching I returned to the classroom where I received a two

year After Degree in Education. Throughout my academic journey I have been honored to explore many opportunities that athletics has allowed me to have. Currently I am a coach with the Provincial U18 Team Alberta Female team.

Promoting both healthy minds and a healthy lifestyle is something that I am passionate about and look forward to sharing with my students here at the Edmonton Islamic Academy. My goal is to create a safe learning environment where each student feels safe to explore and ask questions regarding their health. Physical Education is about learning to live a healthy lifestyle. It is my goal to help the female students here at EIA find joy in physical activity, promote asking questions that can help develop a healthy lifestyle while exploring the opportunity to be leaders within the classroom. Please feel free to contact me through email if you have any questions!

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION (BOYS)/GRADE 7 OPTIONS - BOARD GAMES

Billal Hajji // [billal.hajji@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:billal.hajji@islamicacademy.ca)

Salaam alaikum,

My name is Billal Hajji. I will be returning for my fourth year at EIA as the Boys Secondary Physical Education teacher and will be looking over the Athletic Program for this upcoming year. Little bit about me; I completed my bachelor degree from the University of Alberta, Campus Saint-Jean with Distinction in 2019. It is a great privilege for me to come back to the school and be able to share my passion for sports and health with the students. I will strive to offer a positive and safe learning environment for each student by listening closely to their needs and Feedback. This year, we will go through a range of different sports and activities that will help them acquire a variety of strengths that would lead them to reach their goals and individual potential. We will emphasize the importance of health and the benefits of an active lifestyle but also the science that goes behind it. The objective is to build strong characters, healthy individuals and awareness of their spiritual and physical bodies. Students will begin developing their leadership skills and inshallah play a primary role in their learning process. I strongly encourage discussions and teamwork to be able to explore the different facets of a subject. The keywords for success in this course are going to be: positive attitude, respect, participation, effort and growth mindset.

I am looking forward to meeting you! Feel free to contact me for any comments, questions or concerns at [billal.hajji@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:billal.hajji@islamicacademy.ca)

Sincerely,  
Billal Hajji

## GRADE 7 OPTIONS - FILM

Yahia Dalloul // [yahia.dalloul@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:yahia.dalloul@islamicacademy.ca)

Assalamu Aalikum Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back Legends. My name is Yahia Dalloul (Mr.Dalloul) and I am incredibly excited to serve as your Athletic Director, HS PE, and Film option teacher for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. I look forward to this role and hope to do so with much sincerity and honesty.

A little about me: While I'm originally from Gaza, Palestine, I grew up in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I graduated from St. Francis Xavier University with a double major in history and sociology, with my second degree in B.Ed in secondary education. I spent some time teaching internationally in China, and Qatar. I'm entering my 15th year working in the education field, and this will be my 10th year at EIA. One last thing about me is that I am a huge football fan. Go Packers! Our athletic department and staff have been working hard in making this year full of success on and off the field, court, and in the classroom. The students of EIA are the future, and it takes all of us to be actively involved in their education. I encourage you to help our students to meet and exceed the expectations we have set for them.

I am looking forward to meeting each of you over the course of the school year. Please know that my door is always open to help support you and focus on what is best for our students.

Respectfully,  
Yahia Dalloul

## GRADE 7 OPTION - ART

Christelle Agahozo // [christelle.agahozo@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:christelle.agahozo@islamicacademy.ca)

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

First, I wanted to welcome everyone to another exciting school year! Inshallah, it will be one filled with incredible growth, development and academic success. My name is Christelle Agahozo and this is my second year teaching Junior High and High School art! If last year has taught me anything, there is no limit to what our students imagine



and create in our classroom. Right after secondary school, I decided to follow my passion and enroll at Emily Carr University of Art and Design. It is there that I received my Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2015. Though I eventually focused on painting, I was lucky enough to explore so many different mediums while at Emily Carr such as photography, ceramics, sculpture and printmaking. It was a wonderful four years that pushed me to grow as an artist and educator.

In 2020, I completed my after-degree in Secondary Education at the University of Alberta. Soon after graduation, I was working in the classroom as an education assistant and before I knew it I was teaching grade 5! Over the years, I've had the pleasure of teaching art to people of varying skill-levels and in different settings including workshops, schools and art galleries. It is with that experience that I can confidently say that everyone is capable of making good, thought-provoking and meaningful art pieces. If anything, all I can hope to be a catalyst for our students' creativity.

One of my favorite paintings is Van Gogh's *The Sower* (1888). In it, Van Gogh expresses his belief that artists are capable of sowing the seeds that can change the world. I'm not sure we will be changing the world quite yet in my classroom but we will be exploring it, our understanding of it and how art can be used to communicate our personal perspective. With a focus on learning fundamental skills and exploring the different mediums, we will develop our ability to express our ideas in a clear and concise manner. So even if we don't change the world as Van Gogh had envisioned, at least the world will know what we had to say about it!

## GRADE 7 OPTIONS - STEAM

Isaiah Ling // [isaiah.ling@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:isaiah.ling@islamicacademy.ca)

Assalamu Alaikum, Parents, Guardians, and Students,

I am incredibly thrilled to start my very first year and become part of the Edmonton Islamic Academy family! In this academic year, I will be instructing Computer Science 10, 20, and 30, as well as the STEM Elective for junior high students. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to meet all of our wonderful guardians and students.

In 2021, I earned my Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Alberta. During my time there, I worked in the Faculty's youth outreach program, DiscoverE, where I taught and developed engineering curricula. It was during this experience that I decided to share my passion for engineering, science, technology, and mathematics with the next generation and pursued a degree in education. In 2023, I successfully completed my studies at the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta, majoring in physics and minoring in mathematics.

My background in engineering has had a great influence on my educational philosophy. I firmly believe in constructivism, specifically constructionism. I believe that students learn best not by passively receiving information but by actively constructing their own knowledge, building upon their existing understanding. One way this is achieved is through building, creating, and engineering. Students learn best by doing, and I am enthusiastic about implementing this philosophy in my classrooms this semester.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [isaiah.ling@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:isaiah.ling@islamicacademy.ca).

Sincerely,  
Isaiah Ling.

