

Edmonton Islamic Academy

RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, SUCCESSFUL, LEADERS AND CONTRIBUTORS TO SOCIETY.



GRADE 7 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME LETTERS

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Assalamu Alaikum,

In the name of Allah, the most Beneficent and Merciful, we will commence this 2024-2025 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 24 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 for the secondary department for ten years. I am now here to serve as the Junior High Assistant Principal for the second year.

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 or leave me a message at 780-454-4574. I am here to listen, support, and collaborate with you.

Sincerely Yours,

Amanah Eljaji

QURAN / ISLAMIC / ARABIC STUDIES

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

Insha'Allah, this letter finds you and your family in good health and spirits. My name is Abir Salla, and it is with great honor that I introduce myself as your child's Arabic teacher for this year at Edmonton Islamic Academy. I am excited and thrilled to welcome your child into my class.

My teaching journey began in 2004 in Lebanon, where I taught KG to Grade 3 for four years. During this time, I received professional training and attended various workshops focused on classroom management and teaching methodologies. Following that, I had the privilege of working with Mrs. Haymour for four years, an experience that was both enriching and rewarding. I also had the pleasure of teaching at Edmonton Islamic Academy from 2010 to 2012 and serving as an Arabic and Islamic Studies substitute teacher for Grades 4-9 during the 2022-2023 school year. Many of your children were in my class last year, and it was a truly lovely experience.

As an Arabic teacher, I firmly believe that cooperation between teachers, parents, and students is the foundation for a successful learning environment. My goal is for all students to enjoy the journey of learning the Arabic language and to read it fluently. Insha'Allah, with our collective efforts, students will not only work towards mastering the Arabic language but also towards memorizing the Holy Quran. Success is not just measured by how much our children learn or memorize, but also by the love they develop for their faith. Insha'Allah, we will nurture a lifelong love for knowledge and the beautiful Arabic language, the language of the Holy Quran. May Allah SWT bless us and make this school year successful.

I look forward to working collaboratively with you and your children. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions about your child's learning. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will be taken into consideration. Feel free to email me at any time at abir.salla@islamicacademy.ca.

Sincerely,
Abir Salla

ARABIC STUDIES

Assalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh Parents and Guardians,

It is with great honor that I introduce myself as the secondary Arabic teacher for the 2023-2024 school year (level 3). 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. I hold the Alberta Interim Professional Certificate (2020), and cumulatively, I have over 14 years of professional international and domestic experience in the field of education.

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. I also believe that the mutual cooperation between home and school helps students achieve their highest potentials inshaAllah.

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

ARABIC STUDIES

Asalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatu Allahi Wa Barakatu Parents and Guardians,

My name is Rabab Assaf, and I am honored to be the secondary Arabic teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. This will be my fifth year of teaching, Alhamdulillah. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Math and Science, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Education, both from Concordia University of Edmonton. In 2021, I was awarded the Alberta Permanent Certificate. By Allah's grace, I also completed the memorization of Al-Quran Al-Kareem in October 2018 under the guidance of Shaykh Ahmad Badawi.

I understand that teaching is a significant responsibility, and I recognize that Arabic can be a challenging subject for many students. However, Insha'Allah, we will work together to make this learning journey enjoyable, and I am committed to helping each student grow and succeed throughout the year.

Please know that my door is always open for any questions, concerns, or discussions. I will do my utmost to ensure that every student has a positive and successful experience. I wish all of our students a wonderful school year filled with achievements and success, Insha'Allah.

Sincerely,
Rabab Assaf

ARABIC STUDIES

Alsalamu Alikum Parents, Guardians and Students,

I'm Ms. Dania, and I am delighted to be a secondary Arabic teacher this year insha'Allah. Together, we're going to embark on a journey filled with learning in the world of Arabic!

With a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Commerce in Strategy and Management from the University of Alberta, I hope to bring a unique blend of knowledge and passion to the classroom. My four years of teaching at the Al Shatibi Institute have taught me that education is more than just learning facts—it's about fostering a love and appreciation for the Quran and the language of the Quran.

Therefore, my primary goal is to nurture your child's Arabic language skills while simultaneously deepening their love and appreciation for this beautiful language. Insha'Allah, we'll be exploring the rich tapestry of Arabic through stories and engaging activities, all while weaving in the beautiful values of kindness, respect, and excellence—core tenets of our faith. I sincerely hope that my classroom is a safe haven where your child can grow not only academically but personally and spiritually, building Islamic character along the way insha'Allah.

Communication is key to our partnership, so I'm always here to chat! Whether you have a question, a concern, or just want to share a proud moment, feel free to reach out to me via email or Remind. Let's make this year a successful one, full of learning, growth, and a shared love for Arabic insha'Allah!

Jazakum Allahu Khairan,
Dania Mohamed

ENGLISH

Alsalam Alaykum WarahmatulAllah Wabarakatu,

I'm Ms. Saleh, and I'm beyond excited to be your child's Language Arts teacher this year, Inshallah! Together, we'll make sure this year is filled with learning, growth, and a healthy dose of fun. Once your child steps into my classroom, they become my kids too. I'll be pouring my time, energy, and all my "teacher magic" both in and out of school to support their intellectual and spiritual development.

A bit about me: I graduated with honors in English Literature from Yarmouk University in Jordan and picked up a Bachelor of Education from Brock University in Ontario. With over 20 years of teaching experience (yes, I know, I don't look a day over 25!), I'm excited to guide Grade 7 Language Arts students through another year of learning adventures. I'm passionate about education and constantly searching for fresh, engaging ways to make learning an exciting journey.

I'm a lifelong learner and a bit of an educational multitasker—I'm currently balancing a few courses and will be coaching after school. Additionally, I have a soft spot for poetry, and I'm proud to share that our students have taken first place in the Poetry In Voice Junior and Senior Level Competitions in both the Nationals and Regionals. So, gear up for a year full of excitement, activities, and maybe a few poetic surprises!

When I'm not teaching or coaching, you'll find me navigating the wild world of parenthood with my own two kids, experimenting in the kitchen (sometimes successfully), reading (or sneakily listening to audiobooks), solving puzzles, or exploring new trails around Edmonton.

My goal? To make this year educationally challenging and fun for everyone. As partners in your child's success, feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. You can contact me through the Remind link below or via email.

Here's to a fantastic, adventure-filled year ahead!

SOCIAL STUDIES

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the Social Studies and Drama educator for the junior high division at Edmonton Islamic Academy. My name is Nadine Kassab, and I am a proud graduate of the University of Alberta, holding a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education. My journey in education is far from over, as I am committed to furthering my studies by pursuing a Master's Degree in Education with a focus on school counseling. Beyond my formal education, I bring experience in supporting youth and families. I have worked as a Resilience Family Support worker, where I guided families to set and achieve goals to restore balance in their lives. This role deepened my understanding of youth psychology and honed my skills in building meaningful relationships with young people, identifying their needs, and fostering their growth.

My passion for education began early, as I was actively involved in tutoring, leadership programs, and study buddy initiatives during my youth. This passion continues to drive me as I strive to create an inclusive classroom environment where each student's unique identity, strengths, and interests are recognized and nurtured.

I emphasize the importance of academic excellence, critical thinking, and creativity. One goal is to inspire a love for learning that will stay with your child for a lifetime. I also strive to create a classroom culture that celebrates diversity and encourages collaboration, helping students develop the social skills they need to thrive both in and out of school.

I am looking forward to a wonderful and productive school year, filled with learning, growth, and lots of memorable moments. Thank you for entrusting me with your child's education, and I look forward to meeting you soon!

Kind Regards,

Nadine Kassab

MATH

Dear EIA Families,

My name is Gary Hanna and I am very excited to be your child's math teacher for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. My goal is to make this a fun, rewarding, and successful year of growth for your child in mathematics, and to build on their previous learning while preparing them for Grade 8 and beyond.

My academic background includes a BSc. with a major in Zoology and a minor in Mathematics from the University of Alberta. My interest in teaching pushed me to continue my life-long learning journey which allowed me to further earn a BEd. in Secondary Sciences, also from the U of A.

This will mark my 24th year of teaching, but my first here at the Edmonton Islamic Academy. After graduating university, I moved to the United States, and started my teaching career in Sequin, Texas where I taught middle school science for four years. After returning to Canada, I began teaching with the Parkland School Division, teaching Grade 3-9 math and science classes at Tomahawk School in Tomahawk, AB. I then had the opportunity to move up to Division 4, where I spent 17 years at Memorial Comp. H.S in Stony Plain, AB, where I taught high school math and science courses. I took a break from teaching and spent eight years in the private sector owning a marketing company, but I missed teaching and decided to return to the classroom. I have spent the last two years as a substitute teacher in the Sturgeon Public School Division.

I am excited to share my love for math and learning with your students for this upcoming academic school year. I believe in building strong relationships with my students, their parents, and the community here at EIA. That begins in providing a classroom environment built on mutual respect, where all students feel welcome, safe and excited to learn. Math can be best understood through collaboration and making math engaging and interactive. I believe that my job as a teacher is that of a facilitator. I will do everything in my power to help your child meet their full potential, but ultimately, the responsibility for them to succeed rests upon them and their effort. All children learn in a variety of ways and at different paces. My teaching style is to use as many different learning modalities as possible, including the use of technology to enhance learning. I'm excited to get to know your child over the next ten months, and help them discover their love for mathematics.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at gary.hanna@islamicacademy.ca. I feel my background and experience will more than serve me well in this position as the new Grade 7 math teacher here at EIA. Let's have a great year together!

Sincerely,

Gary Hanna

SCIENCE

As-salaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullaahi Wa Barakaatuhu

Dear Respected Parents and Guardians of Grade Seven:

I am excited to begin the school year of 2024-2025 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 follow up 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 and homework club) homework, dates of any upcoming assignments, projects, quizzes, tests on the agenda. 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 I 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. If it is an urgent message, please call the school office. I will make every effort to respond as soon as I possibly can.

Jazakum Allahu Khayran

Sincerely,



Mustafizur Rahman ATA, OPC, OCT

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (GIRLS)

Hello and welcome back!

This is my fifth 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 through athletics.

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)

Salaam alaikum,

My name is Billal Hajji. I will be returning for my sixth year at EIA as the Boys Secondary Physical Education. 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 are going to be leaders and are going to play a primary role in their learning process. I strongly encourage discussions and teamwork to have a more practical aspect and to be able to explore the different faces 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

Sincerely,
Billal Hajji

HEALTH

Assalamu Alaikum Parents and Guardians,

In the name of Allah, the most Beneficent and Merciful,

I hope this letter finds you and your families in the best of health. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Yahia Dalloul. Inshallah in the 2024 - 2025 school year I will undertake the responsibility of being the Athletic Director, and will also have the pleasure of working with your son/daughter as their high school Physical Education and Gr 7 & 9 Health and Life Skills teacher.

I'm originally from Gaza, Palestine, and I grew up in Halifax, Nova Scotia. After graduating from St. Francis Xavier University located in Antigonish, NS, I spent some time teaching internationally in China and Qatar, before settling here in Edmonton. I'm entering my 15th year working in the education field, and this will be my 10th year at EIA, alhamdulillah.

I have always believed that co-curricular activities offer some of the most important life lessons. Students learn lessons in dependability, teamwork, motivation, and discipline to name a few. Inshallah, I hope to inspire my students to learn to set and accomplish goals, overcome adversity, work within a team, and strive to be the best they can be, to better their community. This is what drives me to give the students at Edmonton Islamic Academy the very best experience possible.

With that being said, it is my pleasure to serve alongside the parents to provide a great experience for our students. I am looking forward to meeting each of you over the school year. Please know that my door is always open to help support you and focus on what is best for our students.

Sincerely,
Yahia Dalloul

CTS

Assalamu Alaikum Parents and Guardians,

I hope your family had an amazing summer and is in high spirits for the upcoming school year. My name is Mohammad-Reza Salehi, and I am excited to introduce myself as your child's new CTS (Career and Technology Studies) teacher at Edmonton Islamic Academy. This is my first year at the school, and I feel privileged to be part of such a wonderful community.

I recently graduated from the University of Alberta in April 2024, earning a degree with a major in Physical Science and a minor in Biological Science. With my background, I aim to bring a fresh and enthusiastic approach to teaching, blending academic knowledge with practical, real-world applications. My goal is to ensure that your children not only learn valuable life skills but also enjoy the process.

In my classroom, I strive to create an environment that is both safe and fun. I believe that learning should be an engaging experience, and I am committed to helping students explore new concepts while fostering a sense of responsibility and respect for one another. Throughout the year, I will be focusing on teaching skills that your children can apply to their future endeavors, whether in their careers or personal lives.

I am looking forward to meeting your children and working together to make this year a successful one. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Open communication between parents and teachers is vital to a positive and supportive learning environment. Thank you for your trust and partnership in your child's education.

Warm regards,

Mohammad-Reza Salehi

ART

Assalamu Alaikum Parents and Guardians,

I am honored to introduce myself as the new art teacher for the upcoming year at the Edmonton Islamic Academy. With 7 years of experience in teaching art to students of various ages and skill levels, I am excited to bring my passion and expertise to your child's education journey, insha'Allah.

My teaching philosophy is centered around fostering imaginations, self-expression and confidence in my students, whilst instilling values of kindness, respect and compassion. I believe that every child is a unique and precious gift from Allah, and it is our responsibility to nurture their talents and abilities.

Through a variety of engaging projects and activities, students will have the opportunity to discover their artistic talents, develop their skills and express their creativity in a fun and supportive environment. My goal is to inspire students to become thoughtful, reflective, and innovative thinkers who use their talents to benefit themselves, their communities and the world around them.

Please feel free to reach out to me via email with any questions, concerns or feedback. I look forward to working together to make this a fantastic year for your child insha'Allah. May Allah bless our efforts and guide us in providing the best experience possible for our students!

Ameena Kadri

WELCOME TO GRADE 7

TEACHER EMAILS



Math

gary.hanna@islamicacademy.ca

English

amal.saleh@islamicacademy.ca

Social

nadine.kassab@islamicacademy.ca

Science

mustafizur.rahman@islamicacademy.ca

Arabic Level 1

rabab.assaf@islamicacademy.ca

Arabic Level 2

abir.salla@islamicacademy.ca

danial.mohamed@islamicacademy.ca

Arabic Level 3

raghda.abdelqader@islamicacademy.ca

Islamic and Quran

abir.salla@islamicacademy.ca

Health

Yahia.Dalloul@islamicacademy.ca

PE Girls

shanya.shwetz@islamicacademy.ca

PE Boys

billal.hajji@islamicacademy.ca

CTS

mohammad.salehi@islamicacademy.ca

Art

ameena.kadri@islamicacademy.ca

GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODES



Math

7A **54c73tj**
7B **poh5qpg**
7C **ftuhjmr**
7D **khdnjvz**
7E **rzfxwup**

Social

7A **46ni47a**
7B **77ztb25**
7C **zoshykq**
7D **lzbtf2q**
7E **l3hwzeb**

Arabic Level 1
ogkf6nd

Arabic Level 2
6v3j7ij
5ttroud

Arabic Level 3
kytiewa

English

7A **mktr7qv**
7B **v2h2ljy**
7C **jqe3jnm**
7D **a3i4mjp**
7E **kbiv3ar**

Science

7A **mjanr4h**
7B **tkcwbii**
7C **d7djmn4**
7D **esuagfj**
7E **hwgpnld**

Islamic
Jerzvdn

REMINDE CODES



Math

7A **hanna7a**
7B **hanna7b**
7C **hanna7c**
7D **hanna7d**
7E **hanna7e**

English

7A **saleh7a**
7B **saleh7b**
7C **saleh7c**
7D **saleh7d**
7E **saleh7e**

Social:

7A **kassab7a**
7B **kassab7b**
7C **kassab7c**
7D **kassab7d**
7E **kassab7e**

Science

srg7

Arabic Level 1

None

Arabic Level 2

Abir2
arabicl22

Arabic Level 3

raghda3

Islamic

Islamic-7

7A Homeroom

7a-hr