

Edmonton Islamic Academy

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



GRADE 8 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

ISLAMIC STUDIES/HEALTH 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E

Dear parents,

Assalaamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu

Welcome back to another school year. Let's work together to make it amazing. I'm excited to serve you as the Islamic Studies teacher for Grade 8. For my educational background, I developed professional skill sets in I.T. and consultancy in order to finance my university. I attained a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies, M.B.A in Community Economic Development, M.A. in Islamic Studies with a focus in Usul al-Din (foundations of religion). Professionally, I have worked, managed, and consulted at multinational corporations; taught technology, business, and leadership at the college level; managed and directed colleges; and initiated and organized numerous Islamically-inspired leadership opportunities for young Muslims before joining EIA.

As an Islamic Studies teacher, I aim to develop deep understanding to inspire passion towards the deen of our Lord and Creator, certainty and conviction, commitment and submission, and capacity to navigate complex challenges in this ever-changing world. My in-class philosophy of Islamic Studies will focus on inspiration, motivation, education, and pragmatism. These processes in Islamic history have been expressed as ta'dib (building manners), tarbiyyah (development), tazkiyyah (self-purification), alongside ta'lim (education). For the purpose of knowledge (ta'lim), we will be focused on developing deep understanding (tafhim), critical thinking (tafakkur), reflection (tadabbur), and motivating religious reminders (tadhakkur). Tadhakkur (religious reminders) are built into all of our acts of Ibadah.

I now require your assistance. For the purpose of reminder (tadhakkur), I encourage the families to encourage and motivate excellence in wudu and salah (prayer), daily recitation of the Quran with reflection, merciful obedience of their parents, occasional nightly worship and fasting, and sadaqa (charity) in form of good deeds and volunteerism. I pray to Allah for the success and protection of you and your family in this academic calendar, in the future, and in the hereafter. I am here for your support within the capacity Allah has given me. You can always reach me by my email address (imran.queshi@islamicacademy.ca); you're always welcome to arrange a meeting; or schedule a phone call.

Sincerely your brother in Islam,
Imran Qureshi

ARABIC STUDIES

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 (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

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 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

Sincerely,
Abir Salla

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/QURAN

Alsalamu Alikum Parents, Guardians and Students,

I'm Ms. Dania, and I am delighted to be a secondary Arabic and Quran teacher this year insha'Allah. Together, we're going to embark on a journey filled with learning in the world of Quran and 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 Alshatibi 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 Quran recitation and 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. We will also work on refining Quran recitation rules and diving into its miraculous teachings as much as we can. 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 Quran and Arabic!

Jazakum Allahu Khairan,
Dania Mohamed

ENGLISH

Assalamu Alaikum Parents, Guardians, and Fabulous EIA students;

I'd like to take a minute to introduce myself, even though I am honoured to say that I already know many, if not most, of you. My name is Hoda Assaf – Tarrabain (AKA: Ms.T) and I will be, for the third year, teaching Grade 8 English at EIA, In Sha Allah. I earned a Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Alberta, with an English major, and a Spanish minor. I have a deep love for learning, literature, languages, deen, and coffee!

Upon completion of my Education degree, I successfully completed three practicums in three different school districts. The first being in a Catholic Junior High school, teaching grade 7 & 9 English in St. Albert. The second in *Paul Kane High School*, teaching grade 10, 11, and 12 English, also in St. Albert. The last practicum was completed in *Steele Heights Junior High School*, in Edmonton, teaching grade 8 & 9 English as well as a range of subjects to a group of students in a Strategies Program. The students received small group assistance enabling them to be successful learners in a regular classroom. Those three uniquely different experiences broadened my perspective and overall understanding on how each and every person has their own way of learning, thinking, and processing information.

To add to my practicum experiences, I have had the pleasure of teaching over 250 Grade eight students these past two years at EIA. At the end of each year I reflect on how much they, the students have all taught me. They taught me what resilience, strength, teamwork, and perseverance looks like. As there have been countless hardships and atrocities occurring in and around the world, which impacted many EIA families directly. Yet, they consistently showed up to school, with a positive attitude, confident in the Qadr of Allah SWT, and got their work done, Ma Sha Allah!.

Furthermore, I am cognizant of the fact that we all, as lifelong learners, bring a range of experiences, cultural traditions, languages and dialects to the table. Therefore, I intend to find out your child's preferred learning style, favourite games, shows, likes, dislikes, hobbies, and passions, in order to incorporate these details into our classroom discussions and my lesson plans. This engages and motivates them, which in turn sets them up for success In Sha Allah.

Looking forward to meeting you all soon! And, In Sha Allah, together, we will raise and build a successful, respectful, and open minded generation that does everything for the sake of Allah SWT. If you have any questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email @ hoda.tarrabain@islamicacademy.ca or by phoning EIA @ 780- 454 - 4573 EXT #174

Warm Regards,

Hoda A. Tarrabain, B.Ed

SOCIAL STUDIES

Assalamu Alaikum parents, guardians, and students!

I am delighted to be welcoming you back for the upcoming school year! My name is Miss. Kassia Zahoui, and I am excited to be welcoming you and your children to my class. For those of you unfamiliar with me, this is my eighth year at the Edmonton Islamic Academy, having taught a range of courses. This upcoming school year, I am excited to be teaching Social Studies 8, as well as Film Studies for grades 7 and 8, Insha'Allah.

Alhamdulillah, I have been blessed with the opportunity to return to an institution that had a heavy hand in shaping my childhood. As an alumnus of the Edmonton Islamic Academy, I am devoted to providing the same type of guidance, care, and love that I was given in my youth by this very school. After leaving the academy, I graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor's degree in Education in 2015 with a major in Social Studies, and a minor in English Language Arts. Currently, I am working to complete my Master's Degree in Secondary Education from the University of Alberta.

As a humanities teacher, my aim is to have my students think critically about the world we live in, and how they can engage in active, responsible citizenship. Social Studies resonates deeply with our obligations as Muslims, and I do my best to have my classroom serve as a testament to that. Principles such as respecting and celebrating diversity, maintaining the dignity of all people, contributing positively to our communities, and serving as stewards of the earth are heavily emphasized both in my class environment and throughout course content. I am also committed to lifelong learning and aim to encourage my students to continuously engage in learning, both in and out of the classroom.

Throughout the year, we will be working to develop and strengthen many skills. Particularly, there will be an emphasis on learning to analyze and critique various sources, reading comprehension, persuasive writing, and conducting research. We will work to develop these skills through assessments ranging from a variety of in-class activities, assignments, and projects.

I recognize the immense trust you have placed in us to educate and nurture your children, and would like to assure you that it is not a responsibility I take lightly. I am devoted to providing a space for your children to grow and thrive over the course of the year, and look forward to working with you to achieve that goal. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached by Remind (code: ss8zahoui) or via Email. Insha'Allah a safe and successful school year ahead!

Jazakum Allahu Khairan,
Miss. Kassia Zahoui

MATH

Alsalam Alikum Wa Rahamat Allah dear parents and guardians,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as your child's Mathematics Teacher for the Academic Year 2024/2025. My name is Mrs. Hiba Azzam. I hold an Alberta Teaching Certificate and have graduated with a Bachelor of Education (with Distinction) from the University of Alberta (2010). I also hold a Bachelor of Science degree from Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada (1998). I have been in the teaching profession for over 20 years teaching various subjects to various grades, including Junior high. I feel very fortunate to be part of the EIA family and I am looking forward to a rewarding and exciting year.

Teaching your child is a privilege that I take very seriously. My mission is to provide a loving, safe, and personal learning environment for each student in my classroom. As students enter into my classroom, they will feel welcome, respected, appreciated, and secure. It will be an atmosphere of warmth, support, and genuine care. I would like to instill in my students the love of learning. I want them to become life-long learners, responsible, respectable, and productive citizens of their school and community. I will challenge all students to reach their highest potential and strive for academic excellence.

Working together as a team, we can motivate, encourage, and enhance your child's learning experience this year. I am looking forward to meeting and working with you. I will contact parents regularly via emails, PowerSchool, and our newsletter. I would like to use "Remind" as a means of communication outside of school hours. Remind is an app that can be downloaded for free from the App store. Once you download the App, to join the class please enter the code that corresponds with your classroom. Please review the contact information sheet at the end of this document.

I encourage all parents to sign up as I will be sending the daily homework and announcements on "Remind". I also have Google Classroom where you find materials and assessments posted for the course. To join Google classroom please click on the link: Grade 8 (A, B, C, D, E) Google Classroom: [Grade 8 Google Classroom](#). Please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions, or concerns by either phoning the EIA main number at 780- 454 -4573 or by sending an e-mail message to: hiba.azzam@islamicacademy.ca. Thank you for your time, involvement, and support

Respectfully,

Hiba R. Azzam, B.Sc., B. Ed.

SCIENCE

Assalamu Alaikum,

I welcome everyone back to the EIA! My name is Majd Haymour and I will be your child's grade 8 science teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

I graduated from Grant MacEwan university with a Bachelor's degree in biological sciences and a minor in sociology. Recently, I attended the University of Alberta where I obtained my after degree in secondary education, specializing in biology and general sciences. As a second year teacher, I am very excited to be teaching here at EIA again where I hope my enthusiasm and passion for science and curiosity will transfer over to students.

Throughout the school year, students will be learning about: light and optics, mix and flow of matter, cells and systems, mechanical systems, and salt and freshwater systems. Inshallah I am hoping to develop critical thinking and literacy skills that will allow students to apply the material they have learned. I also believe it is important for students to develop their collaboration and communication skills as these are going to be paramount to their development as they progress through school and life.

For this year, I will be posting all class related material, such as assignments and notes onto Google Classroom along with announcements regarding important dates.

I look forward to meeting you all this year and Inshallah a year of great success for all! If there are any concerns or questions students or parents may have throughout the year, please do not hesitate to reach out. I can be contacted through my school email.

Sincerely,
Majd Haymour

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 that athletics has allowed me to have.

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!

Sincerely,
Shanya Shwetz

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (BOYS)

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 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

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

Email: mohammad.salehi@islamicacademy.ca

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 8

TEACHER EMAILS



Math

hiba.azzam@islamicacademy.ca

English

hoda.tarrabain@islamicacademy.ca

Social

kassia.zahoui@islamicacademy.ca

Science

majd.haymour@islamicacademy.ca

Arabic Level 2

rabab.assaf@islamicacademy.ca

Arabic Level 3

raghda.abdelqader@islamicacademy.ca

abir.salla@islamicacademy.ca

Arabic Level 4 and Quran

danialmohamed@islamicacademy.ca

Islamic and Health

imran.gureshi@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 **56ai3ih**

English **fnmezf6**

Social

Science

8A: **cw5gifz**

8B: **gccraws**

8C: **ktvwurl**

8D: **kvkru6b**

8E: **jzc5c4q**

Arabic Level 2 **st7cb3e**

Arabic Level 3 **kytiewa - r7cljhd**

Arabic Level 4 **2tsvevw**

Islamic **arfmurx**

Quran **onligao**

Health **elr7uhs**

REMIND CODES



Math

8A: **eia8amath**

8B: **eia8bmath**

8C: **eia8cmath**

8D: **eia8dmath**

8E: **eia8emath**

English

8A: **8aenglishm**

8B: **8benglishm**

8C: **3982ce**

8D: **8dengli**

8E: **8aenglishm**

Social Studies

ss8zahoui

Science

EIASC8

Arabic Level 3

raghda3

Arabic Level 4

arabicl44

Islamic

Eia8islam

Quran

Quranl88