

Edmonton Islamic Academy

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



GRADE 9 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 / QURAN / ARABIC

Assalam Alaikum Dear Parents and Guardians,

May Allah in His infinite mercy bless you beyond your expectations, and may His light shine in your life and the hereafter. As the new school year gets underway, I would like to formally introduce myself. My name is Reem Skeik (Ms. Reem), and I'm very happy to be at the Edmonton Islamic Academy as part of the Junior High team, teaching Grade 9 Islamic Studies, Quran and Arabic Level 4 (9C, 9D, 9E).

My journey began at the University of Alberta, where I completed my Bachelor's and Master's in Science specializing in Molecular Biology and Genetics. I have had the privilege of working with young learners for the past 10 years at MacEwan University, and to this day. That is where my passion for teaching flourished. This is also where I concurrently embarked on a new journey, delving deeper into my Islamic roots and Muslim identity. I began to realize the significant amount of positive influence a teacher can have on students and their enjoyment of learning and wanted to offer the same experience to Muslims wanting to learn more about themselves and truly feel connected to Islam. This feeling only amplified once I became a mother, raising two young Muslim children. And so, I enrolled in Islamic Studies at the International Open University and became involved in several community outreach programs and professional development workshops, including leading a sister's Halaqa at Al-Rashid Mosque for three consecutive years.

All these opportunities have helped shape my teaching practices as a teacher, and I am grateful that my journey has led me to this point in time, and that Allah SWT has awarded me the opportunity to be a part of a lifelong learning journey of an even younger group of learners. I look forward to working closely with the students as well as alongside you dear parents and guardians, as a strong team that will help lead your young ones to a bright and blessed future ahead.

I ultimately hope that my passion for teaching will ignite a similar passion, and appreciation for Islam in my students, and allow them to reflect positively on their experiences moving forward in life, as I have reflected positively on my experiences as a student and a teacher. My students always offer me a unique learning experience, and I hope to offer them the same in return. Please feel free to contact me by email at: reem.skeik@islamicacademy.ca

Jazakom Allah Khairan,
Reem Skeik

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 5). 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 potential 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,

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 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 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

Welcome back students and parents!

I hope that everyone had an amazing summer. My name is Ms. B and I am very excited to be starting my seventh year of teaching. I have a Bachelor of Secondary Education from the University of Alberta, with a major in English and a minor in teaching ESL.

This year will be my fifth year teaching at the Edmonton Islamic Academy. I will be the homeroom teacher for the students of 9D, and will be teaching English Language Arts to all the grade nine students. I have been blessed with the experience to teach at the elementary, junior high, and high school level. However, I'll have to admit that teaching junior high students has been my favorite teaching experience so far! I am looking forward to getting to know all my new students as a class and as individuals.

My focus for this year will be on strengthening our reading and writing practices along with preparing the grade nine students for success on their PAT exams. All students will have a Google Classroom code that I will be sharing with them. I will be posting the student workbook on Google Classroom for students to access from home. Please encourage the students to regularly check their school email and google classroom page for updates. I welcome your questions, concerns, and feedback. As parents, you are able to provide invaluable input on your child's learning experience; communication is the best way to establish that. The best way to reach me is by email. My email is: amana.butt@islamicacademy.ca. I anticipate us having a very successful and fun year, insha Allah.

Best,
Ms. Amana Butt

SOCIAL STUDIES

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to another great year at EIA! My name is Matthew Gwozd, but my students know me as Mr. G. I am excited to join EIA this year as the new Social Studies 9 teacher. While I am new to EIA, I am not new to teaching; this is my fifth year in education and my third time teaching Social Studies 9. I'm thrilled to join this community and to work with your son or daughter through an exciting year of learning about Canada's history and government.

In Social Studies 9, we will explore Canada's political and economic systems, as well as its role as a country in the world today. Students will investigate Canadian democracy, the structure and purpose of the Canadian government, the importance of rights in Canadian society, and other topics. Students will also consider their own responsibilities as Canadian citizens. Ultimately, through in-class learning and discussions, it is my sincerest hope that my students gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the country they call home.

Grade 9 is an important year of school, especially with the Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) at the end of the year and the transition to high school on the horizon. My goal is to help your child build the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the challenges ahead. I will provide them with the support and resources necessary to excel, but your partnership in this journey is also invaluable. I know we will all work hard to ensure the 2024-2025 school year is a highly successful one! Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year. Email is always the best way to reach me. I look forward to a wonderful year ahead with your son or daughter!

Sincerely,
Matthew Gwozd

MATH

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh Parents and Guardians,

My name is Khaled Hattum, and I am very pleased to be your child's Math teacher for this academic school year. I will teach both Math 10C and Math 9. After spending the past three years overseas, teaching in Qatar and Bahrain and living in Lebanon, I am excited to return to the Edmonton Islamic Academy for my fourth year.

I am eagerly looking forward to getting to know each student and helping them reach their full potential. I am thrilled to be working with your children and am committed to making learning meaningful for them. I am a strong advocate for a high-quality education embedded in Islamic values.

Once again, my family and I are grateful to be part of this wonderful community and the beautiful city of Edmonton. I hold high esteem for education and deeply value the importance of family. Inshallah, I will dedicate my best efforts to ensure your child enjoys a rich and fulfilling learning experience. I am committed to doing what is best for my students and will work to tap into each individual's potential and skill set. I am excited to embark on this journey with your child and to take on this trustworthy task.

Please join me on this journey. Your input is valuable, so if any questions or concerns arise, I encourage you to email me at khaled.hattum@islamicacademy.ca or set up a meeting with me after school.

Sincerely,
Khaled Hattum

SCIENCE

Assalamu Alaikum,

My name is Khalid Shaheen, and I am honored to introduce myself as your child's teacher for this academic year at Edmonton Islamic Academy. It feels particularly special for me to be teaching here, as I am also an alumnus of this school. I attended junior high and high school at EIA, so this institution holds a special place in my heart, and now Alhamdulillah I am thrilled to contribute to its community as an educator.

A bit about myself— I was born in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and later moved to Riyadh. My family and I relocated to Canada in 2015 when I was 12 years old, and since then, Edmonton has been home. I pursued my passion for science at the University of Alberta. I recently graduated in the summer of 2024 with a Bachelor of Secondary Education, majoring in Chemistry and minoring in Biology.

As I embark on this new journey as a teacher at EIA, I am eagerly looking forward to meeting and getting to know your children. My goal is to provide them with the highest quality of education in a nurturing and supportive environment that aligns with our Islamic values. I am committed to helping each student thrive academically while also fostering their personal growth and moral development.

Please feel free to reach out to me on my email: khalid.shaheen@islamicacademy.ca if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions throughout the year. I believe that a strong partnership between home and school is key to your child's success, and I look forward to working together to ensure a productive and fulfilling school year. Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of educating your children. I look forward to a wonderful year ahead!

Jazakum Allahu Khairan,

Khalid Shaheen

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 shanya.shwetz@islamicacademy.ca if you have any questions!

Sincerely,
Shanya Shwetz

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 9

TEACHER EMAILS



Math

khaled.hattum@islamicacademy.ca

English

amana.butt@islamicacademy.ca

Social

matthew.gwozd@islamicacademy.ca

Science

khalid.shaheen@islamicacademy.ca

Arabic Level 3

rabab.assaf@islamicacademy.ca

Arabic Level 4

rania.mohamed@islamicacademy.ca

reem.skeik@islamicacademy.ca

Arabic Level 5

raghda.abdelqader@islamicacademy.ca

Islamic and Quran

reem.skeik@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 **cvkvwje**

English **2ddjxvz**

Social

9A

9B

9C

9D

9E

Science **x4esomt**

Arabic Level 3 **skwojj2**

Arabic Level 4 (9A, 9B) **2tsvevw**

Arabic Level 4 (9C, 9D, 9E) **4c54xxo**

Arabic Level 5 **wfemhku**

Islamic/Quran **z33b3ds**



REMINDEE CODES



Math

hatt9math

English

missb9d

Social

social9mrg

Science

9shaheen

Arabic Level 4 (9A, 9B)

arabicl44

Arabic Level 4 (9C, 9D, 9E)

arabic9L4

Arabic Level 5

raghda5

Islamic and Quran

islamic9s