



## GRADE 8 | NEWSLETTER

### Welcome Letters

September 1 - 4, 2020

#### VICE PRINCIPAL

Bahja Mahmoud // [bahja.mahmoud@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:bahja.mahmoud@islamicacademy.ca)

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students, Assalamu Alaikum and welcome to the 2020/21 school year! My name is Bahja Mahmoud and I am honoured to continue to serve you in the Vice Principal role for the Secondary Department. I look forward to working with Mr. Abougouche, and all our staff to provide a positive and safe learning environment and advance the students' achievement. It is a great pleasure to work with highly qualified teachers who are dedicated to the success of every student. A little background about myself: I graduated from the University of Alberta in 2007 with a master degree in chemistry. I also obtained a bachelor degree in Secondary Education with a major in chemistry and a minor in mathematics from the same university. Last summer, I completed (Alhamdulillah) my master degree in education in leadership and administration. The students at the Academy are our future, and it takes all of us to be actively involved in their education. Your role as a parent is essential in helping your son/daughter meet, or even exceed, the expectations we have set for him/her. Please feel free to stop by and say hello. My door is always open. I can also be reached by email.

Sincerely yours,

Bahja Mahmoud

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Edmonton Islamic Academy

Vice Principal: Ms. Bahja Mahmoud [bahja.mahmoud@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:bahja.mahmoud@islamicacademy.ca)

Assistant Principal: Mr. Yahia Dalloul [yahia.dalloul@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:yahia.dalloul@islamicacademy.ca)

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL / ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

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

Asalam Aalikum Dear Parents and Guardians.

Welcome back Legends. My name is Yahia Dalloul (Mr.Dalloul) and I am incredibly excited to serve as your secondary assistant principal and athletic director for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

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'm entering my 11th year working in the education field, and this will be my 6th year at EIA. You probably already know that I am a huge football fan. Go Packers!

The beginning of this year is going to look a little bit different. However, I want to assure you that our leadership team and staff have been working hard to ensure a safe return to school for our students. The number one priority is the health and safety of our students, staff, and community, all while providing high quality education and islamic environment.

To ensure a safe re entry, I ask parents and guardians to read the re-entry plan and all the covid-19 protocol and procedures. We all need to work together to make this year a success for everyone at EIA Inshallah. I encourage you to help our students meet and exceed expectations we have set for them this year. I'm not going to lie, it's going to take time to adapt to the covid- 19 / EIA rules and expectations. However, I believe in our students and staff to do the best they can in adapting to the new normal. I along with our wonderful staff are here to support you during the changes taking place.

Please feel free to contact me if you have had any questions or concerns.

I pray and I hope that you all stay safe and I look forward to serving you and your children with honesty and sincerity.

Jazaka Allah Khairan,

## 8A HOMEROOM, SCIENCE 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D,

Asiya Munshi // [asiya.munshi@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:asiya.munshi@islamicacademy.ca)

Asalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu,  
Welcome back to the new school year!

My name is Asiya Munshi and I am excited to have the privilege of teaching grade 8 Science this year. Although this is my fourth year at EIA I have been in the education system for 10 years. I completed my undergraduate Honors degree in Neuroscience and Biology with Chemistry as a minor at the University of Toronto. I received my Bachelor is Education from the respected Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. I began my teaching career in British Columbia, later moving to Ontario and now settled in Alberta.

As we begin the new school year, I respect and appreciate the apprehension and uncertainty you may experience due to the changes and unknowns as result of COVID-19. I appreciate your faith in me as we face these new challenges in education together.

I take my responsibilities as a teacher very seriously. I will work to help your child achieve success, whether we are sharing a classroom or interacting through at-home learning. I strongly believe that, with the right tools, each and every child can excel and succeed. With our help and support we can provide an optimal learning experience for him/her this year.

The following are a few things I'd like you to consider:

- I will work hard to appreciate and encourage your child to embrace his/her uniqueness.
- I have high, very much achievable, expectations. In sha Allah he/she will end this year with greater confidence, self assurance and knowledge.
- Your child's well being and safety will always be a priority.
- In addition to achieving academic excellence, my goal is to help your child be better equipped to face life changes with compassion, kindness and leadership.

My hope is that we'll be able to spend many days together face to face in the classroom but I want you to know I am prepared to support every student in every way possible on the days we might be learning together from home. I am passionate about teaching, and can't wait to watch our students discover, develop and grow their passions. I look forward to collaborating with you as we pave the way to the best school year ever! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have through **Email:** [Asiya.munshi@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:Asiya.munshi@islamicacademy.ca).

With kindness, and gratitude,  
Asiya Munshi

Our **Remind** codes are as follows:

8A: scieia8a

8B: scieia8B

8C: eiasci8C

8D: eiasci8D

Our **Google Classroom** is as follows:

8A: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MTMxODY5NjI2MTk0?cjc=fev7dsw>

8B: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MTMxODcxNzQzMDk4?cjc=tptj5mm>

8C: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MTMxODcxNzQzMTA1?cjc=2pbjvzx>

8D: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MTMxODcxNzQzMTE3?cjc=jfphpet>

## 8B HOMEROOM, ARABIC 8B, ISLAMIC & HEALTH 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D

Sh. Bechir Hassen // [bechir.hassen@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:bechir.hassen@islamicacademy.ca)

Al- Salamu Alaykum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu

My name is Sheikh Bechir Hassen, and I am delighted to be teaching Islamic Studies, Arabic and Health for Grade 8 students this year. At these challenging times, my priority is the safety of **our children** and their academics' improvements, of course. I understand they have a lot of pressure already, and I will do my very best to make them as confirmable as possible. At the same time, they get the learning and care they deserve.

Alhamdulillah, I have degrees in multiple majors: I have a Master in Islamic Studies, A Bachelor of Education from Mauritania, and Another Bachelor of Education from Wyoming University in the USA. I also have An Alberta Teaching License. My TQS (Teacher Qualification Service) ranked me with 9.5 Years of University Education Alhamdulillah. More importantly, Allah had blessed me with the memorization of the Qur'an at an early age Alhamdulillah.

I have worked as an Imam in many Islamic Centers and Masjids, including Cold Lake Islamic Centre. Furthermore, I am honored to have delivered many Friday *Khutba* in almost all the Mosques in Edmonton. I worked as a teacher and a school principal for 14 years—five of which at the Edmonton Islamic Academy. Lastly, I have a good experience dealing with youth as I worked as a youth director and a mentor At Al Rashid Masjid.

This year Insha'Allah, I will try something new for Islamic Studies. Over the summer, I have selected some Islamic topics that I believe are entertaining and informing at the same time. Noticeably, I am reducing the amount of memorization for our children this year to decrease the pressure on them, and focusing on Islamic things they need for their daily lives. More details will be sent to you soon in the syllabus Insha'Allah. For safety reasons, I will try to put everything online for the students.

**Communication:** This is especially important this year as I want everyone to be safe and feel welcome. I will need your help to teach our children and keep them and everyone else safe. I will be using the **Remind App** for our daily Communication, **Google Classrooms** for assignments, resources, and **Email** for official and urgent matters. You can reach me at my email at any time, And I will get back to you within 48 hours, Insha'Allah.

**[bechir.hassen@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:bechir.hassen@islamicacademy.ca)**

Finally, thank you for trusting EIA with your child / children. Insha'Allah, they will "*achieve their maximum potential in an environment of intercultural and interfaith understanding and respect, and use their leadership skills and intellect for the betterment of humanity*"[1]

Jazakum Allah Khair,

Your Brother. Sheikh Bechir Hassen  
8 B. Homeroom Teacher

## 8C HOMEROOM, SOCIAL 8C, OPTION 8C, OPTION: FOOD STUDIES

Mohamed Dahrouge // [mohamed.dahrouge@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:mohamed.dahrouge@islamicacademy.ca)

As-Salamu Alaikum, Parents and Guardians,

In the name of Allah, the most Beneficent and Merciful, we will commence this 2020-2021 school year. Although I have had the pleasure of meeting most parents last year, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mohamed Dahrouge, and I will be the 8C homeroom teacher for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year. I will be teaching Social Studies in both grades 8 and 10, and will also be teaching all of the Foods classes during the first semester.

I graduated from MacEwan University with a Bachelor's degree in Commerce, majoring in Management in 2015 and spent the next two-plus years working in the non-profit sector with at-risk youth at what used to be known as the Youth Emergency Shelter, now known as Youth Empowerment Support Services. During this work period, I returned to school and ultimately graduated from the University of Alberta in 2019 with a Bachelor's degree in Education, majoring in Social Studies and minoring in the CTS cluster with a focus on Business, Finance, and Information Technology. I began my teaching career last year at the Edmonton Islamic Academy where I taught grades 7 and 8 Social Studies. Alongside teaching, I have also served as the basketball coach for the junior and senior girls' teams at the Junior High level.

As a student and athlete for the majority of my life, I believe that every student plays an integral role in the overall function of the classroom. Playing competitive hockey for several years allowed me to appreciate the concept of "all for one, and one for all", and I strive to implement this as an educator – not only for the students but for myself as well. I believe that putting students in the best positions to succeed is important to overall student growth and fulfillment. Incorporating numerous teaching strategies to meet a child's individual needs can be challenging, but every student has his or her own unique set of learning characteristics, and it's my job as an educator to make them as comfortable as possible in the classroom and to bring the best out of them. In my classroom, learning to work as a member of a group and applying concepts at a high level is something students can come to expect from my lessons. I will do everything I can to guide students and work with them as a teacher, not a director, and believe we can achieve amazing things together.

I encourage all parental involvement in your child's learning. If you're ever needing to contact me, please do not hesitate to leave a message at the school by calling 780-454-4573 or emailing me at [mohamed.dahrouge@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:mohamed.dahrouge@islamicacademy.ca) whenever you have concerns or questions regarding your child.

May Allah bless us in making this year successful, and may Allah bless us in working together to overcome this virus that has taken a toll on our society. I look forward to working together with you so that your child may grow as an overall human being in a nurturing Islamic environment.

Regards,

Mohamed Dahrouge

## 8A ARABIC

Sheikh Nazih Yafi // [nazih.yafi@islamicacademy.ca](mailto: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 joining the team at EIA and I ask Allah SWT to grant us a school year filled with success, sincerity, and many great learning opportunities.

As this is my first year at EIA, 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 four 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

- ❖ Remind: @c92kka6
- ❖ Google Classroom: cdgkd4r

## 8D HOMEROOM, ENGLISH 8A, 8B, 8C,8D, SOCIAL 8D

Elizabeth Hunter // [elizabeth.hunter@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:elizabeth.hunter@islamicacademy.ca)

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh parents and guardians of students in Grade 8,

My name is Elizabeth Hunter; I am blessed by Allah to be embarking on a learning journey in English Language Arts and Social Studies with your child this year. While this is a trying time for all of us, with the grace of Allah, and in collaboration with you, we will do our best to advance and facilitate your child's learning, all the while guiding them to remember to act in a safe and responsible manner as we traverse the strange new Covid 19 world.

Alhamdulillah, Allah granted me the amazing opportunity to become a certified teacher, teaching various grade levels, for more than 15 years; After spending six years at University, I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Lethbridge with Distinction (Honours) majoring in English Language Arts and Fine Arts as well as a minor in Social Studies with a Specialization in Special Education.

As an educator, I firmly believe that to be an active listener and a positive role model in a student's life is integral to their ultimate success. Through listening and being attentive, I can then understand where each student is coming from, what they already know, and where they want to go from here. It is in this way, that I can guide them to reach their goals, in shaa Allah. I have a tremendous opportunity, as a role model, to help shape my students values, their attitudes, and their belief in themselves. This sense of self is necessary to make them strong, confident learners.

The safety and success of our students and colleagues is of utmost importance to me and because of this I am striving to use technology in the classroom as much as possible this year. In shaa Allah. I will be utilizing **Google Classroom** for assignments, quizzes, and tests to reduce the amount of paper related contact as well as an ebook for our novel study unit. If your child does not currently have a free membership to the Edmonton Public Library, I encourage them to get one as I will be asking the students to download ebooks, of their choosing, on their devices from the Edmonton Public Library for independent reading in class each day. As technology will play an important role in keeping students safe this year, it is of utmost importance that your child come to school ready to learn with their device charged each day. In addition, I will be using the **Remind App** for our daily communication, and email for important and urgent matters. I will do my best to respond to any communication within 48 hours, in shaa Allah. I can be reached at [elizabeth.hunter@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:elizabeth.hunter@islamicacademy.ca)

By the grace of Allah, and through working together, we will all have a safe and exciting learning adventure this year.

Jazakum Allah Khair,

Your Sister, Elizabeth Hunter (8D Homeroom Teacher)

*“When a flower doesn't bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower.” Alexander Den Heije*

## 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D MATH

Hiba Azzam // [hiba.azzam@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:hiba.azzam@islamicacademy.ca)

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 2020/2021. 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 19 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 Grade 8A math class, enter the **Remind code** @eia8amath  
to join Grade 8B math class, enter the **Remind code** @eia8bmath  
to join Grade 8C math class, enter the **Remind code** @eia8cmath  
to join Grade 8D math class, enter the **Remind code** @eia8dmath

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 that corresponds with your classroom**

8A: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MTMxMTk1NjY3Nzk5?cjc=k2nie24>

8B: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MTUyMjA2NzU2Mjgxc?cjc=5lpicgo>

8C: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MTUyMjE2MjU4MDg0?cjc=ltcapeh>

8D: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MTUyMjE2MjU4MTIy?cjc=oh73ilz>

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](mailto:hiba.azzam@islamicacademy.ca)  
Thank you for your time, involvement, and support

Respectfully,

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

## 8A, 8B, SOCIAL

Safa Abida // [safa.abida@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:safa.abida@islamicacademy.ca)

As-Salamu Alaikum,

Dear parents and guardians. My name is Safa Abida, I will be teaching grade 8 Social Studies this academic year. In June 2018, I graduated from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Arts in both Psychology and French. This year I successfully completed a Bachelor of Education from the University of Calgary. I am very excited to begin my teaching career at the Edmonton Islamic Academy.

While I was a student at the University of Calgary I had the chance to work as a teacher assistant in both the French and Business department. I have work experience in summer camps such as Mini-University and the City of Calgary. In the fall of 2019, I took a leap of faith and travelled to Spain to teach english through a program called Teaching Across Borders (TAB). This experience allowed me to broaden my global understanding and discover new perspectives.

I believe that the foundation to an effective teaching practice is fostering positive relationships with my students. Creating a positive and welcoming learning environment where students feel comfortable

being their authentic selves is critical as it encourages them to develop a growth mindset. I believe it is important to tailor lessons to students interests, when lessons are student-centered and tasks are inquiry based students feel empowered, in turn they are more engaged and motivated to learn. I look forward to getting your children excited about social studies.

I will be sending reminders about homework, quizzes, and exams through Remind regularly. I encourage all parents to sign up. I will also be uploading all class materials to Google Classroom. Please, do not hesitate to reach out to me through email ([safa.abida@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:safa.abida@islamicacademy.ca)) or by calling the school (780) 454-4573 if you have any questions. The codes to sign up for Remind and Google Classroom will be found in the syllabus. I am looking forward to a new and exciting year.

**Google Classroom:** 8A: qfgmbew 8B: d7aqhvo

**Remind code:** @k89hh72

Kind regards,

Safa Abida

## 8A, 8C, 8D ARABIC

Dina Saleh // [dina.saleh@islamicacadem](mailto:dina.saleh@islamicacadem)

It is with great pleasure to welcome you to a new year here at EIA. I am Dina Saleh, the grade eight(A,C,D) Arabic Studies teacher. I was born and raised in Ontario, then moved to Jordan where I received my Bachelor degree from the Jordan University of Science and Technology. I have 4 years of teaching experience in Jordan, and 8 years in EIA. I feel very fortunate to be part of the EIA family, where I feel a sense of belonging! I have a passion for teaching, and my main focus is students' interaction in the classroom and their wellbeing. Establishing a good relation that is based on mutual respect is key for students' growth and love for any subject. I look forward to working with you and your child. I have an open door policy if you need to communicate with me when I am not teaching. I can also be reached through e-mail and remind. Safety of my students will be a priority this year, and for students who have chosen to stay home; you are still part of this family and I will be available to support you anytime you need me.

For remind communication please enter this code : **@arabicgr8**

For google classroom I made 3 different sections, please join based on your class :

**8A: yw36kty**

**8C: jwaprpm**

**8D: 6p26pbk**

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION GIRLS

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

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION BOYS

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

Salaam alaikum,

My name is Billal Hajji. I will be returning this year as the Boys Secondary Physical Education teacher. 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, multiple guidelines have been set to make sure that the students can practice physical activities while minimizing the risk of transmission of infection. 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 body. 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](mailto:billal.hajji@islamicacademy.ca)

- Remind Code: @
- Google Classroom:

Sincerely,

Billal Hajji

# COVID-19 Protocols

## General Rules:

- Masks are REQUIRED at all times!
- If experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms, stay home!
- After returning from international travel, self isolate for 14 days

## Entrance:

- You can only use the two entrances that lead to the high school staircases.

## Morning:

- Girls: Go to lounge area for morning Duaa'
- Boys: Go to the empty space next to Mr. Akeileh's classroom (Room 277) for morning Duaa'
- No Lockers
- In-Class:
- Hand sanitizer is a must upon entering any class
- Students will be assigned a desk
- Wipe desk clean at the start of each block
- Students CAN NOT share any material or food with each other!

## Lunch:

- Girls: Go to lounge area
- Boys: Go to the empty space next to Mr. Akeileh's classroom (Room 277)
- You may go out for lunch
- The cafeteria is closed
- No student is allowed to roam the school, you need to remain in the designated areas

## Prayer:

- Girls: Pray in the lounge area
- Boys: Pray in the empty space next to Mr. Akeileh's classroom (Room 277)
- Bring a prayer mat with you

## Washroom:

- Make wudu during lunch time
- No more than 3 persons in the washroom at one time
- Teachers can only send 1 student at a time to the washroom during class

## Failing to follow the mentioned safety rules will result in the following:

**1.First offence: A warning letter**

**2.Second offence: 3 day suspension**

**3.Third offence: You will be home schooled for the remainder of the semester**