

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

BACK TO SCHOOL

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

GRADE 8 | NEWSLETTER

WELCOME LETTERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNIFORM POLICY

Junior High Girls:

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

Junior High Boys:

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

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

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL / JUNIOR HIGH

Amanah Eljaji // amanah.eljaji@islamicacademy.ca

Assalamu Alaikum,

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

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

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

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

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

Jazakallah Khairun for entrusting EIA and myself with the education and well-being of your child. I am excited about the journey ahead and the opportunity to work together to create a positive and enriching educational experience for your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you would like to share at amanah.eljaji@islamicacademy.ca 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 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E

Imran Qureshi // imran.qureshi@islamicacademy.ca

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 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.qureshi@islamicacademy.ca); you're always welcome to arrange a meeting; or schedule a phone call.

Sincerely,

Your brother in Islam,
Imran Qureshi

QURAN STUDIES

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

Assalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Sheikh Nazih Yafi

RESOURCES:

- ★ Remind code: @quran-8
- ★ Google Classroom code: cq3dunv

ARABIC STUDIES

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

Assalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Sheikh Nazih Yafi

RESOURCES:

- ★ Remind code: @eia4
- ★ Google Classroom code: ktyd3gs

ARABIC STUDIES

Raghda Abdelqader // raghda.abdelqader@islamicacademy.ca

Dear parents,

Assalamu 'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Raghda Abdelqader

RESOURCES:

- ★ Remind code: raghda789
- ★ Google Classroom Code: ihmt4au

ARABIC STUDIES

Abir Salla // abir.salla@islamicacademy.ca

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Abir Salla

RESOURCES:

- ★ Remind code: **lv12abir**
- ★ Google classroom code: **xmfc2zc**

ARABIC STUDIES

Karine Kheireddine // karine.kheireddine@islamicacademy.ca

Dear Parents, Guardians and Respected Students,

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

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

Moreover, I'm a firm believer in keeping an open line of communication between home and school. After all, we have a very unique interest in common, which is your child! You are my eyes and ears at home. Saying this, if you notice your child struggling please encourage them to ask any question either during or after class. As for you my beloved students, you are the spring of knowledge, learning and the hope of an entire generation. You are the builders of the future, so build very well! Likewise, always remember that having access to a good education changes lives; it means dreams and hopes... being fulfilled!

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

Sincerely,
Karine Kheireddine

ENGLISH 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E

Hoda Tarrabain // hoda.tarrabain@islamicacademy.ca

Assalamu Alaikum Parents, Guardians, and Fabulous EIA students;

I'd like to take a minute to introduce myself, even though I am honored to say that I already know many of you. My name is Hoda Assaf Tarrabain (Ms.T) and I will be, for the second 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 love for learning, literature, and languages.

Upon completion of my University 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. As I find out your child's preferred learning style, I will use it in my lesson planning to set them up for success In Sha Allah.

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 as we learn and interact with one another. I encourage all students, and parents to widen their circle, get to know someone from a different ethnic background, someone that lived in a different part of the world, spoke a different language, and ate different foods. Another extremely powerful way to broaden our scope of knowledge in regards to different ways of being, is to read more. In Sha Allah

this will be one of my goals this year – to try to get my students, your kids, to read more.

Inshallah, together, we will raise an empathetic, respectful, and open minded generation that does everything for the sake of Allah SWT. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email @ hoda.tarrabain@islamicacademy.ca or by phoning EIA @ 780- 454 - 4573.

Warm Regards,
Hoda A. Tarrabain, B.Ed

SOCIAL STUDIES 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E

Kassia Zahoui // kassia.zahoui@islamicacademy.ca

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 seventh 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, Social Studies 10-1, and High School Options, 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 alumna 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 (see code below) or via Email.

Insha'Allah a safe and successful school year ahead!

Jazakum Allahu Khairan,
Miss. Kassia Zahoui

RESOURCES:

- ★ Google Classroom Code: [mrio3w2](#)
- ★ Remind: @ [ss8zahoui](#)

MATH 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E

Hiba Azzam // 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 2023/2024. 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 Remind App, to join the class please enter the code that corresponds with your classroom.

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 posted for the course. To join Google classroom please click on the link: Grade 8 (A, B, C, D, E): [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.

RESOURCES:

- ★ Grade 8A: enter the Remind code @eia8amath
- ★ Grade 8B: enter the Remind code @eia8bmath
- ★ Grade 8C: enter the Remind code @eia8cmath
- ★ Grade 8D: enter the Remind code @eia8dmath
- ★ Grade 8E:enter the Remind code @eia8emath

SCIENCE 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E / GRADE 8 OPTIONS - SPORT HISTORY

Majd Haymour // majd.haymour@islamicacademy.ca

Assalamu Alaikum,

Hello and welcome everyone to the EIA, my name is Majd Haymour and I will be your child's grade 8 science teacher for the 2023-2024 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 recent graduate and first year teacher, I am very excited to be teaching here at EIA where I hope my enthusiasm and passion for science and curiosity will transfer over to the 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 (Remind will also be used).

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 (majd.haymour@islamicacademy.ca).

Sincerely,
Majd Haymour

RESOURCES:

- ★ Remind: @haysci8
- ★ Google classroom: i77u262

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (GIRLS)

Shanya Shwetz <shanya.shwetz@islamicacademy.ca>

Hello and welcome back!

This is my fourth year teaching at EIA and I couldn't be more excited to be back in the classroom and starting the new year. Following High School I was lucky enough to receive a full ride scholarship to play Varsity Women's Hockey where I obtained my Bachelor of Science Degree at MacEwan University. Realizing I had a passion for coaching and teaching I returned to the classroom where I received a two year After Degree in Education. Throughout my academic journey I have been honored to explore many opportunities that athletics has allowed me to have. Currently I am a coach with the Provincial U18 Team Alberta Female team.

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

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (BOYS)

Billal Hajji // billal.hajji@islamicacademy.ca

Salaam alaikum,

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

RESOURCES:

- ★ Remind Code: @eiape8
- ★ Google Classroom: bnhknso

HEALTH 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E

GRADE 8 OPTIONS - FILM

Yahia Dalloul // yahia.dalloul@islamicacademy.ca

Assalamu Aalikum Dear Parents and Guardians,

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

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

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

Respectfully,
Yahia Dalloul

GRADE 8 OPTIONS - FOODS

Shanya Shwetz // shanya.shwetz@islamicacademy.ca

Hello and welcome back! This is my fourth year teaching at EIA and I couldn't be more excited to be back in the classroom and starting the new year. Following High School I was lucky enough to receive a full ride scholarship to play Varsity Women's Hockey where I obtained my Bachelor of Science Degree at MacEwan University. Realizing I had a passion for coaching and teaching I returned to the classroom where I received a two year After Degree in Education. Throughout my academic journey I have been honoured to explore many opportunities that athletics has allowed me to have. Currently I am a coach with the Provincial U18 Team Alberta Female team that will compete at Hockey Canada's Nationals mid November. I am also a coach with the U18 Elite Female Hockey team here in Edmonton that helps Elite female student athletes find athletic scholarships across North America.

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!

GRADE 8 OPTIONS - DRAMA

Nadine Kassab // nadine.kassab@islamicacademy.ca

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh Parents and Guardians,

It is with great honor that I introduce myself as the Social Studies and Drama educator of the Edmonton Islamic Academy for the 2023-2024 school year. My name is Nadine Kassab. I graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education. However, I do not plan to stop there! I will continue my education journey by attaining my Master's Degree in Education while specializing in school counseling. My ultimate career goal is to be an assistant principal, or school counsellor, therefore I can assist and guide students through their academic journey. In addition to my Education background I have spent time as a Resilience Family Support worker with Alta Care Resources where I assessed and facilitated families into creating goals and strategies to reproduce balance back in their homes. I have gained much experience in building relationships, observing the needs of youth in their education, and attaining knowledge on youth psychology. I was born and raised in Edmonton, completed my introductory field experience at Killarney Junior High School and my advanced field experience at Archbishop O'Leary High School. As a youth I have attained multiple EMAAN awards for my academic achievement in honors and several Merit and Service awards for leadership work I have executed in prior schools and communities. I come from a background with much involvement in youth education and at a young age is when I began to recognize my career path as an educator, for I was heavily involved in tutoring, study buddy, and leadership programs. I find pleasure in volunteering my time to fundraisers such as the Islamic Family and Social Services Associate, Stollery Hospital, and Edmonton Humane Society. Also, I enjoy going to the theater to watch plays, or musicals and I like to spend time reading!

I have a large passion for teaching and believe in embracing the roots of each individual student under my tuition and use this to students' advantage by producing an inclusive classroom through building upon their identities, proficiencies, interests, and understandings. As a result, my prospect is to help students engage, retain, and connect with educational material to become striving intellectuals in their society. I plan to create a classroom environment where your child will feel safe, respected, and know that the teacher is there to help them to achieve success. I aim to do that by building relationships with the youth and creating connections between their interest and curriculum material. I am very excited and eager to teach your children for the remainder of the year!

I highly believe in collaborative work with colleagues and members of the community such as parents. I invite you to contact me anytime you have any questions by calling the school at 780-454-4573, or email.

GRADE 8 OPTIONS - ART

Christelle Agahozo // christelle.agahozo@islamicacademy.ca

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

First, I wanted to welcome everyone to another exciting school year! Inshallah, it will be one filled with incredible growth, development and academic success. My name is Christelle Agahozo and this is my second year teaching Junior High and High School art! If last year has taught me anything, there is no limit to what our students imagine and create in our classroom. Right after secondary school, I decided to follow my passion and enroll at Emily Carr University of Art and Design. It is there that I received my Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2015. Though I eventually focused on painting, I was lucky enough to explore so many different mediums while at Emily Carr such as photography, ceramics, sculpture and printmaking. It was a wonderful four years that pushed me to grow as an artist and educator.

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

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

GRADE 8 OPTIONS - STEAM

Isaiah Ling // isaiah.ling@islamicacademy.ca

Assalamu Alaikum, Parents, Guardians, and Students,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Isaiah Ling