

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 9 | 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 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E

Fatima Bensassi // fatima.binsassi@islamicacademy.ca

Dear Parents and Guardians: Assalamo alaikom wa rahmato Allah

Welcome back to EIA. I am pleased to be joining your children on their days throughout this year of 2023-2024 in sha Allah. I would like to take this opportunity and introduce myself.

My name is Fatima Bensassi, I will be teaching Islamic studies to grade 9 students. I graduated from Al-Qarawieen University in Morocco with a Bachelor degree in Islamic Studies and law with a major in Tafeseer. I have over 19 years of teaching experience in this field, 6 years in Saudi Arabia and 13 years here in Edmonton.

My objectives during this academic year, insha-Allah, are to enrich students' assets in Islamic knowledge and culture. The focus will be on building and strengthening the relationship with Allah(swt) and the holy book of Quran, and to demonstrate a deep understanding of the Pillars of faith-Iman and its relevance to contemporary life. In addition, to learning how to lead a pure lifestyle according to the Quran and sunnah teaching methods. In Sha Allah, I will do my best to let each student enjoy the class and get the essential Islamic knowledge and education that will help him/her and enlighten their path through their journey of life. I believe that in the profession of teaching, every day is a challenge to be a role model of what we want our students to look up to. I am very enthusiastic and passionate to be with your children, and look up to working with them and maintaining a positive learning environment in our school every day. I have very high expectations of myself as a teacher as well as of my students. My aims for this year are to be productive, memorable, and enjoyable for all of us in sha Allah.

I believe that communication between teachers, students, and parents plays an essential role in the success and for

achieving our goals. I look forward to meeting you and communicating with you in order to help our students to reach their goals in sha-Allah. Please don't hesitate to contact me by calling the school at 780-454-4573 or using my Email above. I ask Allah (swt) to help us in making this year successful for all of us.

Sincerely,
Fatima Bensassi

RESOURCES:

- ★ Google Classroom Codes:
 - 9A: v5rcb7a
 - 9B: 6cewqwj
 - 9C: cvkffin
 - 9D: o53tigx
 - 9E: 43fk57j
- ★ Remind Code: gr9islam

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: lvl2abir
- ★ 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

MATH 9D, 9E

Mostafa Mahfouz // mostafa.mahfouz@islamicacademy.ca

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

May the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be with you

Dear Parents and Students,

My name is Mostafa Mahfouz, and It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to EIA for another incredible year. Inshallah this will be a wonderful year full of learning and growth and my hope is that you will be amazed as you watch your child bloom as a muslim, reader, writer, mathematician, scientist, thinker, and so much more!

I graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor Degree in Science with specialization in Geophysics as well as an After Degree in Secondary Education from the same university. I have a strong passion for Mathematics and Science and a continuously growing curiosity for the STEM fields. Complementing my education, I also bring years of engineering and geophysics work experience to the classroom, which will allow me to effectively implement real-world applicable examples to the students. I'm extremely excited to be working with the future generation of students that will change the world.

This year may prove to be a challenging year for your children with the implementation of a condensed semester curriculum, however, I will do my absolute best to make the classes more engaging as well as interesting, so that each child understands as well as enjoys them and the focus is set on fostering their strengths and curiosities. Moreover, I do not just want to stick to academics but rather, I am planning activities to develop the creative skills and interests of the students. I hope to make this academic year, an educational as well as a fun-filled year for the students.

I look forward to meeting and working with you and your child this year and I'm excited by the anticipation of the countless milestones we will reach as a class and those your child will reach as an individual.

If at any point during the year you would like to meet with me to discuss your child's performance or any other problems that they are facing in class, please feel free to set up a meeting via email (mostafa.mahfouz@islamicacademy.ca) or phone (780 - 454 - 4573 ext. 075).

Jazāk Allāhu Khayran

May Allah reward you goodness

RESOURCES:

- ★ MathLinks 9 Textbook
- ★ Remind Code: @mahfouz9
- ★ Google Classroom Code: zhhbsb4
- ★ <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-beginalgebra/>
- ★ <https://ca.ixl.com/math/grade-9>

ENGLISH 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E

Amana Butt // amana.butt@islamicacademy.ca

Welcome back students and parents!

I hope that everyone had an amazing summer. My name is Amana Butt and I am very excited to be starting my sixth 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 fourth 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 favourite 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. I will be posting all materials reviewed in class and assignments on Google Classroom for students to access from home. Each class section/homeroom will have their own Google Classroom code that I will be sharing with them. 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 school year, insha Allah.

Jazakum Allahu Khairan.

RESOURCES:

★ Google Classroom Codes:

- 9A: ahjgolr
- 9B: jojhavs
- 9C: rkxx4ve
- 9D: qjd53vf
- 9E: u7bxcy

★ Remind: msb9d (Reminders only! My preferred method of communication is email.)

SOCIAL 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E

Summaya Aden // summaya.aden@islamicacademy.ca

Asalama Alaikum Dear Parents, Students, and Guardians,

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer! My name is Summaya Aden, and I am excited to be returning to the Edmonton Islamic Academy, this time as your Grade 9 Social Studies teacher. As an alumna of this esteemed institution, I am deeply committed to infusing our curriculum with the values and teachings of Islam, which are particularly relevant as we explore the fascinating world of government and its branches.

This marks my inaugural year as a teacher, and I am eager to embark on this journey of discovery with your child. My recent graduation equips me with fresh insights into the Academy's culture and values, which I will seamlessly integrate into my teaching approach. While I specialize in both Social Studies and English, our primary focus this year will be on the Alberta Grade 9 Social Studies curriculum, which centers on government structures and the branches of government. This topic not only equips students with essential civic knowledge but also offers an excellent opportunity to connect our studies to Islamic values, emphasizing principles such as justice, accountability, and community engagement. Throughout the school year, we will explore various aspects of government, citizenship, and the role of individuals in shaping our society. I believe that by connecting our studies to Islamic values, we can provide a deeper understanding of the world and empower our students to become responsible, informed citizens.

To facilitate our learning journey and ensure effective communication, I will be using Google Classroom. Each class section/homeroom will have its unique Google Classroom code, which I will share with the students and can be found down below. I encourage active participation and engagement with this platform. As we embark on this educational adventure together, I look forward to getting to know your child as a unique individual and guiding them towards a successful and fulfilling school year, insha Allah. Open communication is essential, and I am readily available to address any questions, concerns, or feedback. Please feel free to contact me via email at summaya.aden@islamicacademy.ca.

Thank you for entrusting your child's education to us. I am enthusiastic about a year of growth, understanding, and success, all within the context of the teachings of Islam.

Jazakum Allahu Khairan

RESOURCES:

★ Google Classroom Codes:

- 9A: qhng4af
- 9B: ludhajz
- 9C: ukizser
- 9D: t7yuu4j
- 9E: iorkrk5

★ Remind: soceia

SCIENCE 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E

Maleeha Sarmad // maleeha.sarmad@islamicacademy.ca

Bismillah: Asalamoalaykum warahmatullah Dear Parents/Guardians and Beloved Students,

Introduction: A warm welcome to the new academic year 2023-2024. My name is Maleeha Sarmad and I feel excited to welcome you all to another year at the EIA as a secondary science teacher. This is my second year at EIA and I have also had the pleasure of living for over a decade in Calgary where I have taught both at Junior High and High School levels. I have also had the immense pleasure of providing intervention to students with learning disabilities which is why my practice involves a student-centered approach. I have graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Cellular, Molecular and Microbial Biology with a specialization in Microbiology from University of Calgary. After a few years, I decided to pursue a Bachelor of Education with my specialization in Secondary Science from University of Calgary as well. My philosophy of education revolves around inspiring the child's soul with the Quranic/Prophetic wisdom on a daily basis, inculcating beautiful manners in them, all-the-while sparking a sense of wonder in His Creations through scientific tools in order for education to become a life-long pursuit.

Goals: The goal for grade 9 Science is to coach students to achieve high academic standards. For this, consistent effort would be needed from the students and from the parents/guardians as we work together in alliance because it is our 'attitude that determines our altitude'. Attributing my success to Allah SWT here but with achieving academic scholarships several times in my education, my expectations for all of my students are very high and I can't wait to meet your child to make 2023-2024 *their* year inshaa'Allah.

Communication: I believe in working in collaboration with the parents to facilitate a productive year, so should you have any questions and concerns, the best way to reach me is through email. Please expect a 48-hour turnaround when it comes to emails after-school hours. Google classroom is for digital copies of study materials. Remind is for courtesy reminders of important dates only.

How can you help as a parent/guardian? I would encourage parents/guardians and students to read through some very important information in the course outline (shared on the first day of school inshaa'Allah). Kindly have the last page signed for your child to bring in the next day. Additionally, please ask your child to daily review the materials and complete all their work as well as come to class prepared with their supplies, starting from week 1.

May Allah (swt) make our task as educators and nurturers easy and beautiful. Ameen.

Always holding onto high hopes in Allah swt:

Warmly,

Maleeha Sarmad

RESOURCES:

★ Remind Code: @mssci9

★ Google Classroom: 26j3tj6

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@islamicacaemy.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 via email.

Sincerely,
Billal Hajji

RESOURCES:

- ★ Remind Code: @eiape9
- ★ Google Classroom: e4gtzjq

HEALTH 9C

Maleeha Sarmad // maleeha.sarmad@islamicacademy.ca

Bismillah: Asalamoalaykum warahmatullah Dear Parents/Guardians and Beloved Students,

A warm welcome to the new academic year 2023-2024. My name is Maleeha Sarmad and I feel excited to welcome you all to another year at the EIA as a secondary health teacher. This is my second year at EIA and I have also had the pleasure of living for over a decade in Calgary where I have taught both at Junior High and High School levels. I have also had the immense pleasure of working with students to develop a positive outlook on life and supporting a lifestyle of a healthy perspective on mental well-being. My philosophy of education revolves around inspiring the child's soul with the Quranic/Prophetic wisdom on a daily basis, inculcating beautiful manners in them, all-the-while teaching life skills which makes one a productive human being and inshaa'Allah a Muslim.

I believe in working in collaboration with the parents to facilitate a productive year, so should you have any questions and concerns, the best way to reach me is through email. Please expect a 48-hour turnaround when it comes to emails after-school hours. Google classroom is for digital copies of study materials. Remind is for courtesy reminders of important dates only.

May Allah *swt* make our task as educators and nurturers easy and beautiful. Ameen.

Always holding onto high hopes in Allah *swt*:
Warmly,
Maleeha Sarmad

RESOURCES:

- ★ Remind Code: @mshealth9
- ★ Google Classroom: oegdc6

HEALTH 9B, 9E

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 health teacher this year. It is an honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to be teaching 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 and great training, and attended various workshops for class management and teaching methods. I worked with Mrs. Haymour for 4 years. It was a great experience working with her. I 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 health and Islamic for grade 7's and 8's last year as I was a substitute teacher. It was a lovely experience.

I believe that cooperating between the teacher, parents and students is the key for a better and successful learning environment. My goal is that all students enjoy the journey of learning. Insha'Allah that will be concurred together. Insha'Allah together we will work on helping these children set their goals and reach their dreams. Success isn't just measured by how much our children learn or memorize, but also by the love and hope they find along their path. 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.

I will be using Google Classroom for digital material and reminders for any upcoming assignments and reminders.

Sincerely,
Abir Salla

GRADE 9 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 9 OPTIONS - BOARD GAMES

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 will begin developing their leadership skills and inshallah play a primary role in their learning process. I strongly encourage discussions and teamwork to be able to explore the different facets 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

GRADE 9 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 9 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 counselor, 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 at Nadine.kassab@islamicacademy.ca

GRADE 9 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 9 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