



Iman Academy Southeast

Educator & Instructor Roster 2016 - 2017

ELEMENTARY STAFF

LEENA YOUNIS

1st Grade Homeroom

Sr. Leena is married and the mother of three beautiful children. She earned her teaching degree in Kuwait and began working as an educator in the US. She taught at several schools and finally joined the Iman Academy SE team over ten years ago. She has been teaching first grade at Iman Academy for eight years. Sr. Leena keeps up to date with workshops, which develop her teaching techniques. She only has one thing to say about teaching first grade; "I love it!"

MARWA HELMY

1st Grade Homeroom

Marwa Helmy recently moved to Houston from New Jersey, but she is no foreigner to teaching at Islamic Institutions as she has worked at them since the beginning of her teaching career! She has taught kindergarten through 4th grade at Islamic schools and is certified for K-5th in the state of New Jersey. Sr. Marwa received her B.A. from St. Peter's College in New Jersey and is currently pursuing her Master's from Kean University. Sr. Marwa aims to keep the classroom warm and genial in order to keep the environment friendly and elicit the most from students' potential.

Where many people struggle in fluency and the understanding of English, especially as foreign speakers, Sr. Marwa is there to aid and help them learn as she carries years of experience and certification for doing so.

MELODY (DANYA) ALKUTEIFANI

2nd Grade Homeroom

Sr. Danya is the mother of seven children. She was born and raised in California and moved to Texas about 20 years ago. She home schooled 4 of her children and then became involved with the Islamic schools here in Houston. She has worked as a Kindergarten teacher, 2nd grade teacher, 4th grade teacher, Daycare Director and Assistant Principal. Sr. Danya has a Directors Childcare License and has earned her Child Development Degree.

Working with children from all over the world has been a blessing to her. Danya is known to say, "Teachers touch a heart forever." She believes that, "You never know how much you've really influenced a child until you run into them years later and they remember so much of your class and wish they could come back to your class again!"

REHANA SITHY

2nd Grade Homeroom

Sr. Rehana joins the Iman Academy family all the way from Canada. Born to a Sri Lanka family, Rehana grew up in Canada and received her Bachelor's Degree in Education and History from New York University. She received her Teaching License from the Ontario College of Teachers and has spent time in public and private school classrooms from elementary through high school. She is passionate about teaching and working with children of all ages. Even while she was at the university, she facilitated special programs for the youth at Royal Ontario Museum in Canada. She believes that it is important to consistently reflect, and refer back to our guiding light the Quran and Hadith in all aspects of the curriculum. She is married and has a son.

DEBRA ARANGUA

3rd Grade Homeroom

Sr. Debra is a mother of three and was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. She is currently completing her certification in General Education: Grade Levels Early Childhood - 5th. She has been with Iman Academy since 1999 and has taught K-3rd grades. She believes deeply that education is a journey and not a race. She believes in letting the children develop at their own pace as she supports and guides them to achieve their personal best.

Sr. Debra believes that “children should be able to come to a school where they will feel secure, knowing they have support and understanding throughout their academic years.” Sr. Debra wants to be able to nurture and help develop hidden talents within her students and to be a part of the development of each great mind!

MANAL ABU SHABAN

3rd Grade Homeroom

Sr. Manal is a Palestinian from a Gazan family, and she was born and raised in Ohio. She comes from a strong Islamic and cultural background that helps her raise and nurture her four beautiful children. She tries to implement what her parents, school, and the masjid taught her in her day-to-day life and desires to enrich her children’s lives so they will learn to recognize the value of Islam and their heritage.

Sr. Manal attended the University of Toledo in Ohio and Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She studied sociology and science education with the intent to teach third and fourth grade. She has had the great privilege of working at Iman Academy for the past several years as a 3rd grade Homeroom teacher. She is constantly learning from her colleagues as well as the students themselves. She has also assisted during Arabic classes, which has developed her skills in Arabic instruction.

ROXANA KHAN

4th Grade Homeroom

Ms. Khan, is fondly remembered by students and administrators alike, as she joined Iman Academy the first year that it was established. As an instructor she worked relentlessly to improve student performance and scores on standardized tests (Iowa/TAKS). Results from them testify her hard work. With over twenty years of teaching experience, Ms. Khan firmly believes that teaching is like a driver's license. One has to renew it to keep pace with time.

Armed with two Master's degrees (UHCL & Chittagong University, Bangladesh), and Texas Teachers Certificate in Social Studies Composite from UHCL, she can tackle any challenge in any classroom and has a passion for teaching. She holds the firm belief that every child is unique and a teacher needs to do some detective work to bring out the untapped wealth that each child possesses. A strong enforcer of discipline, she creates a classroom environment where students feel secure, confident and enthusiastic in the learning process.

REEM AKON

4th Grade Homeroom

Sr. Reem is joining the Iman Academy team this year as a fourth grade homeroom teacher. She received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Houston and is currently pursuing Teacher Certification through Texas Teachers.

She believes that teaching in Islamic Schools is one of the best ways to impact the lives of children and make a positive contribution to the future of the Muslim Community. She also believes that character education and academic education go hand-in-hand and loves finding creative ways to infuse Islamic values into all aspects of the curriculum.

Sr. Reem is married and has two beautiful daughters. She loves spending her time outside of school with her family and looks forward to living life's adventures with them.

HALA SAADEH

5th Grade Homeroom

Sr. Hala earned her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She has successfully completed her Master's in Educational Leadership. She utilizes her knowledge and skill set in Mathematics and Language Arts to prepare many students for the SAT, TAKS, and other standardized exams. She has completed many of the requirements to complete her EC-6 Core Certification, and is set to be fully certified by year end!

As a child, she was not afforded the opportunity to attend Islamic Schools. Now, as an adult and a mother of three, she is adamant that her children attend Islamic Schools that are at par with the education provided at other top schools. She is passionate about ensuring that she does everything she can to have her students excel in all subjects, and, most importantly, find the inner 'spark' that increases their self-confidence.

HALEEMA GOENSE

Master Teacher

6th Grade Homeroom

Helena (Haleema) Goense was born and raised in Ontario, Canada where she completed her diploma in Law and Security Administration.

Afterwards she decided she wanted to learn French so she moved to Quebec City and while attending Laval University and becoming immersed into Quebecois culture she received her BA in Teaching French as a Second language. After re-verting to Islam she moved to Houston, Texas and became the first Principal of Dar Ul Arqam SE School afterwards she joined Iman Academy SE when it opened in 1996. Since that time she has received her Master's degree from the University of Houston Clearlake and her middle school teaching certification and has been working in the area of administration and curriculum on both campuses.

This year however she has decided to return to the classroom and complete her doctorate in Education Leadership with a concentration on curriculum and instruction at the University of Houston Clearlake. Many of our Iman Academy alumni have shared their memorable experiences as students in Ms. Haleema's class and even after 15 plus years they still remember her stories and her lessons.

ZEINAB AHMED

6th Grade Teacher

Zeinab Ahmed is from Somalia and lived in Cairo, Egypt in her earlier years. She graduated from the University of Missouri, Kansas City with Bachelor of Science in Economics. After working as an assistant teacher for several years in Kansas City School District, Sr. Zeinab fell in love with teaching. This led her to attain a degree in Elementary Education from Graceland University in Kansas City.

Sr. Zeinab has experience in teaching basic Islamic studies to various age groups ranging from 6-11 year olds at Masjid Al-Huda in Kansas City. She is married and a mother of two beautiful children and has relocated to the Houston area from Kansas City. In her free time, Zeinab enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, cooking and trying new restaurants.

ENGLISH, HISTORY & HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

HUMA RASHID

Middle/High School History

Huma Rashid has done most of her education in California. She is a graduate of California State. Huma is married and has three kids. She is a Texas Certified teacher and is currently pursuing additional certification in Social Studies for grade 7th thru 12th. Her philosophy is that every child is unique and need stimulating environment to grow and mature not only physically but emotionally and socially. Huma believes in order to provide such an environment, a teacher needs to play the role of a guide, allow children's curiosity to direct their learning, and promote respect for everything and everyone.

CHANDLER BARTON

Middle/High School Language Arts

Chandler Barton is the English teacher at Iman Academy Southeast. He has been teaching for three years, and his experience ranges through all areas of education including private, public, and non-profit. He earned his first degree in Music through a scholarship at the Monte Blue School of Music at San Jacinto College before attending the University of Houston Clear-Lake, earning his degree in English Literature. His most recent experience was working for Clear Creek High School as a sophomore English teacher and for the Multicultural Education through the Arts non-profit program in Houston as a Music teacher.

Chandler is currently pursuing a second degree in Islamic Studies and plans to earn his doctorate in World Literature and Languages. His hobbies

include playing the piano, singing, reading and camping. He is an active member of his mosque, the Clear Lake Islamic Center (CLIC).

MATH & SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

RIFAT AKON

Middle/High School Science and Math

Sr. Rifat has a Bachelor's of Applied Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Toronto, in Canada. She landed her first professional job with KBR-Halliburton in Houston, Texas. After that, she worked at CB&I Lummus, The Shaw Group, and finally at Jacobs Engineering group as a Process Engineer.

In between her engineering jobs, Sr. Rifat worked at an Islamic School in Houston in different capacities. Just last year, she joined the staff of Iman Academy and mainly focused on the struggling students by giving them some one-on-one instruction.

This summer, Sr. Rifat is teaching Algebra-2 and Algebra-1 students at the high school level who are trying to earn credits to graduate early. She looks forward to working at Iman Academy this upcoming school year as a Math/Science teacher for the high school level students. With her engineering background, she believes she is prepared to help the students at Iman Academy reach their academic goals, inshaAllah.

Sr. Rifat also realizes that it is the teachings of the Islamic deen from the sources of Quran and Sunnah that is the foundation of Iman Academy. Without this Islamic environment everything else would have no worth. She believes priority should be given to safeguard the teachings of our faith in order for Iman Academy to be a success platform for the next generation Muslim students. And she hopes to be a part of this great endeavor.

ARABIC, QUR'AN, & ISLAMIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT

MAGDOLEEN ALQADI

Middle/High School Arabic

Sr. Magdoleen has 12 years of experience in the USA teaching Arabic & ASL to KG through 4th grade and 2 years of experience in Doha, Qatar in teaching Science at the secondary level. She is highly motivated, practical, easy to get along with, adaptive to different work environments, and a team player.

Magdoleen earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry and Biology at the University of Qatar. She is a member of Masjid Elfarouq weekend school committee and gives private lessons at home for non-Arabic speakers. She is very proficient in computer use and computer applications, and is up-to-date in attending professional workshops and training with the Pasadena school district in Classroom Management and control. Magdoleen has also studied Tajweed and Qur'an at Masjid Elfarouq for more than two years.

FADILA ALI

Middle/High School Arabic

Fadila Ali was born and raised in Alexandria, Egypt where she completed her Bachelor in Chemistry from the University of Alexandria. She is currently studying for her Master's degree in Education with concentration on Instruction and curriculum from the University of Houston, Clear Lake. She taught several subjects at the Saudi School in Houston, 1996-1998. Then she worked at Iman Academy as and Arabic Teacher 1999-2012. As an Arabic Language coordinator at Iman Academy SE (2009-2012), she developed the Arabic curriculum for middle and high school. In 2013, she

joined Dar-ul-Arqam SE school as an Arabic teacher where she taught elementary and middle school Arabic courses. She returned to Iman Academy in 2015 where she currently teaches Arabic for middle and high school students. She attended many Arabic as a Second Language training courses and training throughout her professional life including sought-after courses at the Brigham Young University and the University of Texas, Austin.

ABDUL AZIZ OUJAID

Elementary Arabic

Br. Aziz Oujaid was born in Marrakech, Morocco. He is married and has two daughters and a son. He loves sports, mostly soccer, and is always up for a hike in the mountains. Br. Aziz also enjoys taste testing international foods.

After high school, Br. Aziz began majoring in French literature, but he did not find that a satisfying path and decided to major in Islamic Studies. He enjoyed studying Islam and graduated with a degree in Islamic Studies from Qadi Iyad University in Marrakech, Morocco.

Aziz's teaching experience began while he was in high school, when he used to tutor kids who needed some extra help, whether they were extended family members or neighborhood children. He started his first formal years of teaching on January 2009 at the Iqra Academy in the Virgin Islands as an Arabic teacher for all levels. Aziz loves teaching because he believes it is the only way for change. It's not only about influencing one person but societies and nations. If anyone should be honored most in any society, it would be the teacher.

FERYAL ALSADI

Elementary Arabic

Sr. Feryal earned her Ph.D. in the Arabic Language Curriculum and Instruction from Yarmouk University in Jordan. She is married and a mother of two children. Sr. Feryal has 10 years of experience in teaching the

Arabic Language. She is glad to continue working with this Islamic atmosphere at Iman Academy School.

She believes that students learn a language by using the language. Because of this belief, her classroom has a student Centered Approach. Students are actively involved in language use through activities, game, Art, researching, and interaction with their colleagues and teacher. Her belief in Gardner's Theory of multiple intelligences is evident in the different content areas in her lesson plans. She can give each an equal chance of success. By recognizing every student's potential and having separate individual goals for each, a teacher can accommodate personal needs and abilities and encourage the pursuit of academic aspirations.

She thinks that the technology in the classroom is not only necessary to engage students, but it is an essential tool for the future, hence the technology is all incorporated in her teaching of the Arabic language.

IBRAHIM EZGHAIR

Middle/ High School Quran

Shaykh Ibrahim Ezghair is an Imam and administrator for the Clear Lake Islamic Center. Previously he was an Imam and administrator of Masjid Elfarouq and a Chaplain for the New York State Department of Corrections. He is a graduate of the Jordan University for Science and Technology. For the past years, Shaykh Ibrahim has devoted his time and efforts towards learning and teaching Islam.

DIAA AL-ABDULRAZZAK

Middle/High School Qur'an

Sr. Diao graduated from the University of Damascus, Syria with a Bachelors of Natural Sciences. She has a Teacher Training Diploma and is a certified Qur'an teacher. Sr. Diao trained to become a teacher at Damascus University from 1991-1992. She interned at the Damascus University Hospital in Biochemistry labs in 1992-1993. She has an excellent command of Qur'anic recitation and of modulating its proper pronunciation and teaching the rules of recitation. She also taught at Al-Asad Institute for

Memorization of the Holy Qur'an from 1994-1996 and lectured in Syrian mosques about Qur'anic Science and Hadith during 1997-1998. Sr. Daa held volunteer teaching positions instructing neighbors' children in Houston during the weekends in 1999-2001. She volunteered at Iman Academy for the middle and high schools from 2002- 2006 then joined the Iman Academy staff teaching middle and high school in 2007 and now has over a decade of experience with our school.

SHAYMAA ELSAYED ELDUSOQI

4th and 5th Grade Qur'an

Sr. Shaymaa has been teaching Quran and Arabic for almost 10 years. Her religious education began at early age under the instruction of her father Sh. Elsayed Abdel Maqsoud Eldusoqi, one of Al-Azhar's scholars and the imam of Masjid At-Taqwa in Houston, TX. She finished memorizing the Quran under his guidance when she was in middle school. Sr. Shaymaa married Shaikh Mamdouh Mahmoud and continued her Islamic Studies under his instruction. She completed two years of advanced tajweed and rules of recitation courses, and has completed an Ijazah in the recitation of Hafs from Asim. She has studied Riyadh us Saliheen, analytical tafseer of the Quran, Seerah of the Prophet (saw) and many other Islamic Studies courses.

Sr. Shaymaa earned her BA in Islamic Studies from Miskhah University in May of 2015. She studies with many esteemed Al-Azhar scholars such as Dr. Salah Al-Sawy

Skilled at working with children, she has taught many children how to recite the Quran from the beginning. She also teaches tajweed and rules of recitation to adult and youth sisters. She regularly hosts halaqas and classes for teen-age girls teaching them fiqh of purification and serving as a mentor.

SUHEIR BUSHNAQ

1st - 3rd Grade Qur'an

Sr. Suheir graduated from the University of Jordan with B.A degree, her major in Geography and minor in Islamic Shari'ah. She has been teaching Qur'an at Iman Academy SE for grades 1-4, and this is her 9th year as part of the Iman Academy family. She has experience teaching in Jordan for almost 6 years in public and private schools. During these years she taught grades 5-12, the subjects of Geography, History, and Social Studies.

Sr. Suheir holds an Ijazah In Tajweed and Reading Qur'an (Jordan 2004), a certificate in teaching Qur'an using the Nouraniyyah method, and The G/T Awareness Certificate as well as having attended many other workshops targeting improvement in students' academic performance and in classroom management.

YUSUF RIOS

Middle/ High Islamic Studies

Yusuf Rios has studied Islamic Psychology and Tradition at Al-Azhar University, Egypt. He has over seven years of experience in teaching Islamic studies and Arabic Language. He has general and specialized licenses (Ijazah) in the Hadith Sciences. He has also been involved with the Muslim community as Khateeb for Jummah prayer and as a Chaplin.

Sheikh Yusuf is the Founder and Director of The Shaukani Institute for the Study of Islamic Sciences and is also the Founder and Director of Crescent Family Services. He has worked as a counselor with Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility in Ohio.

As an outgoing religious teacher and a community leader, he has been invited to various religious programs where he delivered speeches on topics related to Islam to new Muslims and non-Muslims in the US.

Sheikh is fluent in English, Arabic, and Spanish. He sets high goals and works hard to achieve them.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, LIBRARY & ART

HERA TANTU

P.E. 1st - 3rd Grade Boys & Girls

Sr. Hera earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and holds a CDA credential with more than ten years of experience working with various ages of children from 3-10 years old. Sr. Hera was an athlete that represented Indonesia for 17 years and held a record in South East Asia for Water Skiing. Her love for teaching children and experience in sports have given her the confidence to utilize her skills and knowledge in helping her students become better team players and athletes.

ALLEN NICHOLS

P.E. 4th-12th Grade Boys

Allen "Max" Nichols has a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Houston Downtown. He has earned his probationary certification in Physical Education and is currently on the path to full certification. He spent most summers post grad running strength and conditioning camps for the youth in Magnolia, Texas. His knowledge of strength and conditioning was largely derived from his own athletic experience as a former high school and intercollegiate athlete.

Max enjoys teaching. He's served as an instructional aide, tutor and after school classroom instructor in various settings. His love for knowledge and children has led him to Iman Academy. He is happy to be back at home in Houston after recently returning from Egypt where he studied Arabic and Quran. He is happily married.

GUZIAL NURETDINOV

P.E. 4th-12th Grade Girls

Sr. Guzial was born in St Petersburg in Russia into a Muslim family. She studied at St. Petersburg State University, where she majored in English Linguistics and teaching of English language.

After graduating, Sr. Guzial worked as an English Teacher at the University for 2 years, then in college of topography for 10 years. She worked at a Specialized English School for 15 years and received the highest category for teaching.

Sr. Guzial, along with a group of 5 other students, was invited to the USA for an exchange program in Pennsylvania, where she learned about the American system of education. Sr. Guzial has worked at the University of Economy and Finance as an assistant professor of English and she has taught Business English. She also worked as a tour guide in St Petersburg during summer vacations. She is married with 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

Sr. Guzial joined Iman Academy last year as a substitute teacher and a PE teacher. She enjoys working with the students and teachers.

BETTY LEBLANC

Librarian 1st-12th

Sr. Betty is currently the Library Coordinator for both the Almeda and Jetstream campuses and has been with Iman Academy since 2008.

Over the past 8 years, she's worked in several school administrative positions including Media Production Center Manager, Teacher Assistant, and a tutor for advanced math, spelling and reading in the elementary school setting. She also worked as an Administrative Assistant in a middle school setting in Lake Charles, Louisiana. She was a member of the New York Air National Guard in the state of New York with an Honorable Discharge.

Sr. Betty has lived in Saudi Arabia with her husband and three beautiful children are now residents of Houston, Texas.

SAHAR SABOUNI MALAS

Middle/High School Art

Sr. Sahar Sabouni Malas, is a mother of two precious children, Sarah, 18 and Sami, 24. She is proud to have had the opportunity to teach and connect with your children for the past seven years and is honored to be teaching yet another year at Iman Academy SE as well as at the SW Campus.

Sr. Sahar earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the Fine Arts University of Damascus, Syria where she specialized in interior design. She also taught art at the university before working as an interior designer for the International Exhibitions Department of the Damascus Ministry of Tourism for 7 years. She designed and supervised the installation of numerous award-winning exhibits throughout Europe.

As an art teacher, her goal is to instill artistic appreciation in her students. Art has a far-reaching influence on all aspects of life, and its emphasis on design, presentation, and unique perspectives engenders a greater appreciation and excellence in all other subjects. Sr. Sahar is known to say “Allahu Jameelun Yuhibbu al-Jamal, Allah is Beautiful and Loves Beauty”.

COUNSELOR

BRIAN G. PRATT

Guidance Counselor/ Licensed Specialist in School Psychology

Br. Brian is married and has two daughters' ages two and 13. He graduated with a B.A. in Psychology in 1993, and a M.A. in School Psychology in 1999. He has worked as a School Psychologist for 17 years. He began his career in upstate NY, and recently moved to Galveston, TX from Tulsa, OK. In his spare time, Br. Pratt enjoys reading, studying science, walking and spending time with his family. He enjoys meeting new people every day and is excited to help students reach their highest potential.