



SUNDAY SCHOOL

2017-2018

Parents want.....?

Their children to know:

- ✿ *Salah/Namaaz*
- ✿ *Quran*
- ✿ *Muslim Etiquette*
- ✿ *Community*

Mission & Vision

Mission: The goal of ICHC Islamic Sunday School's curriculum and activities is to bring students closer to Allah, Subhanau Wa ta'ala, to know His messenger, (SAW) and to socialize with other Muslim children.

Vision: By creating a positive learning environment where Islamic knowledge, beliefs, and practices are integrated into a wholesome way of life, we hope to help our children grow strong in their Muslim identity and become leaders in our community and the community at large.

Raising Young Muslims

Noor Arts, Muslim Identity Campaign, and data about 5-9 year old Muslim-American children:

- ***1 in 3 children did not want to tell others that they are Muslim***
- ***1 in 2 children did not know whether they could be both Muslim and American***
 - ***1 in 6 children would pretend not to be Muslim***

How:

1. *Role models,*
2. *Critical thinking, and*
3. *Parents.*

What:

- *Citizenship education,*
- *Character education, and*
- *Islamic education*

Noor Art identified the key contributors towards confident identity development. How to teach our kids so they feel more confident.

They also identified what to teach or what the curriculum should focus on. These are citizenship, character, and Islamic education. Citizenship education is primarily concerned with teaching children their obligation to serve the world around them and is critical because it helps facilitate “socialization” among Muslim children. That is, it helps ensure that Muslim children feel like they fit in.

Character education is primarily concerned with facilitating social, emotional, and ethical development among children and is critical for those who face discrimination because it serves as an “engine” to keep going. Islamic education is primarily concerned with helping children understand their faith and is critical because Muslim children must understand their own unique beliefs, values, and history.

- ✿ *Prophets' Stories*
- ✿ *Salah Focus*
- ✿ *Individual Quranic Literacy*
- ✿ *Ettiquettes*
- ✿ *Speakers*
- ✿ *School Wide Themes and Activities*
- ✿ *Outings*

Monthly Themes

- **October: ALLAH**
- **November: QUR'AN**
- **December/January: JUSTICE**
- **February: PILLARS**
- **March: ETIQUETTE**
- **April: DUA'A**
- **May: PROPHETS**

October: ALLAH

His Attributes, ways to praise Him, the Creation story, concept of Tawheed

November: QUR'AN

the different books Allah sent, What is the Qur'an, how to handle it physically, proof of Qur'an as the Word of Allah, how the Qur'an is set up, how it was revealed

December/January: JUSTICE

To yourself (exercise, mental health, rights of your body), to Allah (Tawheed, praising Him, remembering Him) and to others (family, community, Muslims and non-Muslims)

February: PILLARS (Minus Shahada, which should be covered extensively in Oct.)

Praying, fasting, charity, hajj, the difference between arkanul-Islam and arkanul-lman, what is the difference between the tenets of practice and those of faith,

March: ETIQUETTE

Charity, truthfulness, being grateful,

April: DUA'A

The appropriate way to make dua'a, what is the relationship between you and Allah

May: PROPHETS

- ✿ *Maximizing focus: One Room, One Teacher*
- ✿ *No Islamic Studies Homework!!*
- ✿ *Quran Homework*
- ✿ *Snacks (no nuts please!)*
- ✿ *Gym time*

All these measures to maximize focus and minimize distractions

Daily Schedule

10:15-10:20 Pray Nafil
10:20-10:30 Short story for entire school (communal)

Level 1:

10:35-11:05 Islamic Studies
11:05-11:20 Salah Lesson
11:25-11:40 Snack
11:45-12:30 Qur'an (letter recognition), Duaa, and Surah recitation collectively

Level 2 and 3:

10:35-10:55 Qur'an Learning Teachers
11:00-11:30 Islamic Studies
11:30-11:40 Snack
11:45-12:00 Salah Lesson (Salah Teacher for Level 3 and Homeroom Teacher for Level 2)
12:00-12:30 Tafsir

Level 4:

10:35-11:05 Islamic Studies
11:05-11:20 Salah Lesson
11:20-11:30 Snack
11:35-12:05 Tafsir
12:10-12:30 Qur'an Learning Teachers

Level 5:

10:35-11:05 Islamic Studies
11:05-11:15 Snack
11:20-11:35 Salah Lesson
11:35-12:05 Tafsir
12:10-12:30 Qur'an Learning Teachers

Help Us!

By Being/Doing:

- ✿ *On time*
- ✿ *Quran homework*
- ✿ *Gym Monitors, Attendance Reporting, Food Helpers*
- ✿ *Active Participation and Dialogue with Children*

General Policies

AGE

The minimum age requirement for students is four years old

TUITION

payable in full at the time of registration, OR
two equal installments:

- At registration
- At end of February

TIME

Arrival **10-10:15 am sharp**

Dismissal **1:15-1:20 pm sharp**

Parents are expected to join us for Zuhr Salah at **1:15 pm** in congregation.

READINESS

Breakfast

Wudu

Snack

School Supplies

ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS

All students must be signed in by their guardian at drop off and similarly, signed out at dismissal.

Student absences/Late arrivals - must be reported before 10am to staff.

Shireen Khan

Salaam! My name is Shireen. I'm a wife to my hardworking, incredibly supportive husband, Haroon, and mother to three boys, 7, 5 and 2. I've been teaching at our Sunday School since I was 20. It's been 12 years, you can do the math ;) It's grown quite a bit since we started in a small barn down the street, where some of our classes took place in closets because we just had to make do with what we had! Alhamdulillah.

This year I am helping to revamp our curriculum and scheduling here at Sunday School, to help focus on teaching our kids how to read Qur'an and what it means, for them to know how to pray and love doing it, and to be confident Muslim, American children.

I have a Masters degree from Columbia University's Teachers College in Teaching English as a Second Language and a Bachelors from Rutgers University in Journalism and English. I worked as a producer at Time Magazine, but am currently employed by my three little monkeys :)



Emily Afifi

Salaam! My name is Emily Afifi. I am 17 years old and a senior at Hunterdon Central. I plan on attending college next year Insha'Allah and majoring in Journalism.

I am a part of two national honors societies, Social Studies and Art. In addition, I am president of the Future Educators of America club at my school, as well as co-president of the Muslim Student Association at our school, along with Sister Almas. One of my proudest moments was attending an overseas program in the spring where I travelled to the Czech Republic and Poland. There, I was able to visit historical sites, write reports on my findings, and stay with a host family and be directly integrated into their culture. After returning, I have continued to work with the overseas program, and the Polish exchange students are scheduled to come visit the United States in May, Insha'Allah!

I've been a part of Islamic school programs for 11 years, and I joined this particular program 6 years ago. It has been one of the greatest programs I have ever been a part of, and I am so thankful to have found such a welcoming community which makes me feel so proud to be Muslim, Alhamdulillah. I was a student at ICHC for three years and am extremely grateful for the knowledge I have gained. After I became old enough to teach, I helped out as a teacher assistant three years ago, and now this will be my second year working as the head of the classroom.

I am so excited to watch the children grow into proud, intelligent young Muslims; Almas and I are honored to teach them. Sometimes I wonder whether I have taught the children more things, or if they have taught me more :) I am looking forward to another great year Insha'Allah!



Almas Thaha

Salam everyone, I'm Almas Thaha! I am currently a senior at Hunterdon Central. I'm looking forward to getting my drivers license in October, and turning in my College Applications in November (keep me in your prayers)!

I was born and raised in Connecticut, and when I was 12 I first moved to Flemington. It's only been four years but it feels like I've been here for so long, from the way I've gotten so close to my Islamic community here! Some of my proudest achievements were being chosen by Uplift Humanity India to teach orphans English, to give them a chance at this world. I share my passion for volunteering in multiple other ways as well, from volunteering at the hospital every week, to helping ESL kids in our community as a member of Uproute Hunterdon!

I also love school and am currently inducted into four different honors societies (National, Spanish, Math, and Music). I was elected as an officer for three clubs, Corresponding Secretary of Student Council, and Secretary of Tri-Music Honors Society; last but not least I am co-president with none other than Emily, in our schools Muslim Student Association!

I've had an amazing experience teaching at the Sunday School for three years. I've grown to love each and every one of the kids, and I just want to hug them all every second of the day because of how proud they make me. Also they're my favorite so warning I might "accidentally" take one of them home :). Emily and I honored to be their teacher once again, and confident it'll be a great year insballah!



Rawaa Mohammed

ASAK, my name is Rawaa Mohammed. I'm a graduate from Baghdad University. I have a bachelors degree in Biology and education. Mother of 4 kids: 2 girls and 2 boys. I've been working in Sunday school since 2015 . I've been teaching Arabic and Quran for different levels. My goal for the students is to read Quran fluently.



Ashraf Afifi

My name is ashraf Afifi. I have been a teacher at Sunday school over the last 6 years. I have taught intermediate and advanced Arabic, Islamic study and Quran. Currently I work for J&F company as software architect. I have 2 sons and a daughter, their ages are 20 , 17 and 14 years old. My daughter Emily started as a student at Sunday school. Now she teaches there.



Saima Sajid

Dear Parents,

My name is **Saima Sajid** and I am your son or daughter's (2nd and 3rd grade) Islamic studies teacher this year in Sunday school. We moved to this community four years ago from Boston, MA. This is my second year as a teacher and I have to admit I am as excited as I was last year.

I have bachelor's degree in Computer Science.

I am homemaker and mother of three beautiful children. I love teaching and am constantly looking for new ways to help the students. I have many ideas for this year and can't wait to execute my ideas along with your support.

Please know that I understand the importance of Islam and Islamic teaching in our lives. It is my goal to try my level best and make a difference for your child in understanding and following Islamic values. I also believe that communication with parents is crucial to a successful year, and that honest communication can head off issues before they develop. Know that I am here with an open mind and a willingness to listen to any concerns that might arise throughout the year.

I expect my students to be on time, and to be prepared for the day's activities and discussions.

I also believe that parent child interaction about the Sunday school's activities is important for a child to get appropriate support from the parents at home.

I can promise you the best of myself for your son or daughter.

Saima Sajid

Ryeha (Saifi) Tarique

ASA,

I am Ryeha (Saifi) Tarique. I am helping in the administration of the Sunday School. Our goal is to ensure we are offering the best we possibly can by way of Islamic education to our children - in a way that fosters interest and genuine love for our deen.

I, along with my husband and three children, have been in Hunterdon county for the past 10 years. Since then, our Sunday school community has grown. My husband, Akif, was a former Sunday School principal and we have been blessed to continue having great leaders and teachers working to keep moving our school forward.

I grew up in Canada and did my Bachelors in Psychology with minor in Anthropology from the University of Toronto and then completed a Masters at Rutgers in Management with a focus on Human Resources. I then joined IBM in Human Resources and worked there for over 10 years as a Sr HR Business partner. I voluntarily left IBM 6 years ago to raise our family - some days I think my corporate days were more like a vacation than being a stay at home mom..... the time has flown by mA.

Looking forward to helping continue strengthening our community Islamic education.



Saba Siddiqui

I am Saba Siddiqui and I was part of establishing our Sunday School 13 years ago. We started in a rented barn, moved to the current masjid, then to a middle school, and now are big enough to be accommodated at this high school. After being away for some years, I am happy to be back and proud to be associated with being part of this administration team, helping to educate our young.

I have an MBA in Management from Johns Hopkins University and my interest has been non-profit work for many years. I am passionate about making a difference and making things better for myself and all my fellow human beings.

I live locally with family and my husband is also an active member of our community. I am curious about the world, I like/try to eat healthy, and am happy to be a world wanderer with my husband and two kids.