

ISLAMIC FOUNDATION SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Principal - Farhat Siddiqui Farhat Siddiqui obtained her M.Ed. degree, specializing in school leadership and administration from Loyola University, Chicago and is an Illinois licensed school principal. She received additional training at Harvard University's Principal Leadership Center. She has served as a Certified Chair for AdvancED, now known as COGNIA. She is an Educational Speaker and Trainer for the State Board of Education and conducts professional development training for staff and mentoring and coaching for school leaders. She has served on the ISNA Education Forum committee, CIOGC, and currently serves as a board member for Northwest Suburban College. Her educational philosophy of guiding institutions towards stability and growth has inspired her to work at the grassroots level to develop the talent within the community to nurture leadership and position individuals with capacity, motivation, character, and drive to create opportunities to better our students and community. This premise has been foundational in guiding her to move schools from a stage of infancy to maturity. She has been instrumental in increasing student enrolment, increasing top tier University admissions, initiating school spiritual retreats to perform Umrah, and establishing Jumma prayer led by students. Her contributions have garnered her recognition at the state and national level, including the Washington Post and TIME magazine. She currently serves as the school principal.



Director of Curriculum and Instruction - Salma Mady



Salma Mady has been in the education field for over 8 years holding various roles from teaching, curriculum design, to administration across various institutions - from online, private to public. She is currently enrolled in a Master's in Public Policy and Administration program from Northwestern University and has already attained a certificate in Higher Education Administration and Social Policy from the same institution. She obtained her Bachelor's from Benedictine University in secondary education with a focus in social science. She is certified to teach in the state of Illinois and Arizona. She has taught an effective essay writing course through Northwestern's CTD program and understands the intricacies of designing an effective course to attain impactful results. Her philosophy is centered around the concept of self-mastery in producing curriculum that establishes a balanced core of learning. Her goal is to promote student achievement through data driven instruction and strategic planning that enforces critical thinking skills. Curriculum should be interdisciplinary so that students can make connections scaffolding their learning from one subject to another.

Dean of Students - Sarah Shums



Sarah Shums earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology from California State University, Pomona. Through honors and distinctions, she graduated Magna Cum Laude. Subsequently, she completed her Master of Arts in Teaching from National Louis University in Lisle, IL. She holds endorsements in Middle School Curriculum and Instruction along with Biology. She is certified by the state of Illinois to teach grades 6 through 12. Sarah Shums taught middle and high school science for 10 years at Islamic Foundation School, during which she served as the Head of the Science Department for 6 years. Additionally, she served as an Advisor for several clubs like Lego Mindstorm, Argonne Electric Car Competition, Rocket Race Workshop, Fit Club, Chemistry Club, National Honor Society and was the head of the Science Fair organization and Science Week at IFS. Her experience deepened her philosophy of education and motivated her to help mold the students today into the leaders of tomorrow. This year, as Dean of Students, her role includes implementing PBIS, organizing student events, and student movement, guiding student behavior, and creating a positive learning environment for our students.

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Academic Counselor - Linda Qatanani



Linda Qatanani is the academic counselor at Islamic Foundation School. She earned her Master's in counseling from Governors State University and is a Licensed Professional Counselor as well as a National Certified Counselor. Ms. Linda concentrates on and provides services regarding academic counseling and college/career planning for all students. She instructs and guides students on how to prepare for college through focusing on their academics and being involved in extra-curricular activities and community service. As a staff member at Islamic Foundation School, she works with students on exemplifying a commitment to scholarship, character, and service. Her goal is to shape students into mature, responsible, and knowledgeable young individuals who have bright futures ahead of them!

Social Emotional Counselor - Lujain Mahmoud



Lujain Mahmoud obtained her Masters in School Counseling from Concordia University, Chicago and is an Illinois Licensed School Counselor. She is a certified LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) and works with adolescents and adults outside of the school setting with Khalil Center in Lombard, Illinois. She has held extensive workshops for middle and high school ages and has been involved in various youth programs held by local mosques and community centers. She also serves as a mental health consultant for Legacy International Online High School. She is currently expanding her licensure and obtaining her license as a clinical professional counselor. Her approach as a school counselor is geared towards the well-being of students and their external support systems. She advocates for collaboration between students and their external support system and believes all students should be embraced to achieve optimal personal growth, to acquire positive social skills and values, and to realize their potential in order to become productive and contributing members of society. She currently serves as a part time school counselor at Islamic Foundation School.

School Registrar - Amal Matari



Amal Matari has dedicated her career to helping individuals obtain an education. She has years of experience working with international, graduate, undergraduate, and K-12 students. Amal Matari holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Statistics from Kuwait University. While working as a university registrar for more than 15 years she earned a Master of Business Administration from Saint Xavier University, Chicago. She has worked for prestigious institutions such as the University of Chicago, Dominican University, and the Illinois Institute of Technology. She joins us after leaving an Associate Registrar position at IIT in order to dedicate her career and experience to the Muslim community. She is passionate about providing exceptional service and administrative support and strives to serve our students and families in order to promote academic success.