

# ISLAMIC FOUNDATION SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION TEAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

## Principal-Shereen Hussain



Shereen Hussain obtained a double Masters in Technology in Education and School Leadership and Administration from National Louis University and Northeastern Illinois University and is a licensed school principal in Illinois. Additionally, Ms. Hussain holds Illinois state certifications in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Teaching Technology, and School Administration. She is also a National Board-Certified Teacher in Library Media. Ms. Hussain recently achieved Google Level 1 and Level 2 certifications.

For the past 20 years, she has worked in the Chicago Public Schools as a Teacher, Technology Coordinator, and Assistant Principal. At Mozart Elementary in Chicago, she led the school's Instructional Lead Team in analyzing Continuous Improvement Work Plan data, identifying problems, developing action plans, setting goals, and assessing the plan. Her background includes extensive knowledge of child development, strategies for Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), differentiation in Tier 1 instruction, and data analysis of student assessments to improve instruction.

Additionally, she applied for and received the STEM IIMS Fusion program support from the Illinois Bicentennial Commission.

During the 2022-2023 academic year at IFS, Mrs. Hussain introduced and implemented new programs that promoted student growth and achievement, focusing on STEAM concepts. Her passion for the subject area enabled her to secure a \$5,000 BOSCH Grant to supplement the IFS STEAM program and establish a long-term partnership between IFS and BOSCH.

## 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.

## Director of Student Life - 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. Her experience deepened her philosophy of education and motivated her to help mold the students today into the leaders of tomorrow. This year, as Director of Student Life, her role includes implementing PBIS, organizing student events, and student movement, guiding student behavior,

and creating a positive learning environment for our students.

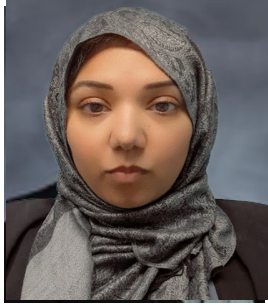
## Academic Counselor - Linda Qatanani



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!

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## **Ruby Ramirez - Director of Communication and Special Projects**



Ruby's Educational Background is from the United Kingdom. She earned a Joint Major in Computer Science and Business Studies and completed her master's in Multimedia Design at Westminster University. She has several qualifications and certifications from Cornell University and the International Baccalaureate these include; Diversity Equity and Inclusion, International Baccalaureate Certifications (IB), in Business Management, Computer Science, and Information Technology in a Global Society.

Her professional background stems from working in the educational sector for almost 2 decades, across 3 continents in both the public and private sectors. In the last decade, she has been working closely with administration, staff, parents, and students; focusing on the organization's visions, goals, and objectives as well as supporting areas in marketing, promoting diversity, working in our fundraising committee, and enhancing community relations overall.

At Islamic Foundation School, she will be focusing on strengthening the communication process and working collaboratively with the administration team, she looks forward to creating service learning opportunities for IFS students and boosting our digital online presence.

## **Ahed Abufeelat - Social Emotional Coordinator**



Ahed Abufeelat is a Social Emotional Learning Coordinator for K-12. She obtained a M.S degree in School Counseling from National Louis University in Lisle, IL. She previously worked in community mental health as a counselor. She is currently enrolled in a doctorate program pursuing a degree in Counseling Education & Supervision. Her passion is working with students to ensure that every student has equal opportunity at a higher education. As a Social Emotional Coordinator, she aims to provide support and resources so that every student is successful. She wants students to feel connected and provide strategies to help them overcome any challenges that they may be facing at 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

## **School Nurse– Asma Khatoon**



Ms. Asma Khatoon the Islamic Foundation School Nurse. Ms. Asma has been working diligently to keep our school safe. Ms. Asma is a ECFMG certified Doctor. She worked at Marianjoy Hospital as a research assistant and completed her externship from Lorreto Hospital. She completed her nursing degree from IL College of Nursing. Furthermore, Ms. Asma worked as a Clinical Quality Analyst for home health agencies. She joined the IFS team in 2011. Since then, Ms. Asma has helped thousands of students by creating a healthy and safe learning environment.

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### **Head of Quran, Arabic and Sacred Link Program – Syed Omair**



Syed Omair grew up in the Chicago suburbs and attended IFS weekend school as a child. After his family moved to Wisconsin and then to New York, he completed his bachelor's degree in Religious Studies from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He then moved to Amman, Jordan where he first studied and then taught Classical Arabic at the prestigious Qasid Arabic Institute from 2009 to 2017. While working, he continued to study many of the Islamic sciences under the tutelage of several well-known scholars of Jordan. After moving back to the US in 2017, he worked as an instructor and curriculum developer at the Fawakih Arabic Institute in Northern Virginia. He then worked as an Imam and Youth Director at the ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Society) Center in Northern Virginia. He accepted a job at IFS in the Fall of 2021 and is settled in the Chicago suburbs with his wife and children. Syed has taught Arabic for nearly a decade and a half and is fluent in

Classical Arabic grammar and translation. He has worked on several Arabic-English publications as well as written textbooks on Classical Arabic grammar for the Qasid Arabic Institute. He has an ijazah in tajwid in the riwayah of Hafs and Shu'ba from Asim.

### **Athletic Director– Ali Abuhlaleh**



Dr. Ali is a former Olympian, and he achieved many recognitions during his wrestling career. Dr. Ali obtained his Master in Sport and Tourism Management from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and his Ph.D. in Leadership and Sport Management from Concordia University Chicago (CUC). Dr. Ali received a certificate in School Management and Leadership (CSML) from Harvard University. He completed 31 leadership training classes related to athletic management and participated in many national conferences related to sports management as a participant and presenter. Dr. Ali was recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for his contribution to developing youth sports programs for third world countries. He was recognized by Indiana University for his Outstanding Academic Achievement. In

2016, Dr. Ali was named the Athletic Director of the year in the State of Illinois. Dr. Ali is the founder and president of the Palestinian American Athletic Association (PAAA), which works as a representative of the Palestinian Olympic Committee in the USA. He is also, the founder of the Metropolitan Prep and Southwest Schools Conferences.