

Al-Noor Academy Staff, Teachers, and Volunteer List *List includes paid, part-time, and nonpaid volunteers*



Br. Justin Valanzola, B.S., MEd

Acting Principal, Guidance Counselor, Tutoring/Special Needs Coordinator

Br. Justin is the Acting Principal for Al-Noor Academy. He also works as a Guidance Counselor for his students as well. He is a native of Mansfield, MA. His background is in philosophy/history, religious studies, and education. Br. Justin has a Bachelor of Science and Masters in Education with a concentration in Special/Exceptional Education from the University of Maryland, College Park – ranked top 10 graduate schools in the country. He is licensed as an educator in Maryland, Colorado, and Massachusetts. He taught at public schools and previously had a homeschooling/education consulting business in Maryland. He has experience with the Muslim Students' Association as an Executive Committee Member, Assistant to the Muslim Chaplain, a current member of the Council for Exceptional Children, and he is an avid outdoors sportsman! He can be contacted at principal@anahs.org.

Imam Basyouny Nehela, Ph.D.

Religion and Arabic Director

Imam Basyouny is the Imam at the Islamic Society of Boston. He graduated from Al-Azhar University in Cairo. The Imam serves as a volunteer in a number of roles and capacities throughout the region. He loves teaching religion and Arabic to the youth. He has a special talent in both attracting young adults to Islam and motivating them to learn and practice their religion. He is also highly skilled in the Arabic language. Imam Basyouny leads both the Religion and Arabic departments.

Sr. Fatma Abdulwahab, B.L.L., Administrative Sciences Certification

Registrar and Administrative Assistant

Sr. Fatma Mohamed Abdelwahab is a graduate of the Law School at Ain-Shamess University in Cairo, Egypt. She also has a Diploma in Medical and Legal Secretarial Sciences from the Medical and Legal Secretarial Sciences School in RI. She has been with the Islamic Academy for 10 years including 4 years in Al-Noor Academy as well. Sr. Fatma first worked as the school secretary and Social Studies teacher. Now she works as both school's Registrar and as an Administrator Assistant. She is the mother of Ahmed, Eman, and Kareem; and she is a grandmother of two beautiful boys, Yaseen and Yousef. Participating in Islamic education, working at the IANE and ANA, has added another dimension of significance and a lot of joy to her life and has been a great experience. She considers herself very fortunate to work with all members of the school community including students, parents, teachers, administration, and board members. She can be reached at fatma56@gmail.com.

Br. Sofiane Hafiani, B.A.

Religion and Arabic Teacher

Br. Sofiane is the religion and Arabic teacher. This is his fifth year at Al-Noor Academy. He has past experience as a religion teacher and Imam at the different Masajid in the region. Br. Sofiane has been teaching for over a decade. He is currently creating and in the final stages of a comprehensive and groundbreaking Arabic, Religion, and Quran curriculum. He can be reached at sofianeh@netzero.com.

Sr. Siham Yagoubi, B.S., M.S.

Mathematics, Science, Computers, and Lead Teacher

Sr. Siham is the department head of the math and science department. She currently teaches math (grades 6th – 10th) and computer science (all grades) at Al-Noor Academy. She holds a bachelor and Master's degrees in Computer Science from Boston University specializing in software engineering. She is currently enrolled in the bioinformatics certificate program at the University of Illinois, graduating this fall. She has five years of experience teaching at the high school level, three of them at the academy. Courses taught include Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Precalculus, Geometry, and Web Programming. She can be reached at sihamyagoubi@gmail.com.

Sr. Aimen Ansari

High School Language Arts and Creative Writing Teacher

Sr. Aimen Ansari is the high school English Literature and Creative Writing teacher at ANA. She is state-certified English Language Arts Teacher in both Massachusetts and Texas, where she and her husband were raised. She has taught at a very well-established College-Prep Islamic School in Dallas, Texas (Brighter Horizons Academy), the same school from which she graduated. Sr. Aimen graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in Literary Studies and Education from the University of Texas at Dallas. She is committed to the proliferation of Islamic Schools in America and genuinely loves teaching her students. She can be contacted at aimen@siddiqui.us.

Sr. Sarah Kazmi, B.A., M.S.

College Guidance and Dual-Enrollment Consultant

Sr. Sarah works as a consultant for Al-Noor Academy in College Guidance Counseling and Dual-Enrollment Counseling. She obtained an engineering degree from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and her Master's degree from Northeastern University. She instills in students love for math and sciences. She can be reached at umm.qatrunnada@gmail.com.

Br. Omar El Mghari, CPA, MBA

Accreditation Coordinator

Br. Omar is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensed in the MA state. He holds an MBA from Johnson & Wales University (RI), and is a Certified Information Systems Auditor with 16 years of accounting and auditing professional experience. Br. Omar took the position of a Finance Senior Manager at BearingPoint in 2004. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Omar volunteered to help our Islamic schools go through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation process and voluntarily comply with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The NCLB Act objectives include increasing the school Accountability for Student Performance and empowering Parents by having more information about the quality of their child's school. Omar believes that well-informed school stakeholders of the challenges, priorities and accomplishments of IANE and ANA will make these members contribute and become active enablers for the Schools and community development. As a member of the School Committee and of the NEASC accreditation project, Omar aims to setup a formal "School Improvement Plan", assist in identifying the needs of the school stakeholders, prioritize them and setup an action plan to bring our Islamic school to excellence.

Sr. Afshan Javed

Middle School Language Arts Teacher and Department Head

Sr. Afshan Javed is the Head of the Humanities Department; the homeroom teacher for grade six and the Middle School Language Arts teacher at Al-Noor Academy. Although this is her first year at our school, she brings with her approximately 8 years of experience in teaching and administration from Madina Academy in CT. She holds a BA from the University of Toronto, Canada in Political Science and International Development Studies as well as a Masters in Education from the University of Hartford, CT. She is certified as a teacher in the state of CT and is currently pursuing her MA license. She enjoys the challenges of teaching middle school students as they prepare for high school. Feel free to contact her at afshan@aol.com.

Br. Hisham Hejazi

IT/Technology Advisor

Br. Hisham is currently working at MathWorks Inc. as an on-line course developer specializing in products training. He graduated from Northeastern University, Boston, with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering. Br Hisham will be furthering his education at the Rhode Island School of Design - RISD this coming winter with a focus on Computer Animation and Web Design. First as a parent-volunteer, and now as a member on the School Committee, Br. Hisham has been actively involved with IANE for the last 5 years. He can be reached at hkhejazi@gmail.com.

Br. Hicham Tiflati,

Middle School Science Teacher – Earth and Life Sciences

Br. Hicham has an Associate's Degree in Elementary Education, a Bachelor's Degree in Islamic Law (Chariaa) from Al Qaraween University, Fes, Morocco, and a Master's Degree in Business Education and Secondary Special Education, Johnson and Wales University, Providence, RI. Br. Hicham served as a substitute teacher at Beacon Charter High School and taught Arabic, French, and other subjects in many elementary schools in Morocco.

Br. Fawaad

Human Resources, Public Relations, Material Science Teacher

Sr. Rukhsana Nazir

Middle School Social Studies Teacher, Administrator, Long Term Substitute