

Austin Peace Academy

Nationally Accredited Islamic School

HIGHLIGHTS

of

TEACHERS & STAFF

- **Qualification Level**
 - Educational background in diverse fields
 - All staff and teachers have minimum bachelor's degree
 - 7 Master's degrees and 4 Doctoral degrees
 - Most of our teachers are 'certified' or in final stages of their certification
- **Experience and Talent**
 - Teachers have several years of teaching experience
 - Elementary school teachers worked with children for many years
 - Middle/High school teachers taught at high schools and colleges
 - Renowned staff for Arabic/Islamic Studies programs
- **Extra Curricular Activities**
 - Activities in National Clubs and Honor Societies
 - Received research fellowships
 - Edited newspapers, involved in community surveys, letter campaigns
 - Organized fundraisers and community functions
 - Participated in *dawah* programs
- **Diverse Background**
 - Staff & teachers from diverse ethnic backgrounds and nationalities
 - Well versed in multi-cultural school environment
 - Almost all teachers are bilingual
 - Major world languages spoken by our staff & teachers - Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, German, Persian, Russian, Spanish, Urdu

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TEACHERS, STAFF & ADMINISTRATION

Elementary School

Pre-K

Emily Mead
Olivia Love (Teaching Assistant)

Kindergarten

Sarah Wakefield

1st Grade

Sarah Robertson

2nd Grade

Rebecca Myers

3rd Grade

Loretta Kamara

4th/5th Grades – Math/Science

Malalai Sayedi

4th/5th Grades – Language Arts/Social Studies

Giani Crow

Middle & High School

Language Arts

Latifa Aimaq

Social Studies

Chanele Muntean

Math

Syed Ejaz Fareed

Science

Ronald Schneider

Science Laboratory

Ronald Schneider

RoboLab

Malalai Sayedi

Arabic and Islamic Studies

Arabic Language

Dr. Nehal Khadr
Sara Kora

Islamic Studies

Sh. Abdul Rahman Chao
Guyna Elabiad
Nahed Albayari

Support Staff

Information Technology

Rakib Razzaque

Physical Education

Fernando Torres
Fatima Anwar (Girls' Coordinator)

Library

TBD

Counseling

Eman Kallash

After-School Care

Fatima Anwar

Administration

Office Staff

Administrative Assistant - Rania ElBaraday
Administrative Assistant - Nahed Abou Galala

Director, Arabic & Islamic Studies

Dr. Ibrahim Dremali

Principal

Dr. Walid Hawana

Volunteers

PTO Coordinator

Farhana Khawar

School Improvement Team Coordinator

Zakaria Khwaja

BIOGRAPHIES

Ms. Emily Mead has been a kindergarten Teacher and a Childcare Provider for the past six years. She has a B.S. (with Honors) in Applied Learning and Development from UT Austin. She has earned the 'Early Childhood to Grade Four Generalist Certification'.

Mrs. Sarah Wakefield obtained a BS degree from UT Austin, majoring in Applied Learning & Development. Prior to joining APA, she has taught at AISD and also worked as a child caretaker. In addition to 'Early Childhood to Grade Four Generalist certification', she has also obtained ESL Supplemental certificate and Texas Educator certificate. She has attended several education related workshops and serves as a volunteer at various organizations.

Mrs. Olivia Love has been working as a Teaching Assistant at APA for the past six years. Her prior experience includes working in office administration at the University of Houston. Proficient in English and Spanish, she has also worked as a summer teacher.

Mrs. Sarah Robertson has been with APA for one year. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in Elementary Education, and is certified in the state of Iowa.

Mrs. Rebecca Myers has a B.S. degree (Magna Cum Laude) in Arts and Applied Sciences from Texas State University, San Marcos, TX and an Associate of Science degree from Austin Community College. She has several education related certifications, and has worked for several years as an elementary school teacher at Round Rock and Leander ISD.

Mrs. Loretta Kamara has been working at APA for the past six years. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Paine College, Augusta, GA.

Mrs. Malalai Sayedi has taught at APA for three years. She has a BS degree in Biology with a Minor in Chemistry and Early Childhood Education. She attended the University of Kabul, Afghanistan as well as UT Austin and the University of New York. In early 2007, she obtained her teacher certification. She is fluent in Farsi (Persian) and Pashtun.

Ms. Giani Crow possesses a BS degree from UT Austin in Applied Learning and Development, with a major in Early Childhood to 4th Grade Generalist Certification. Prior to joining APA, she was a teacher at Austin ISD and has worked as a Childcare Provider, Kindergarten Tutor, and a Summer Camp Counselor. She has completed several training classes related to child care and safety, and has Early Childhood to 4th Grade certification.

Ms. Latifa Aimaq has worked as an elementary and middle school teacher at Islamic schools in Iowa and California since 2002. She has also worked as a TA at the University of California, San Diego. Most recently, she taught at New Horizons Academy in Iowa. She earned a B.S. degree in Biochemistry/Cell Biology and another in Psychology from the University of California, San Diego. She has completed graduate level research projects in Science at UCSD. She has been very active in various community activities.

Ms. Chanele Muntean has a BA degree (with Honors) in Russian Studies from Stetson University in Florida and an MA degree from UT Austin in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. She has received several research fellowships and studied four languages, including French and Russian.

Mr. Syed Ejaz Fareed has taught Math and Science in middle and high schools at the AISD for five years, and is SBEC certified in Math for grades 4th thru 8th. He has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and is pursuing a master's degree in Education from Concordia University in Austin. He has passed numerous teacher development courses.

Mr. Ronald Schneider has taught Physics for over twenty years at Austin Community College, UT Austin, and local schools including Hendrickson HS and Kirby Hall. He has an MA and BS in Physics and has completed necessary course work needed for a doctoral degree in Physics. He is certified by Texas SBEC in Secondary Physics and is well versed in various computer applications. He is fluent in German.

Dr. Nehal Khadr has been teaching Arabic & Islamic Studies at APA and ICGA since 1998. She is a graduate of Alexandria University, Egypt, and holds a degree in Medicine.

Mrs. Sara Kora earned her Bachelor's degree in Management Sciences from Sadat Academy for Management Sciences in Egypt. She has had formal training in *Tajweed*. Her experience includes teaching at Al Majed Islamic Language School in Egypt. She has also taught Islamic studies at various Austin area *masajid*.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman Chao comes to APA from Al Huda School in Maryland, where he taught Arabic and Quran. Born and raised in the United States, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology and Dawah from the University of Madinah in Saudi Arabia. In summer 2001 and 2006, he was the Summer Camp Teacher at Al-Huda Academy. He has translated numerous Arabic books into English and also served as a Freelance Writer/Editor of the Muslim Link Newspaper. Proficient in Arabic and Mandarin Chinese, he has participated in *dawah* services to various Hajj delegations.

Mr. Fernando Torres is a senior at UT Austin majoring in General Kinesiology and is skilled in the field of Physical Therapy. He has several years of experience as a Baseball and Basketball coach at Little League and Boys & Girls Club. He is bilingual (English and Spanish).

Mrs. Fatima Anwar is a well-respected member of the Austin Muslim community. A highly valuable member of our school, she has provided voluntary services in various capacities since the founding of APA.

Mr. Rakib Razzaque has worked in computer services for ten years. He attended UT Austin and has obtained computer certifications such as MCSC, Network Plus, and Comptia A+.

Mrs. Eman Kallash has worked as a Family Therapist for the past 15 years. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Arts in Developmental Psychology, both from Cleveland State University. She has provided therapeutic intervention services as well as

counseling to children and adolescents, and has spoken at schools and community organizations about parenting and adolescent issues.

Mrs. Guyna Elabiad is in her third year at APA. She has previously taught at Al-Manar Islamic School, Lebanon.

Mrs. Rania ElBaraday has worked at APA for the past two years in various capacities. She has a Bachelor of Accounting degree from the University of Alexandria in Egypt.

Mrs. Nahed Abou Galala has a degree in Computer Science from Mu'tah University in Jordan and also holds a diploma in High Educational Skills. She worked as a Computer Programmer in Jordan and has also been a teacher in Indiana as well as Jordan.

Mrs. Nahed Albayari has a bachelor's degree in *Fiqh* and Islamic Studies from Yarmouk University in Jordan and has taken graduate level courses in various Islamic subjects from American Open University. She has taught courses on *Tajweed* for Arabic and non-Arabic speakers, and has taught at the Sunday school at Masjid Ibrahim in Austin.

Sheikh Dr. Ibrahim Dremali joins us from Des Moines, Iowa where he was the Director of Islamic Center of Des Moines and Principal of New Horizons Academy in Iowa. He holds a bachelor's degree in Geology and a Masters and Ph.D. in Sharia, specializing in *Fiqh*, from Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt. Later he obtained an M.S. in Geology from Florida Atlantic University and Ph.D. in Geology from Florida International University. He served as the Principal of Darul Uloom Institute in Pembroke Pines, FL for 5 years and as the Imam of the Islamic Center of Belle Glade, FL. He has over 20 years experience as a Geologist and has taught college level courses in Geology and Oceanography for 7 years. He is a professor at Drake University and American Open University. He serves as an advisor to the American Muslim Association of North America (AMANA) and is a member of the Fatwa Committee of the Assembly of Muslim Jurists in America (AMJA). He holds a 3rd degree black belt in Karate.

Dr. Walid Hawana is in his second year as the Principal of APA. He possesses an M.A. in English Linguistics, an M.S. in Education, and a Doctorate in Education from Iowa State University. His specialized in Curriculum and Instruction at his doctoral work. He worked as an Associate Researcher at Iowa State University, and later as Professor of Education at Al-Fateh University in Tripoli, Libya and as a Professor at the Institute of Public Administration in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He has served as a Consultant to various educational and financial institutions and has been involved in governmental committees to evaluate educational procedures in Middle Schools. Prior to joining APA, he was an Adjunct Professor at Des Moines Area Community College, Iowa. He has numerous publications to his credit, and has translated several literary works into Arabic language. His experience also includes teaching Arabic to non-Arabic speakers in addition to offering training in various areas such as Time Management, Total Quality Management, and Leadership Skills.