

UNIVERSAL SCHOOL

“Where Islam and Education Come Together”



7350 W. 93rd Street • Bridgeview, IL 60455
Tel (708) 599-4100 • Fax (708) 599-1588
www.universalschool.org

Calendar

2008 - 2009

Behind A Great School is a Great Staff!

DIRECTORS & FOUNDERS

Dr. Abdul Amine, M.D. Neurosurgeon
 Dr. Abdullah Khasawinah, Ph.D.
 Prof: Mohammed A. Kishta, Ph.D.
 In Memoriam (1939-2000)

Safaa Zarzour, M.Ed., J.D.
 (Vice-Chairman of the Board)

Bassam Osman, M.D.
 (Representative of NAIT)

Mr. Shafiqur Rahman
 (Member 2007-2010)

Mr. Ahmad Elwan
 (Member 2006-2009)

Mr. Farooq Lowe
 (Member 2005-2008)

Dr. Abdallah Altarshan, M.D
 (Fathers' Club Representative 2007-2008)

Mrs. Raghad Nahhas
 (Mothers' Club President 2007-2008)

Mrs. Itedal Shalabi
 (Mothers' Club Representative 2007-2008)



August 2008

Rajab - Sha'ban 1429

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت
July 2008 S M T W T F S 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		September 2008 S M T W T F S 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30								1	29	2	30
3	1	4	2	5	3	6	4	7	5	8	6	9	7
10	8	11	9	12	10	13	11	14	12	15	13	16	14
				ACT Reg. Deadline for 8/12/08				Teacher In-Service Week					
17	15	18	16	19	17	20	18	21	19	22	20	23	21
		All Islamic School In-Service Day		Teachers Picture				PK-7th Open House 5:00-7:00 pm		Pre-K-12th grade First Day of School 8:20-12:00 Students Must Be in Uniform Pk-7th Open House 5:00-7:00			
Teacher In-Service Week													
24	22	25	23	26	24	27	25	28	26	29	27	30	28
31	29	Pre-K-12th grade First Full Day of School Students Must Be in Uniform				Pk-7th Grade Teacher Meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		8th-12th Grade Teacher Meeting 3:45-5:00 pm					

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ADMINISTRATION



Farhat Siddiqui, Principal

Mrs. Siddiqui joined Universal School in 1993 after teaching two years at the Islamic Foundation School. She is a certified teacher in the state of Illinois with a Bachelor's Degree in elementary education from Northeastern University. Mrs. Siddiqui received her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Loyola University in 2001. Mrs. Siddiqui is certified by the State of Illinois as a Principal with a type 75 administrative certificate.



Hanan Abdallah, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Hanan Abdallah joined Universal School in 1998. She graduated with honors from Northeastern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Mrs. Abdallah was the Director of Student's Affairs and has taught High School Math including AP Calculus for six years, and received a Masters Degree in Education in 2004. She has been recognized in "Who's Who" among educators. Mrs. Abdallah is a certified teacher in the State of Illinois with endorsements in Mathematics and Social Studies. This is her ninth year.



Dalila Benameur, Dean of Students

Ms. Benameur joined Universal School in 1996. Ms. Benameur is our Dean of Students and Social Studies Department Chair and veteran teacher. She has taught middle school and high school social studies and is currently the advisor of the National Honor Society. Ms. Benameur graduated from the University of Paris-Jussieu in France with a Master's Degree in American Civilization and a post-graduate degree in comparative religion and women's studies. Ms. Benameur also holds a teaching certificate from the university.

September 2008

Ramadan 1429

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت
		1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
		Labor Day NO SCHOOL		Ramadan Schedule Begins (Tentative)									
7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	11	12	12	13	13
		Fall Picture College Fair											
Classroom Visits To New Teachers													
14	14	15	15	16	16	17	17	18	18	19	19	20	20
		New teachers meeting 3:45-5 pm		Pk-7th grade Teachers meeting 2:45-4:00 pm			HS. 8th-12th grade Teachers meeting 2:45-4:00 pm		ACT Reg. Deadline for 10/25/08				
21	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	25	25	26	26	27	27
Eid Bazar													
28	28	29	29	30	30								
Eid Al-Fitr Break - NO SCHOOL													
												August 2008 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
												October 2008 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

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ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF



Gloria Sharara, Office Manager

Mrs. Sharara joined Universal School in 1997. She has an associate degree in Business Administration from LaGuardia Community College in New York, and earned a certification in early childhood education from Moraine Valley Community College.

Heda Al-Shuaibi, Secretary

Mrs. Heda Al-Shuaibi joined Universal School in 2005. She has many years of public relations experience. She worked for eight years with Al-Siddiqi Sunday School as a secretary, and with the Cook County Health Department as an assistant. Mrs. Al-Shuaibi holds a Bachelors Degree in Shareeah and Islamic Studies from the European College for Islamic Studies.



Ruth Saleh, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Saleh joined Universal School in 1992. She has twelve years of working experience at Universal in Pk-3 and Pk-4. She obtained her advanced certificate in early Childhood Education at Daley College in the summer of 1998, and also earned an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences with High Honors in May 2001. She is also certified in College Admission Counseling.

Imyassar Abdallah, Secretary

Ms. Imyassar Abdallah joined Universal School in 2006. She is currently attending Moraine Valley Community College pursuing her associates. Ms. Abdallah worked as a substitute for her first year at Universal, and as a teacher's aide her second year before becoming part of the administrative support staff.



Nada Abed, Secretary

Mrs. Abed joined Universal School in 2008. She is currently attending Moraine Valley Community College to obtain a Massage Therapist Certification. Mrs. Abed has previous office working experience from different business from the Chicago land area.

Nisreen Ahmed, Librarian

Mrs. Ahmed graduated with Bachelors in Science in Journalism, from San Jose University in California. She interned at ABC Radio in Chicago during her studies, and was on the Dean's list throughout her college years. She joined Universal School as a substitute in January of 2004. She has been the Librarian/Media Specialist at Universal School for the past three years.



Fadwa Hammad, Secretary

Mrs. Fadwa Hammad joined Universal School in 2000. Mrs. Hammad is currently working in the office, handling accounts receivable. She began working at Universal School as a substitute teacher for one year and then transitioned to a permanent secretarial position in the main office.

Abouelfatouh Sharara, Building Engineer

Mr. Sharara joined Universal School in 1994. He received his Bachelors degree in Physical Education from Alexandria University in Egypt in 1990. He taught P.E. at Universal for nine years prior to taking the Building Engineer position. Mr. Sharara is a dedicated member of our staff.



October 2008

Shawwal - Thul Qi'dah 1429

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت
September 2008 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		November 2008 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4		
						Eid Al-Fitr Break - NO SCHOOL							
5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	11
		School Resumes Progress Reports Due				Progress Reports Sent Home 10th Graders PLAN Exam		9th Graders EXPLORE Exam		Open House/Parents Workshop 5-8 pm			
						Scholastic Book Fair							
12	12	13	13	14	14	15	15	16	16	17	17	18	18
				Graduates Pictures & Fall Retakes		PSAT Exam Pk-7th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		HS. 8th-12th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		Board/Parent Meeting 6 pm			
19	19	20	20	21	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	25	25
				All Staff Meeting 4:00-5:00 pm								ACT Exam	
26	26	27	27	28	28	29	29	30	1	31	2		
		All Staff Meeting 4:00-5:00 pm								End of 1st Quarter			

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EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS



Sawsan Radwan, Preschool 3 year olds

Mrs. Radwan joined Universal School in 1995. She obtained her associate degree from Daley College. Mrs. Radwan worked for two years as a teacher in Children's World Learning Center and four years as a teacher in Grace Preschool prior to join Universal School.

Hana'a Jody, Kindergarten

Ms. Jody has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Chicago State University and is a certified teacher in the state of Illinois. Ms. Jody has taught at Universal since 1997.



Lila Alharsha, Preschool 4 year olds

Mrs. Alharsha joined Universal School in 1998. She holds a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood and a CDA certification in early childhood. She is in the process of receiving a National Administrators Credential. She has taught at the Pre K level for 12 years, 3 at All star kids prior to join Universal.

Ann Mehar, Kindergarten

Mrs. Mehar joined Universal School in 2000. She obtained her B.S. in elementary education from the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. She has worked in Universal's pre-K 3 classroom. Prior to that, she worked at the Wayne County School Career Center for five years in the nursery school, and for one year at Park Place Preschool. Mrs. Mehar is certified in elementary education.



November 2008

Thul Qi'dah - Thul Hijjah 1429

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت
October 2008 S M T W T F S 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		December 2008 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31										1	3
2	4	3	5	4	6	5	7	6	8	7	9	8	10
		Grades Due Teacher In-Service NO SCHOOL		9/10 Boys Students/ Admin meeting 4 pm		9/10 Girls Students/ Admin meeting 4 pm				ACT Reg. Deadline for 10/25/08			
9	11	10	12	11	13	12	14	13	15	14	16	15	17
						Pk-7th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		8th-12th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		Parent/Teacher Conference 10-6 pm NO SCHOOL			
16	18	17	19	18	20	19	21	20	22	21	23	22	24
		New teachers meeting 3:45-5 pm		All Staff Meeting 4:00-5:00 p.m.								Annual Dinner 6 p.m.	
23	25	24	26	25	27	26	28	27	29	28	30	29	1
30	2	11/12 Boys Students/ Admin meeting 4 pm		11/12 Girls Students/ Admin meeting 4 pm									
Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL													

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ELEMENTARY TEACHERS



Sabaah Ali, 1st grade

Ms. Sabaah Ali is certified to teach K-9 by the State of Illinois. She received her collegiate education from Benedictine University. She is also certified to teach Spanish. Ms. Ali taught first grade in ICCI (Islamic Community Center Illinois) before join Universal School.



Aliah Jody, 1st grade

Ms. Jody received her Associates in Arts Degree from Daley College in June of 1992. She is currently working on earning her Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education from Governors State University.



Buthiana M.A. Shabaneh, 2nd grade

Mrs. Shabaneh is a 2nd grade teacher. She graduated with honors from North-eastern Illinois University with a degree in Early Childhood education. Mrs. Shabaneh is certified by the state of Illinois. Mrs. Shabaneh worked for Universal for three years as a Pre K-4 and for three years as a second grade teacher before she moved to Alabama where she also taught kindergarten. She also worked for two years at ICCI Academy in Illinois.



Noor Shalabi, 2nd grade

Mrs. Shalabi graduated from Saint Xavier University in 2003 with a Master of Arts in Education. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology in May 2000 from Rutgers University. She did her student teaching with Ridge Central Elementary School, and joined Universal School in October 2003 as a 2nd grade teacher. Mrs. Shalabi is certified by the State of Illinois.



Aminah Murrar, 3rd grade

Mrs. Murrar graduated from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an area of concentration in Arabic. Mrs. Murrar is certified by the state of Illinois. She joined Universal in 2001 as a 3rd grade teacher and plans to continue her education in Islamic Studies through Open University.

Huwaida Hamed, 3rd grade

Huwaida Hamed graduated from Trinity Christian College with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Ms. Hamed is certified by the State of Illinois and did her student teaching at Lyle Elementary School in Bridgeview, Illinois.

Linda Mosa, 4th grade

Mrs. Mosa is a graduate of Saint Xavier University with bachelors in Elementary Education. She is pursuing a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. She is certified to teach K-9, by the State of Illinois. Mrs. Mosa has experience teaching at Peck Elementary School in Chicago for the past six years.

Maribel Quiles-Moukaddem, 4th grade

Mrs. Moukaddem has a Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction with a minor in Psychology from National Louis University at Wheaton, Illinois and her bachelors of Science in special education from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. She is certified by the state of Illinois to teach English as a second language. She has six year of teaching experience in the public school system prior to joining Universal School in 2001.

Barbara Hamoud, 5th grade

Mrs. Hamoud joined the Universal faculty in January of 1992 after graduating from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She had a 4.0 GPA and was on the dean's list every semester. She was active in the Muslim Student Association and is a certified teacher in the state of Illinois, with an endorsement in English. She has taught kindergarten, 1st grade, and 3rd grade and 5th grade at Universal.

Ranya Hasan, 5th grade

Mrs. Hassan is a graduate of St. Xavier University, graduating Cum Laude. She is certified to teach K-9 and has worked for one year with Islamic Foundation School as an Elementary teacher. Mrs. Hasan is certified by the state of Illinois.



December 2008

Thul Hijjah - Muharram 1429

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت
		1	3	2	4	3	5	4	6	5	7	6	8
										Quran Competition			
7	9	8	10	9	11	10	12	11	13	12	14	13	15
												ACT Exam	
Eid Al-Adha Break - NO SCHOOL													
14	16	15	17	16	18	17	19	18	20	19	21	20	22
		School Resumes Elementary Eid Party Progress Reports Due				Progress Reports Sent Home Pk-7th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		8th-12th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		8th-12th Science Fair			
21	23	22	24	23	25	24	26	25	27	26	28	27	29
		New teachers meeting 3:45-5 pm		All Staff Meeting 4:00-5:00 p.m.									
Winter Break - NO SCHOOL													
28	30	29	1	30	2	31	3						
Winter Break - NO SCHOOL													
										November 2008 S M T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		January 2009 S M T W T F S 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

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MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS



Qudsia Haque, 6th grade

Ms. Haque earned her B.A. degree from Northwestern University and has middle school endorsements in Math and Science. She did her student teaching at Nichols Middle School. Ms. Haque is certified by the State of Illinois.

Rafah Abu Hayyeh, 7th grade

Mrs. Abuhayyeh joined Universal School in 2006. She is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University with Middle School Endorsements. She is certified by the State of Illinois.



Azza Rahman, 6th grade

Ms. Rahman joined Universal School in 2007. She earned her B.A. degree in elementary education from Elmhurst College with middle school endorsements in Science and Social Studies. She also holds a Master of Education in Reading and Literacy from Benedictine University. Ms. Rahman worked at Averoes Academy before coming to Universal School.

Maria Lorena Jameel, 7th grade

Mrs. Jameel earned her B.A. in Microbiology from Eastern Michigan University and B.A. in Elementary Education from Florida Atlantic University. Mrs. Jameel is certified by the State of Illinois, Florida and Texas in Elementary Education. Mrs. Jameel had taught at N.U.I Academy in Florida for the last two years prior to coming to Universal.



January 2009

Muharram - Safar 1430

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت
December 2008 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		February 2009 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28						1	4	2	5	3	6
<div style="text-align: right;">Federal Aid (FAFSA) Worksheet available ACT Class Test 9:00-1:00 pm</div>													
4	7	5	8	6	9	7	10	8	11	9	12	10	13
		School Resumes		NHS Community Service Hours Due ACT Reg. Deadline for 2/7/09		Pk-7th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		8th-12th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		ACT Class 3:30-6:30 pm			
11	14	12	15	13	16	14	17	15	18	16	19	17	20
				All Staff Meeting 4:00-5:00 p.m.				<div style="text-align: center;">Exams Reviews</div>					
18	21	19	22	20	23	21	24	22	25	23	26	24	27
		8th-12th Independent Study Day New teachers meeting 3:45-5 pm		<div style="text-align: center;">8th-12th Semester Exams</div>									
25	28	26	29	27	1	28	2	29	3	30	4	31	5
		Grades Due		<div style="text-align: center;">Spelling Bee Week</div>									
													Report Cards Sent Home / Career Day (NHS Sponsored) / ACT Class 3:30-6:30 pm

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ENGLISH & SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENTS



Fuzia Jarad

Mrs. Jarad graduated from the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in English. She began teaching at Universal in 1993 until 1999 when she took a two-year sabbatical. She joined our teaching staff again in 2001. Presently she is teaching, High School English and Advanced Placement English.



Dalal Askar

Mrs. Askar earned her bachelors degree in Secondary Education and English from DePaul University and she is pursuing a Masters in Fiction Writing and Teaching Writing from Columbia College in Chicago. Mrs. Askar holds a secondary teaching certification from the State of Illinois.



Deanna Othman

Ms. Othman, a former Universal School student, has a bachelor's degree in English and International Studies, and Masters in Magazine Publishing, Editing, and Writing from Northwestern University. Ms. Othman has many years of experience in her field.



Timothy L. Weldzius

Mr. Weldzius graduated from University of Illinois in Chicago with bachelors in English Language Arts. He is also pursuing a Masters' Degree in Education from Chicago State University. Mr. Weldzius did his student teaching at Tilden High School, worked at Chicago Sun-Times Newspaper as an editor, and is currently a reporter for the Gazette Newspaper. Mr. Weldzius is certified by the State of Illinois.

Dalila Benameur, Department Chair

Ms. Benameur is the Dean of Students and Social Studies Department Chair. Ms. Benameur graduated from the University of Paris-Jussieu in France with a Master's Degree in American Civilization and a post-graduate degree in comparative religion and women's studies. Ms. Benameur also holds a teaching certificate from the university.



Jehad Matariyeh

Mr. Matariyeh earned his Masters in Political and Justice Studies from Governors State University and his bachelor degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois in Springfield, Illinois.



Nassrine Hamdan

Mrs. Hamdan earned her bachelor degree in History from the University of Illinois in Chicago. Mrs. Hamdan worked at Universal School from 1997 to 1999 as a first grade teacher before dedicating herself to her family. She has always kept involved with the school as a parent and as a substitute teacher.



February 2009

Safar - Rabi' I 1430

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت
1	6	2	7	3	8	4	9	5	10	6	11	7	12
						Pk-7th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm College Seminar Making It Count 10th-11th Grade		8th-12th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		ACT Class 3:30-6:30 pm		Math Counts Competition ACT Exam ACT Class Test 9:00-1:00 pm	
8	13	9	14	10	15	11	16	12	17	13	18	14	19
				All Staff Meeting 4:00-5:00 p.m.		WYSE Regional Competition				Elementary Science Fair			
										ACT Class Workshop 3:30-6:30 pm			
15	20	16	21	17	22	18	23	19	24	20	25	21	26
		Teacher In-Service NO SCHOOL								ACT Class 3:30-6:30 pm			
22	27	23	28	24	29	25	30	26	1	27	2	28	3
						Pk-7th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		8th-12th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		ACT Class 3:30-6:30 pm			
										ACT Reg. Deadline for 4/4/08			

January 2009							March 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION & COMPUTER/ART DEPARTMENTS



Ali Abuhlaleh, Department Chair

Mr. Abuhlaleh has a Bachelor Degree in Physical Education from Jordan University, and many years of experience as a P.E. teacher and coach of different wrestling teams. Mr. Abuhlaleh is our current coach of the wrestling, and soccer teams.



Lena Tlieb

Ms. Tlieb has a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Robert Morris College. She is currently our high school girls Volleyball and Basketball teams' coach, and a physical education teacher for our elementary, Middle and High school girls.



Mahmoud Ghouleh

Mr. Ghouleh is currently attending Moraine Valley Community College, and he is the Assistant Basketball Coach at Moraine Valley. Mr. Ghouleh is our current coach of the high school basketball team.

Usama Oubeid

Mr. Oubeid earned a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from Northeastern Illinois University. Mr. Oubeid had worked the computer field prior to come to Universal School.

Melvin Aziz Farid

Mr. Farid attended Chicago State University. He has received a bachelor's degree in Computer Science with a minor in Philosophy and Religious Studies. He started at Universal in 2001-2002 as a part time physical education teacher.

Hayfae Awadallah

Mrs. Awadallah completed a high school degree from Buffalo, New York, and was at the top of the class. She holds an Associate Degree from Moraine Valley Community College.

Maha Abuzir, Arts Department

Mrs. Abuzir graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Liberal Arts and Science Degree in 1993. Mrs. Abuzir joined Universal School as a fulltime Art teacher in 2006.



March 2009

Rabi' I - Rabi' II 1430

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت
1	4	2	5	3	6	4	7	5	8	6	9	7	10
		Progress Reports Due				Progress Reports Sent Home		NHS Induction Ceremony 2-3:30 pm		ACT Class 3:30-6:30 pm			
8	11	9	12	10	13	11	14	12	15	13	16	14	17
				All Staff Meeting 4:00-5:00 p.m.		HS Lexicon Challenge				WYSE Sectional Competition		Regional Science Fair	
15	18	16	19	17	20	18	21	19	22	20	23	21	24
						MS Lexicon Challenge				ACT Class 3:30-6:30 pm		ACT Class Test 9:00-1:00 pm	
22	25	23	26	24	27	25	28	26	29	27	30	28	1
Spring Break - NO SCHOOL													
29	2	30	3	31	4								

February 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

April 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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MATH & SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS



Rosemary Sahloul, Department Chair

Mrs. Sahloul graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has a bachelor degree in Math Education, and she is certified by the state of Illinois. She has taught for twelve years at AQSA School prior to joining Universal School in 2000.



Ruqia Ali

Mrs. Ali has a Masters of Arts in Education from Benedictine University with a Secondary Education Certificate and Bachelors of Science. Mrs. Ali has taught for one year at Islamic Foundation School and is eager to get back into the classroom and have the students work on Labs in our State of the Art Laboratory.



Azza Jammal

Ms. Jammal holds a bachelor degree in Commerce from DePaul University. Ms. Jammal worked as a 7th grade teacher at Universal School for a year and taught part-time in our H.S. / M.S. Math department.



Rashikah Hamayel

Mrs. Hamayel earned a bachelor's degree in Physics from Birziet University in Palestine. She obtained her Illinois certification in teaching math and physics from Trinity Christian College. Mrs. Hamayel has six years of working experience in the weekend school. Mrs. Hamayel did her student teaching at Universal School prior to becoming part of our full time staff.

Linda Hamadeh, Department Chair

Mrs. Linda Hamadeh graduated from Northeastern Illinois University in May 1997 with High Honors and received a B.S. degree in Biology and Certification in Secondary Science Education grades 6-12. She began teaching middle school and high school science at Universal School in August 1997 until summer 2001, when she began working on her Masters in Educational Leadership and Supervision. Mrs. Hamadeh received her M.Ed. degree from St. Xavier University in 2003, and she returned to Universal School as a department chair and high school teacher. She has also been the official IJAS school sponsor since 2004.



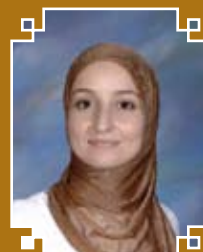
Samina Syed

Mrs. Syed graduated from the University of Alberta in Canada in secondary education (BED), with a bachelor's of science degree (BSC), and a bachelor's degree in biological science and physical science. Mrs. Syed is certified as a science teacher. Mrs. Syed has been teaching Biology, AP Biology, Chemistry and Math.



Aniesah Mustafa

Mrs. Mustafa earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry and a Master in Organic Chemistry from University of Illinois at Chicago. Mrs. Mustafa also holds a PhD Research from the same University.



April 2009

Rabi' II - Jumada I 1430

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت																																																																																																									
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ARABIC DEPARTMENT



Motasem Azhari, Department Chair

Mr. Azhari joined Universal in 1993 after 18 years of teaching Arabic in Kuwait and Jordan. He was also assistant principal of a middle school in Kuwait for six years and a principal for six years at the same school. He was a teacher's inspector for the Arabic Department for five years. He graduated from the Syrian University.



Jemana Martini

Mrs. Martini holds a degree from Syria. Mrs. Martini is certified to teach Arabic and Islamic Studies. She has a degree in Education from the Open American University. She taught six years in Syria. She also taught Arabic and Islamic Studies for two years at Al Noor School in New York, two years at the Sister Clara Muhammad School, and two years at Brooklyn Cultural Center in New York City. This is Mrs. Martini's eleventh year at Universal.



Samira Dissi

Mrs. Dissi graduated from Al-Quds University in Jerusalem with a Bachelors Degree in Arabic Literature. She has been with Universal since 1997, as a substitute teacher and as a teacher's aide for early elementary grades. She continues with Universal as a full-time Arabic teacher.



Ghina Jammal

Mrs. Jammal is certified to teach Arabic and Islamic studies. She has a diploma in Education from the Open American University. She joined Universal school in 1995, and she has more than fourteen years of teaching experience.

Turfa Taha

Mrs. Taha has been teaching Arabic at Universal School for thirteen years. Prior to that, she taught in Kuwait at al-Nahdah School for six years, and subsequently became an assistant principal at the same school and held that position for eleven years. She was a principal of the Quran School in Kuwait for a year.

Seida Khater

Mrs. Khater is certified to teach Arabic and Islamic Studies. She has a degree in Education from the Open American University. She holds Bachelors in Political Science and Business administration from Jordan University. She has earned an Ijaza in Quran recitation (Shatibyah method). She has worked as an Islamic Studies/Arabic teacher for the Mosque Foundation weekend school and as a substitute for Universal School. She currently teaches Arabic and Quran to grades 6th through 12th grade.

Asma Atek

Mrs. Atek had taught Arabic, Quran, and Islamic Studies during Universal Saturday School for the last few years, and taught Tajweed and Quran for adults as well. Mrs. Atek has an advanced course in Tajweed certification and more than seven years of teaching experience.

Ahmed Arafat

Mr. Arafat works in our Islamic Studies and Arabic Department. He has a Bachelors degree in Languages and Translation with minors in Islamic Studies from Al-Azhar University in Cairo-Egypt.



May 2009

Jumada I - Jumada II 1430

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت
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										IOWA TESTS		State Science Fair	
3	8	4	9	5	10	6	11	7	12	8	13	9	14
		AP Students Independent Study Day				AP Calculus Exam Morning Session PK-7th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		AP English Literature Exam Morning Session 8th-12th grade Teachers meeting 3:45-5:00 pm		AP US History Exam Morning Session ACT Reg. Deadline for 6/23/09			
10	15	11	16	12	17	13	18	14	19	15	20	16	21
		AP Biology Exam Morning Session AP Physics Exam Afternoon Session Progress Reports Due		AP Environmental Science Exam Morning Session		AP English Language Exam Morning Session Progress Reports Sent		Study guides 8th & 12th students		All School Program 6:30 pm			
17	22	18	23	19	24	20	25	21	26	22	27	23	28
		New teachers meeting 3:45-5 pm				Final Exams Due for 8th & 12th grade students							
Current families Registration - Last Name beginning with A													
24	29	25	1	26	2	27	3	28	4	29	5	30	6
31	7	Memorial Day NO SCHOOL		8th & 12th student grades for 4th Qtr entered		8th & 12th Grade Final Exams			Graduation Dinner		8th & 12th graders Last Day of School & Award Ceremony / Seniors Picnic by Juniors/8th & 12th grades finalized & entered		
Current families Registration - Last Name beginning with B-L													

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ISLAMIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT



Nazeerah Khudeira, Department Chair

Mrs. Khudeira has a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and sciences with a major in English, and a Master's Degree in liberal education with a concentration in Literature. She also holds a standard elementary certification K-9. She has taught in schools in New Mexico, various countries, and Chicago. She is certified to teach middle/high school English, Political Science, Sociology and Civics. She currently teaches Islamic Studies to grades 6th through 10th.

Fathi Fadhli

Dr. Fadhli obtained his Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, from the College of Education, at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He holds a Masters degree in Science Education from the same university and a Masters in Geology from the Department of Geology at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. He worked five years with the Information and Access Technology Service Department at the University of Missouri during the course of his study, before joining Universal in 1999.



Huda Ata

Mrs. Ata received her Bachelor degree in Shariah and Usool Al-Din. Mrs. Ata has three years of teaching experience at Al-Siddiq School (Mosque Foundation). She worked with the Munina Youth Club for three years teaching Quran interpretation (Tafsir) to English speaking sisters on Sundays at the Mosque Foundation. Mrs. Ata also volunteered as a teacher aide at Orland School for two years, and one year at Universal School, prior to joining Universal School full-time.

Nazir Chahin

Mr. Chahin is a part time Islamic Studies teacher. Mr. Chahin earned a bachelors degree in Industrial Engineering from Northern Illinois University and a Sharia in comparative Fiqh and Quran's Sciences from Al-Azhar University in Syria. Mr. Chahin is also the Imam at Orland Park Prayer Center.



Kifah Mustapha

Mr. Mustapha is a part time Islamic Studies teacher. Mr. Mustapha is also an Imam at Mosque Foundation for many years and is coming to share his knowledge with our students.

June 2009

Jumada II - Rajab 1430

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت																																																																																																								
		1 Study guides due for 9th-11th grade students	8	2	9	3	10	4 Pre K/Kg Last Day Field Day for PK & Kg/ Final Exams Due 9th-11th grade	11	5 End of 4th Quarter Kg Graduation 5pm 8 & 12 Grade Report Card Pick Up	12	6	13																																																																																																								
Current families Registration - Last Name beginning with M-Z						9th-11th Grade Semester Reviews																																																																																																															
7 8th Grade Graduation 11-1 pm 12th Grade Graduation 4-6 pm	14	8 9th-11th Independent Study Day School in session for 1st-7th grade	15	9 1st-7th grade Field Day	16	10 Elementary/MS Awards Ceremony. Last Day & Report Card Pick Up for 1st-7th. Dismiss at 12:00 pm	17	11	18	12	19	13 ACT Exam	20																																																																																																								
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TEACHER AIDES



Huma Murad



Howyda Ragab



Akila Kouider



Kifah Soheil



Tazia Begum



Nadia Rayan



Asma Chehade



Kifah Abuhlaleh



Deba Ahmed



Nafeesunnisa Syed



Buthiana Mahafzah

July 2009

Rajab - Sha'ban 1430

SUN	الأحد	MON	الاثنين	TUE	الثلاثاء	WED	الأربعاء	THU	الخميس	FRI	الجمعة	SAT	السبت
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CLASS of 2008



CLASS of 2008



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SCHOOL PROFILE 2008-2009

FROM CRAYONS TO COLLEGE: Universal School provides classes from preschool through 12th grade. During the last school year, there were over 341 students in the preschool and elementary level and 327 in the middle and high school, totaling 668 students. The spacious 70,000 square foot modern facility allows a maximum of 700 students. At the current rate of growth, we anticipate reaching this number in a few short years. Our graduates have been accepted into Harvard University, Yale University, Cornell University, University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Washington St Louis Medical Program, Wesleyan University in Connecticut, I.I.T. Dual acceptance Medical, DePaul University, Loyola University Honors Program, University of Illinois at Chicago Honors Program, University of Illinois at Urbana and other smaller undergraduate schools. Last year's graduates received a total of over 2 million in academic scholarships.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Universal School is governed by a well-diversified, group of Muslim professionals who are not only active in the school, but in the community at large. There are nine members, eight men and one woman. These individuals who volunteer their time oversee the basic functions of the school.

ACCREDITATION: Since 1992, Universal has been recognized by the State of Illinois Board of Education and in 2004, Universal School also received accreditation from the very prestigious North Central Association for Accreditation. Universal School is also recognized nationally as a leading Islamic school by the Islamic Society of North America, Islamic Circle of North America, American Muslim Council, Dar-ul-Islam Inc., and Council on American Islamic relations, among others.

BUDGET: The annual budget of Universal sums over 3,300,000.00. Seventy-five percent of this amount is collected through tuition, the remainder is provided through grants and fund raising efforts.

ENROLLMENT: Universal's 668 students and their parents are from various cultural and economic backgrounds. Over 63% of parents of students come from twenty different Arab countries, 15% represent the Indian subcontinent, 12% are African Americans and 10% from other nationalities.

CURRICULUM AND ACHIEVEMENT: The elementary level adheres to an accelerated academic program that leads the students in the high school level to our college preparatory program offering Advanced Placement and Honors classes. Our elementary school students, on average, performed better than 77% of all the students nationally, when compared to students in other private and parochial schools in grades 2nd through 8th, on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

Our high school students' scores averaged from 23.0 to 24.1% for the last four years on nationally conducted achievement tests such as the SAT and ACT, with the score of 34 out of 36 as the highest ACT score, and 790 out of 800 SAT subject test score obtained this past year by Universal Students. This is well above the national average of 21.1 and State average of 20.5.

THE FACILITY: The spacious 70,000 square foot modern facility includes thirty-six classrooms; a state of the art, fully equipped science lab; two computer labs; one journalism lab; library-media center; a cafeteria with a full service kitchen; an inside regulation size basketball court; playing field; and a playground.

THE FACULTY/STAFF: The school is home to sixty dedicated faculty and staff members. The Principal and Assistant Principal both hold a Master's Degrees in Education and Administration. All teachers of core subjects are certified in their respective fields where certification is offered except for a few who are currently pursuing a certification program. Over forty percent have earned at least one Master's Degree in education-related fields, the remaining have Bachelor's Degrees. One high school teacher has a Ph.D. in curricular development. Several elementary and high school teachers have been chosen annually, as Who's Who among U.S. teachers. Over 50% of the elementary faculty graduated with honors from their respective alma mater. The elementary and high school teachers have an average of nine years teaching experience behind them.

DISTINCT AWARDS:

2008: 1st place school recognition in the Regional Science Fair out of 48 participating schools. From the 300 projects judged, Universal School students received the greatest percentage of "Outstanding Projects" recognition. 1st place school recognition in the Regional and Sectional WYSE Competition, Universal School students received individual "Outstanding" recognition in the areas of Biology and Physics, at State level. 14 students were recognized as AP Scholars. 83% of the students passed the AP Exam. 2 students finalists in the All American Boy/Girl Contest, Highest ACT score of a 34 out of 36.

2007: 1st place school recognition in the Regional Science Fair out of 55 schools. 1st place school Recognition in the Regional and Sectional WYSE Competition. 7 AP Scholars and 2 National Merit Scholars Semi Finalists (This honor is awarded to only 1 in every 250,000 high school juniors). 2 finalists in the All American Boys Contest, Highest ACT score 34 out of 36, and highest SAT 1420, 10 Illinois State Scholars.

2006: Highest ACT scores of 32 out of 36; 11 AP Scholars; 6 Illinois State Scholars. 1 finalist in the All American Boys Contest.

2005: Highest ACT score of 34 out of 36. All American Boy Contest, 3rd place winner: Sponsored by U.S. Congressman Lipinski; Midwest Muslimah Volleyball Tournament Winners; 8 AP Scholars; 4 Illinois State Scholars.

EXTRA RECOGNITIONS

- **2000: Metro Prep Conference Championship, Student On-Line Award, (SOJA)** Awarded grand prize in the national competition sponsor by US News and World Report.

- **All American Girl Contest, winner:** Sponsored by U.S. Congressman Lipinski; **National Merit Scholar:** Awarded to 1 in 250,000 high school seniors.

- **Illinois State Scholar,** awarded to 1% of Illinois H.S. seniors; Highest SAT score, 1570 out of 1600.

- **WGN Extra Effort Award.**

TAKING THE LEAD: Universal is known as the pioneer in taking bold steps toward establishing and refining North America's Islamic school movement. Some of our unique endeavors include: establishing an Arabic as a second language curriculum including original textbooks and materials; creating and utilizing an Islamic Studies curriculum as well as textbooks for the elementary grades; participants of the Tarbiyah Project, a national Islamic character education program; 12-page, independent student newspaper, The Constellation; joining an official IHSA private high school basketball conference; initiating and hosting a volleyball tournament for girls involving other Muslim schools in the area, a wrestling program where students participated and won at the regional level, track and field team for boys and girls (Islamic dress code worn through special permission) has participated in the State Sectional Meet for the past eight years, and several students competed on the state level.

LOCATION: Nestled in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, Universal School draws students from the entire Chicago land area with a significant number living up to an hour's drive away.

IMPACT ON COMMUNITY: Since its inception, Universal School has played a dynamic and significant role in the community. Many school programs involve the students in community services, such as feeding the indigent, visiting nursing homes, participating in activities at homeless shelters and sponsorship of orphaned children. Universal students publish their own 12-page student newspaper three times a year, and have an online newspaper as well. The first high school chapter of IMAN (Inner-city Muslim Action Network) was established at Universal in which students actively work in the community to help those in need.