



In The Name Of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

المعهد الإسلامي في تورنتو

Islamic Institute of Toronto

Education for Virtuous Living

Assalaamu alaykum!

Dear Parents, Students and Staff!

It is wonderful to have you all here. As the new principal at IIT Academy I am looking forward to an exciting year. I have spent over twenty years in the field of education moving from classroom teacher, teacher trainer, education consultant, school improvement liaison and now principal. I am always looking forward to opportunities to learn and grow, and I feel this year at IIT Academy will give me just that.

I have a background in Neuroscience and World History, and Global Education from the University of Toronto. I completed my masters at the George Washington University in Education and Human Development with an emphasis on Special Education. I have had the opportunity to work with schools in Australia, Afghanistan, Columbia, UK, US, Tanzania, South Africa, Tunisia and of course, Canada.

As I begin this journey, I am reminded of a quote by Dr Jeremy Henzell-Thomas, an international educator and academic:

In the Islamic tradition...the teacher is both a *mu'allim* (a transmitter of knowledge) and a *murabbi* (a nurturer of souls).

With this in mind, I think of our position as educators in the 21st century focusing on critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication. In addition to this, I have added 3 C's of my own: Care, Community and Competition.

Care: My goal is to establish a level of care and nurturing of souls within our school through establishing a discipline program that takes into account the many worlds of the student, and a whole community approach. My students are our children and children of the community.

Community: I want to build upon the support of the school community and parent community such that we embody integrity, empathy, and a striving for goodness within the framework of an Islamic worldview.

And finally Competition: In every moment I hope we aim to improve ourselves – be better than yesterday, last week, last month, and last year. I want us to be better teachers, students, parents and educators than we were before. Our only competition is ourselves, and our goal is constant self-improvement in all areas of our educational journeys.

You can reach me at principal@iitacademy.ca or feel free to call me at 416 335 9173, extension 3. I will aim to get back to you within two school days.

It's going to be an exciting, fun, thought-provoking ride, so get ready, get set, and welcome back!

Bismillah...

With many prayers for continued success and ease,

Omaira Alam, OCT, BSc, BEd, MA
Principal, IIT Academy