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# Star★News

Al Ihsan School of Excellence



## Islamic Corner

And proclaim to the people the Hajj [pilgrimage]; they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every distant pass  
- (Surat Al Hajj Ayah 27)

*“I was extremely humbled by my experience from Hajj! It made me see people from every corner of the world, and I was grateful to Allah (swt) to have performed and fulfilled what He asked of me!” –*

*Sr. Hajja Nadia Aziz.*



## From the Principal's Desk

Bismillah.

Asalaamualaikum,

My name is Maysa Jadallah and I am the Principal of Al Ihsan School of Excellence. This is my 5th year at Al Ihsan School. I started off as a Kindergarten teacher then became the Preschool Director in 2014. Shortly after I became the schools Vice Principal and help that position for two amazing years. In those two years, I learned so much within Administration and feel confident coming into my new role as Principal. I hold a Degree and License in Early Childhood Education and have a short time left in my Master's program at Cleveland State University. With Allah's guidance, I hope to make a positive impact on all our student's lives as well as my staff. (Continued on page 3)

## Save the Date!

### September

25- Meet & Greet AQIS  
6-8 p.m (Cleveland)  
26- Meet & Greet AQIS  
6-8 p.m (Parma)

### October

2-6 Spirit Week  
9- No school-SPD  
20- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter ends  
23- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter begins  
26- 1:45 Early dismissal & PTC 2pm-8:30  
27- No School

### November

15- Culture Day all buildings  
17- invention fair  
22- 2<sup>nd</sup> Q progress reports

*Don't forget to fast this Saturday, September 30. The Prophet (peace be upon him) was asked about the merit of fasting 'Ashura Day, thereupon he said: "It expiates the sins of the preceding year" (Reported by Muslim).*

## Teacher Feature

By: Selma Abazid & Bayan Abed



High School Homeroom- Salaam Tarakji, the high school homeroom and math teacher at Al Ihsan School, has just received a new position as the Middle/High School Director.

Tarakji was promoted to her new position after graduating last year from Michigan State University with her masters in K-12 Educational Administration.

Tarakji has been working with middle school since she was in 10th grade. She used to be the counselor for FIC Girls Group in Flint, Michigan, where there were weekly lessons, crafts and Quran recitation.

“I became a teacher as a stepping stone to becoming an administrator. I grew up going to an Islamic school, and ever since it’s been my goal to make Islamic schools better,” said Tarakji.

Although she was a straight-A student, Tarakji was always bored with school, which is why she likes to keep her students engaged. She tries to keep conversations going on during math and likes to see her students participate while teaching them the material.

“My favorite grade level is high school, the older the age [or grade level], the more I enjoy teaching them. Teaching 6th grade is a challenge because they are transitioning into middle school and getting used to the system,” said Tarakji.

In addition to her busy schedule, she finds the biggest challenge is sticking with a daily schedule of reviewing the Quran.

“A dose of Quran before your day starts is the key to success and serenity,” said Tarakji.

### Can you Answer this Riddle?

By: Yasmine Dardari

You are in a room with three monkeys. One has a banana, one has a stick, and one has nothing. Who is the smartest primate?

## School Spirit Week

**Monday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Sports Day! Are you an Indians fan or a Cavaliers fan? Wear

y

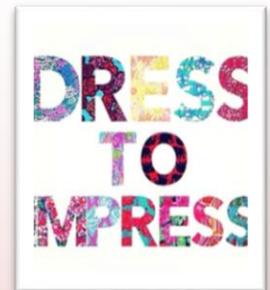


our team spirit!

**Tuesday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Dress to impress!

Wear your favorite outfit to school.



**Wednesday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>**

Silly Hat Day! Wear your favorite silly hat while staying in uniform.



**Thursday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>**

Career Day! Dress like the professional you’d want to be when you grow up.

**Friday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Special Muslim

Clothes Day!

# From Public School to Al Ihsan

By: Faten Husni Odeh

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom- Throughout history and even today, only the children of royal families and the highly elite have been able to receive education in small learning environments.

Students of Al Ihsan should consider themselves very lucky for their classroom sizes. They are not just another number working in a classroom of 40 students with one teacher. Many of our classrooms are of ten students or less. Some might see this as a negative, but in actuality nothing can be more beneficial for our students.

In the past, I worked for a nearby public school system. Forty students in one classroom was the norm more often than not. As a teacher and as a Muslim, I wanted to make sure every student was awarded their due time. However, this proved a challenge given that many times the only way students could hear me was if I used a microphone. This is saying a lot, since naturally I possess a clear and loud voice, as any Al Ihsan student can confirm. It is very difficult and few can succeed to deliver quality level instruction under these circumstances. This formula leaves many teachers and students equally frustrated.



Another advantage for our students is the privilege and blessing of attending a one-to-one school for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up. Every student has access to either an iPad or an Apple laptop. Even in kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, classrooms are furnished with Apple technology for student use.

Technology literacy is key to being successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. According to Edutopia, when schools have implemented the one-to-one system, students score significantly higher on their state assessments.

Not only are the students equipped at an individual level, but also in the classrooms most teachers utilize SmartBoards, allowing the students' learning to be interactive and engaging.

In my previous district, my principal mentioned something that really stuck with me. She told me that students are missing a certain element to their education these days. The element she was referring to is the element of faith.

Faith helps keep us grounded, and *alhamdulillah* at Al Ihsan, our students are provided with this rare opportunity. On a daily basis, students engage with the Quran, their Islamic values, and the Arabic language.

Students are not taught these subjects in routine and isolated methods, but rather they are taught to apply these teachings to all parts of their lives. Whether students are in math class or in social studies, you will find that Islam is being implemented in the curriculum and mode of instruction.

All of these ingredients make for well-rounded and balanced individuals that will one day contribute to the betterment of society for our *ummah* and the world as a whole, *inshaaAllah*

## From the Principal's Desk cont...

I work with such amazing group of people Alhamdulillah. All of Al Ihsan's staff has something special to offer our student's and we are extremely lucky to have them. Every person who is a part of the Al Ihsan team works hard to make sure all students excel in all levels of their education. I am lucky to have such an amazing staff, full of dedication and the love of teaching Alhamdulillah!

I am grateful for all the support I have to be able to lead Al Ihsan school towards excellence. I am excited to continue to work with such an amazing staff as well as our wonderful families we service Alhamdulillah! I hope that you will keep our school, students, teachers, and staff in your continuous dua Inshallah!

## Dear Abby,

I am new at Al Ihsan School and I have no friends, please help.

## Dear Troubled One,

I know being at a new school with strangers can be frustrating, but if you work hard and try your best to socialize with your classmates, InshaAllah you will find it easy to make new friends. One way to make new friends is during recess try to play with your classmates instead of standing by yourself. It might be harder than it sounds at first but just give it a chance.

Sincerely,  
Danah Harmouche & Bayan Abed



## PTT Update

By: **Thahabia Assad & Razan Sabih**

PTT, or Parent Teacher Team, has been working on leaving a positive impact on our school. Their main goal is to build strong working relationships with parents, teachers and the school, in support of our students. They also make an effort to provide students with a hot lunch every Tuesday for \$3.50. Anwar Abdallah, a PTT member, informed us one Tuesday of every month there will be a special lunch surprise. InshaAllah they will keep on supporting and making our school a better place.

## Star Students

By: **Jenin Mahmoud-Staff Reporter**

Naji Abuirmeileh- "He's always following the rules."  
-Mrs. Harris

Saifullah Taweil- He's well behaved and follows directions." - Sr. Nadia Aziz

Sandra Alshakhaetreh- "She's the the Bomb.com and is well mannered, respectful, and kind." -Sr.Israa Abed



## Star News Staff

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Danah Harmouche- Dear Abby

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Jenin Mahmoud- Star Students

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Answer to Riddle: You (p. 3)

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