



## Welcome Back to School

Dear IAH Parents, Staff, and Students:

Al Salam Alykum,

Allow me first to briefly introduce myself. My name is Hamsa Mahafza, and I am the new Principal of the Islamic Academy of Huntsville (IAH). I am also a newcomer to Huntsville and I am really enjoying the city and the Muslim community here. I'm deeply committed to the field of education and, particularly, I'm an advocate to Islamic community-based education. In fact, this type of schooling is one of my areas of expertise and interests. I strongly believe that the role that the Islamic school plays in our community is unique and influential; it helps in maintaining the Arabic language (the language of the Holy Quran), and also in persevering our Islamic and cultural heritage, principles, traditions, and values.

Within the next few days (Wednesday, August 5, 2015), our school doors will open to welcome our students and their parents to the 2015-2016 school year. I am very excited to be part of the IAH team whom will devote much of their efforts and time towards serving our students and accomplishing the school goals and objectives. Through collaborative work, the IAH team will craft another year of excellence for our students, inshAllah.

One of my goals this new school year, as a Principal, is to provide the leadership that will facilitate a school environment and educational services that help in meeting the needs of each individual student. In our school, planning, teaching, and assessments should be centered on the diverse needs and learning abilities of our students. As IAH team, we will make the necessary adjustments to aid students in achieving their academic goals and encourage them to enjoy a meaningful learning experience. While I believe that academics is a very important part of education, I also believe that teaching Arabic and the Islamic studies are just as important in developing the "whole" child. It is really a virtue and blessing that we have the opportunity here, at the IAH, to touch the lives of many children and teach them about the love of Islam and its values and principles.

I strongly believe that in order to achieve significant outcomes this school year we all need to work together as a team. Therefore, we appeal to everyone, parents, teachers, volunteers and community to work together in order to provide the best possible educational program for our students. I ask for your support to the school so that it continues to expand, succeed, and flourish. Through this teamwork, I am confident, inshaAllah, we can make our school, the IAH, a place where our students can continue to learn and grow academically and spiritually.

Your feedback, as parents, is crucial so please feel free to stop in, as my door is always open. If there is anything I can assist you with, please do not hesitate to let me know. I look forward to working with all of you and wish you a very successful school year.

Respectfully,

Dr. Hamsa Mahafza, Principal  
Islamic Academy of Huntsville  
Faith-Academics-Excellence