

Indiana State Board of Education Request For Freeway School Accreditation

Board Date: June 7, 2017

School: Islamic Academy of Indianapolis (C513)
Administrator: Sanaa Al- jazarah
Address: 711 S High School Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46241-1121
Grade Span: PK-1
Public/Private: Private

The following executive summary has been compiled by the Indiana Department of Education's Office of School Accountability. It includes information presented by the school in its petition for freeway accreditation.

Identity:

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis, established in 2015, is a registered non-profit private school located on the west side of Indianapolis. The mission of the school is to provide a high quality education within an Islamic environment.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis serves a highly diverse population, composed mainly of second generation immigrants from Northern Africa and the Middle East. Most of the student population comes from a middle or lower socioeconomic household on the west side of Indianapolis, including the towns of Plainfield, Avon and Brownsburg. There were 35 students enrolled at the school during the 2017 school year.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis currently serves students in prekindergarten, kindergarten and first grade; however, the school intends to add a grade level each year until the school serves students through eighth grade.

Curriculum:

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis has aligned its curriculum with the Indiana Academic Standards, and will continue to update its rigorous curriculum on a regular basis as it expands to serve prekindergarten through eighth grade.

Testing History:

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis currently does not serve any grade levels required to test on the statewide assessment. During the 2017 school year, the school administered the TerraNova assessment, a nationally norm-referenced assessment of student achievement in multiple subject areas, to its students in kindergarten and first grade.

Staffing:

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis has five full-time staff and one part-time employee. None of the staff holds an Indiana teaching license. Please note that nonpublic schools are not required to hire teachers licensed by the State of Indiana. The school will contract with teachers that are properly licensed by the State of Indiana to administer the statewide assessment when the school serves tested grade levels. Further, all staff has been subjected to a criminal background check.

Waiver Requests:

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis requests suspension of the following statutes:

- IC 20-30-5-8, Safety education
- IC 20-30-5-9, Health education
- IC 20-30-5-11, Alcohol, tobacco and drugs

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis will cover these subjects throughout its religious teaching and instruction.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis uses non-state adopted textbooks for religious and Arabic language education.

Considerations:

Currently, the only applicable data point to demonstrate achievement of the minimum educational benefits under IC 20-26-15-7 is average attendance rate. The school's average attendance rate over the past two years is 96%. Some consideration may need to be given to how to address the addition of grade levels and the achievement of minimum educational benefits during the five-year contract period if the school will not have a full five years for tested grades to achieve the minimum educational benefit for proficiency rate.

Recommendation:

Department and Board staffs jointly recommend full five year freeway accreditation for the Islamic Academy of Indianapolis.

**PETITION AND APPLICATION TO THE INDIANA STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

REGARDING STATE ACCREDITATION VIA FREEWAY SCHOOL
LEGISLATION FOR

**Islamic Academy of
Indianapolis
School: C513**

711 S High School Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46241-1121
(317) 820-5777

Marion County



I. Identify The School Entity To Be Declared A Freeway School.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis School is a registered, non-profit private school located in Indianapolis at 711 S. High school Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46241. The school was established in 2015 with only 17 children in pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten; however, in this second year our school has doubled the student enrollment as now we have 35 students and we added first grade level to our school.

School Mission:

Our school goals are to provide ***a high quality education within an Islamic environment***. The Islamic School of Indianapolis has policies and procedures in place to fulfill its mission. The school Handbook has clearly emphasized high expectations to maintain high morals, and dedications to quality education while maintaining our Muslim identity.

Every morning during school's day we address the above code in our morning assembly where ethical, behavioral and moral values are addressed and the school's principal reminds students and staff about implementing Islamic values in their daily activities.

Our school provides education mainly to the second generation of immigrants who come from all over the world spreading from India to Morocco and live on the west side of Indianapolis.

The entire school has the same classroom rules which we implemented to reinforce positive behavior with emphasis on the academic goals.

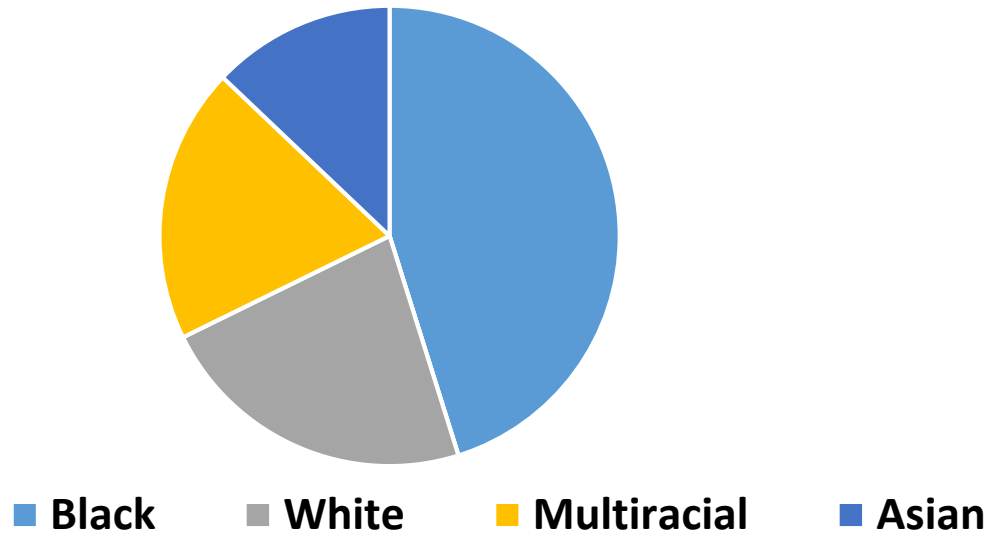
Principal and Teachers use "GradeLink" software to constantly keep the parents involved in students academic progress.

The Free-Way accreditation type by Indiana Department of Educations is an extraordinary help for our school. It will give us the opportunity to expand and develop our educational service to attract more students. It will also, help us fully comply with all the applicable statutes and regulations.

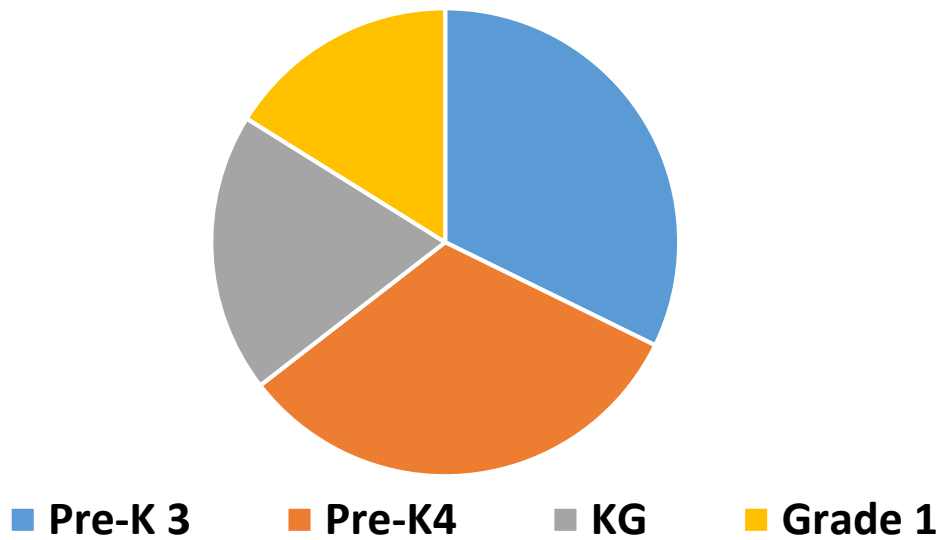
II. Briefly Identify the Demographic Data of the School and the Community That It Serves.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and/or ethnic origin in administering its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and/or other school-administered programs. The school serves several parts of west Indianapolis including Plainfield, Avon, and Brownsburg. Some of our students come from the Greenwood area. The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis School is a highly diverse school, almost 50% of our students are African American and the other half of the students are very diversified. They are second generation of parents who come from Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria, Ghana, India, Eritrea, Guinea, Niger, Mauritania, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, etc. The school has zero discrimination policy. Most of the Islamic Academy of Indianapolis students come from middle or lower socioeconomic status. Having the school in the middle of such community enrich the available educational options for the students in the west side area. Giving our school the opportunity to be accredited by the Indiana Department of Education will dramatically enhance the students' enrollment, their educational resources and the school's credentials, which will positively be reflected on the community neighboring the school. The below graphs briefly identify 1) the demographic data of the students enrolled in our school during the 2016-17 academic year, 2) the current school classes/services offered by the school, 3) the enrollment's trend of the students since the school was established. The data show the boost in the enrollment during the second year representing the quality standing our school gained during the first year.

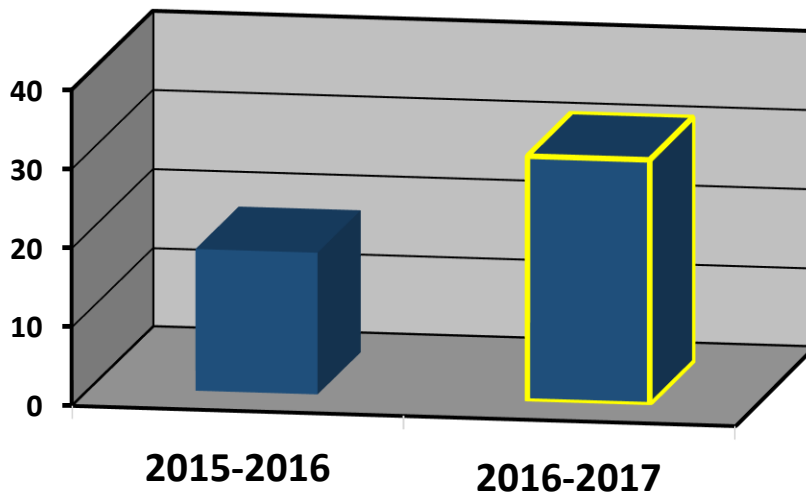
Enrollment 2016-2017 by Ethnicity



2016-2017 Student Body numbers by grade



Students Enrolment Trend



III. Describe How the School’s Curriculum Will comply with the Indiana Standards Adopted by the State of Indiana.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis School currently follows Indiana Academic Standards in educating students. The school will continue updating its rigorous curriculum to comply with the State Standards by using the following measures:

- 1) Review and update our curriculum as needed on a regular basis to match any new Standards and/or changes as required by Indiana Department of Education
- 2) Our teachers are available to provide one on one tutoring for any of our students who need extra help with any subject in the curriculum. Such students are identified in our school if they do not meet 80% or above in the weekly quizzes.
- 3) Our low students to teacher ratio provides excellent teaching environment. We believe classroom should not exceed more than 15 students. As of now the biggest classroom we have includes only 10 students. If any of the class rooms exceeds 15 students then our policy is to add a second class for the same grade.
- 4) All our teachers make lesson plans and unit plans ahead of time for the class and these plans are reviewed and approved by the school’s Principal before teaching it to the students. The focus of our Principal’s review is to make sure the lessons and plans meet

Indiana State Standards.

- 5) Continuously provide professional development lectures to the teachers throughout the year to keep our teachers updated about any changes in the Standards and also with any new educational measures.

IV. Describe the school's plan to meet the requirement that licensed teacher(s) administer all aspects of the state Assessment test.

To meet the requirement that licensed teacher(s) administer all aspects of the State Assessment test(s), our school will contract with licensed teacher(s) who will be in charge of this aspect.

V. Provide documentation in table form showing ISTEP+ results for the past three years, including the number tested, the percentage passed for each test at each grade level.

Our school has not taken ISTEP and/or IREAD because we have students only up to first grade. Our students will take these tests, as required, in 3rd grade.

a. If the school administers additional national normed assessments, please document the school's performance for the past three years.

Our school's committee and staff greatly value and believe in the importance of the periodic assessment of our students. This year our school administered Terra Nova test to our KG and 1st grades students. The results summary are included in the below table:

Schoolwide TerraNova Common Core Test Results Spring 2017								
GRADE	Reading	Language	Math	Science	Social Studies	Word Analysis	Vocabulary	Mathematics computation
KG	89	94	95	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 1	68	86	80	45	73	82	87	89

VI. Describe The Plan Allowing Students To Earn An Indiana Academic Honors Diploma Where Applicable.

Not Applicable

We are planning to add one grade every year. So far we have up to 1st grade and the intention is to have up to the 8th grade.

VII. Freeway Accreditation Requires Educational Benefits for Students in the School’s Attendance Rate, Student Performance on ISTEP+ and End of Course Assessments, and For High School’s, An Improvement in Graduation Rates.

a. Describe the School’s Strategies to Meet These Improvements In Performance.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis School encourages parents to help maintain their kids consistent attendance since absences may delay academic success. In the last two years, our school’s attendance rates have averaged ~ 96 %. Our school’s attendance is closely monitored by our teaching staff. Parents typically call the school to report any absent or delay for the day. In case absence occurs without communication from the parents, our school’s staff call the parents on the same day to check the absence reason. Our academic program is very rigorous and it does an excellent job preparing students for Indiana assessments. In addition to challenging classroom instructions, students also have the opportunity to receive tutoring from their homeroom teacher after school. Our low student-teacher ratio provides great circumstances for such guidance and monitoring of our students. This assistance allows students to receive additional

help in subjects where they are struggling. Thus, enabling them to advance and achieve the expectation level or exceed it. In addition to the above, our friendly school-parents environment offers excellent opportunity for collaboration between teachers and parents to address any academic and/or behavioral issues and resolve them to maximize the student's performance.

a. Describe any additional measures that will be used to measure student achievement and growth.

As mentioned above, this year the Islamic Academy of Indianapolis already started using Terra Nova as an assessment's tool to evaluate the KG and 1st grade students' progress. Additionally the school will participate in the ISTEP program to measure student achievement and growth starting at 3rd grade. We will use these tests scores along with teachers' evaluation tests during the academic year to assess the student learning and growth. Part of our strategy to measure the student achievement is to continuously compare our students' tests outcome in the standardized tests to the local and national levels. Our goal is to keep our students' academic achievement above the public school averages and be comparable to the private school results. Our teachers are very committed to closely monitor the students' progress and communicate with the parents who come to drop and pick up their kids from the school on daily basis. The school Principal monitors such progress and provide advice to the teachers as needed.

**VIII. Describe the Curriculum Strategies to Address:
Character Education; Hygiene; Alcohol and Drugs;
Diseases Transmitted Sexually; Honesty; Respect and
Abstinence and Restraint.**

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis is devoted to provide Islamic and academic teaching environment. Every morning our students are reminded to respect each other, be outstanding student and good citizen not only academically but also morally. In our Islamic

school we believe academic success and moral code are two crucial concepts which cannot be separated. Each classroom in our school has a character that we celebrate on weekly basis. In addition to that our school has a character of the month which all the students in the school celebrate. Proper hygiene and no alcohol, no drugs, and no tobacco are crucial part of our religious education. Alcohol, drugs and tobacco are not permitted on our campus at any time. Also in our religious education we emphasize on teaching our students, according to their ages, the concepts of proper hygiene and how it is forbidden in Islam to drink alcohol, use drugs, or get involved in sexual relationship outside marriage. Thus, we expect all our students to enjoy healthy life without any drug, and/or alcohol problems.

IX. Identify Statutes And Rules To Be Suspended As A Result Of This Contract.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis will suspend the below statutes because these subjects are covered throughout our religious teaching.

1. IC 20-30-5-8 Safety Education
2. IC 20-30-5-9 Health Education
3. IC 20-30-5-11 Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis uses non-state adopted textbooks for religious and/or Arabic language education. Also, depend on our students needs, the school might supplement or amend the adopted list as needed.

X. Describe How Technology Will Be Integrated Into Student Instruction.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis has allocated significant efforts, money and resources into computer science lab area. The computer lab in our schools has 11- desk-top computers plus another 5 laptops used by the teachers. All our students have

access to the computer lab if needed. Our intention is to start introducing our students to the simplified computer classes 3-4 times/week starting from second grade. Also, we are planning to add at least one computer with two screens to each classroom. This way the homeroom teacher can share PowerPoints presentations related to the curriculum and/or stream appropriate and related videos as needed to the students. Our school also uses Google Docs for editing and revision purposes by Principal and other school committee members. The students will also be allowed to bring their own tablets in some classrooms to encourage them to use technology for research, readings...etc. We have a solid infrastructure with fast internet that run all our digital devices (computers, tablets....etc.) without any problem. Access to the internet is monitored and ultimately inappropriate sites are blocked.

XI. Describe Procedures/Plan To Ensure A Safe And Disciplined Learning Environment.

It takes deep collaboration between the school and the parents to raise a good student. After completing the school's enrollment application, parents and students schedule a tour, and conduct an interview with the school's administrator. After enrollment, parents receive a student handbook and sign a parental agreement, which describes the major policies related to the student's behavior.

The school Islamic policy is enforced because it assists in nurturing an environment of learning and discipline. Also, rules and expectations of students are posted in the classrooms and parents - teacher meeting is held twice per school year where parents are reminded about the rules and expectations that apply to their children.

Individual attempting to pick up a child is required to show proper identification and sign on the daily pickup form.

Our school performs periodic tornado and fire drills, which prepare children in the case of an

emergency. The evacuation routes are carefully outlined for each classroom.

We have cameras outside the school building and at the school main door. Also, our teachers are required to keep current First Aid, and CPR Certification. We perform background checks for all school's staff. We have zero tolerance for bullying. Students are encouraged to respect each other at all times.

Any visitor to the school must contact and report to the principal's office before entering the school. Students are not permitted to leave the building with anyone except with a parent or a designated person.

The above summary shows that our school has established all the measures to have safe and disciplined learning environment.

XII. Describe Plans For Continuing Professional Staff Development.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis encourages all teachers to pursue professional growth, attend webinars, workshops and seminars for continuous development. Our entire school environment is based on continued education. Our KG and 1st grade homeroom teachers have bachelor degrees. We also encourage our staff to seek out their own opportunities for ongoing learning and to continue their education. We believe that in order for our staff to encourage life-long learners, we must first be examples. Science, Math, and English workshops in different areas have been available to the staff. Also, the staff get enrolled in continuing education and conferences paid by the school. We also have regular staff meetings at which teachers learn from each other. The below workshop schedule is an example of one of the strategies our school offers to facilitate the staff development.

Teacher's Development Plan 2016-2017

Title Of the Workshop	Trainer	Date
The Classroom and you	Sanaa Al-Jazarah	8/12/16
Gradelink	Jamal Radwan	11/17/16
First aid/ CPR Training	Robert Wallace	2/27/2017
The Board Concept of the Curriculum	Abdalla Ali, PhD.	8/1/2017
Diseasing Behavioral Objectives for the lesson.	Abdalla Ali, PhD.	8/2/2017
Component of Lesson planning	Abdalla Ali, PhD.	8/3/2017
Classroom Management and Discipline	Abdalla Ali, PhD.	8/3/2017
Use of Instructional Materials in the Classroom	Abdalla Ali, PhD.	9/9/2017
Assignments and follow up	Abdalla Ali, PhD.	10/14/2017
Assessment and Test Design	Abdalla Ali, PhD.	11/10/2017
Teaching Arabic and Islamic Studies	Abdalla Ali, PhD.	12/9/2017

XIII. Confirm the School's Commitment to Indiana's Minimum 180 Instructional Days for Students. Attach a copy of the school's calendar for the next academic year, July 1-June 30.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis sets its calendar to meet, at least, the 180 day calendar ~ 6 months prior to the start of the school year. The calendar is sent to the school advisory committee for approval before sharing it with parents. Any missed days (due to snow or emergency), we use one of our flex days (built into calendar) to offset these missed days. We will continue to adhere to the minimum 180 instructional day guideline all the time. We will also submit our calendar and end of the year attendance data to the IDOE as required on regular basis. Please see the school calendar for 2017-2018 below for your reference.



Islamic Academy of Indianapolis
 711 S. High School Rd.
 Indianapolis, IN 46241
 Phone: 317-820-5777
 tawheedschoolindy@gmail.com

JANUARY 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	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			

2 Teacher day no School for students
 3 Marking Period begin
 15 M.L. King Day no school
 Snow make up day – if cancellation

1 Staff first day
 4 Students first day
 First Marking Period begins.
 31 Arafah Day- No School

AUGUST 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	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 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	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			

19 Presidents' Day no school
 Snow make up day – if cancellation

1 Eid- al-Adha- No School
 4 Labor Day

SEPTEMBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	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

MARCH 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	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

16 End of the third Marking period 51 days
 16 Parent Teacher Conference
 19 Spring Break begins
 30 Spring Break ends

13 Parent Teacher Conference
 13 End of the first Quarter 48 days
 23-27 Fall Break
 16 Second Quarter Begins

OCTOBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	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				

APRIL 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	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					

2 Fourth marking period begins

23-24 Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	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		

MAY 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	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		

23 End of the marking period 38 Days
 Second Semester 89 days
 28 Memorial's Day
 24,25,29-31 Snow make up days – if cancellation

22 Parent Teacher Conference
 22 Second Quarter End 43 days
 First Semester End 91 Days
 Dec 18-Jan 2 Winter Break

DECEMBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	Th	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						

1st Marking Period 48 days
 2nd Marking Period 43 days
 3rd Marking Period 51 days
 4th Marking Period 38 Days
 First Semester End 91 Days
 Second Semester 89 Days
 Teacher Days Total= 184
 Students Days Total= 180

XIV. Describe The School's Ability to Produce and Submit All Required Electronic State Student Data Reports. List the School's Teachers' / Administrators' Credentials and License Information In an appendix.

The Islamic Academy of Indianapolis has the ability to fully comply and submit all required Students Data Reports. Our school will also submit the calendar and any needed information to The Indiana Department of Education in a timely manner. Currently, we use Gradelink for attendance and grades as well as lessons plans. Our staff and the principal find this software very helpful and very easy to use.

Appendix A

Teachers/Administrators Credentials

POSITION	PT/FT	NAME	DEGREE	AREA	MINOR/ENDORSEMENT	Other
Principal	FT	Sanaa Al- jazarah	B.S	Arabic and Islamic Studies		20 years in education
1 st Grade teacher	PT	Emaa Mahariq	B.A	Chemistry		7 years in education
KG teacher	FT	Mariama G. Adam	B.S	Computer Programing Technology		12 years in education
Arabic teacher	FT	Nour AlKhtib	High School	Arabic		8 years in education
Pre-K teacher	FT	Khadija Mounji	High School	English		7 years In education
Arabic teacher	FT	Aicha ElAlaoui	B.S	Islamic studies		5 years in education