

**14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ISNA-CISNA EDUCATION FORUM**  
**ISLAMIC SCHOOLS: CHAMPIONS OF FAITH, ACHIEVEMENT AND SERVICE**  
**March 29-31, 2013**

**Program Topics**

*Working Draft*

- *Pre-Conferences to be held on Friday, March 29, 2013 9:00 AM-5:00 PM*
- *The main program will start on Friday at 5:30 PM and will conclude on Sunday at 12:00 Noon*

**Pre-Conference Workshops**

**Adopting Common Core State Standards in Parochial and Private Schools**

*Janie Ray Smith: ASCD Faculty*

Join colleagues to understand why large numbers of parochial and private schools are adopting or adapting Common Core State Standards. CCSS standards are impacting all areas of US education including college entrance and textbook publishing. This one-day session will guide educators through the key shifts in English Language Arts and Literacy and Mathematics and introduce educators to key resources and planning tools for implementation and study of CCSS.

Educators will participate in the following activities to better understand the rationale and use of the standards through:

- Using tools for reading and unpacking of the standards to understand implications for curriculum, assessment, classroom instruction and the benefits of CCSS.
- Examining key open source resources for use by teachers and school leaders.
- Identifying key priorities for ELA and math to increase depth, understanding and higher-level thinking skills for teacher professional development.
- Developing a short range and/or multi-year plan for introducing CCSS to staff and parents (school leaders).

**Workshop for Arabic Teachers**

*Donna Clementi, Salah Ayari, Iman Hashem*

**An-Nuraniyah Method Workshop**

*Dalia El-Deeb*

**AdvancEd Training Workshop**

*Edward Krenson, Kem Hussain*

**Weekend School Workshop**

*Habeeb Quadri*

## **Session Topics for the Main Program**

### **Enriching Arabic Vocabulary: In and Out of Class Students' Activities: Bringing Words to Life**

*Lamya Najem*

Vocabulary helps improve learners' communication skills. In-and-out of the classroom fun-to-learn activities, such as Bingo and a personal writing journal, have been integral parts of my Arabic class. The more words are acquired the better the learner expresses himself. Learners become better engaged with less anxiety.

### **Prophetic Approach to Education**

*Muhammad Aftab Diwan*

Discussion based workshop focused around several examples from the prophet Muhammad and how he dealt with and taught young people. I have presented this in various settings where this has been presented as a parenting workshop or for teachers and I have also presented it to youth workers with the label: Hear me, help me. In each presentation I have taken a different approach while focusing on the prophetic examples and discussion. I have developed from the ahadith what I have called the RELATE model which I expand upon in the presentation. (RELATE: Respect, Encourage, Love, Accommodate, Trust, Educate) Each element is discussed and expanded during the discussion in light of the prophetic methodology.

### **Where Pencil Meets the Page: Writing Centers and Tutoring Best Practices in Islamic Schools**

*Kate Balogh*

This presentation will explain how one school has addressed writing deficiencies through the development of a literacy/writing center, with discussions of theoretical, practical, and budgetary considerations in planning and implementation. The presenter will also share descriptions and demonstrations of writing center practices for application in classrooms, counseling, and teacher training.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Education! Huh?**

*Nishat Alikhan*

This proposal is an introduction to 21st Century Education. 21st Century education is education that is really a "career readiness" education. 21st century skills are specifically designed to bridge the gap between traditional learning and the skills required to succeed in the 21st century workplace. It is the idea of preparing students to work in fields that don't yet exist and therefore, have no specific skill requirements as of yet.

### **Beyond Stickers and Detentions: Inspiring Self-Motivation in Students**

*Nadeem Memon*

How can we motivate students to love learning – and love learning about Islam in particular? What can we do as teachers to motivate students to appreciate being Muslim? Teachers have always grappled with the age-old question of motivating

students. The most common practices include rewarding students for good behavior and high achievement while reprimanding students who misbehave or fall below expectations. This interactive workshop aspires to push us to think differently about rewards and punishments in Islamic schools and will encourage participants to adopt a Prophetic model for motivating learners – one that emphasizes practical strategies for self-motivation.

### **Boggle My Mind Friday**

*Faten Atway, Munire Demirci, Afifeh Shatara*

The middle school team at Garden of the Sahaba Academy designed a project based learning program, Boggle My Mind Friday, in which students from the 6th to 8th grade level are combined into groups and work together to complete critical thinking exercises in math, science, language arts, and Islamic Studies. The teams of students are given a project to create or a large-scale problem to solve.

### **Bridging to Common Core Stand**

*Nuzhat Hye*

Islamic Schools are graduating students with skills and knowledge for today's jobs, but are they ready? Adopting and implementing the Common Core Standards in our curriculum and classrooms would ensure that we set clear standards and best practices for our students to be competitive and college ready. These consistent standards will provide appropriate learning goals that would be relevant to the real world, positioning them to be successful in a global economy.

### **Classroom Management and Managing Student Behavior**

*Farah Naz*

The ability of teachers to organize classrooms and manage the behavior of their students is critical to achieving positive educational outcomes. A significant body of research also attests to the fact that classroom and behavior management competencies significantly influence teachers' job satisfaction and their quality of instruction.

### **Emulating the Prophet's Way of Teaching for A Highly Engaged Classroom: Knowledge Retention and Student Leadership**

*Abdelkader Tayebi*

This presentation highlights, with examples and strategies, how Islamic schools teachers can use the Prophetic way of teaching to create highly engaged classrooms and produce highly motivated students in light of the highly acclaimed new taxonomy of education by Dr. Marzano and the Leader in Me school/classroom reform methodologies.

### **Highly Effective Classroom Strategies**

*Leila Shatara*

This presentation will identify for teachers the nine most effective strategies and give teachers the tools and skills to create engaged learning using these research-based strategies. Research has shown that when implemented properly the top two

strategies show gains in student achievement of 45% and 34 % respectively.

### **Anthology of Muslim Literature: An Important Development for an Integrated Curriculum**

*Freda Shamma*

For several decades the idea of a curriculum which integrates Islam into various subjects has been bandied about. This session will introduce the first fully integrated textbook for middle school Language Arts/History/Islamic Studies.

### **Language 4 All: Support Each Learner**

*Lina Kolaki and NATA Board Members*

An interactive session that will allow participants to exchange ideas on how to appropriately design activities that fits the needs of learners of different levels. Also will address instructional strategies that support each learner. It provides specific ideas for differentiating within daily lessons as well as through assignments and assessments. Presenters will share student's activities and sample of students video presentation using authentic materials from literature, poetry, songs and music.

### **Language Arts Coming to Life: Using Novels for Islamic Teachings**

*Tatiana Coloso and Aishia Neal*

This interactive workshop combines Islamic principles and hands on activities to enhance student learning, Hands-On Books Closed will be presenting ways to use various novels and books to explore, create, and apply Islamic concepts in the classroom. From *Where the Wild Things Are*, to *The Giving Tree*, and novels like *The Breadwinner*, students will be challenged with higher order thinking while extracting the true essence of Islam and connecting the Quran and Sunnah to their lives.

### **Developing STAR Leaders for Your Community**

*Raa'id Khan*

The goal of this presentation is to share a model that can be adopted by local communities in order to empower, mobilize and train their youth to become sincere, committed and competent leaders. This can be achieved through the STAR vision. STAR stands for Spirituality, Tarbiyah, Activism, and Relationships.

### **Teaching the Qur'an as a Text Book in Weekend Islamic Schools**

*Mazhar Hussani*

This presentation provides an instructional design methodology for easy understanding of the Qur'anic text for students of Grades 6-11 in a weekend Islamic school setting. The whole Qur'an is divided into 125 lessons that are objective based. Each lesson has 5-7 objectives that are progressive in nature where continuity is maintained with no redundancy. The goal is to access an overall thematic understanding of the Qur'anic message.

## **The iPad as an Interactive Teaching Tool in the Classroom**

*Souheil Zekri*

The iPad is introduced in this paper as a mobile multimedia device used in versatile ways to increase students' engagement and understanding. Free applications are introduced and sample lessons in different subjects are presented. The audience will have the opportunity to interact with the presenter using actual iPads.

## **Supplementary Readings for Science in Islamic Schools**

*Iqbal Unus*

Teaching science without supplementing popular textbooks denies students the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of God as the Creator of all that exists, understand that values and attitudes influence scientific inventiveness, and be inspired by the legacy of pioneering Muslims scientists. Supplementary readings can respond to this deficiency.

## **Making History Come Alive to Islamize Science Lessons**

*Khadija E. Foud*

This workshop illustrates how to use history of science to teach nature of science. Using scientists from the Golden Age of Islam will Islamize the lesson. An example lesson centering around Jabir ibn Hayyan is used to teach the importance of experimentation in investigating matter.

## **Get your Social Studies Class to Make History!**

*Zakia Rodriguez*

Islam is a religion that honors tradition. The connection that Muslims have with history, makes a comprehensive understanding of Social Studies a crucial part of an Islamic School education. This workshop will provide sample lesson plans, activities, and resources that Social Studies teachers at any grade level can use.

## **School-Wide Assessment Planning: Data Directions**

*Seema Iman*

Data, as a tool for guidance, has become highly valued by all stakeholders who seek to improve their schools. This session will provide insight to the rationale and terminology used by education professionals, and relevance of interpreting and using data for administration, boards, teachers, and students. Providing a road map to achievement solutions through diagnostic testing, analysis, and collaborative actions, we can cultivate a cyclical system of assessments, feedback, refinement, and goals that solidify ownership and responsibility at all levels of school identity. Discussion will address common hurdles to overcome as schools develop their progress in using data to inform instruction. Resources for administrators and teachers to further their involvement in exploring the use of data will be provided.

**How can we Cultivate Spirituality and the Internalization of an Islamic Personality in our School Communities?**

*Moderator Habib Quadri with Ann Al-Moslimany, Dr. Mohammad Sadiq, and Farhat Siddiqui*

Are you finding that the climate of your school community could use more remembrance of Islamic manners, values, and culture? Islamic school professionals are role models for the entire community, but sometimes there is a disconnect between the beauty of Islam and our own conduct. Even our students get mixed signals from the common culture and media that does not align with Islamic ideals. This panel will discuss the topic and offer solutions to pedagogy, recognizing, and resolving these issues.