

# Welcome to First Grade Busy



## 2021-2022 School Year

### ***ISI VISION***

***To be the Islamic school of choice in North Texas weaving academic excellence with highest morals and ethics.***

### ***ISI MISSION***

***To provide our children an environment which will enable them to achieve their highest potential, founded on Islamic morals, scholastic excellence, and good citizenship.***

**Dear Students and Families,**

**Assalamu Alaikum Warahamtu Allah Wabarakato,**

**Welcome to first Grade! I'm excited about the opportunity to get to know you, and I'm looking forward to a joyful and productive school year.**

**Summer has flown by and once again, and we are back for another year of learning. I hope you had a great, safe summer!**

**My name is Amira Baker or Abubaker, and I will be your child's homeroom teacher this year, Insh'Allah.**

**This will be my 12<sup>th</sup> year with the ISI team and my 17th year as an educator.**

**A little about myself, I have a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Iowa. I have extensive teaching experience; I worked at different educational institutions across the United States throughout my professional career. I was a home room teacher for third grade for a year at Darul Alarqum Islamic School in Houston, Texas. I also worked as a social studies teacher for seventh grade at the same school. In addition, I taught prek-4 and kindergarten at the Iman Academy SW in Houston Texas for 4 years, and I was a teacher at Al Iman School of Plainfield / Indiana for one year. Furthermore, I was a prek-4 and first grade Quran teacher for four years at ISI, and finally this is my ninth year as a first-grade teacher here at ISI!**

**On a personal note, I am a mother of three; two boys and a girl who is a graduate of ISI!**

**Alhamdulillah, throughout my teaching career I have enjoyed all the different levels that I have taught, and plan to have another safe productive year insha'Allah. I am excited to start this new academic year fully in the classroom, and I will do everything I can to keep your kids safe in the classroom Insha Allah. I am also blessed and honored to be part of your child's life this school year and I am praying for a successful one.**

**First grade is an exciting time as children embark upon new adventures in the world of learning. I am looking forward to an exciting and productive year. I will strive each day to make learning a fun and enriching process for your child insha'Allah. However, I also need your help in making this year a success. I believe that you and I are a team working together to help your child develop emotionally and academically. I know when we**

work together and communicate your child will have a successful year insha'Allah. Please let's keep the communication lines always open and if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year at any time, please feel free to contact me through e-mail at [amira.baker@islamicschoolofirving.org](mailto:amira.baker@islamicschoolofirving.org).

Jazakum Allahu Khairan,

Mrs. Amira Baker

Curriculum areas we will focus on this year include Language, Math, Science, and social studies.

### 1st Grade Curriculum

Year 2021-2022

The key elements for the year are as follows:

#### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING:**

In 1st grade students will build on the literacy skills acquired in kindergarten. Students will continue to learn phonics and decoding skills using McGraw-Hill Wonders English Language Reading program. Teachers will guide 1st graders in developmental spelling practices. Reading, comprehension strategies will be used to help students identify words in texts. Reading comprehension will also support students in making connections and visualizing. Additionally, students will learn about fiction and nonfiction texts, points of view, and comparing and contrasting characters. Writing, paired with the 6 Traits of Writing program will focus on beginning sentences, conventions, parts of speech and grammar to strengthen student beginning writing skills.

## **MATHEMATICS:**

In 1st grade, students will spend their 2nd year using the Everyday Mathematics, a spiral curriculum that slowly builds math skills by touching upon many topics throughout the year. Students will build on number sense and place value, continue with measurement and looking at simple data, and will begin to create and use number sentences based on real world situations.

## **SCIENCE:**

1st graders will study a variety of topics over the course of the school year including Life Science, Earth Science, & Physical Science.

**Fusion Science: A Closer Look** is a dynamic science program. It provides students exciting and accessible standards-based lessons. Engaging activities promote curiosity and foster the development of science inquiry skills. Through a consistent and structured learning cycle, students confidently build upon their experiences to develop a lifelong understanding of science concepts.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES:**

Family and community is the theme for 1st grade social studies. Teachers will guide students using The Person curriculum in understanding the idea and methods behind cooperation, following school rules, and elements of what makes a good neighbor. Map skills will be taught to help students situate themselves and their homes in the community. Students will continue to study families, how families change and celebrate traditions. Teachers will also introduce basic ideas of Economics based on needs and wants.

**Students are asked to bring the following supplies to school before August 16, 2021, please refer to the following site for the supplies list.**

**<https://islamicschoolofirving.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021-2022-School-Supply-List.pdf>**

**My homework policy is, Students need to read daily for up to 20 minutes, and a homework packet will be sent home every Monday and collected the following Friday.**

**Grading policy is as follows:**

**Classwork/Participation 25%**

**Projects 20%**

**Tests/Quizzes 40%**

**First Grade Discipline Policy:**

- In 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, our goal is to create and maintain a positive environment in which each child can successfully grow and learn. Normalization of the classroom begins with the modeling of the appropriate behavior by the teacher combined with a high level of respect for each student.
- Many discipline problems can be avoided by the following proactive strategies practiced in the classroom.
- The teacher will:
  - 1. Provide a structured environment in which a child feels secure and confident to do his/her work.

- 2. Set behavioral expectations through classroom instruction, role modeling, and class meetings.
- 3. Post and discuss classroom rules and the standards of behavior.
- 4. Redirect a child for negative behavior

The behavioral expectations we have for the children are:

- 1. Respect yourself and others.
- 2. Be responsible and control yourself.
- 3. Do your best.
- 4. Always use appropriate voice levels.
- 5. Raise your hand for permission to speak.
- 6. Respect classroom materials and use it properly.
- 7. Raise your hand if you want to use the restroom.
- Restroom time should not exceed three to five minutes.

Students will have consequences for negative behavior.

However, to encourage positive behavior we will be implementing the use of pennies as an incentive in the classroom.

All students will begin each day with a penny in their bank, if the students exhibit unacceptable behavior, he/she will be corrected by the teacher. If misbehavior continues after warnings, the student may lose a penny from his or her bank. Similarly, students will continue earning pennies for following directions and good behavior.

All positive behaviors will be rewarded by the end of the school week, students will have a chance to use their pennies and buy goodies from the class treasure box.

### Homework:

First grade students are expected to read each night.

Daily reading is essential because it helps in building fluency and reading skills that in turn will help a first grader academic success down the road.

Students should read to someone daily for up to 20 min. They will bring home a reading log and this will be their focus for homework daily. Parents need to fill and sign the reading logs daily. Students will also be expected to practice a *spelling list* each week and be ready for their test on Friday. A homework packet will be sent home every Monday and will be collected every Friday of the same week. Students are expected to finish one sheet daily and homework should never take more than 30 minutes a day. If your child shows signs of frustration at home while doing homework, please let us know. Working together we can help your child succeed and have a great school year.

### COMMUNICATION:

- Communication is a key component in having a successful school year.
- If you would like to meet with me at any time, please call the school's main office to make an appointment. You may also send me an email to [amira.baker@islamischoolofirving.org](mailto:amira.baker@islamischoolofirving.org)
- MORE COMMUNICATION includes ISI's RENWEB online system, and the [Busy Bees class Dojo, google classroom.](#)

### Newsletter:

will be emailed to you weekly to inform you of weekly assignments, spelling words, tests, or any announcement or special projects etc.

### Money sent to school:

If you send money to school with your child for bake sales or any other reason, please make sure to place the money in a labeled envelope or baggie.

### WEBSITE:

Please visit the school website or Renweb for lesson plans and grades.

### Snack and lunch Time

Students will have a 10-minute snack break between classes. They will also have half an hour for lunch time.

Salah time will also be included in our schedule.

Please mark your calendar for Thursday 12, 2021 for our elementary orientation and school opening on Monday the 16, 2021.

Other Classroom and school events will be announced as soon as they become available.

Please make sure to mark any important dates on your calendar. Studies show that parental involvement in a child's education is one of the strongest indicators of student success. We hope you will make it a priority this year to attend as many school-sponsored events as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to visit our classroom, schedule a conference, or volunteer to help, you can contact me at [Amira.baker@islamicschoolofirving.org](mailto:Amira.baker@islamicschoolofirving.org).



Once again, welcome to first Grade A (Busy Bees) let's work together to make this the best year ever! May Allah bless our time together

Jazakium Allahu khairan,

Teacher Amira