

A Game Changer for Your Weekend Islamic School

The ISNA Education Forum returns LIVE to Chicago with this Preconference Friday, May 13, 2022. Leaders and teachers of Weekend Islamic Schools are invited to receive our WISER Playbook, ask questions, get answers, and network with other Weekend School participants.

PROGRAM

9:00-9:45 **Introduction to WISER-Weekend Islamic Schools Educational Resources**
Necva Ozgur, MS Pharmacy, MA Human Development

Weekend Schools play a huge role for our community; and with a minimum number of resources, they serve a huge number of children. We wanted to build an organization to primarily serve weekend schools. In this introductory session, we share the vision, mission, and goals of WISER. Our focus areas are to establish a framework based on student-centered pedagogy, character building based on Islamic values, Islamic Identity, and a sense of belonging. We seek to develop a board of education and professional learning communities where parents, teachers, community members meet regularly to build a partnership, provide ongoing training for weekend schoolteachers and administrators, and have them earn our certificate. We give all this support and resources through membership and eventually plan to provide accreditation to bring schools towards higher standards. Welcome to our resource for building a more solid network of high caliber, student-led, community-based Weekend Islamic Schools. Meet the leaders of WISER.

9:45-10:45 **Administration: Nuts & Bolts**
Shahida Alikhan, BA, BEd, ECE Supervision & Administration

It is important to have the nuts and bolts in place for an effective Weekend School administration that runs professionally, with good leadership, and trained and qualified staff. Keeping students involved and motivated requires planning, strategies, and best practices. In the first part of our admin playbook, we explore how to put policies and procedures together, plan schedules and calendar for the year with special celebrations that students will look forward to and reveal how to motivate parents to be involved in their children's religious education.

11:00-11:30 **Effective Arabic Instruction in Weekend Schools**
Samar Ghannoum, BA Arabic, MA Education, Psychology

Today's Arabic teacher needs to find ingenious ways of introducing multimedia teaching methods adapted to the needs and expectations of young people. You will learn to structure the classroom to be a fun and stress-free environment while being open minded to various approaches to teaching a foreign language. Find out why it is extremely important to begin teaching Arabic from a very young age and take home tools to help you foster a love for the language of the Holy Qur'an.

11:30-11:50 **Essentials of Reciting and Understanding the Qur'an**
Amal Sakr Elhoseiny, PhD Comparative Studies, Nuraniyah Certified

Learning chapters of the Qur'an by using tajweed and memorization is one of the most important goals of any Islamic Weekend school. It benefits young learners by increasing their vocabulary in Arabic and it activates the whole brain, because the Qur'an is well-known for its melodious inner rhythm. Understanding the Qur'an is vitally needed to enhance spirituality, and teachers can nurture positive experiences for all learners. We'll address how parents can work cooperatively with teachers to assure students' success in using proper tilawah for understanding, to reflect upon the Qur'an's teachings, and to apply its values into their lives to improve their Muslim character.

2:00-3:00 **Islamic Pedagogy, Psychology, and Brain Science**
Susan Labadi, MAT, Dr. Amen Brain Health Licensed Trainer

With our Prophet's example and modern psychology to guide us, teachers will examine their teaching style and what Prophet Mohammed modeled for us. Weekend School can be a positive and uplifting experience, even when kids misbehave. We relate to The Whole-Brain Child, as detailed by Dr. Daniel Siegal, the Sunnah of Prophet Mohammad and Qur'an, as explained by Sh. 'Abd al-Fattah Abu Ghuddah, and the latest in Brain Science that informs us to become better teachers and leaders.

3:00-4:30 **Ten Strategies for Developing a Loving and Positive Classroom Climate**
Adita Arya, MEd, MA Islamic Studies and Leadership

There is a direct relationship between loving and positive classroom cultures and student learning and engagement. There are key components that need to be placed to achieve this in a weekend school classroom. This lecture will discuss the 10 key elements for developing loving positive classrooms, show examples, and provide opportunities for attendees to create their own playbook of strategies to implement the above-mentioned techniques.

4:30-5:00 **Experts Q&A Session**
Continuing the conversation and finding future resources.

Participants will receive a certificate of participation

Register for this preconference for only \$50 by sending an email to
convention@isna.net