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## ISLAMIC FOUNDATION • OUTSTANDING EDUCATION • CONFIDENCE & SOCIAL SKILLS

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### Education

- Master's degree

### Skills

- \* Negotiation
- \* Time management
- \* Empathy
- \* Conflict Resolution
- \* Collaboration
- \* Team Building

### Language

- \* English

**Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy** is currently seeking an experienced elementary / middle school educator with a keen interest in student counselling. This is a wonderful opportunity to join our school's leadership team, with an ideal starting date of December 2023. This is a full time administrative position.

### **This posting will close on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

In this new role, the counsellor will be key to supporting the emotional and social wellbeing of our Kindergarten – Grade 9 students with a variety of both personal and educational counselling issues. As an ideal candidate, you would have experience and a keen interest in providing a wide range of support for student behaviour and academic learning needs. Experience building Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and valuing the process of working with the classroom teacher, the parents, and most importantly the child is vital to success. In essence, the focus of counselling at Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy is to enhance students' educational, personal, social, emotional and spiritual development, assist in the creation and maintenance of an enabling school culture, and empower students and their families toward positive change.

### **About Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy**

The Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy (AZIA) is an independent elementary and middle school that is inspired by the doctrines and values of the Islamic faith and offers a broad and balanced program that is in line with BC's redesigned curriculum. AZIA aims to provide our growing community of >250 students with (i) a solid foundation of Islamic values, nurturing and strengthening the faith of our youngsters in thought and in practice, (ii) an outstanding educational experience, and (iii) the skills to confidently and effectively interact in society. AZIA is currently ranked in the top 10% of schools in B.C. The school strongly values its partnership with parents and the wider community.

With a commitment to nurture strong individuals and members of society, AZIA aims to instill Islamic wisdom, thinking and practices within its students, manifested in meaningful pursuit of spiritual, intellectual, artistic, technological, athletic and service endeavours. AZIA ensures that each student feels known and is challenged. The focus is on empowering students to become courageous, compassionate, powerful thinkers and leaders, and aware of the impact they can have on their community and beyond. There is an atmosphere of respect, caring and support to encourage independence, resiliency, mindfulness and innovative thinking for all ages.

## **DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Provide direct instruction to students in areas such as peer helping, conflict resolution, social skills and life skills
- Provide individual and goal-oriented planning sessions to students in the areas of mental health, academic planning and success, career awareness, social/emotional/spiritual development, family issues and making healthy choices
- Work closely with the Learning Support Coordinator, the Principal, and Islamic Director to develop a student and family advisory service, ensuring that the service is developmentally appropriate and follows a scope and sequence that acts to expand the web of care, belonging and overall well-being for the student
- Work with Principal to ensure that Erase training is completed and anti-bullying efforts within the school are comprehensive.
- Provide support to other educators in implementing health and wellness, and promoting healthy and nurturing school environments
- Build relationships with students to Identify their diverse needs that require specific counselling expertise and referrals; e.g. to Islamic Director and/or community service providers
- Incorporate family support for addressing student issues and provide referrals to appropriate community or private counselling agencies
- Collaborate with teachers, support staff and administration regarding the nature of students' strengths and needs, their educational implications, and ways to enhance learning and interpersonal relations
- Consider the coordination of preventative curriculum through the use of guest speakers and workshops
- Develop a process for regular student care meetings, to coordinate and enhance our support and response plans for students across each grade and the school as a whole
- Collaborate with all members of the leadership team, faculty and support staff to gather classroom-based data, design and implement instructional strategies or social supports, and design & implement behaviour management interventions
- Develop a reporting mechanism to quantify the positive impact of counselling services and programming at the school
- Facilitate and make referrals to MCFC when and if disclosures of student abuse or harm are reported
- Coordinate with colleagues and organize speakers independently to build awareness of themes pertinent to the care of adolescents
- Maintain a professional development readiness by reading professional literature, attending courses and seminars, and establishing and maintaining contact with other professional bodies and social service agencies
- Adheres to laws, policies, procedures, and ethical standards of the BC School Counsellors' Association and/or other professional associations

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Valid BC Teaching Certification (or demonstration of certification in progress)
- Master of Education in Counselling Psychology or a related discipline with a focus in counselling
- Minimum 5 years teaching experience at K – Grade 9 level.

## APTITUDES/SKILLS

- Positivity, enthusiasm, sense of humour and fun so others enjoy your company and you contribute to a climate of joy at the school
- Diplomacy, patience, tact and listening — required to build rapport, trust and relationships with students and their families
- A positive, proactive approach to building resiliency that empowers others by balancing support and individual action for growth
- Self-starter with exemplary work ethic who is a continuous learner. You know this is hard work, but it's worth it because of the impact you have on the lives of others
- Proven ability to establish an open and accepting presence in the school community and address educational, academic, personal, and social needs of all. You need to be visible and available
- Proven ability to build trust with students, and demonstrating empathy, compassion and sensitivity for students' emotional and mental well-being
- Well-developed organizational and time management skills, mediation and negotiation skills, complex problem solving abilities, and inductive and deductive reasoning
- An ability to anticipate need and communicate proactively with key stakeholders including parents, teachers and principals

## ASSETS

- Experience in an independent school setting
- Familiarity with the BC curriculum

Our compensation package is competitive with the Richmond School district's Salary scale. We are seeking candidates who are passionate about education and the quality of the teaching and learning experience. As such, we are offering a salary that is 5% above your Step and Category designation. Join Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy to make a positive impact on students' lives and help create a nurturing and supportive educational environment.

**This is a Full-time position and available immediately. Applications will be accepted until December 15, 2023.** Resumes and supporting documents should be sent to **pcohee@azia.ca**