

October 2020

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in Al-Bayan Bilingual School.

Al-Bayan (BBS) is a demanding and exciting educational environment to work in due to its complex nature. We are a bilingual-program school with teachers of many different nationalities working side-by-side on a daily basis. You will be working alongside an Arabic language teacher, sharing a classroom, and offering our students highly engaging, academically enriching, 21st century learning opportunities. At Al-Bayan, our English teachers focus on both Literacy and Numeracy, taught in blocks of time to provide opportunities for collaboration and enquiry.

Both English and Arabic Entrance assessments for the elementary school are carried out several times per year. Applying students must be bilingual in order to gain admission. Parents bring their children to BBS to both learn classical Arabic and to perfect their English language abilities. Learning to think and speak academically in two languages can be rigorous and our students can be placed under a lot of pressure to keep up. Generally, they respond well to the demands.

The schedule for the school day is from 7:00 a.m. – 2:50 p.m. for staff and 7:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. for students. Time is allotted during the teacher's day for planning, team meetings, and parent conferences. After school on Tuesdays is reserved for one-hour meetings such as faculty meetings, curriculum planning, team meetings, etc. At present we are engaged exclusively in e-learning and schedules vary slightly from the norm for both staff and students. The teaching program uses the Ontario Language Arts curriculum, supported by a wide variety of resources. The thrust of the program is Readers' Workshop and we have an extensive library of Leveled readers to support that initiative. Every classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard, and every teacher has access to a class set of iPads.

As well as the standard curricular subjects, teachers also are tasked with teaching Project Hour once a week where students will have an opportunity to study and engage with topics that they find interesting in an "out of the box" exploration. They may do this in the classroom or in the school MakerSpace. This provides for high student engagement and excitement from both teachers and students.

BBS is committed to teaching character development to our students. This is partly done through the school wide implementation of the Tribes program, a research-based process focused on creating a classroom culture that maximizes learning and human development.

The main projects we are currently working on include:

- Developing an effective and self-sustaining Positive Behavior Management program
- Developing our use of Understanding by Design (UbD) in developing lesson material

Should you join our staff, we will have further contact with you between now and your arrival. We wish you success in your endeavor to secure a new and rewarding teaching position at Al-Bayan Bilingual School.

Ms. Nada Darwiche
Elementary School Principal

Ms. Margarita Edwards
Assistant Principal

Ms. Lina El-Soury
Assistant Principal