

**John W. Lavelle Prep Charter School**



## **GUEST SPEAKER MONTHLY INTERVIEWS**

Ibrahim Ibrahim  
Arabic Teacher

Sean Fredricks  
School Mentor



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## Interview Philosophy

### Inviting Community Guests to Classroom

Sometimes as teachers, with all that we have to juggle, it's easy to close off our classroom in order to maintain maximum "control." We are jam-packed with expectations that we have to squeeze into tiny timeframes with a million variables. To best run this three-ring circus, we often close off our classrooms and try to be the one and only ringmaster. This is a huge task, involving every subject area and learning style imaginable. Over the years, I've learned to let go a bit and invite field experts and people with first-hand personal experience to be instructional guests in our classroom. The results have been amazing! I have always incorporated parents and community members to share knowledge and experience with my students. For example, I invited a NGO [Resala] to talk to my students about voluntary work and the activities they do to help the society. Moreover, I have invited the a British woman who is a student's uncle's wife to and talk to students about life in England. Also, I have invited a student of mine who had a Master degree from North Korea to talk to my students about ambition and his specialization in the master.

Over the years, in many different schools with varied demographics, I have been pleasantly pleased with the overwhelming response of parents and community members wanting and willing to visit our class and share their expertise or experience(s) with certain topics we might be studying at that given time. Not only is this a great way to build partnerships with parents and community stakeholders, but it also means so much more to students when a "special guest" is presenting information to them from first-hand experience. They are engaged, enthralled, and excited to learn from someone other than me — and I'm not offended by that AT ALL!



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## Questions to Guide the students in Learning About the interviewee's Culture:

1. What is your home of origin? Why did you/your family settle in the USA? What is your work?
2. What are some of your family customs and roles of members within your family? What is your role in your family?
3. How closely do you identify with and affiliate with your culture?
4. What are the gender roles in your culture? And in your family?
5. What religious or spiritual beliefs are influential in your culture and for your family?
6. What are your family beliefs about around child rearing and discipline?
7. What would be the characteristics and practices of people who are considered to be excellent parents in your culture?
8. What are the power structure in your family?
9. How are decisions made at the family and community level?
10. Who holds positions of formal power in your culture?
11. Who are the most powerful *informal* leaders in your community?
12. Who held positions of power in the past?
13. What is your concept of health?
14. What are customary health practices and beliefs?
15. Who is responsible for and influences health care? Do you use home or folk remedies, a healer, some other traditional or spiritual healer? If there is, what?
16. What is your concept of time? Is this the same as others in your culture?
17. What is your concept of personal space?
18. What is considered appropriate touch between people of various relationships? (Consider how people greet each other when they are first introduced, when they greet friends, when they greet relatives)
19. How can you communicate effectively in your culture? Consider the meaning of tone of voice, gestures, eye-contact, overall body language, terminology used to describe health, face-saving behaviors.
20. Identify and verify customs, beliefs, and practices of your culture.



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## INTERVIEW AGENDA

Time[Minutes]	What to do
5	Welcoming the interviewee
25	Questions by the interviewer
15	Students' questions by students
10	Students reflect on what they learned

## INTERVIEWS PLAN

Number	Date	Name	Arab Country
1	September, 18th. 2018	Souad Outarid	Morocco
2	October, 12th. 2018	Paul Morgan	Egypt
3	November, 12. 2018	Hafida ZAITOUNY	Algeria
4	December, 12th. 2018	An Egyptian Student [ Ahmed Qattab]	Egypt
5	February , 14th. 2019	George BOLOUS	Egypt
6	March, 14th. 2019	Mariam Elchoum	Lebanon
7	April, 12. 2019	Denise principe	Syria