



Noor El-Salam Academy is Open in Beirut!

Our plan to open a “small” school in Beirut has come to fruition and blossomed! Sixty children filled three classrooms, with a waitlist a mile long. We have a staff of experienced and dedicated teachers who are committed to teaching refugee students, knowing they are not in it for the money but for the humanitarian purpose that is at the heart of our organization.

We started by hiring a lead teacher named Amira (princess in Arabic) in August. With the Board's guidance, Amira was able to recruit two other teachers and an aide. A local church adjacent to the Syrian refugee community donated a large room for the school. Amira and volunteers put up curtains to divide it into three classrooms, and purchased tables, chairs, desks, whiteboards, and teacher books. Amine delivered

school supplies for the children which were left over from donations we received last spring. He also took funds to support the program through the first semester. A known and trusted colleague agreed to handle the accounting for us on the ground there as a volunteer.

Outreach to the refugee community resulted in a surplus of applications. Some families had to be turned away because our classes were already full. We are hoping to expand the school and double its size in the new year. The building landlord has offered to rent us space on the second floor above where the church floor exist where we could open three more classes to meet the demand. We are applying for grants and seeking additional individual donations to help fund the expansion.

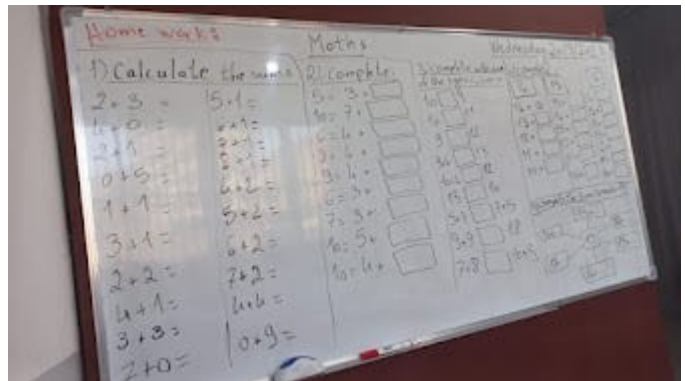
The work of providing basic literacy and numeracy for children age 5-14 is vital to each child's future and the future of their families. We are committed to stepping up our contributions to make this happen, and we hope we can count on your continued support as well. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and ongoing involvement with us in this relatively small but important project.

Staff

Amira, the lead teacher for the new Noor El-Salam Academy, is pictured on the left with the other teachers and in-country volunteers.



Amira designed these cards to track students' attendance, progress reports and interactions with parents.





School is hard! Sometimes you just need a nap.

How You Can Help

Join in as we seek to extend basic education to another 60 students next semester. If you know of grant sources in your network, we'd love to hear about them. As always, we are grateful for individual support. Would you consider becoming a monthly donor?

[Donate Online](#)

Or donate by mail:

Noor El-Salam
1237 Purdue Drive
Longmont, CO 80503

Planning ahead, we would love for you to join us in person during our next travel to Lebanon in the early spring of 2024 season, date has not been set yet. Let us know of your interest to set a convenient date for your schedule.

The visit will include interactions with the school staff and students along with day visits to UNESCO world heritage sites in Lebanon.

With hope for the future,

Amine and Susan

Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues or on social media.