

Date:

# Dear Teacher,

**I'm very excited to start the new school year with you!**

I would like to introduce myself: My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I will be in your Grade \_\_\_\_\_ class this year.

Some of my favorite activities are: \_\_\_\_\_.

My favorite food is \_\_\_\_\_, and I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_.

Another important fact about me is that I am a Muslim, which means I follow a religion called Islam!

Being Muslim is an important and positive part of my identity. My faith guides the way I live, learn, and play, and I am proud to share it with you!

There are a few things that are important for you to know about me related to my faith beliefs. First, my diet is guided by my religion. I do not eat pork or pork products such as gelatin, and I only eat meat that is certified halal. Sometimes treats, candies, or potluck foods may not be suitable for me. It helps me feel safe and included when food is labeled, just as foods must be labeled for those with allergies.

I practice modesty by wearing the \_\_\_\_\_. This is my way of honoring my faith. Sometimes people make fun of me because of how I dress. This makes me feel uncomfortable and hurt. I know that our school has a no-bullying policy, and I trust that you will help make our classroom a safe and respectful space.

Prayer is a very important part of my faith. Muslims pray five times a day, and sometimes prayer times fall during school hours. It would mean a lot to me to be able to quietly step out to a clean and safe space for a few minutes so I can fulfill this important duty. If you could help me make arrangements, this would be a big relief!

During the islamic lunar month called Ramadan, healthy muslim adults around the world observe a month of fasting. This means, not eating or drinking during daylight hours. Although its not mandatory for children to fast, many muslim kids participate in fasting. It is a way to become closer to God, learn patience, discipline, and gratitude. I will let you know closer to the month of Ramadan if I plan to fast, and if that might require some accommodations (like skippings laps in gym!).

At the end of Ramadan is a holiday called Eid al Fitr, it is amongst two holidays that I celebrate (the second being Eid al Adha). They are not observed holidays on the school calendar yet, but they are very special times for me and my family. On these days, I may miss school, and I ask to be excused without extra homework or tests so that I can celebrate fully with my family and community.

As a Muslim, I believe in treating everyone with dignity and respect. There may be times when classroom discussions about topics like gender, identity, or sexuality do not align with my religious beliefs. In those situations, I may remain silent or ask to be excused. Please understand that this is not meant as disrespect or exclusion — it is simply the way my faith guides me to live. I ask for your support in upholding and practicing my faith based values.

I would also like to share something important about gender interactions. While school is a place where boys and girls learn together, my faith teaches me to avoid physical contact with the opposite gender. For that reason, I kindly request not to be paired with the opposite gender for activities that involve physical touch. This request comes from my belief in modesty and mutual respect.

In school and the classroom, I hope that my culture and faith beliefs will be respected. This means avoiding negative stereotypes about Muslims — like connecting Islam only to terrorism, oppression or a certain ethnic group — and instead recognizing that Muslims have a long history in Canada (arriving before Confederation!), and have made so many positive contributions across time in areas such as science, math, literature, and the arts.

Lastly, it is very painful when people call me names, make hurtful comments, or treat me differently because of my religion. I trust that you will support me and make sure bullying or discrimination is not tolerated in our classroom or school.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about me. I am excited to learn, grow, and share this school year. We are lucky to live in a country of great diversity, with so many cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs. I respect that we will not always fully understand or know about each other's differences — and that's okay. If you ever have any questions or concerns, my parents/guardian and I will be very happy to talk with you!

Sincerely,