Autumn in the Mechina

The Opening of the Academic Year for Teachers, Advisors and Employees

On October 14th, we gathered to get to know one another (both new teachers and veteran teachers) and then heard a fascinating lecture by Dr. Samira Alami on the education system in East Jerusalem. Afterwards, we heard from Dr. Eyal Eliash, Director of the University's psychology services, about the characteristics of Arab students. Many of you hailed the importance and relevance of the lectures.

Rothberg School Provost Prof. Malka Rappaport-Hovav opened the event with blessings to the teaching staff. Malka had tears in her eyes as she described the sense of mission that empowers all those involved with the program - teachers, advisors, and employees. The Preparatory program is literally 'home away from home' for our students.

Existing and New Programs

Students hail from: 46 countries, including not just Canada, Australia or the US, but also China (2), Japan (2), Korea (4), and even from Singapore (1), and Turkey (2). If you hear a lot of Italian chatter in the corridors, you should know we have 14 students who came from Italy this year.

YESOD - Students from the Former Soviet Union

Admittance to this program exempts students from the psychometric test. This year we accepted about 37 students, which is more than double the number of participants compared to last year. There were numerous candidates for admission, but some did not pass the interview process and application review by a joint committee of the Mechina and the University Admissions office.

BASIS Program - Students from Western Europe

This program also exempts its students from the psychometric test. This year there are 18 students enrolled in BASIS, 17 of them from France and one student from Singapore.

KIDMA-SADARA

This program is designed for students of East Jerusalem who attended public schools. The Program accepted 65 students (after interviews and a selection process among 150 applicants.) Participants have higher than average Bthog’ihi (The Jordanian matriculation exam), and they are highly motivated to gain admission to the Hebrew University.

Due to a shortage of rooms in the Rothberg School, students study in campus facilities (Rooms in the Humanities and Law Schools).

Most of the students completed the summer Ulpan successfully.

Bayan joined the Preparatory Program team over the summer, and is the advisor to all the program’s students.

We thank the Municipality of Jerusalem for the help we received in marketing of the program, registration and placement/admissions.
Welcome to New Employees

We wish to extend a warm welcome to the new teachers who have joined our staff this year! The Mechina Program has 18 new teachers this year, in various subjects. Here, too, there were quite a few candidates and we are sure that we have chosen the best. Good luck!

Good luck to Tsooki and Thank You to Gali

We wish to congratulate Tsooki Shai on his becoming the Academic head of the Hebrew Language Division, as he replaces Gali Huminar in this position.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Gali, who returns to working as a Hebrew Teacher within the department, having fulfilled all the demands of her position successfully. Gali was always understanding of the Mechina's needs, and responded quickly and efficiently to all our appeals on behalf of our students.

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Best wishes
We are very happy that Sigal, the Mechina Department’s Secretary, has returned to the department after breaking her hand and taking time off to heal.
We missed you Sigal!
Trip to the Israel Museum

On Monday, December 21st, the Mechina visited the Israel Museum – The largest museum in Israel, and one of the 10 largest in the world.

Students were divided into groups according to Hebrew level, and toured the museum with a guide and Mechina staff. Students saw Israeli and Jewish Art, Synagogues brought to the museum from Suriname, Venice and India, and a new Art exhibit called "Night Falls Over Berlin" which is on loan from Germany.

We would like to thank the organizers of the trip, all the students who participated, and the Israel Museum for providing the well-informed

Celebrating Chanukah in Rothberg

During the holiday of Chanuka, Mechina students participated in daily activities sponsored by OSA – The Office of Student Activities.

This included menorah decorating, clay sculpting, song, dance and more. The activities took place everyday of the holiday, during one of the breaks between classes.

The Mechina would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season, and a productive and safe New Year!

Mechina students enjoying donuts at the Rothberg School’s Chanukah celebration.

Mechina students performing traditional Arab Dances for their Peers.