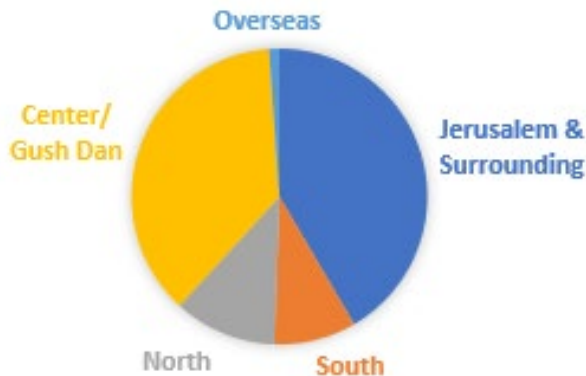




## Report on 2022 Brincat IASA Summer Camp July, 2022

On Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 91 boys and girls from all over the country concluded their 8<sup>th</sup> grade school year by spending a week at IASA's **Brincat Summer Camp**. The best and brightest of their schools and communities, these talented participants came from a diverse mix of regions and backgrounds, from the Galilee to the Negev (*see Table below*) and representing a diverse mix of religious and secular backgrounds.

CAMPERS, BY REGION



CAMPERS, BY GENDER



**Built around both fun and learning**, Brincat IASA Summer Camp offers campers the choice between four educational tracks: **Music**, **Art**, **Science** and **Humanities**. Each offers its own unique opportunity for participating campers to delve deeply into their field of interest. For some, this was their first experience with the high-caliber, hands-on experiences that is unique to IASA's programs.

**Music** students studied with composer and IASA-HS Music Department Head, Yisrael Sharon, taking part in classes on performance, theory, ear training/hearing development, music history, and composition.



**Art** students were given access to IASA's studio workshops, where they had the opportunity explore a wide variety of media, from brush-and-ink to lithography and block-printing to sculpture and multimedia. In addition to specialized printing, drawing and sculpture workshops, students learned and researched various topics

related to the history of art. Among others, students undertook four applied exercises:



(1) An exercise in drawing from observation, in which students played with composition and shading techniques to create depth and harmony;

(2) Silverpoint, a traditional technique from the 14th-15th centuries in which a drawing is made using a silver tipped stylus, through which students were able to explore with light and shadow using a gradation technique;

(3) Linocut, in which students were taught how to carve images on a surface on which they would then apply ink, before transferring the stamped image onto a paper surface (a technique that demands both careful planning and patience, as color is applied to the images through a series of separations); and



(4) a watercolor brush and ink exercise, in which students experimented with thick and thin color application using varying amounts of wash and water. Students also were able to undertake sculpture and animation projects, which were filmed and produced as short videos. At the end of camp, all Art students took their works home with them.



Demand for the **Science** track was particularly high this year, so 3 different specialized courses were opened:

- **Geochemistry ('The Chemistry of the Earth')**, was dedicated to the fascinating processes that took place on this planet millions of years ago. Through hands-on experiments, campers studied the composition of rocks and soils; discovered how the seas and continents were formed; and learned about the chemical processes of the earth (which are still active and dynamically changing all the time).



- **Physics**, taught for the **first** time at **Brincat Summer Camp**, was dedicated to expanding students' understanding of physical principles by constructing basic formulas and investigating the behaviors of bodies in space. Students learned about density, experimented with it, before moving—at their request—onto Astrophysics. Here students examined the Big Bang, including discussions on its ramifications for religious faith. Students also undertook individual projects—investigations of topics close to their hearts which they then presented to the wider group. The course was full of demonstrations, experiments, challenges, and scale-models which the kids worked with at their team stations.



- **Computer Science**, in which students were introduced to C # programming and taught the basic tools of the language—after which they were given a real (and fun!) applied challenge: Designing a video game in conjunction with graphics applications.

**Humanities** students took part in classes on history, literature, and culture, this year's theme being dedicated to the fantasy genre: Beyond discussing different works, students went on to put together a booklet complete with their own writings in the genre (from critical analysis to fiction). Each camper took a copy home, as a pleasant reminder of their accomplishments and adventures through **Brincat Camp**.

**As in previous years**, camp faculty was made up of IASA's renowned teaching staff alongside teachers from the *Israel Center for Excellence through Education* which operates IASA's national STEM teacher training programs. The chance to learn from educators who are also professionals in their fields is just one of the unique opportunities offered by Brincat Camp.

**Many of the students who were with us this year** told us this was the first time they were sleeping away from home since the beginning of COVID. Five came from the southernmost part of the country, near Eilat. Given that over the past three years

they had not had the opportunity to interact with any kids beyond that city, for them especially the opportunity to meet amazing and brilliant kids from all over the country was simply irresistible.

**O**ne student travelled all the way from Los Angeles take part in **Brincat Camp**—and it was also her 2<sup>nd</sup> experience of the unique learning atmosphere provided at IASA. She was a participant in another unique camp held IASA at a different time. Her father, who accompanied her, said that over the course of the preceding year she had managed to stay in touch with several friends from IASA, despite the physical distance. All returned to camp together this year. She felt that the camp gave her the opportunity to meet teenagers her age, with interests similar to hers and who accept her without judgment. The father said that thanks to what she experienced in the camp, Ruth really wants to study at IASA and her entire family is hoping to live in Israel permanently so she can study in Jerusalem when entering the 10th grade.

A highly diverse group, this year's campers also presented some unique challenges. Three came with diagnosed social anxiety and were on medication. Four had gluten allergies (celiac). Naturally, their parents were concerned—especially since so many had not been away from home in years. In the end, the professionalism of our staff and the accommodations made for special needs dispelled all fears. Gluten-sensitive kids got special menus and even ate separately. Meanwhile, staff helped anxiety sufferers acclimate to their new surroundings—so effectively, perhaps, that by mid-week their role was totally supplanted by the participants' new friends and bunkmates. (One girl mentioned that she almost didn't need the relaxation devices she brought with her because the friends she made at camp put her fully at ease.)

## Social and Cultural Activities



**Brincat Camp** is based on both learning and fun. If mornings were dedicated to the former, in practice, afternoons were left open for relaxing and enjoyable activities. This year students visited the Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem where they walked freely over the grounds watching the animals; visited the Israel Museum; and toured the Yehoshua Gardens in Tel Aviv where—among a variety of team challenges—they scaled a rope wall.



The last full day of activities was dedicated to students finalizing work within their individual tracks. Each educational tract concluded with the production of a final booklet showcasing aspects of students' work over the week. For two of the tracks, these were integrated into wider visibility events: While Music students concluded their week with a final recital, Art students arranged their linotype, sculpture and lithographic works into a group exhibition, which all 91 campers helped put together.





The exhibition was followed by a group photo session and later in the evening, the camp's organizers surprised the campers with a party, offering several hours to just relax and have fun. **Brincat Camp** ended on Friday, July 2<sup>st</sup> with a farewell event, allowing kids to say goodbye to one another, after which they packed up and headed home. From their own testimonials—and those of their parents—it's clear that what they took with them was an experience that will stay with them for years to come.







## Some Testimonials

### *From the Kids themselves...*

It was very enjoyable, educational, interesting and fun. I got to really feel the learning process at the boarding school and got to know the teachers. I really want to attend IASA's high school. The trips were informational, inspiring and rewarding.

"This is my first time at an IASA camp. I enjoyed it a lot— I was disappointed it's only for eighth grade students because I would like to attend again next summer! At camp I met new friends, learned three programming languages and didn't waste a minute. I know I for one would be really happy if camp continued past 8th grade in some way—and I know I'm not the only one..."

"I really liked it and wish I could be here every day, I really felt a strong sense of *belonging*."



"It was perfect! I enjoyed everything and learned a lot of new things. I met new friends and I will remember this experience for years."

"I really enjoyed the Brincat Camp and the classes, I met friends from all over the country. The classes especially were really interesting..."

**... and from their Parents:**

"Congratulations on a meaningful, enjoyable week of teaching, strengthening and support. There is no doubt that thanks to your amazing [...] team we were given peace of mind that our children were in good hands."

"You understood immediately how difficult the first day was for [our daughter] and the sensitivity [with which] you responded immediately was not taken for granted!"

"I spoke to you at the beginning of camp about the fact that [my daughter] would be coming without knowing any of the other children and that she was really quite anxious. You were very patient in explaining that you are especially versed in seeing the kids struggle and responding when necessary. So at the end of it all, I really just want to thank you and the team for this truly amazing camp! I'm really looking forward to hearing about all the experiences she had..."

***The Staff, Director and students of the  
Brincat IASA Summer Camp  
express their deepest gratitude to the entire Brincat Family for  
allowing this year's campers to participate in an educational  
experience to remember!***

***Thank you for making a difference!!***