



September, 2023

Dear Friends,

On September 8th, IASA's school year kicked off with more "new beginnings". As we recently welcomed Mr. Dani Fessler as the new Principal, he, in turn, began his tenure by welcoming our middle and high school students, their parents and IASA's staff to the new session. (Please see attached for Dani's full remarks.)

Joining Dani was the Mayor of Jerusalem, Moshe Leon. Mayor Leon was the keynote speaker, inaugurating the completion of new middle school classrooms built on Schusterman Campus. Made possible through the partnership with Jerusalem's Municipality, this expansion (of an additional floor on top of the current structure) allows IASA's middle school students "hands-on" learning through the use of our science and computer labs, art studios and music rooms.

Next month, a memorial service for IASA's key founder Bob Asher z'l, will be held at IASA. Participants will include: Israeli dignitaries, top donors, educators, students, alumni and staff (past and present). This service will celebrate his dedication to the betterment of every path he crossed. Diligently (and humbly), Bob and his wife, Mary Jane z'l, made the world a better place.

Attached is the opening report for the 2023 academic year including highlights from each department in IASA. We hope you find this report of interest. Thank you for your continued interest in ICEE.

Kind regards,

Debbie Capocci

Debbie Capocci,
Administrative Director



UPDATE
September 2023
ISRAEL ARTS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

The 2023 academic year opened with 244 outstanding high school students from across the country (182 residing on-campus). These students have taken their place among IASA's high-performing student body. In order to challenge these students, they are offered unique and proven curricula developed by our team of outstanding educators.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT:

This department is divided into three areas of specialization: Physics, Chemistry and Biology. In recent years, a Computation Science specialization has grown in size and popularity, with students enrolled in the three-year course, exploring everything from classical algorithms to machine learning, with a focus on mastering the Python programming language.

Physics Department:

With longstanding connections to research institutions across the country, from the Weizmann Institute's Davidson Center to the Grand Center of Energy at the Technion, the Physics Department offers students a wealth of resources and opportunities to delve into the field. While 10th and 11th graders deepen their understanding of mechanics and differential math, 12th graders begin their foray into electrodynamics as part of the major's top-tier curriculum. Continuing on last year's precedent, a visit to the CERN Particle Accelerator in Geneva is planned for this year's 12th grade.

Chemistry and Biology Departments:

With a wealth of ancillary courses having been developed, especially within this major—Forensic Science, Thermodynamics, Protein Biochemistry and the popular Chemistry and Cuisine (which explores the biochemistry of taste buds, the science of food preservation and the chemical connections that make certain foods just 'go together')—the Chemistry and Biology Departments are brewing science and fun into a compelling cocktail. From the student-organized Mole Day (named for a key unit of measure in the field) to Chemistry Night in which 12th Graders share fascinating and wacky experiments with the rest of the students, the major offers a wealth of engaging activities to complement students' intensive year-long research projects. A student-built Escape Room and trips to Hebrew University's Chemistry Lab are also part of the roster—as is a repeat of 2022's school trip to London in the footsteps of famous chemists and experiments, from Faraday to Cavendish.

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT:

With a wealth of field trips and cultural activities (among these an ongoing exchange program planned again for this year, with students of the AGS School in Prague), the Humanities Department



offers students the opportunity to deeply explore five key themes in Western thought and culture: Choice and Free Will; God; the Individual and Society; our relation to Nature; and Happiness. Over the years, students will hone their focus from these themes (in 10th grade) down to the one topic that will be the focus of their 12th grade project.

ART DEPARTMENT:

Blending theory and practice, the Art specialization will see students take an in-depth dive into Art History from antiquity to the story of Western Art from the 19th century and onto contemporary and Israeli art—and then to the raw materials themselves, whether in drawing/painting, sculpture, photography or interdisciplinary art. Visits to key museums and galleries, and interaction with alumni and artists from different fields is a key part of the experience.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT:

Through a rich academic program combining theory and performance, Music students at IASA will hone their skills and knowledge of the field, learning everything from the Western musical tradition of the 19th-21st centuries to Musical traditions from around the world, while they develop their hearing, harmony analysis, and counterpoint. The opportunity to arrange and perform several songs under the tutelage of Israel Prize Winner, Michael Wolpe (first Chairman of the Music Department) is also planned for the year.

IASA-MIDDLE SCHOOL OPENS ON OUR CAMPUS:

With hundreds of applications each year, IASA-MS has assumed its place alongside the High School as a nationally renowned institution. To complement this, the facility was granted an additional floor by the Municipality of Jerusalem, which was inaugurated earlier this month. The new area more than doubles the floorspace of the MS, affording much more comfortable conditions. We gladly welcomed 160 middle school youngsters on our campus!

CAMPUS REJUVINATION:

IASA opened its doors in September, 1990 and order to maintain this state-of-the-art facility, continual renovations are made. We are happy to announce that the Main Lobby is the latest area set for rejuvenation with construction scheduled to begin in January, 2024. Thanks to a generous grant provided, plans for this project were created by **IASA alumni, Slava Weinblatt!** Slava is a designer specializing in visitor centers and similar spaces. We are fortunate to have our alumni continually giving back to their alma-mater in their areas of specialty.



SEPTEMBER, 2023



To the extended IASA family, students, parents and staff,

I am honored to join the IASA family and the professional education team at the ICEE and the school. This unique and special school has a history of superb achievements. It's my honor to take part, together with you, in shaping the coming years of both the Israel Center and IASA's High School and Middle School.

Advancing people to bring out the best in them, I believe, must begin on the personal level, based on sympathy, care, fairness and mutual respect. When these are provided, the heart is calm; personalities open up; the ear is attentive; the mind observes; and it becomes possible to embark on a common path of searching for the good.

A little bit about myself and the background which I bring with me: All my working years were dedicated to education. These include 30 years of work at the Leo Baeck Education Center in Haifa, as part of which I served as the Center's executive director for two decades, and through it all, a teacher as well: of civics, business administration and history. During this period, I departed briefly to serve, for two years, as the head of the education, culture, welfare, youth, and sports administration at the Municipality of Haifa. At the end of my tenure at Leo Baeck, I went to the U.S. where I served as president and CEO of the Jewish Federation and JCC in Pennsylvania. Upon my return to Israel after two and a half years, I was recruited to the position of CEO of the Atid Education & School Network, which maintains 55 high schools across Israel. I am also a member of the Maoz Network and continue to chair the Board of Directors of the Galim Youth Village in the southern outskirts of Haifa. I am a member of the executive committee of the Gordon Academic College of Education and teach a master's degree course there in education systems management.

All these—many years of dedication and experience in managing education systems, pedagogical development, entrepreneurship, innovation and resource mobilization—I seek to bring with me in my tenure at IASA. On the volunteer level, I am a member and former president of the Haifa Rotary Club and a former governor of the Israel Rotary Organization.

I look forward to this fascinating educational journey, together with the students and staff at ICEE & IASA.

Best regards,
Dani Fessler, Principal

"Living is the profession I want to impart to [them]. Upon leaving my hands, [my student] will be... first and foremost, a person." (Rousseau)