

Trip to Israel me N Ħ 2921 Horizons ARBEL EELLOWSHIP תלמ

ברוכים הבאים לישראל! WELCOME TO ISRAEL!

After 15 months of quarantining/remote learning/ COVID-19 life, 7 HLA and Harlem Hebrew graduates spent July in Israel at the Givat Haviva Educational Campus learning Hebrew, Arabic, and conflict resolution, and traveling around the country.

As part of our mission, students learn Hebrew and all about Israel. Our 8th grade Capstone trip is something our students look forward to for many years and, unfortunately, weren't able to go this year.

All of the students in the group have shown leadership skills and are excellent students. They are: Kari, Michael, Joshua, Kiahn, Asher, Willow and Nissi from HLA and from Harlem Hebrew. We are so excited to take you on their journey of a lifetime!



We arrived safely at Givat Haviva and our students kicked off their learnings and explorations.

After an "authentic Israeli breakfast" (corn flakes, cookies with Nutella, fruits, vegetables and cream cheese sandwiches), we went on to have our Hebrew and Arabic lessons.

We did a refresher class in Hebrew, focusing on introducing ourselves. Adi, our teacher in Givat Haviva, uses the proficiency approach so the class experience was very familiar to everyone. Her lesson made us feel at home!

At night we truly had the time of our lives. We joined our sister program TALMA: The Israel Program For Excellence In English for their anniversary celebration which included a concert Israeli pop stars Static & Ben El Tavori.

At our schools, our students are exposed to Israeli culture. They watch Israeli children's shows and listen to Israeli music. We know that every Hebrew Public student knows and loves the song Tudo Bom, which is one of the first hits by Static & Ben El.

The feeling of being cool kids standing in the front row of their favorite singers' concert will for sure stay with our students for a long time.





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TUESDAY

Th

GX

Arabic

Beach and Picnic Music Show

lunch

300

1200

גבעת חביבה جبعات حبيبه Givat Haviva



We welcomed eight Arbel Fellows, Hebrew teachers who will be joining our network schools for up to three years. Todah to Anat Einstein, who works with us at the Steinhardt Foundation-Israel and with Hebrew Public! Anat cherry-picked an amazing group of lifelong learners who joined our schools in August.

Maya Madar, our superstar alumna, joined us to tell the new teachers about her Hebrew charter school experience. She said that it is only to her HLA education that she can read, write and speak Hebrew with her Israeli relatives.







We celebrated with Israeli-style picnic on the beautiful Poleg beach in Netanya on July 4th!



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We've been learning about the history of Israel and having thought-provoking discussions. Can change happen peacefully? How do people from different countries view one another? How should we carry ourselves when meeting with people who come from different backgrounds and know nothing about us?

On a tour in the ancient Roman city Caesarea, we were the only tourists. While it was fun to sing out loud at the 2,100 year old stage, we also recognized what a sad time it is, since tourists are still not allowed to visit Israel because of COVID-19.

Last but definitely not least, it's touching how many messages we received from our students' former teachers and friends who are now in Israel. They reach out to make plans to meet up with our students. In Akko, Kiahn and Josh were surprised by their Hebrew teacher, hamorah Yris who came out to see them.











Our group spent Shabbat at the home of our tour guide, Rona Melnick. At the dinner table, we talked about what we are grateful for. Most of us were grateful for our families and for the opportunity to participate in this program.

As the Givat Haviva staff noted to us several times, we are the most diverse group that they have seen on campus.

A group of Israeli teens have arrived at Givat Haviva to join us for the next two weeks. We were all so excited for the "mifgash" (Hebrew for encounter).

Together, our group has begun bonding and building new friendships. We lived, ate, and traveled together. Our common language is English but we also taught each other the languages spoken at home.

We are very much looking forward to seeing these new friendships unfold.



We were busy exploring the country with our new Israeli friends. From an archeological dig in Beit Guvrin, to watching the sunrise at Masada and floating in the Dead Sea, we were living our best lives!

One of our students, Michael G., shares a reflection below:

"We spent the night in tents in a Bedouin village. We also went camel riding in the desert! The next morning we hiked the incredible Masada. I saw the most beautiful sunrise and had such an amazing hike down the mountain with the most stunning views. I will remember it for the rest of my life."









Our group spent two days in Jerusalem. Before we left the Givat Haviva campus, we discussed what it means to be a part of a shared society and accepting and respecting each other.

We came to the conclusion that we can all be who we are without hurting others, while respecting each other, and focusing on what unites us.

Those thoughts were with us as we stood on top of the Mount of Olives overlooking the old city of Jerusalem. Standing there, we touched on the subject of how divided this city is and what a complex place it is. Together, we will cherish these moments -- learning to respect each other and live together in peace and harmony.





נתראה בשנה הבאה! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

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