

Hand-in Hand Schools, Jewish and Arab Students, learning together/growing together

Hand-in-Hand (the Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel) is a unique group of public schools under the auspices of the Israeli Education Ministry, where Jewish and Arab students learn together in both Hebrew and Arabic in a multicultural setting. The primary education mission links academic excellence and collaborative learning to promote a strong, inclusive, shared society in Israel. The strategy envisions building a network of Jewish-Arab integrated schools combined with community activities. The objective is to build a civic infrastructure for social inclusion and equality that extends beyond the walls of the school.

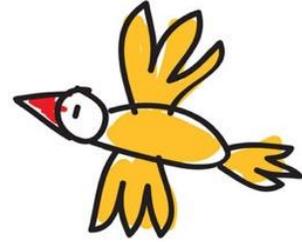
HIH was conceived in 1997 by Amin Khalaf, an Arab teacher, and Lee Gordon, a Jewish-American social activist who was promoting Arab-Jewish dialogue in Israel. In 1998, the school began operations with two classes of 1<sup>st</sup> graders in Jerusalem and the Galilee. HIH currently operates schools and supports communities in six locations with 1,578 Jewish and Arab students and more than 8,000 community members.

Growth plans include the creation of a network of up to 15 schools, supported and enhanced by community activities involving more than 20,000 Jewish and Arab Israeli citizens.

Executive Director Shuli Dichter believes it is essential to develop an education model to change the fundamental relationship between Jew and Arab to one of greater mutuality. That idea was implemented through a fundamental approach to education that includes an equal number of Jewish and Arab students and two teachers holding lessons in both Arabic and Hebrew. In addition, Judaism, Christianity and Islam are taught with equal weight for all students, and each faith's respective religious holidays are observed. The outcome of bilingual classrooms and an inclusive cultural/language/religious environment reinforces a shared educational experience, teaches respect for languages and identities and inspires support for the social inclusion and civic equality goals.

The Israel Advocacy Committee of the Jewish Federation of Collier County and Beth Tikvah are sponsoring the HIH program. HIH will be in Naples on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Tickets will be available for purchase soon. More information can be found:

<https://jewishnaples.org/major-events/iac-israel-advocacy-committee>



## Hand in Hand

Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel

יד ביד | המרכז לחנוך יהודי ערבי בישראל (ע"ר)

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