

# The Schools in AMIT Beersheva



## AMIT Junior & Senior High School

This junior and senior high school has a population of over 1,500 students in grades 7-12. Some 50% are Israeli born, 30% are immigrants from the Former Soviet Union and 20% are immigrants from Ethiopia.

Courses of study are physics, chemistry, biology, computers, general technology, electronics, electricity, office management, Tanach, oral law, literature, Land of Israel studies and Russian. All Students are encouraged to take full bagrut exams. Special programs called *Hachven* and *Ometz* are directed at giving the average and weak students maximum help through various projects to prepare them for these exams. Students in the advanced classes earn bagrut certificates of more than 40 units. As a whole, 76% of those eligible receive the full bagrut certificate, an outstanding record among comprehensive high schools, and first place among the comprehensive high schools in Beersheva. Among the Yeshiva stream students, the success rate for full Bagrut has reached 95%.

The school earned two significant prizes in the past few years – the Religious Education Prize for 2001/2002 in the category of Immigrant Absorption and the Prime Minister's Prize, awarded by the Branco-Weiss Institute (a foundation which promotes parental involvement in their child's school), for the school's superior achievements in the "Bagrut 2001" program. In addition the school has earned recognition and citations for many achievements within the AMIT Network, the Beersheva municipality, country-wide and internationally, most notably in mathematics, physics and computer competitions.



## The Dina & Moses Dyckman Ulpanat AMIT

Ulpanat AMIT Beersheva has a school population of over 550 girls. The school has 19 classes including 2 special education classes and 1 new immigrant class. Courses of study include General technology, physics, chemistry, biology and computer sciences. The school is twinned with a yeshiva high school in Montreal, Canada, working together on *tzedaka* projects in both places. They take part in a dialogue program for tolerance and understanding with students in the secular high school next to the Ulpana campus. The school won the Teachers Union Education Prize for 2001 for outstanding achievement in promoting tolerance and understanding between religious and secular students. Consistently, 90% of eligible students earn Bagrut certificates. The school has an innovative Tanach teaching classroom, where the students are taught in a new approach aimed to make them feel closer to the Tanach, using art, presentations, music and film. An Ulpanat AMIT Beersheva student won the International Tanach Competition a few years ago.

Several prestigious awards have recently been presented to Ulpana students and teachers. Ulpana student Yarden Abuchatsira was chosen the outstanding pupil of her class in the "Neta" Computer Program, a three year after school course aimed at giving students the opportunity to attain computer knowledge and leadership skills. The Ulpana's Arabic teacher Mr. Chaviv Chamawi was awarded a certificate of honor by the Ministry of Education for a life-time work devoted to the teaching of Arabic. In January, the Ilan Ramon Youth Physics Center at Ben Gurion University was dedicated. Twelve research projects prepared by high school students as well as graduates were chosen for presentation at the dedication ceremony. Of these twelve, three were done by students currently attending the Dina and Moses Dyckman Ulpanat AMIT.



## AMIT Daisy Berman Yeshiva Junior & Senior High School

Yeshivat AMIT Beersheva has 350 students in 7th-12th grades and is part of the Comprehensive school of Beersheva. The Yeshiva was created to satisfy the need in Beersheva for a Torani Yeshiva for boys who are not interested in boarding school. The school accepts good students who pass competitive entrance exams and a personal interview. The Yeshiva aims for excellence in academics, *midot* and religious observance.

Courses of study at the school include Judaic Studies, English, mathematics, physics, computer science, biology, program engineering and Israel studies.

Last year, the Yeshiva moved to a newly renovated building where the students can learn in a more comfortable environment.





## **AMIT Elaine Silver Technological High School**

This school has a student population of over 200 students in grades 9-12. Approximately 43% are new immigrants, mostly Ethiopian; most Israeli-born students are from Sephardi backgrounds. This technological high school is for students who have not met academic requirements or have been expelled from their regular, academic schools. The school gives them a chance to accumulate technology Bagrut credits, each student according to his/her ability.

The school prepares every student to take a minimum of 14 units of Bagrut credit, which are required if a student wishes to continue his/her education or to join a specialized army unit. Those students who enter grade nine unable to read are enrolled in a special literacy program which enables them to take Bagrut exams in the tenth and eleventh grades.

The school provides a daily lunch, which for many of the students is the only meal they get a day. The principal reported to us that through AMIT, they also gave out food to the students for Pesach.

Courses of study include electricity, electronics, PC technology, graphic design, fashion design and woodworking.



## AMIT Torani Madai Netivei Am Elementary School

AMIT Netivei Am has more than 350 students in 14 classes. There are two classes for children with learning disabilities. The student body includes 22 immigrants from Ethiopia who have been in Israel for a year or less.

The school stresses *mitzvot* and *chesed*. Each class in the school has its own *chesed* project. The school's goal is to have its students, who are traditional, continue on to religious junior and senior high schools, Ulpanot and Yeshivot. Ninety percent of the school's students do continue their religious education upon completion of their elementary years.

Students in Netivei Am have the opportunity to take part in special programs which help to prepare them for later stages in their life. The school is one of eight AMIT elementary schools which offer a "First Grade Readiness Program." The program operates ten sessions for children in kindergarten, at least two of the sessions include the students' parents. The sessions focus on the children's' academic, social and emotional readiness. Another exciting opportunity for students in Netivei Am is a Literary Project. For this project which encourages reading, parents and children meet with the author Haim Welder, and do reading projects on the author's books. Additionally there is an Excellence Program for outstanding students in the school which challenges them to excel beyond standard requirements.



## AMIT Afikim B'Negev Elementary School

In this school there are approximately 350 students in 14 classes, in kindergarten through sixth grade. The school population is very diverse. Some students come from the affluent neighborhoods of Ramot where, in some cases, the students's homes are not religious but their parents have chosen to give their children a religious education. Other children come from Lehavim and Nevatim, small communities outside of Beersheva. Immigrant students come from three absorption centers located in the city.

The school has many diverse activities and endeavors. The student council works with two *chesed* organizations in an effort to make students more aware of the importance of volunteering and anonymous giving. The school has a program called "Little Sanhedrin", in which students act as judges to solve problems between students that arise during recess. The goal is to mediate between students before adults must intervene. In the context of strengthening and deepening the students' connection to the Land of Israel, the school has joint activities with municipal Environmental Protection Agency as well as a special partnership with students from Ulpanat AMIT Beersheva. The older students run activities and act as mentors for the younger children.





## **AMIT Hazon Ovadiah Elementary School**

AMIT Hazon Ovadiah has approximately 200 students. It has six regular classes, two special education classes and one ulpan (intensive Hebrew language instruction for immigrants) class. Approximately 40% of the students are Former Soviet Union and Ethiopian immigrants. The school is located near an absorption center and, therefore, its immigrant population is very fluid. Students attend Hazon Ovadia when they are living at the absorption center and often leave the school when their families find permanent housing in a different school district.

The school stresses values and the Arts. It has a well developed arts program, a dance group, a choir and a mandolin orchestra. These groups perform in official municipal ceremonies. According to the principal, one of the important features of the arts program is that it gives immigrant children an alternate mode of expression before they have mastered the Hebrew language and can express themselves verbally.

The school has individual learning programs, each child being taught according to his/her ability. The school's curriculum is based on the Gardner theory of multiple intelligences. The school starts teaching English in the first grade, giving students a two-year head start in English instruction. The school won an Excellence in Education Award for immigrant absorption.





## AMIT Or Hammer Elementary School

AMIT Or Hammer has a population of more than 400 students in grades 1 through 6, as well as an additional 36 children in kindergarten. The student body is truly heterogeneous. Some 40% of its students are from the Former Soviet Union, 20% are from Ethiopia, and 40% are native Israelis. The school seeks to instill in each child a sense of his/her own competence and ability, as well as a sense of belonging to the State of Israel and community involvement. Special projects focus on strengthening the children's Jewish and Zionist identities and achieving excellence in mathematics and music.

The school has won awards for excellence in mathematics, encouraging reading, dance, choir and community involvement. The school has a special music program, with three music teachers and a school orchestra.

The school has a special pilot project, which combines the last year of kindergarten and first grade in one unit to ease the move from kindergarten to elementary school. Combining the two classes allows younger children to be exposed to first grade learning, and the older children to learn and play, before the transition to a more traditional classroom setting. It also allows more individual attention to each of the children, as the children not being occupied by a teacher can be free to play.



## AMIT Rambam Elementary School

AMIT Rambam has a student population of approximately 360 students in grades 1 through 6. The student body includes native Israelis and new immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. The school provides students with a stable environment in order to ensure that education is an empowering experience.

The school's educational highlights include values, life skills, improved achievement in mathematics and language arts, violence prevention, respect for parents and teachers, helping others, good deeds and modesty. In addition, the school offers students a special chevruta study program and sponsors extensive social activities.

The student body consistently scores above average on national tests. Children participate in school programs to distribute *mishloach manot* to soldiers for Purim, food packages to the poor for Pesach and similar projects.



## **AMIT Neot Avraham Elementary School**

Neot Avraham is a new elementary school located in the Neve Ze'ev neighborhood of Be'er Sheva. Neve Ze'ev is a new neighborhood located in the southwestern corner of Be'er Sheva. The socio-economic level of the neighborhood's population is good. This neighborhood has religious, traditional and secular residents. Mainly religious and some traditional families will send their children to this new school.

The school opened its doors on September 1, 2008 to 100 students. The school, which offers a Torani education, started with first, second and third grades. Each year a grade will be added until the school has grades one through six. This school itself is co-ed, but classes for boys and girls are separate, where the number of students makes that possible