

Knesset Members in Beit Jann: "What is the secret of your Bagrut (Baccalaureat) entitlement percentages?"

Members of the Knesset Education Committee , visited the high school ranked 3rd place in entitlement for Bagrut graduates. Teachers and management explained: " We have achieved it by embracing a program that narrows the gap between the strong and the weak".

Beit Jann's students achievements that have been ranked in 3rd place among all cities in Israel for Bagrut entitlement rates continues to employ the education system.

The members of the Education, Culture and Sport Knesset committee visited Mekif high school in Beit Jann and the committee officiate chairman, Knesset Member, Mr. Amram Mitzna, said that "The aim of the visit is to see and understand the teaching method at school and to check if it can be implemented in other high schools in the country".



The Knesset Education Committee in Beit Jann



The Teacher Mizna Salalha



The Principle Ali Salalha

The visit was also attended by former IDF Chief of Staff, and the chairman of Rashi Foundation that operates in the education and welfare areas, Gabby Ashkenazy.

The committee members met with the teachers, staff and members of the school's management who tried to explain the formula that brought the success. Muzana Slalcha, a homeroom teacher, explained that the achievement is due to a program called "Start" that Its objectives are locating and close monitoring over low achieving students in order to narrowing the gaps between them and the other students.

Slalcha added: "we brought these students into the Start program and invested many hours of teaching both in school and in the afternoons. They study intensively until the gaps are narrowed. You could say that we all volunteers and put a lot of effort for the students success even if it is on the expense of our free time. We don't let them give up. If one of the students doesn't come to school, we go to his house and bring him." When lastly asked if she was surprised by the results, Slalcha replied: "No, I wasn't. We deserve more".

Mr Mitzna said at the end of the visit that he got many new insights and the main one is the importance of leadership from the head of council, the school's principal and the teachers. "I don't know if each and every school in the country can reach this result but I have no doubt that it is possible to reach a closer one. It means putting education as a top priority. I have now been infected by the virus everybody in Beit Jann has which is the will to succeed".

Ali Slalcha, the school's principal, has expressed his hope that the visit will bring the committee to help the council build another high school in the village. He also referred to the innuendos heard after the results were published in which the remarkable results derived from copying. "In my time I prevented copying and cheating. I said that anybody who wants to reach achievements –must sweat."

Frachan Tapash, a student in the school, told ynet: "I wasn't interested in studying in junior high and didn't think of the future at all. Only when I got to high school, did they talk to me about Start classes and I loved the idea. Our classroom teacher has done everything for us. We studied from 8:00am till midnight and today I have a Bagrut certificate."