



July 2018

**TO:** The Matanel Foundation

**RE:** 2017-2018 report

## 1. Our Educational and Moral “Ani Ma’amin” – Our Vision, Goals and Objectives

### Vision

*Mechinat Yedidya's* primary objective is to provide its students – graduates of comprehensive religious high schools in Israel – with joy and self-confidence, combined with a deep feeling of belonging to the People, Torah and Land of Israel. The *Mechina* teaches its students to dream and to believe in their own abilities to fulfill their dreams by providing them with the basic tools they need to develop their personalities while implanting within them a strong desire to contribute to the best of their abilities to the Land of Israel and to the IDF. The *Mechina* prepares its students to experience a meaningful military service, manifested in their enlistment to elite units, continuing to officers' tracks and becoming leaders in any area they find themselves. The combination between *Derech Eretz* (good manners and behavior) and Torah, firmly rooted in the *Mechina*, creates the proper combination for building our students' personalities.

### Goals

- A. Individual and group empowerment of youngsters from the Israeli periphery.
- B. Connecting between the religious world and the practical world without a sense of contradiction between them.

### Objectives

- A. Continuing on to a meaningful military service out of a feeling of mission and desire to contribute to the country and the land.
- B. Continuing on to a civilian life with a commitment to self-actualization, fulfilling one's dreams and achieving success, while not losing sight of the desire to contribute to society and define one's values and goals towards that society, and not only their personal ones.

## 2. Details of Our Annual Educational-Study Program

The overall goal of the *Mechina's* annual program is to provide our students with the proper tools that, on the one hand, will provide them with personal empowerment, deep-seated moral and Zionist values, and, on the other, give them the drive they need to go out into the world from family, occupational and military perspectives.

The main aspects of the program are expressed through the following topics:

- A. Judaism courses – Faith, *Tanach*, ethics, Jewish Law, Jewish thought, etc.



- B. Emotional and physical preparation for significant service in the IDF.
- C. Personal empowerment and group dynamics.
- D. Course in business entrepreneurship and economics.
- E. Community work.

### 3. Preparation Program for Full, Significant Military Service

The *Mechina* offers a variety of activities preparing students for significant and meaningful service in the IDF, reflected both in the level of the weekly schedule of activities and in unique events in the annual calendar. Pre-military preparation is reflected in two different aspects:

- A. **The physical aspect** that includes: Treks, orienteering, survival skills and general and individual physical fitness programs.
- B. **The mental aspect** that includes: Talks with current and former senior military officers, lectures on military history and heritage, discussions of military ethics and additional IDF-related courses.

In addition, the *Mechina* has been 'adopted' by the elite undercover unit of the Jerusalem Border Patrol, reflected in monthly or bi-monthly meetings with members of the unit along with members of the department of military heritage, various panel discussions and physical fitness training sessions.

### 4. Social/Communal Activities

We believe, from an educational perspective, that social/communal contributions are a foundation stone in the educational development of our students. Communal work is done on a weekly basis and in conjunction with the Youth and Social Services Department of the Efrat Regional Council.

We offer our students a variety of different communal volunteer tracks:

- Mentoring and working with problematic students.
- Working with senior citizens.
- Leading and assisting in clubs run by the Welfare Department.
- Agriculture – horse farm, dog-training, etc.

### 5. Special Activities and Program Content

As noted above, one our primary goals is to provide our students with the best tools necessary to successfully integrate in all stations of life. For this purpose, we offer the following special programs to help achieve these goals:

- A. The "Leadership and Excellence" program operated in conjunction with the Azrieli Engineering College in Jerusalem: In this program students are exposed to a variety of subject areas, including economics, entrepreneurship and business, aimed at giving them the ability to dream big and gain the confidence and tools that will enable them to reach for the goals



they set for themselves and find meaningful and financially rewarding employment following their military service.

- B. The above-mentioned adoption by and work with the elite undercover unit of the Jerusalem Border Patrol will help our students achieve the needed motivation and commitment to experience a significant and military service.
- C. Courses in relationships, gender and family during which the students will delve more deeply into the women's perspectives on the world, myriad aspects involved in forming personal relationships and educating one's children. We believe that discussing these topics openly and honestly will provide the students in a deeper and clearer way with the necessary preparation for the different stages in life that lay ahead.

With deep appreciation,

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