



בית הספר הבינלאומי בגבעת חביבה
 المدرسة الدولية في جبعات حبيبه
 Givat Haviva International School

**Givat Haviva International School:
 Part of Havazelet Cultural & Educational Institutes of HaShomer Hatzair
 2022-2023 Project Report**

The Matanel Foundation has supported twenty outstanding students at Givat Haviva International School (GHIS) in 2022-23: Alma, Angeles, Bao, Bat-El, Boris, Chidinma, Daniella, Davit, Galia, Ibrahim, Irem, Ksenia, Liya, Maria, Meital, Ohene-Ayeyi, Rawan, Recida, Salma, and Yael. GHIS remains grateful to the Matanel Foundation for their second annual grant of 20,000 euros.

Update

As a reminder, 50% of GHIS students are Arabs and Jews from Israel, and the remainder are International students, many from conflict zones. In 2021, GHIS introduced an extra year of studies for students from Israel (both Jews and Arabs) to prepare for the two-year authorized IB Diploma Program. This has proven to be an enormous success and has led to a higher number of suitable students who apply to GHIS. We believe this will contribute to GHIS having a greater impact on leadership both in Israel and internationally.

Currently, there are 144 students from 25 countries who now live and study together on campus.

The Alumni program which began last year, has expanded and we are in regular contact with many of our graduates. Please see the new page on our website for some of their stories: <https://gh-is.org/alumni-ghs/>.

Below are short testimonies from seven of the Matanel Scholars together with a financial report.

The full budget for GHIS is on the final page of our 2021 Annual Report.

We look forward to watching all of the Matanel Scholars succeed at GHIs and then take their places as leaders - this is the mission of GHIS.

Financial Report

Matanel Scholarship Fund 2022-2023

10 partial scholarships for Israeli students	\$10,000
10 partial scholarships for international students	\$10,000
Total Expenses	\$20,000



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Seven Matanel Scholarship Students



Chidinma: Monrovia, Liberia, DP1 (11th grade)

“My old school was a really good school. There were only 60 people in each of my classes. GHIS is giving me opportunities that I never could have dreamed about. I’m hoping to go to university in the US, which is something that would have been unimaginable to me just a few years ago.

“GHIS has taught me to be proud of myself and accepting of others. I understand that you need to love yourself before you can welcome others into your space. I feel so good about myself now.

“I have found that even at GHIS, there are groups of people from similar backgrounds who hang out together. But, what’s different here is that they’re open and let you in and make you feel like you’re one of them.”



Galia: Haifa, Israel, DP1

“My family was forced to flee Russia last August and we came to Israel. I was accepted to GHIS at the last minute. I never thought of myself as a leader because I’ve always been an introvert. Thankfully, GHIS must have seen my potential. Coming to a new country is hard, and joining GHIS definitely took me out of my comfort zone, but I was immediately welcomed. I’m still amazed that such a diverse community could be so united. Everyone is driven to succeed, yet supportive of each other, which is so inspiring. I’m gaining confidence daily and even considering standing for leadership elections. It’s amazing that I’m starting to see myself as a leader.

“I love physics and art. I know that they will both be a part of whatever I do in the future.”



Ibrahim: Nazareth, Israel, DP1

Ibrahim attended an online school as well as an international school in Cyprus. He was looking to attend a school closer to home and one that had a diverse student body.

“Without diversity, school can be dull. I really look to learn from my peers. I currently share my dorm room with an Israeli Jew and an Armenian. The three of us represent three different religions and experiences and it’s great to always be learning new things. We spend all of our time together and we’re developing as people together. It’s such a great experience. Learning is so much better because we can watch and help each other.

“I want to study astrophysics because it’s always fascinated me. In the future, I’ll always be an ambassador for GHIS because its mission is so important to me.”



Liya: Harish, Israel, Pre-DP (10th grade)

“I come from a diverse family: I’m Jewish with African-American and Polish roots. We moved from Chicago to Israel a few years ago. I was drawn to GHIS because of the diversity here; I immediately felt a sense of belonging. It’s wonderful to learn about everyone’s culture and customs, and not feel that I stand out as being so different. I also really like the IB education and can’t wait to begin the Diploma program next year.”



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Ksenia: Moscow, Russia, DP1



Ksenia was looking for an IB education and was very impressed when she found the GHIS-website.

“I’ve found people at GHIS are so kind and welcoming, wherever they’re from. I didn’t know anyone here and with the war going on, I was anxious about how I would be received. It’s been great! Within a week I had friends-for-life.

“The interactions here with your teachers are something that I never experienced before and it’s also been great. At home, all my parents and teachers only cared about getting good grades to get into a good university. At GHIS, teachers see the whole person, they see me, and they nurture each of us as individuals. It’s made me feel that I matter, which has made it easier to talk to other people. I’ve grown so much in my confidence and communication skills. Now I’m thinking about what I want to do in the future and what I expect of myself.”

Maria: Lima, Peru, DP1



“At my old school in Lima, everyone was Peruvian. There was no diversity. We were all Christian. I’d never met anyone from another religion or country; I’d never even seen anyone in a hijab or an African person. But I knew that I wanted something different for my future. I was on Quora searching for an international school where I could get a scholarship and found GHIS. The website was amazing and I loved the idea of living with people from around the world. Now, I share a room with an Arab and a Jew from Israel. This is the first time I ever had roommates and we’re learning from each other every day.

“I hope to study biotech in medicine or agriculture because at GHIS I’ve been encouraged to pursue a career that will be good for humanity.”



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Salma: Taibe, Israel, Pre-DP

“I was born in Taibe and lived several years in Portland, Oregon. When we returned home, I didn’t know how I would manage in my community. Luckily, I was approached by Gigi Agem, a family friend and house parent at GHIS, who told me that she thought the school was a great fit. I was ecstatic. It was an answer to my prayers when I was accepted. Being here has far exceeded my expectations. What I’m learning at GHIS is helping me understand the world and how I can make a difference in it. I love the arts, especially, it’s such an amazing way to explore my identity, and identity in general. I know that it will be part of my future.”

The photo here was taken when Salma was performing in “PEACE”, a GHIS version of the story, “Grease”. The participants wrote, directed and performed this musical, which aimed to reflect the issues experienced by GHIS students living and learning in a diverse community. It was a tremendous success.