

# The International School of Peace

Ecole Internationale pour la Paix

مدرسه بين المللي صلح

المدرسة الدولية للسلام

בית הספר לשלום לילדי פליטים ביוון



The International School of Peace was established 2.5 years ago in Lesvos, and has been providing non – formal education for children refugees for hundreds of children during that time.

The school motto is "working with the people and not for the people"- all the teachers in the school are refugees themselves who come from their students' community.

The school created an educational approach that provides a holistic response to the refugee community facing integration into society.

Today, the school provides education to nearly 250 students that are aged between the ages of 6 -16, that are from all the different populations that is on the island.

### 1. OBJECTIVES

- prepare the students for their future, in a new society with different values along with remembering and honoring their past and the culture they come from.
- create a therapeutic and rehabilitative environment that is suitable for this extraordinary period in the student's life.

### 2. TARGET GROUPS

- The school provides education to the refugee children that are in Lesvos. Multiculturalism is a school's key value and purpose, and as such the target group changes according to the refugee populations of the island.
- The students are aged between 6 to 16.

### 3. LESSONS

- major subjects such as English, math, mother tongue and Greek
- enrichment lessons, such as: life skills, arts, music and sports.
- "**activity day**", the day is about a topic which is not part of the major subjects and its role is to expand the children worldview.

### 4. TEACHING METHODS

- frontal teaching – for the major subjects.
- Indirect education- the teachers serve as role models to the students, as they clean together, prepare the meals, play together and more. The students learn not only during class but also throughout the entire day.
- On activity day the major method is games and creativity.
- One or two educators to each class- a main teacher that leads the educational process of the whole classroom and of a particular child, according to their needs. Parents also recognize the educator's character and approach him/her for the different needs.

### 5. TEACHING MATERIAL

- At the school there are different workbooks in the different subjects and different languages that we succeeded to collect over the years.
  - The internet.
- During the first years of the school, the school curriculum was built by the pedagogical Greek coordinator of the school. She went through a training and professional studies in the Greek system and academy, and also worked as a teacher in the Greek education system. The curriculums was based on the Greek curriculum to facilitate the transition of our students to the Greek school system.

### 6. FUNDING

100% of the school is funded by private donations and foundations.

The school is honored to have many private donors support, and works closely with foundations like the UJA, the Becker foundation, Havatzelet foundation and more.

**We are always happy to add more partners to this journey.**

### 7. EVALUATION

- internal evaluation- the school encourages constructive criticism and encourage all the school staff to express it. The weekly teacher training allows us to do a weekly evaluation.
- once every 3 months there is a cross-talk with the students, teachers and the parents that aims to learn and improve the school relation with the community.

### 8. TEACHER PROFILE

The model of the school is a community organization, the school teachers are refugees themselves, that come from the student's community (apart of the Greek teacher – she is, naturally, greek). In the current teacher's staff, there are no professional teachers, but most of the teachers are educated- university graduates in various of subjects.

The school holds teachers training meetings and workshops to help them cope with the challenges of being a teacher.

### 9. PROBLEMS / CHALLENGES

- The use of different languages inside school.
- The gap of the students ages and the gap in their knowledge.
- The constant change of students and teachers as they depart from the island.

### 10. PROSPECTS

- Every day there are parents coming to the school requesting to register their children, most of the children that are registered to the school come on a daily basis, further more- students express dissatisfaction when school is closed.
- Students from the school integrated into the Greek system noted that the tools they received at the school both educationally and socially facilitated their integration into the Greek school.
- The teachers become leaders in their own communities, they often say that the tools and training they practiced during at school pushed them to take a leadership role.

### INFORMATION

Contact person: Yaara Chishinski, coordinator of the school.

international.school.of.peace@gmail.com  
Telephone: 6955259596

WEBSITE- [www.schoolofpeace.org.il](http://www.schoolofpeace.org.il)