Hebrew Heritage is a pioneering Hebrew language program dedicated to Israeli speakers at Hannah Senesh.

The Heritage Program addresses the unique needs of Israeli Hebrew speakers. We offer an academically challenging and comprehensive language program focused on reading and writing skills supported by the advanced verbal skills of our learners. The Program provides a balance of high academic standards while instilling a love for the Hebrew language and Israeli culture.

Materials for the Program are current, interesting, and age-appropriate. The content comes from a range of sources including Israeli writers, artists, and other modern day sources of relevance and interest to our students. Our students are actively engaged in all facets of the language and enjoy the learning process.

The Heritage Program is offered from Kindergarten through eighth grade. Lower School students meet three times a week and Middle School students meet daily (subject to change).

"As an Israeli mother of twins, the Heritage Program has been an amazing addition to my kids’ Hebrew education. The children’s level of fluency has increased by leaps and bounds. More importantly, the kids’ confidence level in speaking, reading, and writing has grown tremendously, enabling them to communicate freely with family and friends.

The Heritage Program has become an integral part of my kids’ education at Hannah Senesh."

- Tali Finkelstein, parent of Tamara and Daniel

Nir Rikman, Hebrew Language Coordinator
Prior to Hannah Senesh, Nir was a Hebrew faculty member at a number of independent schools and universities including the Abraham Joshua Heschel High School in New York, Gann Academy: the New Jewish High School of Greater Boston, and Brandeis University.

Nir spends his summers in Middlebury, Vermont as the director of the Life Learners program of the School of Hebrew of Middlebury College. Born and raised in Kiryat Yam, Israel, Nir earned his BA in English Literature from Haifa University and his MA in Teaching Hebrew from Brandeis University.

The program operates from the Hebrew Heritage Foundation’s offices in New York, and the curriculum is taught by a team of Hebrew-speaking teachers who are native speakers of Hebrew.

The program is designed to help students develop a strong foundation in Hebrew language and culture, with a focus on reading, writing, and speaking skills. The curriculum is structured around a variety of materials, including textbooks, audio recordings, and online resources.

The program is offered to students in grades 1-12, with classes meeting once or twice per week. Students receive personalized instruction from experienced teachers, and are encouraged to participate in a variety of cultural activities, including music, dance, and art.

The Heritage Program is designed to help students develop a love for the Hebrew language and Israeli culture, and to prepare them for future study and use of the language.

In addition to its core curriculum, the program offers a variety of extracurricular activities, including Hebrew language clubs, music and dance groups, and cultural events.

The Heritage Program is committed to providing a high-quality Hebrew language education to students of all ages and abilities.

The program is open to students from a variety of backgrounds, and is designed to meet the needs of students with a wide range of language proficiency levels.

The program is committed to providing a supportive and inclusive learning environment, and is designed to help students develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed in their Hebrew language studies.

The Heritage Program is located in Manhattan, New York, and is a program of the Hebrew Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and promotion of Hebrew language and culture.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Israel Curriculum: We encourage a positive connection between our students and the people and land of Israel. Our graduates have a solid understanding of modern Israel’s geography, history, government, and communities. Consistent with our educational philosophy, the Israel curriculum is respectful of diverse views.

Shinshinim: We welcome two Israeli emissaries/shlichim each year at Senesh. For our students, Shinshinim provide a meaningful face, voice, and personal connection to Israel.

Lower School Hebrew Play: Our Lower School’s performance skills shine in our annual Hanukkah-themed play – all in Hebrew! Students carefully rehearse songs, dances, and their spoken Hebrew parts.

Holidays and School Events: Assemblies/tekesim provide opportunities to celebrate holidays and honor important figures in history. They include: a memorial/yratzheit for Hannah Senesh and Yitzhak Rabin, ceremonies for Yom HaShoah and Yom HaZikaron, celebrations for Yom Ha’atzmaut, family Sukkot breakfasts, and Hanukkah candle lighting ceremonies.

Eighth Grade Israel Trip: The eighth grade’s two-week trip is a special opportunity for students to bond, speak Hebrew and interact with Israelis, gain independence, and experience first hand what they studied at Senesh.

Partnership with Israeli-American Council: Our partner IAC, provides Senesh families with access to authentic Israeli programming for young children and families including Keshet, Shishi Israeli, and holiday events.

HEBREW HERITAGE PROGRAM
and ISRAEL CURRICULUM
at HANNAH SENESH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

HANNAH SENESH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL | 342 Smith Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231 | hannahsenesh.org