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Darca Druze High School for Science and Leadership – Yarca

Sharon Katz
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Kamil Shela
School Principal

Darca Druze High School

for Science and Leadership -Yarca

The school was founded in the Academic Year
of 2002-2003

What are the most prominent characteristics of the school?

The Darca Druze High School for Science and Leadership - Yarca is a unique regional high school that fosters real leaders, preparing them for life.

What is the school vision?

The school strives to train its students for academic study, encourage creativity, research and development of intellectual skills to groom a future generation of leaders who will integrate in all sectors of leadership in the Druze community in particular, and in Israeli leadership in general. The underlying idea is to maintain the school's identity as a value-based school rooted in the Druze tradition of striving for excellence and at the same time - to foster and encourage students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

What is the school pride?

Our pride is being one of the top schools in the country in terms of education for values as well as achievements. It ranks first among all schools in Israel in the percentage of outstanding students, according to the criteria of the Ministry of Education, and with 100% eligibility for matriculation diplomas over the past four years. Scores on the matriculation exams are extremely high, including for 5-points English and Math. The school won the highest level of 5-points Math in Israel and ranked first in 5-points Production Management Research. Above all, as mentioned

above, our school is characterized by its ethical values and accomplishments: it is one of 4 schools in the country and the only non-Jewish school which was chosen as a "Top Rated School" and our teachers have been receiving special grants for 4 consecutive years, for the school's pedagogical, social and ethical excellence. It also won the Minister of Education Award for Volunteer Youth for the past two years.

What is the students'/ teachers' favourite corner in the school?

The sports, art and thinking games center. Since students attend the school six days a week, all at 5-points levels, students view the center as the place to take a breather and relax.

How do you create and sustain the unity of the educational staff?

The school staff is, first and foremost, a professional and caring staff, like parents who care for their children. Teachers are meticulously hired. No teacher is hired without undergoing preliminary internship. Since we all have the same goal, and we all understand that a unified, supportive team is a guarantee for success, we perform the craft of education together. We behave as one family, including in social life. Nearly twice a week, we eat together. We go on team building days together. We frequently convene professional staff meetings, and even home visits.



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Is there a special personal or moving story from the recent time?

Unfortunately, in a tragic incident, we suffered the loss of a new graduate and an only son in a deadly car accident. We named the sports center after him, and it opened on November 22, one year after his death. We invited his family to the school and awarded them his matriculation certificate since fate prevented him from receiving it.

What is the most important athletic achievement in the school?

Although not a classic sporting achievement but an achievement nonetheless, Israel Basketball legend Doron Jumchi, visited the school. Following the visit, Jumchi invited the entire school to a league game between Maccabi Tel-Aviv and Rishon le Zion.

What is the greatest challenge currently faced by the school?

Registration and absorption of students from all villages. Every year, and particularly during school registration, a competition, even a 'war' is waged between us and other schools in the sector. They say that we take the 'cream of the crop' from all other schools. The challenge is to succeed in attracting those top students despite the pressure on them.

Is there an excellent cultural event that you created?

Every year, we conduct a Talent Show in which students display their best stage skills in music, dance, acting, poetry, etc. The event is colourful, charming and a pleasure.

How do you see parents' involvement in the school? Yes? No?

Yes, definitely! Parents in our school play a critical role. We encourage involvement but not interference.

Name one thing missing in the school's curriculum that should be included.

Physical fitness and/or Robotics.

Can you give an example of innovation and creativity in the school?

An empowerment center - a simulator that we have recently set up, that is changing students, since it focuses on their self-esteem, self-confidence, experience and preparation for life - in three languages.

Adolescent students - how is this reflected in school life?

As a skilled, professional and caring staff, we work with the students on independence, on assumption

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of responsibility, on self-awareness, self-esteem, self-confidence, acquisition of knowledge, etc. - all skills and competencies that adolescents must be equipped with for the future.

A good teacher is...?

First and foremost the teacher must be human in every sense of the word. Someone with intellectual fire, passion, values and a strong work ethic, caring, sympathetic, charismatic. He must also possess the necessary experience and expertise in his subject matter, someone who will leave an imprint on each and every student.

Teacher burnout?

This is not something we talk about in our school.

Is there a regular custom in the school?

We open each year with a team building activities day for the entire school. Students and teachers look forward to this day.



Caption: The school strives to prepare students for academic studies, and encourages creativity, research and development of intellectual skills in order to foster a future generation of leaders.