



**The Herskowitz Society  
of MetroWest**

Academic Excellence and Affordability in Jewish Day School Education

**Summary of Programs Developed through MetroWest Day School Campaign  
(2007-08 and 2008-09)**

**AFFORDABILITY**

- Supplemental tuition assistance funding directly to schools in 2007-08, and emergency tuition assistance funding for retention of families affected by economic crisis in 2008-09
- Endowed Base Grant Tuition program at the Hebrew Academy of Morris County, assisting approximately 30 middle income families per year
- Och Family Fund at Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union, supporting middle income tuition grants for students in upper school
- Pre-kindergarten tuition reductions at Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy

**DAY SCHOOL EXCELLENCE**

**Collaborative Model**

- MetroWest Heads of School Council established to oversee collaborative projects and recommend grants
- Part-time Day School Coordinator of Endowment Projects hired to carry out and oversee programs and grants.
- Three committees—marketing, teacher recruitment and retention, and science—established with representation from each school

**Science Enhancements**

- Retained Dr. Nitzan Resnik, Director of New Science/Math Initiative at South Area Solomon Schechter Day School (Boston), to perform in-depth review of science program in each MetroWest day school and make recommendations for improvements
- Individual school grants awarded for improvements including professional development, equipment purchases, science lab expansion
- Community-wide, part-time science coordinator hired to plan and oversee collaborative science programs among three schools
- Professional development days planned for science teachers from all three schools
- Joint curricular initiative planned culminating in event for students
- Researching university partnerships for middle and high school programs
- Programs, materials and curriculum sharing, creation of resource center

**Israel Trip Enhancements**

- Grants given for added programming on annual Israel trips, with program enhancements including leadership workshops, drama, art and music programs, and a scholar in residence

### **Israel @ 60 Celebration**

- Literary contest: Students from three day schools competed in community-wide prose and poetry contest on “Places and Faces of Israel.”
- Joint choir from three day schools opened largest UJC community event of year

### **Hebrew Language Differentiated Instruction**

- Hired Dr. Karen Gazith of Montreal to provide ongoing professional development for 15 select teachers from the three schools
- Developing model of “master teachers” inspiring colleagues

### **Teacher Recruitment and Retention**

- Created joint team (business managers from each school) to perform detailed comparative research and reports on teacher salaries, benefits and needs
- On-line survey of all teachers, with 67 percent response rate, on teacher priorities
- Short- and long-term recommendations being developed to improve recruitment/retention of quality teachers

### **Marketing**

- First collaborative brochure promoting day school education for young families; being distributed to Jewish early childhood programs and other organizations throughout MetroWest
- Professional photographer hired for hundreds of high-quality photos given to each school
- “Micro-site” on day school education being created from UJC MetroWest website
- Collaborative event: “Everyday Miracles in our Jewish Day Schools” timed with community Hannukah celebration

### **PEJE Assembly Stipends**

- \$500 per person stipends granted for school professional and lay leaders to attend April 2008 PEJE Assembly. MetroWest had record 34 attendees.