

The Tel Aviv Foundation

Background

The City of Tel Aviv-Yafo has approximately 500,000 residents, 65,000 of whom are schoolchildren and 80,000 senior citizens. As the symbolic epicenter of Israeli pluralism and liberalism, it is home to Jews and non-Jews, new immigrants and Israeli natives, young couples and senior citizens, business people and artists alike. Nearly 1.5 million people (1/4 of the population of the State of Israel) commute to Tel Aviv daily for work, education and entertainment purposes, as the city is the center of Israeli commerce, the seat of institutions for higher education, and a focal point of art and culture.

About the Tel Aviv Foundation

The Tel Aviv Foundation catalyzes donors to be strategic partners in supporting the evolving needs of the Tel Aviv community. The Foundation generates momentum for the city as a beacon of progress by elevating the quality of life through education, culture and arts, sports, the environment, and social services.

The Foundation works in partnership with the Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo, which supplies **matching funds** for nearly all projects. The priority projects are set by Mayor Ron Huldai and the City Council.

Responsive and purposeful, the Foundation provides for the needy, and creates opportunities for a better future for Tel Aviv and all of Israel.

[For more information, please contact:](#)

The Tel Aviv Foundation
1201 Broadway, Suite 802
New York, NY 10001

Phone: 212-447-6070

Fax: 212-447-9211

E-mail: info@telavivfoundation.org

www.telavivfoundation.org



Hemda—The Center for Science Education in Tel Aviv-Yafo

SUPPORT THE SCIENTISTS OF THE FUTURE!



www.telavivfoundation.org

Hemda—The Center for Science Education

Established in 1991 by the Rothschild Foundation in cooperation with the Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo and the Weizmann Institute, Hemda is Tel Aviv-Yafo's unique science education center for secondary school students. The word Hemda is an acronym for science education and also means "desire" in Hebrew.

Goal

The goal of Hemda is to give every gifted secondary school science student in Tel Aviv-Yafo, regardless of background, the opportunity to study physics, chemistry and computational science at an advanced level. Hemda strives to build the new cadre of scientists for Research & Development in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), industry and academic institutions—scientists who will lead the State of Israel and the world into the future.

About

Hemda is led by an elite team of educators who come from Israel's top universities and research institutes. Hemda sets itself apart from other institutions by enriching its students with numerous extra-curricular workshops and personalized tutoring. This added enrichment makes Hemda's science curriculum broader and deeper in scope. Theories are accompanied by experiments, computerized audio-visual presentations, library references and material from the internet. Hemda teachers instruct students on how to use scientific tools and methods and on how to adopt scientific approaches in their thinking. Hemda students can also take advantage of the many elective courses, special workshops and study trips that are offered.



The Hemda building today serves more than 1,230 students.



Hemda students working together in a computer lab.

*"The future lies in education" – Albert Einstein, 1951
– in a letter to David Ben Gurion*

Who

Only students who attain the highest grade point averages in math and science and who have received the recommendation of their high school teachers are eligible to apply to Hemda. Students who have been identified as "having potential" in the field are given the opportunity to work with Hemda teachers in order to meet the rigorous entrance requirements. Hemda strives to accept all Tel Aviv-Yafo students who display exceptional mathematical and scientific talent and aptitude.

Looking Forward

Surveys have shown that approximately 70% of Hemda graduates are recruited into elite IDF units that specialize in R&D. 18% serve in the air force or paratrooper units. 12% of graduates go directly into *Atudah* programs, frameworks which allow high school graduates to defer their army service in order to study medicine, engineering and other professions at Israeli universities and institutes.



Students using state-of-the-art facilities to conduct experiments in Chemistry, Physics and Computational Science



A lecture presentation in a Hemda classroom.

The Need

The success of Hemda, however, has created a problem: the demand has vaulted past the supply. In 2001, there were 320 students attending Hemda. In 2004, there were 998 students enrolled: an increase of 200%. Today there are 1,230 students. About 370 gifted students remain on a waiting list—deferred due to the lack of operational resources. It is important that Hemda acquire the resources needed to bring these talented students into the program and to give them the opportunity to become leaders in Israel's scientific community.