Partnership2Gether Education Committee

Education Committee Mission Statement
Our mission is to promote mutually beneficial and enriching educational programming among the people of the Central Area Consortium, the Western Galilee and Budapest. We forge relationships through programs and missions that build Jewish identity and strengthen the bonds to Israel and global Jewry. Our programming targets everyone from preschool to high school.

Partnership2Gether Education Committee Goals
- Understanding both American, Israeli and Hungarian society and culture.
- Student recognition of their own cultural traditions.
- Understanding and appreciation of the diversity of the Jewish experience.
- Tolerance and respect for people of other backgrounds, races, ethnicities, and lifestyles; Expanded cultural and global awareness and sensitivity.
- Reflections of how personal attitudes and beliefs vary in every culture and community – even among Jewish people.
- Pique curiosity about knowledge that can be gained from exposure to diverse communities and cultures.

What are the benefits of Partnership2Gether? Why engage?
Partnership2Gether provides a wide range of opportunities for all involved, from enriching educational experiences and broadening school culture, to a pedagogical dialogue. Students, teachers, administrators, parents, and communities all benefit from engaging in dialogue and experiential encounters with people who share some common interests and concerns yet have different life experiences.

Students
Partnership2Gether introduces students to another society and culture and gives them the opportunity to learn about Israeli, Hungarian and Jewish American history, critical events, social, political and culture from people who live and study there. While learning about both countries and their way of life, students reflect upon their own lives and identities and gain greater self-understanding, positive self-concepts, and pride in their own Jewish identity.

By incorporating collaborative learning activities, students are encouraged to explore common grounds and develop cooperative learning skills, as well as cross-cultural communication and diplomacy skills.

Teachers and Administrators
Partnership2Gether provides teachers who are skilled at, or interested in, international relations, language and culture with an opportunity to use their skills or explore an area of personal interest. It opens doors for teachers to use diverse and differentiated approaches to support student learning. Relationships among staff members are strengthened as school staff identify and work toward the achievement of common goals and outcomes. Teachers and administrators may choose to connect with the partner school’s administration to discuss approaches, strategies
and challenges of school management. Similarly, teachers may dialogue with their partnership educators about their experiences in the classroom and share ideas about how to enhance learning.

**Parents or Guardians and the Community**

Parents engage directly in the educational processes by helping their children with partnership-related schoolwork, attending school partnership functions and supporting partnership exchange programs; e.g., chaperoning. Partnership2Gether provides opportunities for parents who have relevant cultural, linguistic or travel experience to share their experiences in the classroom.

**What can a School Twinning look like?**

**Curriculum support, extension or enrichment** – a school twinning will provide a wide range of experiences for students. It will facilitate project-based learning through the exchange of student work and ongoing student-to-student communication. Our hope is that the relationships the students develop with each other and with the material they learn will evolve into a long-term commitment to a project or program.

**Second language learning** – a school twinning provides authentic contexts in which students can develop and practice second language skills in Hebrew or English. The school twinning emphasizes communication among students, classrooms and school communities through the exchange of letters, e-mails, shared social media sites and visits between countries.

It is most important for educators to meet. Partnership2Gesher, our educators’ seminar, provides opportunities for educators and members to engage in discussions, both formal and informal, which will promote academic collaboration of all partnership institutions. Participating in the upcoming seminar will create a most important precondition for lasting contacts and collaboration with partnership educators in the future. Additionally, it will enable educators to network and build strong relationships with partners and exchange ideas and programs. Once relationships are established, projects can be created and support our students to succeed in a multicultural environment, learn how to effectively communicate with people who are different from themselves, and approach relationships with open-mindedness and tolerance.

**How can Partnership2Gether support learning?**

Effective partnerships in general provide opportunities for learning that are meaningful to students and relevant to curriculum. Partnership2Gether activities can be linked to any curriculum.

**Suggested curriculum-based activities within Partnership2Gether**

The following sections are some ideas generated for curriculum-linked activities and it is not an exhaustive list.

- Structured online or e-mail “partner talks,” pairing students with Israeli/American student partners, opportunities for students to talk, read or write with a peer and practice their language skills.
• Provide opportunities for our students to conduct research on the Israel or American culture or ways of life and present their findings in diverse ways; e.g., one group of students might compose a song or script a dramatization, while others write a story or create a video or an audiotape to convey what they have learned.
• Students share products such as information and discussion of issues relating to Jewish history and identity with their partner classroom through projects; e.g., video or audiotape presentations, collages and posters, newscasts or Web pages. Students post images and textual descriptions, and post questions for partner classrooms.

Our partnership students can work on any project with students from the Galilee College in Israel, using platforms, such as; Wikispaces, PBWorks, Edmodo or Facebook.

Wiki is a piece of server software that allows users to freely create and edit Web page content using any Web browser. Wiki supports hyperlinks and has a simple text syntax for creating new pages and cross links between internal pages on the fly. It is an easy-to-use web page that multiple people can edit.

**Education Committee Chairs**

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• Zev Winicur, Central Area Consortium

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