



BERNARD ZELL
ANSHE EMET DAY SCHOOL

בית ספר אנשי אמת ע"ש ברנרד זל

Dear Bernard Zell Families,

On Monday, January 7, our entire faculty will be participating in our first ever *BZ University*. This professional development opportunity is part of our *BZ 2020* strategic plan initiative to ensure continued educational excellence.

Teacher professional development is an important component of how we support our educators as they continue to strengthen their practice throughout their careers. Research tells us that the most effective professional development engages teams of teachers to focus on the needs of their students and provides opportunity to learn and problem solve together in order to ensure all students achieve success.

We will be bringing in three outside experts to work with our faculty and to provide workshops specifically created for each particular division. Occupational Therapist Erin Anderson will speak about the sensory friendly classroom. She will be sharing information about sensory processing and sensory integration, how sensory integration affects academics, and tools for building teachers' capacity to provide appropriate strategies within their classrooms.

Heidi Hamernik, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, will be discussing executive functions in the school setting. This workshop will focus on defining executive functioning and will outline typically-expected executive function from preschool through middle school. Heidi will lead teachers through exploring how to differentiate for students with executive function

deficits and will share a basic framework for understanding and managing executive functioning within the classroom.

Finally, Randee Blair from the Northwestern Center for Talent Development will speak about differentiation in the classroom, specifically around the importance of creating curriculum and instruction that is linked to the specific, assessed needs and capabilities of the learners in the classroom. This workshop will present an overview that demonstrates the need for pre-assessment and differentiation, as well as strategies and examples of both. Our teachers will leave with tools to use to continue and grow their work with this model of instruction.

We look forward to working with our faculty throughout the rest of the year as they put these new tools, strategies, and methods into practice in their classrooms and throughout the school.

Wishing you a wonderful winter break and a happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Tuesday, January 8.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Abby Aloni, Head of Early Childhood

Karen Leavitt, Head of Lower School

Stephanie Bloom, Head of Middle School

Lauren El-Mofty, Director of Student Services