



KFAR SILVER YOUTH VILLAGE

OUR MISSION:

ORT America is the leading fundraising organization for World ORT, whose global educational network, schools, colleges and international programs propel more than 300,000 students in 35 countries to develop careers and lead fulfilling, independent lives. ORT's schools and programs reach underserved students by bridging the gap between aptitude and opportunity, as we work to expand knowledge, build autonomy, and strengthen Jewish identity.

HISTORY OF KFAR SILVER YOUTH VILLAGE:

Kfar Silver Youth Village was founded 60 years ago in Southern Israel to serve as an educational and agricultural home for children who had just made Aliyah and were still arriving from the Diaspora, after the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. The location was chosen in order to fulfill the Zionist dream of making the Negev bloom.

In 2016, Kfar Silver joined the World ORT Kadima Mada (Science Journey) educational network in Israel. Unlike the other schools and Youth Villages that World ORT Kadima Mada manages, at Kfar Silver, ORT is responsible for the entire management of the Village, including the school, the boarding school and the agricultural farm.

KFAR SILVER TODAY:

Today, Kfar Silver Youth Village empowers underserved students to reach their full potential. A rural boarding school, Kfar Silver serves approximately 400 day students and 220 boarders between 12 and 18 years old. The 60-acre campus is located on 370 acres of mainly agricultural land on the outskirts of the town of Ashkelon, near the border with Gaza. Day students and boarders study together and all participate in school, Youth Village, and farming activities.

Many of the students struggle with immense difficulties, including mental health challenges, poverty, or parents who are unable to care for them. Approximately one third of Kfar Silver students are boarders, and of these, almost three

quarters are either new immigrants or from immigrant families (primarily from Ethiopia or the Former Soviet Union). A small number of Bedouins (7) from the Negev also live in the Village. The other boarders are at-risk youth from all over the country who have been referred to Kfar Silver as a chance to escape dysfunctional family backgrounds.

Currently, 87 students have arrived in Israel without their parents, and the Youth Village is their only home. These students take part in the highly regarded Naale program, designed to ensure successful integration into school with classes taught in students' native languages.



"My family is big. It consists of 12 people because my parents adopt homeless children. Kfar Silver is my second home—it's a place where I receive an education and grow up to be the person I aspire to be. The happiest moment so far was when I received a 100% in math." –Alex, Kfar Silver Student

Among the many challenges Kfar Silver students face, a high proportion of students experience emotional difficulties resulting from complex family issues, immigration difficulties and other issues that adolescents confront. A total of 135 students are from single-parent families; 19 of them have lost their father or mother; and 242 students are from low socio-economic backgrounds.

The staff at Kfar Silver works with all of the students, empowering them to recognize their abilities and strengths and helping them become contributing and effective members of Israeli society.

The school has a mix of veteran and new staff members whose successful efforts contribute to its reputation for excellence, demonstrated by the fact that 100% of its graduates serve in the Israel Defense Forces.

Kfar Silver's Bagrut (Matriculation) Results:



71.7%

pass rate of national matriculation examination
(up from 50% in 2016)



7.9%

of students earned an "excellent" matriculation grade
(up from 4.3% in 2016)



50% reduction in the dropout rate for 2017-2018 Academic Year
(lower than the national average dropout rate of 1.2%)

STATISTICS:

Kfar Silver Youth Village provides a high level of education and social support to Israel's most at-risk students—ensuring that they receive the necessary support to reach their full potential.

- In total, 620 children study at Kfar Silver Youth Village
- 220 live at the boarding school, 400 are day students
- The majority of students come from low-income families and difficult backgrounds
- 90% have emotional problems
- 70% come from divorced families

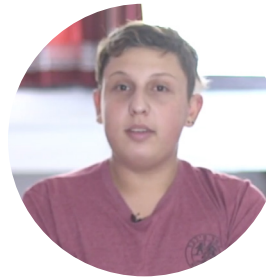
ORT's educational and support services are transforming the lives of Kfar Silver students. 30% of students come to Kfar Silver as non-readers. With access to Kfar Silver's high-quality education and support services, students are empowered to unlock their potential.



"Here we learn physics, chemistry, computers—things you cannot find easily in other places."
—Nir, Kfar Silver Student

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- At a Paris conference, UNESCO screened "Peace for Israel" a short film produced by Kfar Silver students using drones
- Aharon and Wolad, two students from Kfar Silver's Excellence in Sports Program, were selected to join Israel's National Judo Team ahead of the 2020 Olympic Games
- Students and teachers from Kfar Silver continue to participate in World ORT international projects, including:
 - Annual celebrations, such as International ORT Day
 - Annual competitions, such as the Gina and Joseph Harmatz Award for Social Responsibility
 - Summer schools, such as the Digital Skills Academy in Sofia, Bulgaria
 - Educators' seminars, such as the World ORT Hatter Technology Seminar



"The school transformed my life and studies and made me a better person. I want to be a pilot. For this, I need physics and computer science, and the school gives me the option to learn what will help me in the future. You build your future and the school helps you."
—Ron, Kfar Silver Student

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ORT AMERICA Impact Through Education

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