LEO BAECK
Learning | Community | Leadership

Highlights



Establishment of a Carpentry Workshop for students and adults with special needs

The need	Expanding the Carpentry Workshop for students with special needs
Our answer	Transforming an existing space into a dedicated vocational carpentry workshop
Time frame	10 months from planning to completion
Target population	170 students and 35 adults with special needs
Impact	Building skills, independence, and pathways to employment

Establishment of a Carpentry Workshop for students and adults with special needs

Leo Baeck Background

Founded in 1938, the Leo Baeck Education Center is one of Israel's leading educational institutions and the country's largest hub for Liberal Judaism.

Our campus offers a continuous educational path from nursery through 12th grade, including dedicated programs for students with ASD and for gifted learners, supported by a synagogue, community center, and sports facilities.

Guided by humanistic values and Progressive Judaism, Leo Baeck is committed to Tikkun Olam, social justice, and building a shared and equitable Israeli society. As the only school in Israel combining a full educational continuum with a vibrant spiritual and communal environment, it provides a rare and much-needed model of inclusion and mutual respect.

Special Education at the Leo Baeck School and Community

As the leading northern Israeli center for students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Leo Baeck integrates more than 200 children and youth into our inclusive school community each year. Our ASD students learn, grow, and participate fully in the school's life, with a continuum of academic, therapeutic, and life-skills support.

Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Special Needs



Recognizing the vital role of employment-preparation programs, we operate an extensive vocational center on campus.

The program serves 95 Jews and non-Jewish high school students (ages 16-21), combining academic preparation with hands-on training in fields such as digital media, 3D printing, soft skills, greenhouse work, and carpentry, all tailored to students' abilities and needs.

In addition, 23 ninth-grade students visit throughout the year to gain initial exposure and prepare to join the program.

In the 2024-2025 school year, thanks to a generous contribution we received, we significantly upgraded the campus vocational center, enabling deeper and broader training opportunities across various fields.

The Need: Expanding the Carpentry Workshop

Our current carpentry workshop operates in a small, temporary 20-square-meter space, limiting both the number of participants and the equipment we can offer. At the same time, the need for meaningful vocational training for students with moderate functioning levels across Haifa is growing, with no adequate solution currently available.

Relocating the workshop to a larger space will allow us to expand capacity, add essential tools and machinery, and serve additional students on the autism spectrum from other schools. It will also enable afternoon programming for adults with special needs.

Our Response



A 160 m², two-level space is available on our campus for conversion into a dedicated carpentry workshop. To transform it into a modern, fully equipped facility, construction and renovation work are required, with a strong focus on safety, accessibility, and environmental standards.
The adaptation process is expected to take about ten months, including planning, obtaining quotations, contracting suppliers, and completing construction.
Once operational, the workshop will serve approximately 170 students from Leo Baeck and other Haifa schools, as well as about 35 adults with special needs who require vocational training and support.

To view the visual rendering, click here.

Join Us

Thanks to a generous contribution received, we have secured the annual operating costs of the carpentry workshop for the years 2027, 2028, and 2029. We have also purchased some machines and provided professional training to our staff.
We see this work as a true expression of our mission – a modern Zionist act rooted in *tikkun olam*, bringing Jewish and Arab students and adults together through meaningful opportunities for growth and inclusion.
We are now seeking additional partners to support this project and enable the essential construction and adaptation of the carpentry. We invite you to join us in making a lasting difference in the lives of students and adults with special needs.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Ofek Meir
Headmaster and Managing Director