



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of Catholic Schools

Joint Statement regarding ongoing collaboration between the Archdiocese of Miami and Scheck Hillel Community School

Since we communicated in February, the Archdiocese of Miami and Scheck Hillel School Community School have been engaging in ongoing discussions and planning with the goals of education, reconciliation, and healing. Both organizations share a mutual commitment to combat all forms of bias and hatred, particularly acts of antisemitism that have become increasingly prevalent in our state and country in recent months.

Both organizations have expressed regret at the behavior of students from both schools at the February 15 soccer game. There is never any cause for disrespectful behavior, and the Archdiocese regrets student actions that are antisemitic and/or otherwise demean an individual or community. Sincere apologies have been extended by the Archdiocese, and these apologies have been accepted.

Central to our missions is the desire to work with other faith communities to foster empathy, understanding, and compassion. The Archdiocese has treasured a decades-old friendship with the broader Jewish community in South Florida. Since the February 15 incident, Archdiocesan officials have been in conversation with many individuals and organizations throughout South Florida that foster education about the Jewish people. We have seen this as a time to learn, remember, and grow.

As a result of these discussions, we are pleased to announce that the Archdiocese will be introducing new programming in our Catholic high schools. In addition to existing studies on the faith traditions and literature of the Jewish people, we will work with partners to ensure an understanding of the contemporary journey of the Jewish population, both locally and around the world. This effort will include specific units of study for all ninth-grade students, as well as participation in local seminars and field trips to Jewish sites. Scheck Hillel will continue to expand student programming both internally and with resources from national organizations committed to educating and empowering our students to respond to antisemitism and how to serve as advocates to overcome all types of hate. Both the Archdiocese and Scheck Hillel are proud to join with other organizations around the world to combat bias and antisemitism in all forms, such as the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism's Blue Square Campaign to Stand Up to Jewish Hate.

In the days to come, officials from the Archdiocese and Scheck Hillel will meet with education leaders from the Jewish community at the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center to further define the plan, explore further collaboration, and build an even deeper relationship.

We see these steps as essential to broadening an understanding of one another's faith, history and people. We pledge to continue this essential work, learning together as we further explore a relationship built on mutual respect and a commitment to spread G-d's goodness through the modern world.

Spring is associated with important holidays, such as Passover and Easter, which celebrate themes of renewal and new beginnings. We enter this time of hope and optimism, as we look forward to the promise of new growth and opportunities.