

A young child with light-colored eyes and a slight smile is looking through a large, irregular cutout in a teal fabric. The fabric has a fine, woven texture. The child's face is the central focus, with their eyes and mouth visible through the opening. The text 'TOP REASONS' is overlaid on the top half of the image in a bold, teal, sans-serif font with a white outline.

TOP REASONS

WHY YOUR CHILD BENEFITS FROM A JEWISH EDUCATION



WHAT FUTURE DO YOU DREAM FOR YOUR CHILDREN?

As parents we want to do all that we can to ensure the best possible life for our children. Although nothing in life is inevitable, it is worthwhile exploring what role a Jewish day school education has to offer in fulfilling those dreams. Take pause and imagine the person that your child will become.



VALUES INTERPERSONAL AND ETHICAL CHOICES

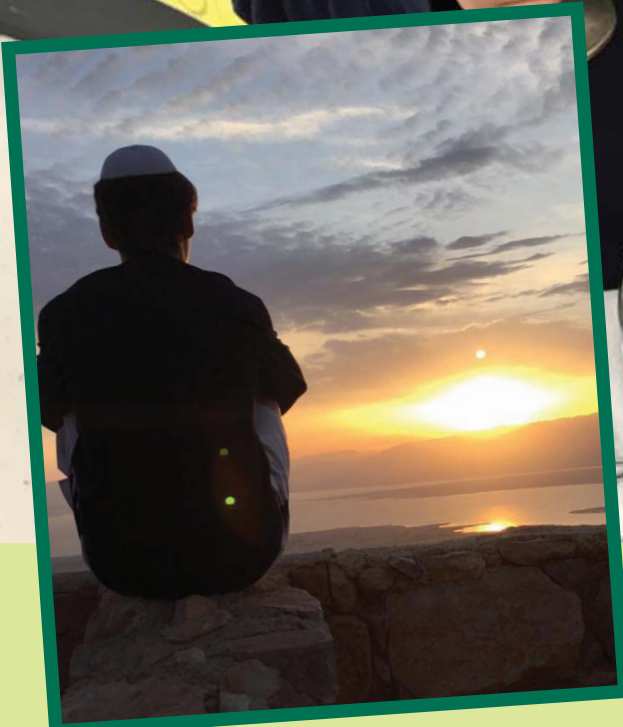
We all want to raise our children to be good people making moral choices in life. Jewish day schools provide the greatest environment to nurture the values that we hold so dear. Armed with 3,300 years of Jewish wisdom, Jewish day schools provide children with the tools to grow up to be successful husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, friends and co-workers. The Judaic studies curriculum in day schools is centered on what is known as *Torat Chaim* (ethical guidance). General studies provides the tools to develop skills to maneuver into a career. The Torah taught in Jewish day schools gives meaning to life and the skills for finding happiness and fulfillment.

“To me, being Jewish means having help in answering life’s most fundamental questions, such as, ‘How did I come to this place?’ and ‘Now that I am here, how should I live.’ My faith, which has anchored my life, begins with a joyful gratitude that there is a God who created the universe and then, because He continued to care for what He created, gave us laws and values to order and improve our lives.”

SENATOR JOSEPH I. LEIBERMAN

“The demand for justice runs through the entirety of the Jewish tradition.”

JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

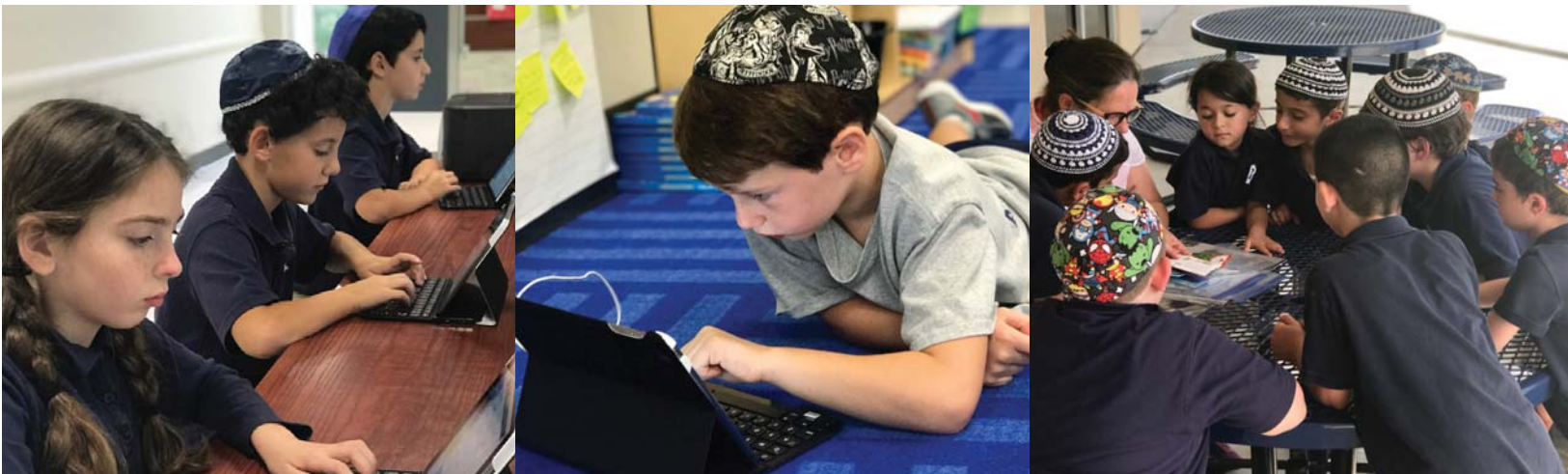
In a recent paper published in the Peabody Journal of Education, researcher William Jeynes notes that “attending private religious schools is associated with the highest level of academic achievement among the three schools types [religious private schools, charter schools, and public schools] even when sophisticated controls are used to adjust for socioeconomic status”¹. Jewish day schools in particular develop students’ academic abilities with learning in more than one language. Studies show that learning a second language, and often, in day schools, a third language—improves learning in other disciplines too. Critical thinking skills are honed in both Judaic and general studies curricula. Students receive individualized attention in small class sizes. Most graduates find that after the rigor of day school, college is far easier for them than for their peers.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since the Nobel was first awarded in 1901, approximately 193 of the 855 honorees have been Jewish (22%).

Jews make up less than 0.2% of the global population.

Jewish Virtual Library



¹ William Jeynes “A Meta-Analysis on the Effects and Contributions of Public, Public Charter, and Religious Schools on Student Outcomes” *Peabody Journal of Education* 87.3 (2013)

² Source: U.S., Connecticut and West Hartford SAT data: Educational Testing Service and Connecticut Economic Resource Center. HHNE data reflects scores of Class of 2013, Hebrew High School of New England, West Hartford, CT



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

As parents we want to raise our children in a safe environment which promotes responsible social attitudes and behaviors. The unfortunate reality is that parents have limited control over their children's exposure to undesirable behaviors. A recent study demonstrates the pervasiveness of the use of drugs, alcohol, and smoking in school. (See charts below). The statistics on sexual misconduct and violence in public schools are just as alarming.

While no school is completely impervious to societal ills, the family like atmosphere and "zero tolerance" in force in Jewish day schools create a safer and healthier environment than found in public and secular private schools. Smaller faculty to student ratios and an emphasis on moral excellence help to foster greater social responsibility both in school and out.

The effects of this safer environment continue even after the students have left it. A study conducted by the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University found "Non-Orthodox students who went to day school for six or more years are significantly less likely to binge drink [in college] than those who went to public schools."*



* Chertok, F., et al. *What Difference Does Day School Make? The Impact of Day School: A Comparative Analysis of Jewish College Students.* Waltham, MA: Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies / Brandeis University, May 2007.

JEWISH CONTINUITY

A recent study by the Pew research center found 32% of Jews born after 1980 classify themselves as “Jews of no religion”¹. A separate study entitled “Will your grandchildren be Jewish?” found that “the chances of young contemporary Jews having Jewish grandchildren and great grandchildren, with the exception of the Orthodox, are increasingly remote”.² Day school education has proven to be the most effective method of preserving the Jewish identity of adults. 7-12 years of Jewish day school education increases the chances of adult Jewish identity more than Hebrew school education, Jewish camps, youth groups and trips to Israel (*see charts*)³. No other method comes close to ensuring our children will identify with our glorious heritage.

“Can a man know who he truly is, if he doesn’t know who his ancestors were?”

KIRK DOUGLAS

“A Jew remembers a great past and anticipates a glorious future. Judaism is a living memory and an exciting prophecy.”

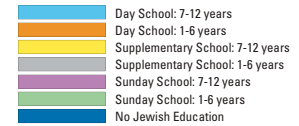
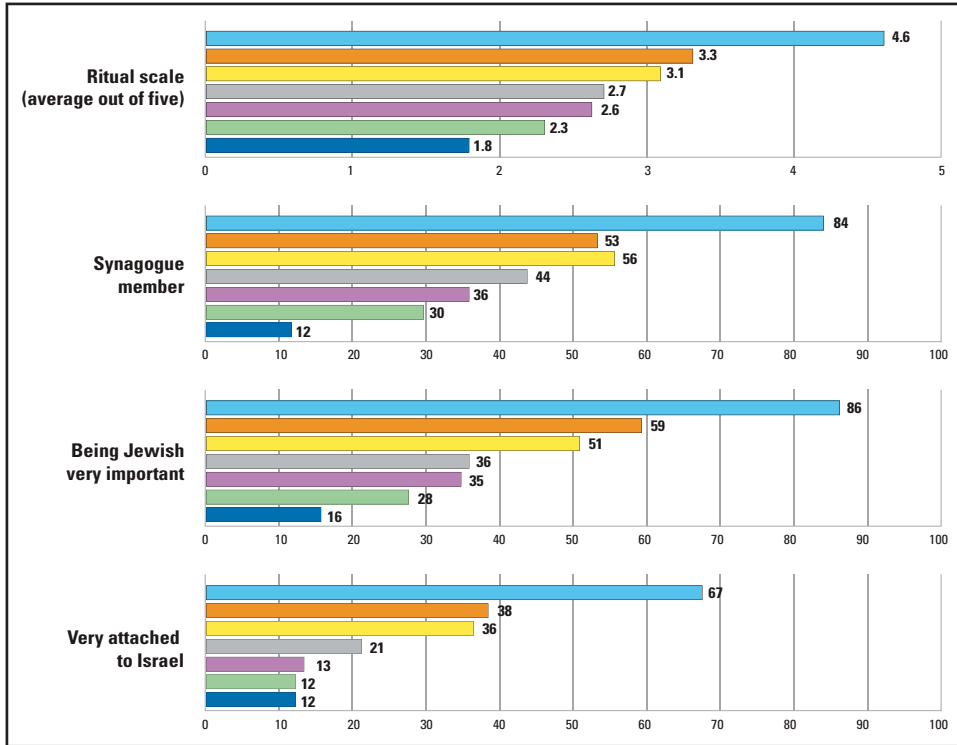
RABBI JOSEPH B. SOLOVEITCHIK

¹ A portrait of Jewish Americans” Pew Research center, October 2013

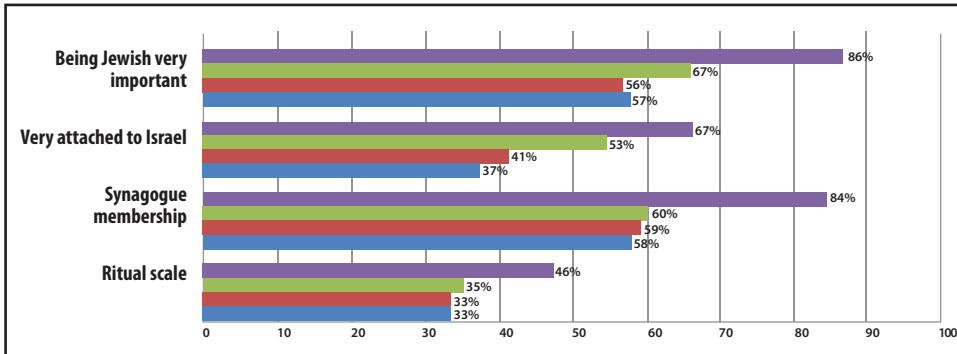
² Richard M. Horowitz and Antony Gordon (2003-2005) original study published in New York Times Tuesday, March 3rd, 1998 and in *The Vanishing American Jew* by Professor Alan M. Dershowitz page 26

³ “The impact of Childhood Jewish education on adults ‘Jewish identity: Schooling, Israel travel, camping and youth groups” Steven M. Cohen, Laurence Kotler Berkowitz 2004

JEWISH EDUCATION'S IMPACT ON JEWISH IDENTITY



IMPACT ON JEWISH IDENTITY: JEWISH DAY SCHOOL EDUCATION VS. OTHER JEWISH PROGRAMS





LEADERSHIP & CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Jewish day school graduates are more likely to demonstrate a stronger sense of responsibility towards addressing the needs of the larger society. The skills and traits developed in their school years translate into individuals who live beyond themselves, maintain a strong commitment to helping others and to become leaders in causes for their fellow man. The smaller setting of a day school lends to tremendous opportunities to spearhead projects in ways that cannot even compare to those found in larger schools.

A recent study found “Nearly 40 percent of young Jewish leaders have attended day school, even though under 11 percent of our survey sample consisted of Orthodox Jews, suggesting that non-Orthodox young leaders benefited disproportionately from day school education.”¹

DID YOU KNOW?

...non-Orthodox students who attended day school for at least six years are by far the most likely to express their intention to become involved in community volunteerism and advocacy, closely followed by peers who attended day school for less than six years.²

I will insist the Hebrews have [contributed] more to civilize men than any other nation. [They have been] the most essential instrument for civilizing the nations ... They have influenced the affairs of mankind more and more happily than any other nation, ancient or modern.

JOHN ADAMS, SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

¹ “Generation of Change: How leaders in their Twenties and thirties are reshaping American Jewish life.” Jack Wertheimer for the AviChai Foundation, September 2010

² Chertok, F., et al. *What Difference Does Day School Make? The Impact of Day School: A Comparative Analysis of Jewish College Students.* Waltham, MA: Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies / Brandeis University, May 2007

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Day schools often serve as a gateway to the broader Jewish community, but they are also communities in and of themselves. Being part of a day school community gives both parents and children a way to connect with the Jewish community in a warm and caring way. Schools offer an extended family with whom to share life celebrations and challenges.

“Jewish life provides something that is profoundly lacking in contemporary America—a sense of belonging.”

IRWIN GRONER



JEWISH LITERACY

No institution can empower children with the connections to Jewish history and texts like a day school can. By learning Hebrew language and studying the treasures of Jewish tradition in the original texts, students develop an ability to continue lifelong learning and personal growth. Even in today's "age of information" over 90% of basic Jewish texts have not been translated into English. Jewish literacy emboldens students and future adults to learn and research answers to questions such as –"Why be Jewish? What does it mean to be a good person? How do we define human nature? How should we organize society? How does Judaism relate to the modern world? How does Judaism help me to fulfill my potential?" Jewish identity is not inevitable. It requires an education that is meaningful and joyful.

The skills acquired also enable children to connect to prayer in a meaningful way giving them the faith and strength to carry them through the toughest challenges in life.

DID YOU KNOW?

Talmud study is now a mandatory part of the school curriculum in South Korea...

We believe that if we teach our children Talmud, they will also become geniuses.

MA YOUNG-SAM SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL





YES, BUT...

Aren't day schools primarily for the Orthodox?

60% of the students at Addlestone Hebrew Academy come from families who do not classify themselves as Orthodox. Families at our day school reflect a wide range of religious observance. Addlestone Hebrew Academy takes pride in our warm accepting environment, and all families are made to feel welcome.

How can I afford the tuition?

Surprisingly, the cost of Jewish day school is less than many people fear. Many of our families receive financial aid. Any Jewish family that is seeking a Jewish education for their child will not be turned away because of money. Our admissions personnel will explore every possible source of funding to ensure that your child will not be deprived of a quality Jewish education due to financial concerns.

Can't they learn everything they need to know in Sunday school?

Judaism offers such an infinite amount to learn it is hard to imagine being able to make a dent in this treasure trove of wisdom even with a full-time curriculum! Even the finest Sunday Hebrew school program cannot compete with the academic rigors of a day school. Although most students do not welcome the advent of homework and exams, most will admit that it is difficult to create a studious program without them. Our students graduate with a love and appreciation of Judaism based on a thorough knowledge and the skills to continue their Jewish exploration throughout their lives.

Will my child be able to adapt socially in "the real world"?

According to a study conducted by the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University involving 3,312 Jewish day school graduates in colleges found "Day school alumni also show no greater likelihood of running into social network problems in college than their peers from public or private schools. Like their peers, they join organizations, make friends, assume campus leadership roles and become integrated into the social and extra-curricular life of college".[1]

Our graduates adjust quickly to a larger school environment, with many attending Charleston's finest high schools, such as Academic Magnet, School of the Arts, Porter Gaud and Ashley Hall. We have Harvard, Yale and Princeton students among our alumni and even a Fulbright Scholar; many credit the dual curriculum and critical thinking skills they accrued at AHA in helping them to excel academically in their life after Addlestone.

¹ Chertok, F., et al. *What Difference Does Day School Make? The Impact of Day School: A Comparative Analysis of Jewish College Students*. Waltham, MA: Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies / Brandeis University, May 2007

