

We want to extend a warm welcome to all our new or returning students, to Hebrew High School. Our goal is to have an interesting and engaging program of classes and to include social time to meet with your friends and continue building your Jewish community. The greater the number of students that attend Hebrew High, the greater the variety of classes we can offer, so get your Jewish friends, Temple Beth El members or not, to join you at Hebrew High!

Goals for Hebrew High School

CREATING AN ADULT JEWISH LIFE

- Understand and appreciate the diversity of Jewish religious practice (i.e. Reform, Renewal, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Hassidic, Conservative, etc.)
- Develop a set of guidelines to live an adult Jewish life (i.e. dating, sex, marriage, parenting, business ethics, and death);
- Create a personal Jewish religious practice:
- Encourage the continued use of Hebrew as a tool of Jewish learning:
- Learn the tools to create a joyful Jewish life (i.e. Shabbat cooking and song, drama, celebrating Holidays, etc).

BUILDING COMMUNITY

- Develop a lasting bond with Jewish contemporaries,
- Build appreciation as well as responsibility to our local Jewish community as well as the greater Jewish world,
- Deepen the commitment to the state of Israel,
- Continue a dedication to tzedaka (righteous giving) and tikkun olam (improving and enhancing the world).

CULMINATION

- Assimilate accumulated learning and apply it in creating the Friday night confirmation service.

General Information

Each school year will be divided into three ten-week quarters. For the year 2006-2007 the quarters are:

Fall September 6 – November 15

Winter November 29 – February 14

Spring February 21 – May 16

Confirmation will be on Friday evening, May 18, 2007.

Hebrew High runs from 7:00 p.m. –9:00 p.m. each Wednesday night. The evening is divided into class periods, Tefillah, and break times. The first set of classes meets during the first 45 minutes, from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. Tefillah is from 7:45 to 8:00 p.m. From 8:00 to 8:15 p.m. there is a break for noshing and schmoozing. During the final 45-minute period from 8:15 to 9:00 p.m., a second set of classes meets.

Students will choose two courses to take in each of the three quarters. If you are a returning student, check your transcript before choosing your classes to make sure you are progressing toward Confirmation.

Remember that we fill the classes based on when you return your course preference form. The most popular classes fill up fast.

To qualify for Confirmation (the three-year program), you must:

- Complete eight core courses
- Complete seven elective courses
- Attend six Experiential Learning/Special Programs (two programs per year)
- Attend six Jewish worship services (two services per year)
- Complete six social action projects (two projects per year)

DERECH ERETZ

Hebrew High is committed to standards of excellence, both in student personal growth and academic accomplishments. The following basic principles support our curriculum for teaching responsible behavior according to our Jewish tradition.

- 1. Talmud Torah** – Temple School is a place for the pursuit of learning with the goal of personal growth.
- 2. V’Ahavta L’re’acha Kamocha** – Respect for the rights and feelings of others.
- 3. Al Tifrosh min Hatzibur** – Participation in the community.
- 4. Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh la Zeh** – Responsibility for the safety of self and others.
- 5. Bal Tash-chit** – Respect and responsibility for the environment and property.
- 6. Im Ein Ani Li Mi Li** – Self Respect

Under no circumstances will the following be tolerated: defiance, stealing, vandalism, dishonesty, profanity or vulgarity, fighting, drugs, alcohol, tobacco.

There will be no name calling. The use of hurtful or nasty names or derogatory ethnic slurs will not be tolerated.

Course Descriptions

Required Core Courses

Tefillah Leading Workshop (2 quarters)

Students will explore the structure of the evening service, the basic prayers and alternative expressions, and central Jewish values and topics expressed in our liturgy. Students will plan and lead Tefillah for their peers.

Diversity In Judaism

Explores the similarities and differences among the major movements in Judaism, comparative study of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Develop a personal Jewish practice.

Jewish Ethics I

Topics in personal ethics: speech, cheating, you and your body. Using materials from the Jewish Fund for Justice curriculum, discover the Torah's and Rambam's messages on the personal mitzvah (commandment) of Tzedaka (Justice).

Choices in Sexuality (two class sessions for one quarter)

Covers the following topics: dating, marriage and family life, premarital sex, sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, partner selection and intermarriage.

Jewish Ethics II

Topics in social ethics: medical ethics, i.e., cloning, abortion, and death penalty, Jewish customs of death and mourning. Using the curriculum provided by the Jewish Fund for Justice, we will explore and develop our communal Tzedaka responsibilities to our neighbors, Jews and non-Jews alike.

God, Torah and You

Do Jews believe in evolution? What happens after death? How do we know that God is real? We'll explore these and other interesting question in this new core class.

Confirmation Practicum (two class sessions for Spring Quarter)

Preparation for the confirmation service. Students will create their confirmation service and prepare their speeches.

Fall Electives

War and Peace in the Middle East – Rabbi Rick and Oded Porat

Students will gain a better understanding of historical and current dynamics of conflict between Israel and her neighbors. What are the roles of The United States, The United Nations, Hezbollah, Hamas, Syria, Iraq, etc.? What is being portrayed in the news and is it accurate?

Jewish Art Calendar – Alice Pennes

This class will explore Jewish Calendars as an art form. We will focus on creating unique and beautiful Jewish calendars for display, drawing inspiration from published examples and our own creativity. Calendars can be reproduced for great Chanukah gifts.

Conversational Hebrew – Oded Porat

Ma Nishma? Do you know what this means? Would you like to learn some basic Hebrew conversational skills? In this class, we will learn some key phrases and expressions that are used in Israel. Participants will have a chance to converse in Modern Hebrew, using some vocabulary learned in Hebrew School and achieving a higher degree of comfort with the Hebrew language.

Jews Do That ??? – Batya Kagan

Learn about actual unusual, obscure, bizarre and funny Jewish practices that you may never have heard of before.

Magic and Mystical Power in Hebrew Words and Letters – Sephy Elizai

Search for inner meaning in Hebrew words by discovering their numerical counterparts through *Gematria* (numerology).

Madrichim

Earn while you learn. On-the-job training as a classroom aide in Temple School by arrangement with the Clergy. You will earn minimum wage.

Student Directed Seminars

Design and teach your personal passion with a Jewish theme. Let us know your plan a few weeks before the quarter begins. Credit will also be given for 2 Social Action Projects if you design and teach a course.

“It’s Your Call”, Independent Study Contract Class (See contract on page 8.)

If sports or other after school activities prevent you from attending Hebrew High for one quarter, you can sign-up for this elective. Choose a Jewish topic of significant interest to you, submit a proposal, and originate a project that can be completed with approximately 10-12 hours of work. You will develop a contract with Rabbi Shifra or Karen specifying the work to be done and the due date. Credit will be given upon fulfilling the terms of the contract.

Exploring the Jewish Internet (may only be taken once)

See the contract on page 7 for details.

More electives can be added based on the interests of students and the availability of teachers. If you have suggestions for electives or if your parent would like to teach an elective, let us know.

Experiential Learning / Special Programs (two per year)

- Attend a NFTY conclave or convention
- Live theater production with a Jewish theme
- Visit a Jewish museum
- Attend TBE scholar-in-residence program
- Participate in TBE Mitzvah Day
- Attend a Camp Swig/ Camp Newman weekend
- Attend a Jewish/Hillel event on the UCSC campus
- Attend Shabbat services at a Conservative, Renewal, Reconstructionist or Orthodox minyan
- Attend an Adult Education class/lecture/ workshop
- Attend another South Bay Area Hebrew High Program
- Attend a Youth Group event with a religious or educational theme.

TBE Hebrew High Social Action Projects (two per year)

- Assist in conducting High Holiday Children's Services
- Prepare food for the Mazon Project
- Participate in TBE Mitzvah Day
- Assist in a Sunday School class
- Complete a pre-approved community project i.e. beach clean up, Special Olympics, graffiti removal, charity walk-a-thon, etc.
- Participate in Youth Group fundraising activities (Purim Carnival, Chanukah Fair, car washes, etc.)
- Attend the Youth Group Board meetings as a board member
- Write a letter to congressional representatives about your issue that effects the lives of others