

# JEWISH DAY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN METROWEST NJ



*"When in the course of human events,  
it becomes necessary for one people...*

*A Diverse Community of Schools Committed  
to Academic Excellence and Affordability*



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#### PRODUCED BY

This brochure was produced with a grant from the MetroWest Community Day School Fund, supported by The Herskowitz Society of the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest NJ. The Herskowitz Society supports the growth of day school education through excellence and affordability. For more information on The Herskowitz Society, contact **Kim Hirsh**,

khirsh@ujcnj.org 973/929-3026. Many thanks to the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE) and the Jewish Day School Consortium of Southern New England for their inspiration and guidance. The information contained in this booklet is for informational purposes only.

#### SOURCES

Sources used in this publication: Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE); "What Difference Does Day School Make?: The Impact of Day School: A Comparative Analysis of Jewish College Students," a PEJE report by the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandeis University, May 2007; "The Impact of Childhood Jewish Education on Adult Jewish Identity," Steven M. Cohen and Lawrence Kotler-Berkowitz, United Jewish Communities Report on the National Jewish Population Survey, 2000-01.

Photos by Brad Hamilton, NYC, [www.bhamiltonphoto.com](http://www.bhamiltonphoto.com)





## METROWEST

### AHEAD OF THE CURVE

MetroWest (the Jewish communities of Essex, Morris, Sussex and Northern Union Counties) is nationally recognized as a leader in building endowments for Jewish day school education.

In the spring of 2007, eleven philanthropic families joined together with the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest N.J./United Jewish Communities of MetroWest N.J. to commit millions of dollars to launch a \$50 million campaign aimed at building significant long-term support for affordability and academic excellence at MetroWest's three Jewish day schools.

Through the MetroWest Day School Campaign, our community seeks to build a foundation of support to provide the highest-quality, affordable day school education to generations of Jewish children—today and well into the future. Donors represent parents, grandparents, alumni parents, alumni and community members committed to our Jewish future.

The campaign is already infusing the schools with improvements today, including affordability grants for middle income families, enhancements to education, and various collaborative projects, including the creation of this brochure.

### THE HERSKOWITZ SOCIETY OF METROWEST

This society, created to recognize donors making significant endowment commitments to our day schools, is named in memory of members of the Gottesman family. The Gottesmans are long-time MetroWest community leaders, and the visionaries and lead benefactors of this campaign.

## OUR JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

### A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

The MetroWest community is extremely fortunate to have three well-established, high-quality Jewish day schools that span the denominational spectrum. For generations, these schools have provided a superior education to thousands of children, enabling them to become successful members of American society and leaders of the Jewish community.

Any Jewish family seeking a high-quality Jewish and secular education for their children will find a welcoming place in one of these schools:

- **HEBREW ACADEMY OF MORRIS COUNTY**, a non-denominational community day school
- **JOSEPH KUSHNER HEBREW ACADEMY/ RAE KUSHNER YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL**, a Modern Orthodox yeshiva
- **SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL OF ESSEX AND UNION**, a Conservative day school

### A CULTURE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Jewish day schools offer a dual curriculum that integrates a rigorous general studies program with Judaic studies. Our day schools promote critical thinking and leadership and foster Jewish identity and spiritual growth. We create an environment where all children experience the power of their ideas and develop the skills necessary to become life-long learners. Through study of Torah and our history, we nourish students' understanding and connection to Jewish values, community and the land of Israel. The day school experience is one of small class sizes, exceptional teachers and role models, and extensive academic and extracurricular programs in modern, technologically advanced facilities.

### A WARM, WELCOMING COMMUNITY

Our Jewish day schools are more than places of education. They are communities that involve families in all aspects of Jewish life. Life-long friendships are forged among students as well as parents. Our students obtain the knowledge and values needed to become productive members of our global community, in an environment that nurtures their personal, academic and social development. Our focus on ethics and mitzvot helps to educate the whole child and nurtures kind, thoughtful citizens of the world.



## WHY CHOOSE A JEWISH DAY SCHOOL?

Children of all Jewish backgrounds and affiliations receive an excellent secular education coupled with a strong Judaic studies program in our MetroWest Jewish day schools. Students develop into ethical and compassionate young adults with exceptional leadership qualities and a strong sense of community.

**Studies show that the more Jewish education a child receives, the more likely it is that he or she will lead an active Jewish life as an adult.** Jewish day school education is one of the most effective means of transmitting our precious heritage to the next generation.

## ARE JEWISH DAY SCHOOL GRADUATES WELL PREPARED FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE?

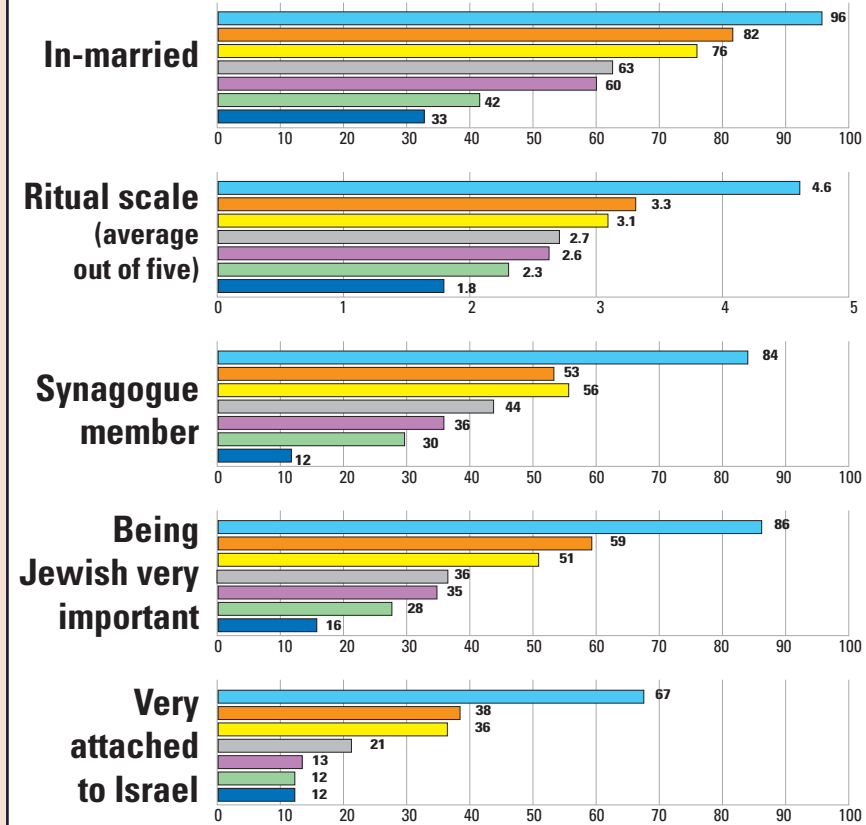
For generations, MetroWest day school graduates have been accepted to the finest universities in the country. Our Jewish day schools pride themselves on the high-quality general studies education that they provide. Additionally, studies show that intensive study of a second language and Judaic texts enhance analytical skills used in other areas of study, in high school, college and beyond, and enable our graduates to excel.

A national study of 3,000 Jewish undergraduates, conducted by Brandeis University, found that former Jewish day school students gain admittance to the most highly selective colleges and universities and often become leaders on college campuses. The study found that former day school students exhibit a strong orientation toward civic and social responsibility and a greater commitment to the Jewish community than those who did not attend Jewish day school.

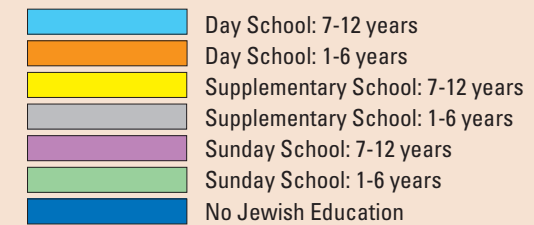
## DO I HAVE TO BE RELIGIOUSLY OBSERVANT TO SEND MY CHILD TO A JEWISH DAY SCHOOL?

No. Families in MetroWest Jewish day schools reflect a wide range of religious observance. With a choice of excellent schools, there is a place for all students and their families to feel comfortable in their observance and be welcomed into a warm and dynamic community.

## JEWISH EDUCATION'S IMPACT ON JEWISH IDENTITY



- According to a major national study, Jewish education has a direct and strong impact on decisions Jews make as adults.
- Day Schools simultaneously build two generations of Jewish leaders: parents, who often become active in the schools and the community; and students, who are more likely to be future Jewish leaders because of their education.



## HOW CAN I AFFORD JEWISH DAY SCHOOL TUITION?

MetroWest day schools are committed to providing children from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds with a Jewish day school education. Each school has its own extensive scholarship program. In addition, MetroWest has launched a \$50 million endowment campaign to help make these schools more affordable, particularly for middle-income families, and to enhance educational excellence. The schools have developed their various programs for middle-income affordability, which are expected to be expanded over time as additional funds are raised.



Graduates of MetroWest Jewish day schools attend many of the nation's top colleges and universities, including: Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University, Cornell University, Yeshiva University, Duke University, Rutgers University, Washington University in St. Louis, New York University, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, Boston University, University of Michigan, Brandeis University, Yale University, McGill University, Tufts University, University of Maryland, and SUNY Binghamton, among many others. Many of our graduates also attend year-long programs in Israel before matriculating to college.



*"My 14 years at Schechter have been invaluable to the rest of my life thus far. The ability to manage my time, to think and succeed academically, and to be open to and interested in alternative viewpoints, are all skills I developed during my time at Schechter and continue to employ on a daily basis today."*

**JUSTIN PINES**

SSDSEU, Class of 2001  
University of Pennsylvania,  
Class of 2005  
Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies,  
2005-2006  
Harvard Law School,  
Class of 2009

# JOSEPH KUSHNER HEBREW ACADEMY RAE KUSHNER YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL



## ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER:

JKHA/RKYHS

110 South Orange Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039  
973-597-1115

## PRIMARY CONTACTS:

**JKHA** - Mrs. Susan H. Dworken, Head of School,  
SDworken@jkha.org

**RKYHS** – Rabbi Eliezer E. Rubin, Klatt Family  
Rosh HaYeshiva and High School Principal,  
ERubin@rkyhs.org

## ADMISSIONS CONTACT:

**JKHA** – Hilary Levin, Hilary.Levin@jkha.org,  
ext. 1106

**RKYHS** – Fran Glajchen, FGlajchen@rkyhs.org  
ext. 1194

**WEBSITE:** www.jkha.org      www.rkyhs.org

**ESTABLISHED:** 1942

**GRADES:** JKHA: Pre K-8      RKYHS: 9-12

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT:** Approximately 700

## WHO WE ARE:

For more than 60 years, our Modern Orthodox, co-educational Yeshiva day school has imbued children with a lifelong love of *Torah*, *Mitzvot* and *Midot*, while nurturing their identification with the land and people of Israel. At JKHA/RKYHS students thrive in a rigorous dual academic program that emphasizes critical thinking, invention and experiential learning.

Our student-centered General Studies program is individualized to challenge all learners to fulfill their full potential. Every student is valued for his or her unique gifts and talents, and all take responsibility for their own learning, and for enriching the entire community. JKHA/RKYHS teachers are experts in their fields, as well as role models who take pride in creating a learning environment that is notably warm and supportive. A full complement of learning resources, from laboratories and SMARTBoards to libraries and athletic facilities, enable students to enhance their knowledge and skills.

Our Judaic Studies program focuses on *Torah* scholarship and the study of oral and written traditions, while inspiring our students to love and practice their faith. Religious Zionism informs every aspect of student life; and the importance of Jewish heritage and culture are reinforced by daily instruction in modern *Ivrit*, and through participation in special events such as the annual Salute to Israel Parade, and celebrations of *Yom Ha'atzmaut* and *Yom Yerushalayim*. Equally important, students are motivated to grow into productive, caring members of society who will eagerly embrace opportunities to serve and lead their communities.

## EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD -- TRIPS

School trips are an important component of experiential learning. Students regularly visit major museums, science centers and corporations, participate in both grade-level and school-wide *Shabbatonim*, and travel to historic sites in the Northeast.

## AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND ATHLETICS

A wide range of after-school clubs, teams and activities offer students opportunities to delve into new fields and develop longstanding interests.

- Our three-season-long athletics program fields teams for boys and girls and includes basketball, soccer, softball, hockey, wrestling, tennis, track and volleyball.

- After-school clubs at the lower school include gymnastics, karate, Torah Bowl, art and a student newspaper.
- Among the most popular clubs at RKYHS are College Bowl, debate, mock trial, Model UN, drama, band and choir; students also publish a newspaper, literary magazine and yearbook.
- The extensive RKYHS *Chug* program enables students to bond with faculty leaders and peers while pursuing everything from Yiddish and Jewish Civics to graphic design and creative writing.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Special programs at JKHA include “Ask the Rabbi” with our community rabbis; partnership programs with service organizations such as the Friendship Circle; a Chesed-a-Thon; parent-child learning programs, and an annual Shakespeare Festival.

High School students participate in a range of educational and civic activities, including Israel advocacy; Habitat for Humanity and other chesed programs; collaborative study programs with local hospitals and universities; senior and summer internships; and a mentoring program.

## TUITION ASSISTANCE

Our Tuition Assistance Program reflects our school’s commitment to assist families who cannot afford to pay full tuition. Eligibility is based on demonstrated needs. Customized payment plans and finance options are available at both JKHA and RKYHS. At RKYHS, four merit scholarships are awarded each year through the Arie Halpern Merit Scholarship Fund.



## ENRICHMENT AND SUPPORT

A wide range of enrichment programs—including a weekly math and humanities program at the lower school, science and math Olympiads at the middle school, and a wide array of honors and Advanced Placement courses at the high school—challenge gifted students to expand their horizons.

The JKHA Learning Center and the RKYHS Learning Lab provide mainstream students with the tools and strategies required to become successful independent learners in both General and Judaic Studies.

## GUIDANCE

A professional guidance team develops programs and works with individual students to enhance students’ religious, social and emotional development. The High School guidance department also focuses on academic and college advising, Israel guidance and career counseling.

“The atmosphere here is incredible. Friends and teachers make the school a fun place to be, even when times are tough. I finish every day with a smile.”

**BEN SPIALTER**  
12th Grade, RKYHS

“My teachers at RKYHS taught me to think critically and act thoughtfully. My high school education gave me the confidence to take advantage of every learning opportunity offered at Harvard and to embrace learning as a value.”

**ILAN CAPLAN**  
RKYHS Class of 2005,  
Harvard University Class of 2010



NATHAN BOHRER-ABRAHAM KAUFMAN  
HEBREW ACADEMY OF MORRIS COUNTY



**HEAD OF SCHOOL:** Mr. Moshe Vaknin

**DEAN OF GENERAL STUDIES:**

Dr. Cheryl Bahar

**OUR CAMPUS:**

146 Dover Chester Road

Randolph, New Jersey, 07869

Phone: 973-584-5530

Fax: 973-584-0602

**WEBSITE:** www.hamc.org

**ESTABLISHED:** 1967

**ACCREDITATION AND AFFILIATION:**

HAMC is accredited by the New Jersey Association of Independent Day Schools (NJ AIS) and affiliated with RAVSAK, the Jewish Community Day School Network.

**GRADES:**

Early Childhood Center,

“Mommy and Me” (18 months)

2-years old – Junior Kindergarten

Kindergarten – Eighth Grade

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT:** 230

**AVERAGE CLASS SIZE:** 15-20

**MISSION AND VISION**

The Hebrew Academy of Morris County maintains high standards of academic excellence and nurtures students in an environment infused with the richness of Jewish life. The Academy inspires intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and personal integrity to enable our students to emerge as lifelong learners, compassionate individuals and successful members of society who are rooted in their heritage.

**ABOUT US:**

The Hebrew Academy of Morris County provides a challenging integrated curriculum in general and Judaic studies. In 2006, the school was awarded a National “Blue Ribbon” award for academic excellence from the U.S. Department of Education. Parents choose to send their children to HAMC for a variety of reasons, including:

- A strong track record of preparing students to succeed at the highest levels of achievement in high school, college and beyond.
- Our small class size and individual attention.
- Our integrated technology program, enhanced by SMARTBoards as well as laptops for every middle school student.
- Our warm environment in which each child’s strengths and abilities are nurtured, challenged and developed.
- The opportunity to learn a second language at a young age.
- A strong sense of community that HAMC builds among teachers, students, parents and society at large.

HAMC’s academic expectations are quite high and our students work hard as we strive to ensure that they will be successful, responsible, educated Americans and proud, committed and knowledgeable Jews.

HAMC is a school where Jewish values – such as Tzedakah (righteousness) and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) – are a fundamental part of school life. HAMC is a nurturing environment that provides students the tools and resources to develop their initiative, self-confidence and independence, the foundation for success in many facets of life.

**A WELCOMING PLACE FOR A BROAD SPECTRUM OF JEWISH FAMILIES**

A hallmark of our school is accessibility for a wide range of Jewish families from all denominations and levels of observance. HAMC is a member of RAVSAK, The Jewish Community Day School Network, which supports pluralistic Jewish day school education. At HAMC, students from various Jewish backgrounds learn to respect and celebrate the diversity of the American Jewish community.

**STUDENT SERVICES:** HAMC values the social and emotional growth and success of each student. Under our Director of Guidance, a variety of programs ensure that students thrive from the moment they enter our school and develop the skills and confidence that will help guide them well beyond graduation. Programs include Individualized Transition for New Students, After School Friendship Club, Character Education Series, Middle School Advisors, Peer Leadership Program, and Personalized High School Transition Program.

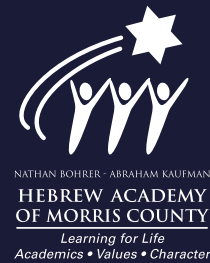
**AFFORDABILITY: EASING THE TUITION BURDEN**

As a day school with a nationally recognized affordability program, we offer:

**TUITION ASSISTANCE:** HAMC offers a generous assistance program for lower-income families. Applications are strictly confidential and handled with great dignity and compassion.

**BASE GRANT TUITION FOR MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES:**

Thanks to the extraordinary support and vision of our leading benefactors, Paula and Jerry Gottesman, HAMC is one of the nation’s pioneers in day school affordability. The endowed Base Tuition Grant program, which “caps” tuition at affordable levels for moderate-income families, is specifically geared toward those who would not qualify for our tuition assistance program, but for whom the cost of a day school education is too great a financial burden.



**TRIPS:**

K-5: Day trips to museums, theater, State Capital and other areas of interest integrated with the curriculum.

6th Grade: Four-day Jewish Environmental Studies program at the TEVA Learning Center in Connecticut.

7th Grade: Trip to Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, four-day trip to Washington D.C.

8th Grade: As the culmination of our students’ day school education, the class goes to Israel on a two-week trip that solidifies a life-long love of Judaism and of the State of Israel.

“While at HAMC, I learned about responsibility and commitment and developed the values of being sensitive, empathic and respectful towards others. These lessons have guided my growth as an individual and remain central in the choices I make throughout my life.”

**PHILIP J. ROSENBAUM**  
HAMC Class of 1996; MA Cambridge University 2005; Ph.D. Candidate Yeshiva University 2010

**ATHLETICS, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:**

Middle school interscholastic sports teams include soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball and baseball. HAMC also offers a Middle School Choir. Through the “JCC at HAMC” and other partnerships, after school activities include Kiddie Soccer, Dance Caravan, Mad-Science, art, music, Friendship ABC’s and cooking. HAMC also sponsors a Post Graduate Learning Program (PGLP), an evening Judaic enrichment program for our graduates who are in high school.



# SOLOMON SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL OF ESSEX AND UNION



**HEAD OF SCHOOL:** Dr. Joyce Raynor

**OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS:**

Shara Lipson, Director of Admissions  
973-602-3601  
admissions@ssdseu.org

**OUR CAMPUSES:**

**(GRADES)**

Lower School (grades Pre-K – 5)  
Irving Laurie Building  
122 Gregory Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052  
Phone: 973-602-3700

Upper School (grades 6 – 12)  
(Middle School & High School)  
Eric F. Ross Campus  
1418 Pleasant Valley Way,  
West Orange, NJ 07052  
Phone: 973-602-3600

**WEBSITE:** www.ssdseu.org

**ESTABLISHED:** 1965

**ACCREDITATION AND AFFILIATION:** SSDSEU is accredited by the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools (NJ AIS) and is affiliated with the Solomon Schechter Day School Association.

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT:** Approximately 700

**WHO WE ARE:**

Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union (SSDSEU) students are inspired to be lifelong learners and are guided to achieve their own unique, intellectual, creative and social potential.

Our dedicated faculty and administrators have provided our students with the tools needed to become proud and motivated American Jews for nearly half a century. Our students develop a love of learning through our innovative and rigorous dual curriculum of secular and Judaic studies.

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IS THE HALLMARK OF OUR SCHOOL**

■ With an emphasis on Jewish values and traditions, our Pre-K through 5th grade students thrive while studying social studies, science, language arts and math along with Hebrew, Torah, Jewish culture, Israel education, and traditions.

■ Our 6th-12th graders prepare for the best universities and colleges through an intensive math, science, history, and English curriculum.

■ We offer numerous AP and honors classes, a competitive sports program and a variety of extra-curricular activities, including music, art, and social activism.

■ Through more intensive and analytical study of Jewish texts and traditions, our Upper School students not only gain a new perspective on secular studies but at the same time continue to learn about and cherish Jewish values, history, language and culture.

■ From Pre-K through 12th grade, we provide individual attention and differentiated instruction, state-of-the-art science labs and technological resources (including SMARTboards), in an environment that encourages every student to excel and thrive.

**SSDSEU IS AN EXCITING, RESPONSIVE AND ETHICAL COMMUNITY**

■ Our students understand the concepts of *derech erez* and *mitzvah* as demonstrated by their daily interactions with one another.

■ We foster an awareness of our own community, as well as the world around us, through a vibrant program of community service and travel experiences, both locally and internationally.

■ Our graduates become proud and motivated participants in both the Jewish and secular communities. Jewish values and commitment to Israel are the foundation of everything we do.

We are a Conservative Jewish day school with families representing the spectrum of Jewish life. Our mission is to produce graduates who will take their place as dynamic, well educated leaders in the community and whose commitment to Israel and to Judaism will inform their lives and their actions.

**We are proud to educate our students in a place where values and excellence are not just taught, but are truly lived.**

**ATHLETICS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

We offer a vibrant sports program and a vast number of extra-curricular activities.

■ 79% of Schechter Middle School students play on athletic teams. 69% of Schechter High School students participate in at least one JV or Varsity sports team. Teams include swimming, volleyball, soccer, cross-country, softball, baseball, tennis, cheerleading and basketball.

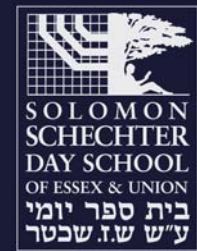
■ 90% of our students participate in at least one extra-curricular activity, ranging from student government to student newspaper, from our award-winning literary magazine to Model UN, from comedy club to dance groups, from award-winning choir to our annual musical.

**SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESOURCES**

Guidance counselors and learning specialists are available on a full-time basis to meet with students and/or parents about academic issues, social concerns, and/or personal difficulties. We provide a comprehensive college counseling program. Career education is also offered to students in our High School.

**TUITION SUBVENTION & AFFORDABILITY**

We strive to make our school financially accessible to families who are unable to afford the full cost of tuition. SSDSEU has raised millions of dollars toward an Endowment for Affordability and Excellence in conjunction with the community-wide MetroWest Day School Campaign. Funds raised, including the Och Family Fund, support a new tuition subvention grant program for middle class families. More details about financing your Schechter education can be obtained from our Business Office, 973-602-3775.



**TRIPS AND EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION**

**NAALE**

Our 9th graders participate in a 10-day Israel trip geared towards discovery of Israel and building class connections.

**NESHAMA**

Our seniors have the option of spending the second semester of their senior year in Israel and Eastern Europe, developing an even greater sense of Jewish identity.

Approximately 75% of our seniors participate on *Neshama* each year.

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Our seniors who do not participate on *Neshama* gain valuable work-study opportunities in the field of their choice.

**CHILEAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

Our 10th graders have the opportunity to participate in a Chilean Exchange Program where they live and learn in each others' communities.

**ANNUAL KATRINA RELIEF MISSION IN NEW ORLEANS**

Our students work with Habitat for Humanity rebuilding homes for families in need, spend a day teaching and playing with younger public school students, and visit with students involved with Hillel and the broader Jewish community.

**CLASS TRIPS**

Our Lower School students participate in numerous field trips, while our Upper School students have class trips and participate in at least one off-site Shabbaton each year.

