

CHARLES E. SMITH JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

High School

Where Tradition Meets Innovation

CHARLES E. SMITH JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

There is plenty of laughter and fun to be had in school, and that friendly environment inspires everyone to succeed. There is something about learning, playing, and praying side-by-side that creates an unbreakable bond. One minute you're talking about sports, the next you're discussing math or science. You develop intellectually together, allowing for deeper conversations and bonds.

- Zach Gross '20


CHARLES E SMITH JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

בית מדרש צוריאל



Dear Families,

Thank you for exploring CESJDS. The CESJDS High School experience is student-centered, rigorous, inspiring, and infused with Jewish traditions and values - in short, it is a unique transformational experience.

Our high school students study arts, English, Hebrew language, Jewish texts, world & Jewish history, other languages, math, and science—all within the framework of an integrated curriculum. Each of the disciplines is studied purposefully, with rigor, and connections are made across the subjects. This interdisciplinary learning is, at times, initiated by teachers, but given the fertile and intellectually rich ground that we occupy, students often find connections on their own. This type of learning has a variety of benefits, supported by research—benefits that we work to instill in our high school students. Among them are:

- the ability to move beyond preconceived notions through consideration of multiple perspectives,
- to think critically, to tolerate ambiguity, and
- to acknowledge and appreciate ethical concerns.

We work to instill a combination of cognitive habits, social-emotional abilities, and broad wisdom in our students. We focus on all of these domains because taken together, they are critical for the personal growth, well-being and fulfillment of our high school students, as well as in creating a foundation for their future success.

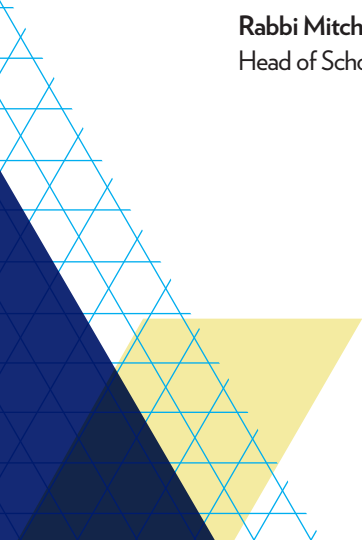
Proudly, our approach to high school education also capitalizes on the richness of being Jewish, embracing its various manifestations. We oversee meaningful knowledge of, and participation in the *hagim* (Jewish holidays), and include parents and other community members. We mark life cycle events for our students and their families. We celebrate in times of joy, and serve as an anchor in times of difficulty and tragedy. Through it all, we guide our students in exploring their humanity and the humanity of others. We guide each student in becoming a *mensh* (person of integrity), in becoming someone who is empathic, who listens, who engages in civil discourse, and who sees beyond themselves. We teach our students to be people of substance who aim to do well for themselves, for their communities, and for the broader world.

We are excited to share our high school program with you and look forward to welcoming you into our community.

Sincerely,



Rabbi Mitchel Malkus
Head of School



Program Highlights

Students grow in an expansive, dynamic learning environment full of opportunities, encouraging individual voice and leadership.

Program Highlights:

- Average class sizes of 18 students foster strong and collaborative student-teacher relationships.
- Inspiring connections between our Jewish and American identities with the rhythm of the day and week revolving around the Jewish calendar.
- Core education is enhanced by using Washington, DC as a classroom through field trips, guest speakers, and internships.
- Students develop as passionate young adults and express themselves through robust fine and performing arts opportunities.
- Supporting passions for athletics, we are proud to offer 12 sports with 24 teams competing at the Junior Varsity and Varsity levels.
- Exploring top-tier extra curricular programs, students rise to the top in nationally award winning journalism clubs, robotics league, and other STEM opportunities.
- Making the best use of second semester senior year with a capstone experience in Israel and Eastern Europe.

CESJDS has turned out to be the greatest gift we could ever give our kids. And to us, it is worth everything. I could not imagine our kids anywhere else.

– Zach Messler, father to Ella (Class of 2021) and Shia (Class of 2027)



CESJDS has been an incredible, life-changing experience for our family. What strikes me the most is the way that students are taught to think, openly communicate, and express their thoughts. The faculty know who our children are, and the students are kind and truly look out for each other's best interests.


– Dr. Hilary Sherman Weiss, parent to Hailey '20 and Benjamin (Class of 2024)

Sample Schedule – Highlights and Benefits

The CESJDS High School uses a rotating block schedule. Each student in the high school takes a total of nine classes, with six classes meeting every day.

Each day starts with *zman kodesh* (sanctified time) which is spiritual centering or prayer, and our week ends with an all-school assembly, *Kabbalat Shabbat*. This is the highlight of the week, celebrating student accomplishments and talents. Monthly assemblies on *Rosh Hodesh* (the beginning of a Jewish month) highlight connections between themes or holidays in the month and contemporary American issues.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE



A DAY
Period 1
Period 2
Period 3
Period 6
Period 5
Period 4

B DAY
Period 7
Period 8
Period 9
Period 3
Period 2
Period 1

C DAY
Period 4
Period 5
Period 6
Period 9
Period 8
Period 7

Sample Schedule

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Zman Kodesh	Zman Kodesh	Zman Kodesh	Zman Kodesh	Zman Kodesh
Art	Spanish	History	Art	Kabbalat Shabbat
English	Jewish History	Science	English	Spanish
Math	Community Time/Kehillah	Community Time/Kehillah	Math	Jewish History
Hebrew	Jewish Text	Hebrew	Hebrew	Jewish Text
Lunch	Math	Jewish Text	Lunch	Math
Community Time/Kehillah	Lunch	Lunch	Community Time/Kehillah	Lunch
Science	English	Jewish History	Science	English
History	Art	Spanish	History	Art

“ I love the block schedule because it evens out the energy of the day. For example, the classes a student has in the morning one day, take place in the afternoon the next day. The classes a student has in the afternoon are skipped the following day. Students love this cycle for the balance and variety it provides. ”

– Rachel Soifer, High School Guidance Counselor

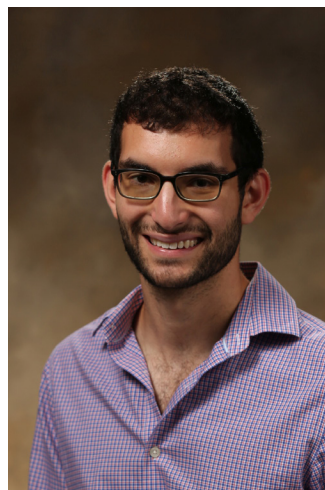


“ Having the block schedule means a different class at the end of each day. This allows in-season athletes to stay up-to-date with all of their classes and helps prevent missing the same class every afternoon to travel to away games. ”

– Jacob Rulnick (Class of 2021)

“ I enjoyed having a block schedule in high school because it gave me a chance to experience having an individual class at different times throughout the day. Being exposed to having math, for example, in both the morning and afternoon allowed me to make educated decisions in college when creating my own schedule, for what would be best for my own learning preferences. ”

– Robbie Shorr '13, Middle School Math Teacher



Integrated Curriculum & Semester At-a-Glance

Students in high school take the following core classes:

- English
- Hebrew language (Required for 2 years)
- Jewish History/Jewish text (2 per semester)
- History
- Math
- Science
- Electives (2 per semester)

For a full listing of course offerings, visit www.cesjds.org/high-school.



Semester 1	Semester 2
English	
History	
Math	
Science	
Hebrew Language	
Jewish History/Jewish Text	
Jewish History/Jewish Text	
Elective 1	Elective 3
Elective 2	Elective 4

One of the benefits I see in our integrated curriculum is the ability to make cross-curricular connections. For example, students apply information from their Jewish Text Ethical Dilemmas class to characters in literature. We talk about our values as Jews and Americans and how those align with value systems in books. In the lower grades, we talk about the value of interpretation and critical thinking as a Jewish value. Not only do we read text, but we think about it and apply it in our own lives.

– Nancy Wassner, High School English teacher

Why Choose CESJDS High School

What differentiates CESJDS from other schools in our area?


College Guidance: College counseling at CESJDS is structured, well-defined and highly individualized. Beginning in the spring of sophomore year, students and college counselors work closely to ensure that the journey to college is carefully planned and implemented.


Academic Excellence and Opportunity: “At most schools, public or private, you aren’t going to see cutting edge classes like genetics and biotechnology. We have equipment that you can find at any NIH lab. Having this background as high school students, it makes them stand out to get internships at NIH, FDA, NIST, NASA, and the Technion. On their college applications, if students have gotten these competitive internships where they have done actual research, that gives them a leg up on their competition. Our students are exceptional, they are engaged, they love to learn and more than that, if you go outside the classroom, we are talking about really good people.”

— Kimberly Agzigian, Ruth and Samuel Salzberg Science Department Chair



Using DC as a Classroom: We provide students access to professionals in fields from policy to the arts with the intention of teaching self-advocacy and illustrating changemaking. Each grade in the Upper School attends two arts field trips each year. We invite speakers from top institutions and think tanks to meet with students and discuss with them the hottest issues of Washington. Students attend conferences, visit college campus facilities and learn beyond the four walls of their classrooms.

The Irene and Daniel Simpkins Senior Capstone Israel Trip: CESJDS High School is a 3 1/2 year program. Seniors graduate after the first semester of senior year and CESJDS partners with Alexander Muss High School in Israel for a 3-month travel experience for our students. The trip is a unique and extraordinary adventure. Following their February graduation, students travel together to Eastern Europe and Israel, where they spend the semester living, learning, exploring and celebrating together. More than a trip, the Senior Capstone Trips are a fun and life-altering step on the journey of self-discovery.

 I never imagined that applying to college could be so easy. The college guidance team was like a concierge service, always thinking of my son’s specific needs every step of the way. Through one-on-one meetings, they together created a customized list of potential schools, worked through the applications, resume, personal statement and collected letters of recommendation.

My son gained valuable life skills, and barely needed our involvement since the college guidance team was so incredible and conscientious. The entire process was surprisingly low-stress and we couldn’t be more thrilled with where Alex is  headed next year!

— Melissa Arking, Mom of Alex '18, Vivi (Class of 2021), Zack (Class of 2022), Ella (Class of 2026)

 What truly differentiates us is the character of our student body and the happiness that fills our halls. 

— Dylan Fox '20

THE PORTRAIT OF A CESJDS GRADUATE...

...articulates the broad knowledge, skills, habits of mind, and character traits that guide our vision for students as we foster the growth of confident, compassionate thinkers who engage the world through Jewish values.

INDEPENDENT, CREATIVE, AND CRITICAL THINKER

- Exhibits diverse and broad knowledge with the passion and skills for lifelong learning.
- Evaluates ideas and information from diverse sources for validity, relevance, and significance.
- Formulates questions and problems clearly and precisely.
- Reaches well-reasoned and creative evidence-based conclusions and solutions, testing them against relevant criteria and standards.
- Uses information to strengthen comprehension and deepen awareness.
- Exhibits the ability to analyze and synthesize information.
- Displays an innovative and growth mindset.

KNOWLEDGEABLE, ENGAGED, AND PASSIONATE JEW

- Embraces pluralism in Jewish life.
- Reads, explains, interprets, and makes personal meaning from a wide range of Jewish texts.
- Speaks, reads, writes, and understands Hebrew.
- Has a personal connection with and nuanced understanding of Israel, its people, history, and culture.
- Demonstrates knowledge of Jewish history and literature and their impact on Jewish life.
- Participates in and builds Jewish communal life.
- Has the skills to engage in Jewish ritual/spiritual practice.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

- Reads for comprehension from various literary sources and styles.
- Listens actively to advance understanding.
- Demonstrates a genuine desire to learn and share ideas in a variety of conversations and group discussions through participation and inquiry.
- Speaks in a purposeful manner to inform, influence, motivate, or engage listeners.
- Writes effectively for various audiences and with personal voice.
- Uses technology and digital tools appropriately to explore, research, and exchange ideas.
- Uses oral, written, and artistic forms to express feelings and convey meaning.

THOUGHTFUL AND REFLECTIVE COLLABORATOR

- Works interdependently within a group to promote learning, increase productivity, and achieve common goals.
- Respects divergent thinking to engage people of diverse backgrounds and beliefs in thoughtful discussion.
- Seeks and uses feedback from others to self-reflect and adapt ideas.

ETHICAL, RESPONSIBLE, AND COMPASSIONATE GLOBAL CITIZEN

- Has the skills and social understanding to lead.
- Understands and appreciates identity as a rich mix of national, regional, cultural, ethnic, religious, gender, orientation, socioeconomic, and other factors.
- Shows awareness, respect, and knowledge of diverse perspectives, peoples, places, and cultures.
- Demonstrates a commitment to *tikkun olam* (social responsibility) through acts of *tzedakah* (creating a just world).
- Advocates for and has the confidence to stand up for their beliefs.
- Integrates and applies Jewish values in daily life and decision-making.
- Understands and appreciates the foundations of the United States, our democracy, and values.
- Exhibits empathy and compassion toward others.
- Demonstrates knowledge of and care for the environment.

FOCUSED AND RESILIENT INDIVIDUAL

- Persists to accomplish difficult academic, social, and personal challenges.
- Self-advocates and seeks assistance to overcome difficulties.
- Engages in healthy and positive personal habits and relationships.
- Takes appropriate risks to pursue goals and growth.
- Has a positive self-image and a well-adjusted social, emotional, and spiritual life.
- Successfully employs time-management and organizational skills.
- Exhibits skills and strategies to identify and cope with stress.

Begin your journey. Contact us today.

301.692.4870

admission@cesjds.org





301.692.4870
admission@cesjds.org
CESJDS.ORG



בית מדרש צוריאל