



Your guide to important information about our Judaics curriculum



In the Upper Division, our students study traditional texts, Jewish philosophy, and Jewish history and are given the opportunity through options classes (electives) to go deeper into the areas that interest them. Courses also include a focus on developing the skills to write and deliver thoughtful *divrei Torah* (words of Torah), sharing thoughts on the weekly Torah reading and its connection to today's world.

Through student-centered and interdisciplinary teaching approaches such as project-based learning, students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning, find personal meaning and apply it to their own lives. For example, in elementary school kids learn about natural disasters and their impact in science class while also exploring instances of Biblical disasters in Judaics. In the 6th grade science we use the advancements that Israel has made in water desalination and conservation, as well as various filtration techniques, to help students investigate water and all its properties, and in high school students learn about medical ethics from both a Jewish and biomedical ethics standpoint.

Denver JDS middle school Judaics classes are designed so students can comfortably:

- Critically review texts
- Craft and deliver a D'var Torah
- Understand the guiding principles and origins of the Jewish legal system
- Mishnah and Talmud
- Recognize and Analyze Aggadic material
- Utilize medieval commentaries to deepen one's understanding of texts

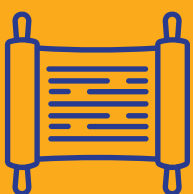


Israel / Israeli Culture

As a Zionist institution, Denver Jewish Day School supports Israel and fosters a love of the State among our students.

The study of Israel and Israeli culture is infused throughout Denver JDS and is prevalent throughout our classes, spreading into the hallways and throughout the school. Israeli music, poetry, and stories are often used in class, especially Hebrew and Judaic studies classes, and our teachers infuse the study of Israeli history and current events into discussion and programming.

Students in both the Lower and Upper Divisions also engage with our *shinshinim* (Israeli emissaries), giving them the opportunity to build relationships with and learn from another Israeli in the community, and helping them to build that strong connection to the people and the State of Israel. Additionally, holidays such as Yom HaZikaron (Israel Memorial Day) and Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel Independence Day) are taught in the classroom and celebrated through school-wide programming.



Tefillah (prayer) education:

Because every kind of Judaism includes some version of prayer, this essential element of Judaism is built into core classes and into school life when we all come together. Denver JDS focuses on prayer education as a vehicle for Jewish belonging.

Our Judaics curriculum for grades 6-8 has two components:

1 Core (text-focused)

Required classes taken by all students; Five days/week

Core:

6th grade: Tanach 1

7th grade: Taenach 2

8th grade: Mishna 1 & 2;

Introduction to Talmud

2 Options (text and non-text focused):

Elective classes; Three days/week/semester

Hebrew is required for middle school students all six semesters; level assigned based on readiness

At least three of the six semesters of middle school must include a Judaics class

During the other three semesters students can choose between a Judaics class or another option.

Examples of other options include:

- Jewish history
- Weekly Parsha, tzedek class (required at some point during MS)
- Torah's greatest hits (narrative / moral pieces)
- Israeli history and studies



6th, 7th and 8th grade students take options classes together.



Our full menu of courses is open every semester. None of the Options classes in the Judaics curriculum have prerequisites.



There is no Hebrew prerequisite for any Judaics class.



Denver JDS's Judaic curriculum has been thoughtfully created to support our philosophy that Judaism is not simply a subject to be learned or a religion to be practiced, but a way to live, guiding us in our interactions with each other, our community, and the world. We provide every student with a variety of pathways and entry points, combining experiential and academic learning opportunities, weaving the culture and spirit of Judaism through all aspects of the school and encouraging our community to experience Jewish life together.



For further questions, please contact:

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