BERNARD ZELL
ANSHE EMET DAY SCHOOL
בית ספר אנשי אמת ע"ש ברנרד זל

The Bernard Zell approach to Jewish education

Our approach to Jewish education is best described by seeking to imbue our students with a Jewish identity that is:

- **Pluralistic.** We firmly believe in supporting Jewish pluralism, and consciously encourage curious and respectful exploration of a wide range of Jewish belief, culture, life, and practice.

- **All-inclusive.** We support, encourage, and celebrate the diversity of our Jewish community, and recognize the inherent value of *K'lal Yisrael*.

- **Joyful.** We celebrate our shared history and practices, including the joys of holidays, ritual practice, life cycle events, and fulfillment of mitzvot, with special emphasis given to engaging in *Tikkun Olam*.

- **Applied.** We believe that Judaism is also a toolbox for living well—with ourselves, with each other, and with God; and that students should be capable of considering important personal, familial, and communal decisions through a Jewish lens.

- **Meaningful.** We honor our shared history, the courageous sacrifices of those who came before us, and the importance of passing down traditions *l'dor vador*, and find meaning in our shared texts and common practices.

- **Active.** We seek to purposefully engage in activities, work, and study that sanctify the Jewish people and our mitzvot.

- **Spiritual.** We seek to provide our students with the tools and encouragement they need for a lifetime of spiritual growth, engagement, and "God wrestling."

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Our intended Jewish outcomes

We prepare our children for Jewish living in five domains—what they should **be**, **do**, **think**, **believe**, and **know** as graduates of Bernard Zell:

Be

- **Community**. Our students have a strong positive connection to their school, their community, their nation, and the Jewish people
- **Identity**. Our students are proudly and joyfully Jewish, and are appreciative of diverse perspectives within the Jewish community
- **Leadership.** Our students develop the skills and abilities necessary to lead the Jewish communities for decades to come.

Do

- **Chesed.** Our students act with the understanding that every individual is made in God's image, and should therefore always be afforded honor and dignity.
- **Social action.** Our students embrace their responsibility to help heal an imperfect world, and actively engage in *Tikkun Olam* as a matter both of habit and conscious decision-making

Think

- **Applied philosophy.** Our students are capable of critically reading and engaging with Jewish texts, and applying Jewish values so as to live ethical and purposeful lives.
- **Ethics.** Our students can engage in nuanced, complex thinking about difficult social problems, and approach contemporary topics through the lens of Jewish values and texts.

Believe

- **Ritual.** Our students can engage in spiritual practice and Jewish ritual with nearly any Jewish community, and understand why it is important to be able to do so.
- **Spirituality.** Our students are "God-wrestlers" who possess the tools and sense of self to engage in a lifetime of personal and spiritual growth.
- **Zionism.** Our students care deeply about Israel, and understand the complex and nuanced issues facing the Jewish homeland.

Know

- **Cultural literacy.** Our students are Jewishly literate, and understand the value of Jewish literacy in connecting our people around the world, and *l'dor vador*.
- **History.** Our students are conscious of, knowledgeable about, and passionate about preserving our shared historical memory.