



PROFILE 2026-2027

Rabbi Marshall Lesack '97, Head of School
Rebecca Trajtenberg, Upper School Director
Joseph Maybloom, Director of College Counseling
 jmaybloom@jbha.org | 610-922-2320
Elizabeth Pandian, Assoc. Director of College Counseling
 epandian@jbha.org | 610-922-2354

A PLURALISTIC CO-EDUCATIONAL JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL

Founded in 1946, Akiba Hebrew Academy was renamed the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy in 2007. In 2008, Barrack Hebrew Academy moved to a 35-acre campus in Bryn Mawr, PA, a residential community in the western suburbs of Philadelphia.

Our Mission

Barrack is a pluralistic Jewish day school for students in grades 6-12 from a broad variety of backgrounds. The school integrates a comprehensive and rigorous college preparatory curriculum with the teaching of essential Jewish and American values and texts. Barrack graduates value diversity, celebrate the richness of Judaism's language, culture, and history, and have a strong connection to Israel. Barrack prepares future leaders of the American, Jewish, and global communities who work for a better world through acts of justice and compassion.

A DUAL CURRICULUM

Barrack students participate in an extensive, comprehensive curriculum of secular and Judaic studies. There are six general studies disciplines and one to two Judaic studies requirements each year. **Students enroll in 7-9 total courses per year.**

FACULTY



Barrack's **student-to-faculty ratio is 4:1**. The faculty and administration comprise 77 dedicated, highly educated professionals. 75% hold a master's degree or higher, and 26% hold terminal degrees.



ENROLLMENT

Total Enrollment (Grades 6-12): 339
Senior Class: 64 students

STUDENT BODY



Barrack students come from **70+ zip codes** across the greater Philadelphia area, southern New Jersey, Delaware, and the lower Lehigh Valley.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English - 4 years	Bible (Tanakh) - 4 years
History - 4 years	Jewish Studies - 4 years
Math - 3 years*	Health - 2 years
Science - 3 years*	Phys Ed - 3 years
Hebrew - 4 years	Community Service - 6 weeks
[Institute - 2 years OR	
World Language - 2 years]	

*A fourth year of science OR math is required.



GPA & CLASS RANK

Barrack does not compute a GPA, nor does it rank students because of its small size, rigorous program, and selective admissions policy. **100% of students attend 4-year institutions.**

CURRICULUM & ADVANCED COURSES

All Barrack courses are offered at the college prep level or higher. Students have the opportunity to pursue advanced course placements in certain core subjects.

Students are eligible to take a maximum of three AP courses, which are only offered to seniors:

Biology	Chemistry	Literature	Statistics
Calculus AB	Comp. Sci. A	Physics	U.S. Gov.
Calculus BC	Env. Science	Psychology	

Accelerated: The highest non-AP level for English & History (no Honors offered in these areas).

Honors & Intensive: These levels offer additional challenge in Math & Science. Honors Hebrew Literature is available to advanced 12th-grade students who have completed traditional Hebrew language offerings.

GRADING SCALE

100-97 = A+	96-93 = A	92-90 = A-
89-87 = B+	86-83 = B	82-80 = B-
79-77 = C+	76-73 = C	72-70 = C-
69-67 = D+	66-63 = D	62-60 = D-
Below 60 = Failing Grade		

MWP/MWF: Medical Withdrawal Pass/Fail

BARRACK INSTITUTES

Building on the long-standing success of our STEAM Institute, Barrack expanded our offerings in the 2023-2024 school year. Students are now required to enroll in an Institute and/or Spanish Language for the first two years of upper school. Beginning in junior year, students have the option to withdraw from their Institute; however, 100% of seniors continued with their Institutes in 2024.

Students may choose to pair any Institute with Spanish, and students in the Art Institute may also enroll in the STEAM Institute or Business & Entrepreneurship Institute. Students may NOT enroll in both the STEAM Institute and Business & Entrepreneurship Institute.



Business & Entrepreneurship Institute

The Business & Entrepreneurship Institute aims to foster the next generation of business leaders embodying resilience, adaptability, and creative thinking. In addition to traditional classroom learning about marketing, entrepreneurship, personal finance, business law and ethics, microeconomics for business, and finance and accounting, students work in teams on a multi-stage project leading to the development of a business plan—developing an idea for a product or service, conducting market research, and creating an investment pitch. Students build their skills in ethical problem-solving and innovation, and cultivate a heightened awareness of the interconnectedness between business success and making a positive impact on their communities.



Art Institute

The Art Institute blends in-class projects and enriching experiential learning to empower students to engage in introspective artistic endeavors, encouraging them to think critically and express themselves creatively. Recognizing the vibrant art scene of Philadelphia, the program supplements classroom learning with immersive trips to museums and artistic hotspots, providing students with real-world exposure and inspiration. The Art Institute's hands-on approach fosters creativity, discipline and patience, communication skills, emotional intelligence, and cultural awareness.

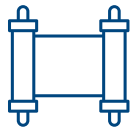


STEAM Institute

The STEAM Institute follows a collaborative and innovative curriculum, introducing students to project-based learning and research methodology. Students complete two years of classes focused on the engineering and design process, CAD 3D model rendition and printing, microcontroller applications and coding, as well as project management and entrepreneurial skills incorporated into yearly capstone projects. In the final two years, students engage in independent research culminating in submission to regional science fairs. The STEAM Institute emphasizes data literacy, informed decision-making, and managing setbacks through iterative invention. Students become productive, self-directed learners while developing resiliency, teamwork, and leadership skills.

JEWISH STUDIES

Overview



Barrack's Jewish studies curriculum covers history, ethics, and theology through the Bible, rabbinic texts, medieval commentators, contemporary essays, short stories, philosophical writings, and responsa.

All Jewish studies courses are discussion-based, encouraging thoughtful dialogue across difference with an emphasis on critical thinking. Classes dive into original Jewish texts, teaching proficiency in decoding language, formulating and supporting educated opinions, and applying what they learn to their personal practice.

Course Offerings

Jewish Studies/Jewish Studies & Tanakh: A course combining study of primary and secondary sources with history, ethics, and theological discussions.

Talmud Seminar: An advanced seminar utilizing sources in ancient languages and additional secondary texts.

Jewish Culture and History: Beginning in 10th grade, students take electives such as "Art in the Tanakh (Bible)" alongside their main Jewish Studies course.

Jewish Leadership Initiative: An honors cohort selected by the administration that is responsible for leading school-wide events related to the Jewish calendar.

HEBREW

Please note that each level of Hebrew is a two-year sequence (e.g., Hebrew 1A and 1B). All students take a placement test upon enrolling, and most begin in Intro to Hebrew or Hebrew 1A and end in Hebrew 2A or 2B. Students attending Barrack since middle school often will reach Hebrew 3A, 3B, or Honors Hebrew Literature.

COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS 2023-2026

American University - 2	St. John's College
Auburn University - 2	(Annapolis)
Barnard College	Syracuse University - 8
Binghamton University - 5	Technion Israel Institute of
Boston University	Technology
Brandeis University	Temple University - 2
Brown University - 4	The Ohio State University - 4
Colgate University	The Peabody Institute of
College of Charleston	Johns Hopkins University
Columbia University/Tel Aviv	Thomas Jefferson University
University Dual Degree	Tufts University - 4
Cornell University - 2	Tulane University - 3
Drexel University - 9	University of Arizona
Duke University - 3	University of Central Florida
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical	University of Cincinnati
University	University of Colorado
Emory University - 3	Boulder - 3
Franklin and Marshall College	University of Delaware - 2
Indiana University	University of Hartford
(Bloomington) - 2	University of Kansas
James Madison University	University of Maryland
JTS/Columbia University - 2	(College Park) - 16
Lafayette College	University of Miami - 3
Lehigh University - 4	University of Michigan - 9
Massachusetts Institute of	University of
Technology - 3	Pennsylvania - 9
McGill University	University of Pittsburgh - 12
Muhlenberg College - 5	University of Rochester
New York University	University of South
Northeastern University - 4	Carolina - 2
Penn State University	University of Texas at Austin
(Main Campus) - 16	University of Virginia
Princeton University - 2	University of Wisconsin
Reichman University	(Madison) - 2
Rensselaer Polytechnic	Vassar College - 2
Institute	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of	& State University
Technology - 2	Wake Forest University - 3
Rutgers University (New	Washington University in
Brunswick) - 2	St. Louis - 2
San Diego State University	West Chester University
Sarah Lawrence College	Yale University - 2
Smith College	

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Class of 2026	Class of 2025
ACT: 24-33	ACT: 24-31
SAT: 1230-1410	SAT: 1310-1470

Class of 2024	Class of 2023
ACT: 29-33	ACT: 29-34
SAT: 1220-1480	SAT: 1200-1450

Ranges reflect the middle 50% composite scores.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2022-2026



9% of the 246 graduates from 2022-2026 received a commendation or higher from the National Merit Scholarship Program. There were 8 finalists.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT



A service program for seniors was initiated in 1967. Seniors complete their coursework at the end of the second trimester and then find placement as volunteer interns in social service or educational agencies for six weeks.

TRIMESTER IN ISRAEL

Our seniors will have a unique opportunity this year to spend their final trimester at the Alexander Muss High School in Israel as our traditional junior year trip was delayed due to the ongoing conflict. Students who attend will spend six weeks immersed in traditional classroom learning and extensive experiential education. Students in the Muss program will complete their community service requirement while abroad. *The Alexander Muss High School is accredited by Middle States Association of Schools & Colleges.*

PHONE-FREE POLICY



We have adopted a phone-free school policy in the 2026-2027 school year. Students are not permitted to access phones during school hours.

*Barrack Hebrew Academy is accredited by the
Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools
CEEBC Code: 392573*