

Chronicle

THE
VOICE
OF
JEWISH
LONG
BEACH
PUBLISHED
SINCE 1947

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2020 | ELUL - TISHRI - HESHVAN 5781

Find Peace and Renewal
During These Unique High
Holy Days • Judaism and
Political Allegiances • Star
Wars and Judaism: Finding
Light and Hope During a
Pandemic • Racism, Judaism,
Pandemic, Civil Unrest - A
Historic Moment? • Jewish
Long Beach Annual Report

After 50 Years the Hebrew Academy Stands Out as a Leader in Education

Bryn Harari, Ph.D. | Principal



While many public and private schools are experiencing declining enrollment, The Hebrew Academy, celebrating over 50 years of excellence, has increased its enrollment this year. The community school brings students from

Long Beach to San Clemente providing students in Preschool through 12th grade a comprehensive and balanced approach to rigorous academics in a nurturing Jewish environment.

Of the many things that makes this school unique, the academic program stands out. The Academy embraces the most current educational practices and offers an accelerated curriculum that includes college preparatory courses augmented by a rigorous dual curriculum that includes modern spoken Hebrew. Passionate teachers skillfully guide students through a largely hands-on and project-based curriculum, creating classroom environments that nurture creativity and inspire curiosity. Students are excited about learning because they are engaged in meaningful, student-centered activities that stimulate critical and creative thinking. Elementary students learn science, geography and history by reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction, drawing, acting, and creating physical models. Projects are integrated with Judaic studies and presented to parents and students in other classes. In contrast to traditional classrooms, students at the Hebrew Academy engage in collaborative and real world problem solving, applying and demonstrating learning in a variety of interesting ways that stimulate their future careers in a global and increasingly technology driven economy.

Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade are participating in this year's Innovation Fair, a 3-month research project incorporating all of the core academic subjects. Curiosity is embraced, creativity is cultivated, and students are trained in the art and science of inquiry. Middle school students are researching the prosthetic industry, incorporating intensive STEM education while they develop greater awareness and empathy for those affected. A field trip to Caltech to see the work of renowned engineers firsthand and videoconferencing with state-of-the-art industry experts in Israel bring learning to life.

Approaches to education at the HA are driven by the most current research. Brain-based learning has superseded previous traditions where rows of seats and a teacher lecturing from the front of the classroom met the learning needs of some, but not all students. Students at the HA often learn in small groups, and move from one center to another throughout the day. Flexible seating enables students to stand at their desks while others use traditional desks. Some students work in groups, while others work independently.

Specialized curriculum enables teachers to accommodate students who learn at different paces, creating environments where a variety of inviting learning activities appeal to different learning styles.

Students who need extra support have the benefit of small group or one-on-one assistance, while students who are prepared to delve deeper into the curriculum receive specialized instruction in the Accelerated and Enriched Learning Opportunities (AELO) program. Teachers continually expand their skills, participating regularly in professional development and collaboration.

The benefits of a dual language program have been well documented. The early years of a child's life are the most ideal time for dual language learning. Students at the HA begin learning modern spoken Hebrew in Kindergarten. Teaching Hebrew language builds their connection to their heritage and to modern-day Israel, and supports brain development and the capacity for learning other languages in the future.

Current research indicates the integral role of Social Emotional Learning in a child's education. Building on the school's core values, students are supported and guided in developing the skills for effective communication, including perspective-taking, conflict resolution, and empathy. Drawing on a program of Positive Discipline, social-skills classes with a school counselor, and thoughtfully designed playground initiatives ensure that social and emotional needs are met so that students are fully available to apply themselves academically.

Hebrew Academy draws students and provides transportation from 3 different counties and goes beyond academics and social emotional learning to provide enrichment opportunities where students are exposed to theatre arts; weekly specialists such

as music, art, library and computers; and after-school programs including sports, computers, robotics, and engineering. The Hebrew Academy has educated over 10,000 community children since 1969, helping each one to become an independent, resourceful learner driven by purpose, passion, creativity, and the knowledge that they hold the power and the potential to make a positive difference in the world. Graduates emerge with the academic knowledge and skills to pursue the most rigorous educational paths, as well as the life and leadership skills to make a profound difference in the world they live in. 🌍

L'Shanah Tovah
to our entire
community
from everyone at the
Hebrew Academy
Orange County

HEBREW ACADEMY

FULL DAY IN PERSON

1	2	3	4	5
SENIORS	JUNIORS	8th GRADE	8-12th GRADE	AP EXAMS
90% tested at or ABOVE proficiency in their SAT scores	100% tested at or ABOVE proficiency in their SAT scores	100% tested proficient in reading and writing on their PSAT scores	ALL SURPASSED the national average on their PSAT and SAT scores	75% of our scholars PASSED their AP exams!

Despite the challenges, this school year brought significant success. The Hebrew Academy scholars have worked extremely hard on their standardized and AP tests. They have far surpassed the National Average in their assessments.

[Contact us Admissions@hacds.org](mailto:Admissions@hacds.org)