



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The core curriculum at LAHHS emphasizes Jewish text study including a variety of biblical, rabbinic, ethical, philosophical and historical texts as well as competency in Hebrew language and literature. In addition, LAHHS is proud to supplement the core classes with an exciting and intellectually stimulating array of electives as well as the Kamenir Shabbaton Retreat program at Camp Ramah in Ojai, California.

Full Time LAHHS students attend the school for 5 years and complete 18 required courses:

- ◆ Modern Hebrew @ 5 levels
- ◆ *Breisheet*/Genesis
- ◆ *Shemot*/Exodus
- ◆ *Vayikra* /Leviticus and Beyond
- ◆ *Neviim* /Prophets
- ◆ *Mishnah*/Talmud
- ◆ Dorff Ethics Program
- ◆ *Parshat Hashavuah* (Torah portion of the week)
- ◆ Miller Modern Jewish History Program
- ◆ Intro to Rabbinics
- ◆ Israel and Zionism
- ◆ Holocaust
- ◆ Charles Ziman (z"l) *Tefillah* Program
- ◆ Farkas Junior Seminar
- ◆ Pressman Senior Seminar

CORE CLASSES

Modern Hebrew Language Program

LAHHS has the largest and most comprehensive supplemental Modern Hebrew Language Program in the nation. The school is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) which ensures all public schools accept the language program for credit. The program meets the needs of a wide range of student backgrounds ranging from those with no previous Hebrew education to those with 8 years of Jewish day school education, as well as students from Israeli families. The school has developed a nine-level *ulpan*-style based curriculum. The "*ulpan* style" means that students are immersed in the Hebrew language from their first day of class. Immersion in a foreign language has been proven to be the most effective way to teach a living language.

The Hebrew Language Program focuses on written and oral comprehension and expression. Reading, writing, listening, and speech are four crucial language skills attained through the program. During the course of study special emphasis is placed on learning sentence structure, all tenses, and *dikduk*/grammar. By the senior year students are:

- capable of reading and understanding Hebrew text without vowels;
- skilled to command an expansive vocabulary;
- familiar with the past, present, and future tenses
- comfortable with 5 *binyanim* (Hebrew grammatical "families"); and
- able to communicate their own thoughts, feelings and ideas in Hebrew.

Judaic Text Program

The Judaic Text Program is undergoing a rigorous curriculum development process in order to develop a premier, standards-based, text study curriculum. Currently LAHHS is the only Supplemental Jewish High School in the nation using Etz Hayim as its primary Judaic studies textbook. At the conclusion of 5 years of text study, graduating seniors have content knowledge of all five books of the Torah, Former Prophets, and foundations in Jewish Law. They have the ability to decode and translate sections of the Torah utilizing key vocabulary and phrases throughout their studies. In addition, students have the ability to engage in three distinct “levels” of text study:

- *Pshat*: surface meaning;
- *Midrash*: commentary/deeper meaning; and
- Personal *Midrash*: the connection between the student and the text; personal meaning.

Charles Ziman (z”l) T’fillah Program

T’fillah/Prayer is at the center of Jewish cultural and religious life. A student endowed with an understanding of and familiarity with Jewish prayer, is guaranteed to be comfortable in a Jewish setting anywhere in the world. *T’fillah* encapsulates the need to express an individual’s deepest hopes, joys and sorrows to themselves, to each other and to God. Using a mixture of traditional and contemporary interpretive methods, students journey through the liturgy to better understand its traditional, contemporary and personal relevance. In 10th grade, students participate in coursework designed to both examine the meaning of individual prayers (the p’shat) as well as find their own personal meaning in the prayers. LAHHS is the only Jewish supplementary High School in the nation in which the students participate in weekly *t’fillah* by *davening* Mincha and Maariv. By graduation, students are able to identify the major prayers in the liturgy, are comfortable with the text, choreography and structure of the service, can lead prayer with the proper *nusachot*/melodies used in the liturgy, and discuss the key concepts the prayers are meant to express.

Miller Modern Jewish History Program

In this course, Judaism is viewed through the eyes of our shared history. Students gain a deeper understanding of the following modern historic periods ranging from the early 1800’s through the formation of the modern State of Israel. The time periods covered in this survey course include: the European Jewish experience, the Ghetto, the Pale of Settlement, the Sephardic experience, the exodus from Eastern Europe to the United States, the Enlightenment Movement, the Holocaust, and the establishment of the State of Israel. In addition, students learn about the formation of the different major denominations of Judaism and how the Jewish community today is shaped by its history.

Dorff Ethics Program

As students build character and continue to mature, it is crucial that they have a safe place to discuss issues that are most relevant to their Jewish lives in the 21st century. LAHHS aims to create a lively and challenging environment in which teens are able to explore and critically assess their views. LAHHS’ curriculum creatively presents a traditional Jewish perspective, while displaying respect for the opinions and beliefs of each student. The coursework allows students to begin to struggle with the concept of what ethics are, and how they choose which “paths” to follow.

Holocaust "Surviving the Shoah"

In this course, students will try to understand how the Holocaust occurred, the role of people who were complicit and those who opposed, and how we react to similar events today. While the Shoah (Holocaust) lasted from 1933-1945, its roots lie in earlier periods and its effects (and echoes) are still being felt. Using a variety of different materials, especially film, students examine this dark period in Jewish history from a number of perspectives. Students also look at resistance, incredible stories of survival, use of propaganda and lessons for today.

Israel and Zionism Program

Israel and Zionism are two of the most important concepts focused upon in the LAHHS curriculum. The foundation of LAHHS' Israel and Zionism program is a required, Sunday morning, 10th grade class. Over the course of the semester, students trace Israel's geographical, political, and cultural origins as well as its importance to Jewish people around the world. Students are introduced to the most important leaders, and thinkers, of modern Israel including Herzl, Achad Haam, Jabotinsky, and many more. The curriculum also focuses on the religious and historical origins of the Jewish state, and the varied concepts which are the foundations of modern Zionism. Students learn about the Jewish people's hope of returning to our ancient homeland through nearly two thousand years of exile. Looking through these different lenses the students are able to connect the concepts to their own personal, Jewish identities. This course encourages students to deepen their knowledge and passion for Israel and Zionism, and prepares them to travel to Israel with a keen understanding of the Jewish people's homeland.

Intro to Rabbinics Program

Students are introduced to rabbinic literature by exploring different types of literature created by the sages as well as developing skills to understand these texts. The Rabbinics Program is part of LAHHS Sunday morning core curriculum for all 9th grade students. This survey course exposes students to *Pirke Avot*, *Mishna*, *Talmud* and *Midrash* both in Hebrew and English highlighting the classic commentators Rashi, Maimonides, and Bartinoro. Students often study in *chevrutah* (with a study partner), entering a conversation in which the Jewish people have been engaged for centuries. Students are asked to take an active approach to studying these texts, questioning what they read and even arguing with their own conclusions. The class explores how the rabbis thought about the world and the ethical principles they believed were vital for living a moral life. In the process, students are asked to think about how they can apply the lessons to their own lives. LAHHS aims to create a lively and challenging environment in which teens are able to actively learn and explore how these ancient texts are relevant to their current lives.

Daniel and Dalia Farkas Junior Seminar

The Farkas Junior Seminar introduces our 11th graders to a higher education, college-style learning environment. Each Sunday students are immersed into a two-period (1.5 hour) session with some of Los Angeles' finest teachers and scholars. Each featured scholar participates in sessions that allow our students to get to know the scholars on a more personal basis. Units include: "Sweatshop Free: The importance of responsible consumerism", "Wrestling with Leviticus: Rationales for the Biblical prohibition?", and "Justice and Revenge: Exploring the ethics of vengeance".

Rabbi Jacob Pressman Senior Seminar

Each Sunday morning, LAHHS hosts a two-period (1.5 hours) seminar program for all of our graduating seniors. Through the use of film and other mediums LAHHS seniors are able to relate Jewish text to contemporary events and issues. LAHHS invites the most influential teachers, leaders, and scholars of the greater Los Angeles Jewish community to engage our senior students with the goal of inspiring and preparing them to transition to an independent, mature, and Jewish lifestyle as they enter college. The course units include: "Hot topics", "Jewish values", "Social Action", "Leadership", "Beit T'shuvah Prevention Program", and "As you go off to college..." This year's presenter list includes: Daniel Cardozo (Protecting the Environment), Rabbi Arthur Gross-Schaefer (Achieving Peace through Understanding), Michael Citron (US-Israel Relations and Advocacy), and Rabbi Steven Greenberg (Homosexuality in Judaism).

ELECTIVES

Students choose one elective course each year which helps to personalize their educational experience to their individual desires. The following is a sample of the myriad of electives available:

- ★ Contemporary Jewish Issues
- ★ Current Events
- ★ Music/Band
- ★ Israeli Folk Dancing
- ★ Jewish Civics Initiative (JCI) *
- ★ Los Angeles-Tel Aviv Partnership Program *
- ★ Jews in Media
- ★ Judaic Arts and Crafts
- ★ Krav Maga- Dennis Survival
- ★ Jewish Lens Photography

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Jewish Civics Initiative (JCI)

LAHHS offers the Jewish Civics Initiative Program (JCI) in which students examine activism, advocacy and *tikkun olam* through the lens of Jewish values. The course includes the study of public policy and its Jewish ethical implications on various topics including human rights, religion and state, and the death penalty. Students engage in hands-on service and visit advocacy offices to hear how to use legislation to broaden the impact of their social action. A highlight of this elective is a 4 day leadership seminar in Washington D.C. with high school students from around the country. For Mitzvah Day, the students bring their knowledge and creativity together to produce a social action project that involves the entire school.

Los Angeles-Tel Aviv Partnership Program

Los Angeles Hebrew High School is fortunate to be part of the Jewish Federation's Los Angeles-Tel Aviv Partnership Program. The goal of this program is to foster and create ongoing relationships and dialogue between the citizens and institutions of both cities in order to benefit both communities. Educationally, the Partnership's goals are to reinforce students' Zionist and Jewish identities. Joint curricular projects constitute the basis for dialogue and integration.

LAHHS is paired with Ironi Dalet, a first-rate high school in Tel Aviv. LAHHS 9th grade students host an Israeli student in their home for 10 days. In turn, LAHHS students travel to Tel Aviv with our Federation delegation and spend 10 incredible days in the Israel with the partners from Ironi Dalet where they get to experience the Jewish Homeland for themselves as well as utilize their Hebrew language skills.

THE KAMENIR SHABBATON RETREAT PROGRAM

The Retreat Program, located at the beautiful Camp Ramah facility in Ojai, California, offers students a unique opportunity to put the values and traditions studied in the classroom into practice. Each year LAHHS develops a socially and educationally exciting program of Jewish living, learning, and playing focusing on a relevant and stimulating theme. The retreat programs allow students to live in a vibrant and authentic Shabbat community. The *t'fillah* (prayer), and community building are crucial to the success of the LAHHS program.