

# HBHA'S FLEXIBLE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

HBHA is a vibrant, inclusive community that celebrates Jewish traditions, values, and education. We are deeply committed to celebrating the diversity of the Jewish people, and as such, our families represent the full spectrum of Jewish practice. We offer options within our Jewish Studies courses to accommodate the various academic and ritual needs that come with this diversity.

While all Jewish Studies courses will follow a similar arc of topic and content, Oren courses focus more on traditional interpretations of Jewish law, while Erez courses take a more pluralistic approach to observance. Core Jewish Studies courses are set from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Beginning in seventh grade, students also choose Jewish Studies electives to personalize their Jewish education in a way that best fits their theological and ritual orientation.

Our dedicated faculty ensures that every student's individual needs are met, allowing them to connect deeply with their Jewish heritage in inspiring and empowering ways.

*Regardless of Jewish Studies courses selected, students receive instruction separately only during Jewish Studies and Tefilah (prayer). Students are grouped by learning level for all other instruction (as scheduling allows), and participate in all communal celebrations, trips, specials, recess, and lunch together with their grade-level peers.*

# FLEXIBLE PROGRAM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## How are both options the same?

There are many fundamental similarities that we at HBHA believe are important for every student. These core values and learning activities occur within both Jewish Studies options, including:

- Values-Based Jewish Learning
- Holiday Celebrations
- Strengthening Connection to Israel
- Proud Jewish Identity
- Jewish Rituals
- Middot (Jewish Character Traits)
- Hebrew Language Instruction
- TaL AM Curriculum (integrated Hebrew/Jewish Studies program)
- Morning Prayers
- K-12 Learning
- Individualized & Small Group Learning
- Warm, Loving Atmosphere

Erez and Oren students have a multitude of opportunities to learn together as a whole group, as well as in separate classrooms with dedicated Jewish Studies teachers. For example, holiday celebrations and Jewish music typically include the entire class (both tracks together), while each track has its own teacher and classroom for morning prayers, TaL AM and Hebrew language.

## How are the options unique?

### Erez Option

Students represent a variety of Jewish streams and home observances.

Taught with the awareness of a variety of Jewish family traditions and home practices by teachers who reflect the range of Jewish observance.

### Oren Option

Students represent (primarily) Orthodox affiliation and observance.

Taught in accordance with Orthodox norms by teachers who are observant of Orthodox tradition.

These options are separate only during Jewish Studies and Tefilah (prayer). Students are together by grade level throughout the rest of the school day.