

HBHA Dual-Track Jewish Studies Program

Magshimim Track

The Magshimim Jewish Studies and Hebrew program reflects the diversity of the community we serve. It has equal elements of Jewish culture, Hebrew with a flavor of Israel, and Jewish practice. It is sensitive to the diverse practices of the Jewish community, and its goal is to reflect and respect the diverse population of Jewish Kansas City.

Magshimim is designed to serve the educational needs of both liberal and traditional Jews who have diverse practices within the home. Hebrew language and Jewish customs are given equal weight in Magshimim. Jewish customs are presented to educate the student in Jewish tradition whatever the level of Jewish practice at home. As a result there is much less emphasis on the details of Jewish law, rather, students will be exposed to the wonderful traditions of prayer and practice at school.

Magshimim uses the TaL AM curriculum, which emphasizes Hebrew language, Jewish literacy and celebrations of the Jewish year. Using the TaL AM curriculum, supplemented by contemporary materials including modern Hebrew songs, Magshimim is a place where there is a heightened sensitivity to those who may be entirely new to rituals and practices. The overarching goal of the Magshimim Track is to inform and enrich Jewish literacy among its students.

Matmidim Track

Matmidim was created for families who specifically desire a day school education that is taught according to Orthodox norms.

The Matmidim Program, like the rest of HBHA, uses the TaL AM curriculum, which emphasizes Hebrew language, Jewish literacy and celebrations of the Jewish year. It differs in that its focus on Jewish observance for holidays, Shabbat, and Kashrut (Jewish dietary laws) is through the lens of Orthodox ritual observance, with the expectation that this track more closely reflects the observance in the student's own home. Matmidim teachers are observant according to the standards of Orthodox practice.



Beginning in second grade, Matmidim students learn Chumash using the L'havin U'lhaskil curriculum. As the grades advance, the curriculum incorporates additional content and skills-based instruction in traditional Jewish texts (Chumash, Mishna). Beginning in third grade, students in the Matmidim Program meet after school 2-3 three times a week for additional classes to maximize Judaic learning.

The program is open to any student who wishes to experience this approach. When selecting the Matmidim Program for your child, please note this program is designed for those who come from halachically observant families, those whose families are open to enhancing their knowledge base and practice of Jewish ritual according to Orthodox norms, or those who prefer this educational orientation. Matmidim participants are encouraged to practice in accordance with the laws as interpreted by Orthodox Judaism.

It is important to note that students in each track receive instruction separately *only* during Jewish Studies, Hebrew and Tefilah (prayer). Students are grouped by learning level for all General Studies instruction (as scheduling allows), and participate in all communal celebrations, trips, specials, recess, and lunch together with their grade-level peers.

Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to select the most appropriate Jewish Studies track for their child prior to the beginning of the school year.

Dual-Track Jewish Studies Questions & Answers

How are both tracks 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 tracks, including:

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

Magshimim and Matmidim 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 tracks unique?

Magshimim Track

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 practice.

Matmidim Track

Students represent (primarily) Orthodox affiliation and observance.

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

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