

"Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well."

— Voltaire



Gratitude Report

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy was established in 1966 by a group of parents who dreamed beyond what many thought was possible for their children's education. Today, more than 5 decades later, we continue our mission to prepare students for fulfilling lives as Jews and as honorable, contributing citizens.





A Word of **Gratitude**

In March 2020, HBHA moved swiftly from the in-person school we are all familiar with, to an all-virtual learning setting to keep our school community safe from the growing COVID pandemic. After finishing out that school year virtually, we spent all summer planning for every possible scenario of returning to school. We returned in August on a hybrid model (one week in person, one week virtual) and ultimately were able to come back – full-time – on campus, with significant COVID safety protocols in place.

Amidst the chaos in the world, we knew that we had one goal: to provide a nurturing environment in which our students would continue to thrive. Whether virtual or in person, HBHA went above and beyond to ensure our students remained connected and engaged. Our teachers ensured each student felt cared for, and had a safe space to process what was happening in the world around them. We feel fortunate that our families, students and donors showed the same unwavering support for our work. Today, we celebrate all that we – as a community – have achieved, and we look forward to a much more normal year ahead!

To our generous supporters: Thank you for believing in us during good times and challenging ones. Your support gives us the fortitude, and the capacity, to ensure that we can focus on the well-being and education of our students. Looking ahead, we know that your charitable gifts will enable us to continue being all that our students need us to be: A school, a support system and a home away from home. Thank you.

Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy is generously supported by









"When you look at investing in Jewish Kansas City, Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy is really the pillar and the foundation of that. Hyman Brand prepares students to take ownership in this community."

— Danny Wajcman, HBHA Parent, Alumnus and Board Member

Why **HBHA**

Students leave HBHA prepared to make the world a better place. Our students have attended top universities, taken volunteer gap years around the world, and dedicated themselves to building healthy Jewish communities as professional and volunteer leaders. Many of them continue lifelong friendships with their HBHA classmates, and dozens of HBHA graduates are sending (or have sent) their own children to HBHA. In 2020, on our 54th anniversary, we welcomed the arrival of our first third-generation student.

As we celebrate these important milestones, we reflect on our past success, our changing society, our economic landscape, and the creation of a financially sustainable future for the next generations of HBHA students.

At HBHA, we provide a whole-child approach that supports critical thinking skills and personal discovery for students, giving them the chance to define and create their own success. HBHA students regularly outperform the national and state averages on standardized tests. And our students' ACT scores are routinely in the top three among private schools in the city (*Ingram's Magazine*), right in line with local college preparatory schools.

Our commitment to Jewish education ensures students learn values that mirror those in the home. As the only Jewish day school in Kansas City, our school embraces all aspects of Jewish life and religious observation. HBHA's unique Dual-Track Jewish Studies Program serves families across the spectrum of observance from Orthodox to interfaith. This program, the first of its kind when created in 2009, is one of only a few programs like it in the world.

Educating during a Global Pandemic

On Friday, March 12, 2020, HBHA made the decision to quickly switch to an all-virtual learning setting to keep our school community safe. On Wednesday of the following week, we were ready to go with virtual learning. Thanks to our dedicated and flexible staff, students and teachers alike adapted quickly.

In August 2020, we returned to a cyclical hybrid scenario, in which students switched between in-person and virtual learning. This model and our in-person COVID protocols were so successful in mitigating the spread of COVID, that we were ultimately able to return to in-person instruction before the end of first semester. We approached the 2021-22 school year with gratitude for the ability to come back together in person, but we remain prepared for anything that comes our way.

Throughout it all, HBHA stayed true to our whole-child approach. Teachers and our Student Services department made sure students were learning, while also creating an environment in which students felt safe and connected with one another. Whether an open invitation to daily Zoom lunches, making time to discuss their fears and concerns during morning meetings, or simply coming together for virtual prayer and student family time, HBHA has been here for our students.



"If you concentrate on finding whatever is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul."

— Rabbi Harold Kushner



A Word on **Community**

Despite COVID and its challenges, HBHA was able to connect with grandparents for its annual VIP Day in the fall. Usually held in person with a brunch, student performances and classroom activities, the event featured three one-hour programs, with videos and entertainment by the students, along with cooking demonstrations. The best part was that grandparents from all over the world were able to watch online!

In addition, HBHA held its 47th Civic Service Award Celebration virtually, raising money for programming and financial aid. Although a gathering of guests for the annual dinner event was not possible, thanks to your generous support, it was a successful private broadcast fundraiser.









"First learn much, then seek to understand it profoundly."

— Talmud

Lower School Highlights

Our Lower School was in full gear last year, and – thanks to some creative thinking and caring from our faculty as students learned new and important life skills – HBHA's K-5 students quickly adjusted to attending school during a pandemic. Needless to say, students of all ages enhanced their personal hygiene skills!

Lower School teachers quickly adapted as well, taking students on virtual field trips to honey bee farms, Wayside Waifs, and exploring some of the farthest reaches of the world for experiential social studies and science learning. Other annual activities were also reimagined as special events turned virtual:

- Kindergarteners welcomed in the Sabbath bride in a video Melava Malka production,
- First graders received their Siddur (prayer books) in a video production of Chag Siddur, followed by a family celebration on Zoom, and a special in-class celebration, where students enjoyed watching themselves on video
- Second graders received their Chumash (Torah), in a video production of Chag Chumash, which included a family Zoom watch party and celebration.

Outdoor learning became part of the routine as well. When the weather permitted, HBHA third graders started their day off with outdoor tefilah (morning prayers) and Hebrew lessons. Students were able to spread out and learn at the tables in The J KC's camp pavilion. Fourth graders quickly discovered how much they enjoyed eating lunch outside!

Another Lower School favorite, mock presidential elections, mirrored real life during a pandemic: To maintain safe COVID practices, absentee ballots were cast in each classroom, then brought to 4th & 5th graders to tally. In lieu of personal presentations in each classroom, students received educational activity books to learn about the election. Our oldest Lower School students took their election leadership role seriously to ensure their younger counterparts were able to vote.





Middle School Highlights

In addition to academic growth, HBHA continued our ongoing focus on the social and emotional well-being of our Middle School students. Our sixth graders entered the year learning the study skills they need to be successful as they gain autonomy at school, our seventh graders continued to learn how to engage in constructive conversation during a disagreement, and our eighth graders brought it all together – with a healthy mix of leadership thrown in – to establish a solid foundation as they prepared for their transition to Upper School.

The rise to Middle School opens the door to many new opportunities for students. This year, our Middle Schoolers and faculty embraced these opportunities with creativity and excitement.

- Our drama elective students performed a virtual play, composed of 2-person sketches, which debuted to the world on YouTube in December 2020.
- Cross country running and soccer were popular ways to come together in an outdoor, safe setting. And, while no competitive Middle School basketball games were played, thanks to the perseverance of our Athletics Department and some very energetic volunteer coaches, our Middle School basketball players practiced safely throughout the year to develop skills and sportsmanship throughout the year.
- Students engaged in all aspects of science, from forensic science and robotics electives to learning from guest speakers via Zoom to developing award-winning scientific experiments. Three eighth graders won gold ribbons for their experiments in The Science of Animation, Retention of Synthetic Wigs and Best Water for Bagels, through a city-wide competition at Science City Union Station.

Mentoring and leadership development are other important aspects of Middle School at HBHA, and students and faculty made the most of these opportunities. Middle School Student Council members help design activities for Purim festivities and Lag B'Omer Field Day, with fun results. Students also worked together to help the environment on Earth Day with an outdoor cleanup at the T-Mobile campus. Mentors, in sync with HBHA's Student Services department, checked in with students, and offered multiple opportunities for students to have robust discussions in a safe environment about what was happening in the world around them.





Upper School Highlights

Our Upper School students took on a variety of leadership roles in earnest, using their knowledge, skills and friendships across all grade levels to support each other and their younger counterparts. They showed exceptional leadership during the virtual student family gatherings, where students K-12 spend time with their school families celebrating holidays and engaging in other fun, family-style activities. Upper School students also showed dedicated leadership during Yom HaZikaron (Israel Memorial Day) and Yom HaZikaron (Israel Independence Day), creating a meaningful Yom HaZikaron video for the rest of the school to watch and learn from, and leading the first all-school event of the year during an outside Yom HaZikaron flag raising and parking lot parade. During morning prayers, in the *RampageWired* online student publication, and the *Chronicles* yearbook, they worked within COVID safety policies to produce meaningful moments and highlight successes during the unusual year.

- Upper School students showed leadership in their academics. In spite of standardized test disruptions, they persevered and continued to shine with scores that far surpass local, state and national levels. The high test scores are a reflection of the critical thinking skills HBHA students are taught throughout their school career, and the whole-child focus that helps each student achieve success on their own terms.
- As Future Votes KC members, HBHA eleventh and twelfth graders expanded the footprint of their social justice project: First, by welcoming in a third partner school, Academie Lafayette, and more important, through their efforts to work with local city and county governmental departments to tackle environmental issues and create broad-sweeping change for a better climate. Students' ongoing partnership with their University Academy cohort continued to grow via social media and regular Zoom meetings.

While there were many bright moments throughout the year, our Upper School students may have shined brightest during the Class of 2021's final week at school. The senior farewell and all-school senior send-off events looked different – being held in larger venues or outside to keep students safe. However, our Upper School students focused on all of the positive aspects, and were full of gratitude to be together in celebration for these events and for the 2021 graduation ceremony.

HBHA by the **Numbers**

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (most recent audited fiscal year)

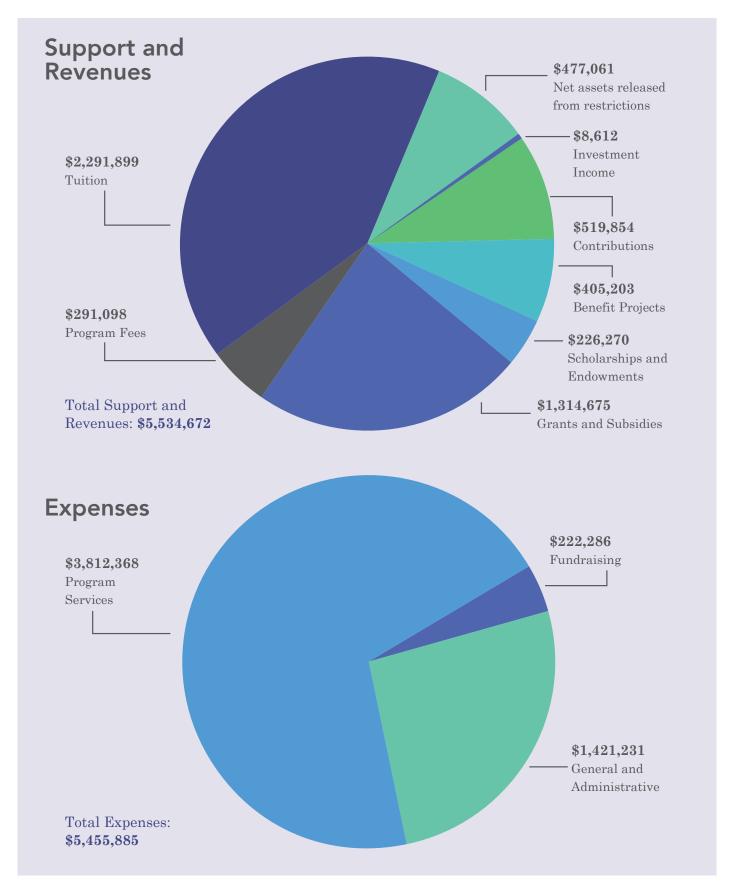
HBHA Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

Year Ended June 30, 2020

	Without donor restriction	With donor restriction	Total
Support and revenues:			
Tuition	\$2,291,899		\$2,291,899
Program fees	291,098		291,098
Grants and subsidies	1,314,675		1,314,675
Scholarships & Endowments	226,270		226,270
Benefit projects	405,203		405,203
Contributions	519,854		519,854
Investment income	8,612	186,176	194,788
Net assets released from restrictions	477,061	(477,061)	
Total support and revenues	5,534,672	(290,855)	5,243,787

Expenses:				
Program services		3,812,368		3,812,368
General and administrative		1,421,231		1,421,231
Fundraising		222,286		222,286
	Total expenses	5,455,885		5,455,885
Change in net assets		78,787	(290,885)	(212,098)

Fiscal Year 2019-2020



Our Generous Donors

A heartfelt thank you to all who supported HBHA during our 2019-20 school year

(Audited fiscal year)

Todah Rabah for your generous gifts or grants to:

- The 1st Annual Campaign
- The 2020 Civic Service Award Celebration, cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic
- The 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Campaign
- Tributes

YOU CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE to the education & development of our students

Alphabetical listing of all gifts received from July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020.

Sincere apologies if anyone was inadvertently left off.

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

Phyllis & Erwin Abrams

Gabrielle Abrams

Renana & Mike Abrams

Janet Provines Agron

Jeanne Hayes & Ali Alaman

Harriet & Larry Almaleh

Ryan Almaleh

Anonymous

Debra & Sam Arbesman

AssuredPartners

Susie & Greg Azorsky

Monita Bacon

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Kathleen & Bruce Buss

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Paula & Cliff Cohen

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Mika & Lou Cohn

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Marsha Cowan

Belleanne & Andrew Curry

Bob Cutler

Adam Daniels

Diane & Mark Davidner

Peggy & Zandy Davis

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Suzanne Galblum Dicken

Digital Lagoon

Bettina Brand Dooley

Kelly Reichman &

Michael Durnin

Debbie Sosland-Edelman &

Alan Edelman



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AUDITED FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 ENDOWMENTS, FOUNDATIONS, FUNDS, GRANTORS & TRUSTS

Scholarship Endowment

Dan Fingersh Scholarship

Ruth G. Feingold

Charles L. & Evelyn R. Abrams Philanthropic Fund Herb Adler Fund Herb Adler Margin of Excellence Fund Herb Adler Professional Development Fund Herb Adler Reserve Fund American Century **Investments Foundation** BenPaul Charitable Fund Leonard & Irene Bettinger Philanthropic Fund Marion & Henry Bloch Family Foundation Allen & Gloria Block Family Foundation Abe & Anna Bograd Memorial Trust Edith Bratt Fund Burns & McDonnell Foundation Jeannette & Jerome Cohen Philanthropic Fund Community Legacy Fund Louis & Dorothy Cumonow Foundation DeLeve Family Memorial Fund **Dreiseszun Family Foundation** Louis Durbin Fund

Durwood Foundation

William & Doris Edelman

Elinor & Gus Eisemann

Scholarship

Community Endowment

Kate & Moses Eisemann Fund

Harry C. Feingold Endowment

Paul & Doris Flam Travel Scholarship Isadore & Anna Friedman Scholarship Anna & Isadore Friedman Scholarship Harriett & Jacob Friedman Scholarship Albert Gerecht Trust Gift Card Program Goldberg Family Foundation Irrevocable Trust Sam & Lucy Gould Endowment Flo Harris Foundation Jagoda Family Foundation Jewish Community Foundation of GKC Jewish Community Relations Bureau Jewish Federation of GKC Karbank Family Fund Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Herman Jay Levikow Endowment Jenny & Alvin Loeffler Scholarship Dorothy & Julius Loeffler Scholarship Louis Family Memorial Fund Lowenstein Brothers Foundation Lowenstein Family Scholarship

Lowenstein Family Supporting Foundation Lore & Mel Mallin Scholarship Alexander, Mary & Bernard A. Margolies Scholarship The Harold & Marilyn Melcher Foundation Menorah Heritage Foundation Menorah Women's Foundation MCHE Rose Morgan Scholarship Morgan Family Foundation Simon J. & Sarah Ozar Endowment Julius & Dorothy Peltzman Scholarship Harry Portman Charitable Trust Herman & Muriel Rose Philanthropic Fund Ira & Blanche Rosenblum Family Foundation Elizabeth & Sam M. Schultz Endowment Schuster Foundation The Sosland Foundation Vivian & Hymie J. Sosland Charitable Trust MLF/JHF/Sosland Operating Endowment Hy & Bella Vile Legacy Fund White Theatre Grantor Fund Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of GKC Yagan Family Fund Zenith Investments Partnership



"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more."

— Melodie Beattie, contemporary author



Thank you for your ongoing support for the many wonderful things happening at HBHA. Your dedication to our school ensures we will continue to develop the next generation of Jewish leaders.

 $L'dor\ v'dor-from\ generation\ to\ generation$