

PROVIDENCE HEBREW DAY SCHOOL

About Our School

Providence Hebrew Day School is an Orthodox Jewish day school, providing a high-quality Jewish and general education to boys and girls from Pre-Kindergarten through grade 8. Our high school division, New England Academy of Torah, also provides the same high caliber education to young women of high school age. We are located in the residential East Side of Providence, in the center of a thriving Providence Jewish community.

Our elementary school was established in 1946, the high school division opened in 1968. We are accredited by the State of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Board of Education, and the Torah U'Mesorah national network of Jewish day schools.

At PHDS, we are committed to academic excellence in a warm, nurturing atmosphere. We work with each child to maximize his or her potential to become an educated, committed member of the Jewish community and the community-at-large. We are devoted to developing students' learning skills and instilling a love of learning, preparing young people for promising futures and the realization of their goals. With our small class sizes and our professional, attentive teachers, we cater to the need of each individual. We offer enrichment when a student could use additional challenge and offer remedial help with the regular curriculum when it is needed. And of course, everyone can benefit from encouragement and acceptance, so we provide generous measures of these, as well!

As focused as we are on our students' academic development and achievement, this is only part of our mission. We also strive for moral and character development and emphasize the importance of good "middos" (character traits) in all relationships - those among students, between teachers and students, or the staff/administration and students. Each member of our faculty and staff is a personal positive role model of ethical conduct. We teach values and morality inside the classroom and out.

Along with cheerful and well-decorated classrooms, our modern facility boasts General and Judaic libraries, a spacious auditorium equipped with a stage and lighting, a science laboratory, and a language laboratory. We also have a well-equipped computer laboratory, with networked multi-media Pentium computers with the capability to access the Internet simultaneously at the rate 56K.

Our students come to us from all over Rhode Island and from nearby Massachusetts. Bus Transportation is available, servicing the Rhode Island communities and Sharon, MA. Financial Assistance is available based upon the family's need.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

Providence Hebrew Day School is an Orthodox religious Jewish Day School affiliated with Torah U'Mesorah – the National Council of Hebrew Day Schools.

Our main *goals* are inspiring our students to love and revere G-d; to study the Torah, and be motivated to follow its laws, customs, and traditions; to strive for the highest standards of moral and ethical behavior. Our students should be sensitive to the need of Jews and non-Jews in America and throughout the world. We must also provide our students with active programming that promotes Shmiras Hamitzvos and a love and appreciation of Israel, the land and its people,

Providence Hebrew Day School goals include providing our students the finest and most effective general studies program that uses the most modern research and progressive techniques available. Our students must be able to integrate their pride and knowledge as Jews with their full participation in the modern society in which they live. One of the most important elements of our philosophy is that each child has unique talents and abilities that must be recognized. In order to achieve this, the school provides a variety of opportunities, both enrichment and remediation, through both classroom and special activities to help each student reach his/her maximum potential.

Our goal of being a "child centered" school that looks at the whole child requires us to always strive for greater heights. We must provide ongoing opportunities that afford individualized learning opportunities for students. We encourage teachers' professional growth in order to implement this model of excellence. Our school puts special emphasis on creating a warm, relaxed, and safe atmosphere that motivates our students to live and enjoy their studies. An atmosphere of open and honest communication must exist as well as an environment of warmth, nurturing, and trust among our students, teachers, and administration.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

Providence Hebrew Day School has a tremendous commitment to the personal and academic growth of all of its students, and its expectations for student achievement and learning reflect that commitment. As such, the school has established the following "student learning goals:"

1. The student will display Middos (good manners) and Derech Eretz (proper respect), which are preambles to learning.
2. The student will develop a love of Torah, Mitzvos (good deeds), and Israel.

3. The student will display knowledge of the laws and customs of our rich Jewish heritage.
4. The student will read and write Hebrew fluently.
5. The student will participate with authority in all life cycle Jewish events.
6. The student will display feeling of Chesed (kindness) and charity, giving both of time and resources.
7. The student will develop a love and excitement for all learning in Torah and General Studies.
8. The student will develop an attitude of curiosity for learning and critical thinking skills in Torah and General Studies.
9. The student will be given the skills and support to reach her or his maximum potential in Judaic and General Studies.
10. The student shall graduate with the core curriculum skills required for entrance into the finest Yeshivos, Seminaries, and /or universities.
11. The student will have the academic and social skills to succeed in a globally competitive society.

Early Childhood Department

"A child's earliest experience within a school setting can set the tone for years to come." We, at Providence Hebrew Day School, recognize this and, as such, strive to provide the warmest, most nurturing and loving environment possible. We focus on the children's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development, while recognizing that each child has his or her own unique qualities and abilities and should be encouraged accordingly.

We encourage children to learn through their own experiences, using developmentally appropriate activities to enhance skills. We emphasize language skills in both English and Hebrew and the children learn about and celebrate Shabbos, holidays, customs, mitzvos (good deeds), and middos (proper manners).

By the time they graduate from the Early Childhood Department, our students have developed good self-esteem, a love of learning, and an early appreciation for the beauty of our Jewish heritage and the Torah way of life. Teaching young children is a tremendous responsibility, but one that we embrace and are thankful daily.

Important Facts about the Early Childhood Department:

- Large well decorated rooms, with plenty of space creative learning centers.
- Low student-teacher ratio.
- Creative and qualified teachers with degrees in Early Childhood Education and pursuing ongoing professional growth.
- Enrichment and remediation provided as needed.
- Reflecting the quality of the work environment, there is little staff turnover. Teachers and assistants have been working together for many years.
- Special bathrooms in each of these classrooms

The Early Childhood Department offers the following classes:

3 YEAR OLD
M-F; 8:00-12:00
AGE: 3 BY SEPT. 1

PRE-KINDERGARTEN KINDERGARTEN
M-F; 8:00-12:00 M-F; 8:00-3:15

AGE: 4 BY SEPT. 1 AGE: 5 BY SEPT. 1

THE CURRICULUM

Providence Hebrew Day School is dedicated to providing an integrated secular and Judaic program that prepares our students to be successful, contributing members of society dedicated to a Jewish way of life.

Most importantly, we believe that education is a process that begins with the development of self-esteem. Our educational program is designed to help each child maximize his or her potential, to encourage each child's success, and to facilitate pleasure in the learning process. It also encourages the development of critical thinking skills and the engagement of cooperative learning opportunities.

We inculcate our students with the desire for academic excellence and the pleasure and power of achieving goals of excellence. We teach our children to value caring, sharing, compassion and other values that will allow them to mature into productive young adults. We firmly believe in experiential learning and, as such, provide opportunities for creative projects within the classroom, school-wide special programs, as well as excursions that allow life experiences to be integrated into our curriculum.

The parents of our students have entrusted us to provide their children with a superior education steeped in the beauty of Judaism. And, what a wonderful

opportunity we have been given, to encourage intellectual curiosity, to foster the proper middos (good manners), and to develop, in each of our students, a love of learning and Judaism that will stay with them far beyond their days at Providence Hebrew Day School.

GENERAL STUDIES

READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS

- Our goal at Providence Hebrew Day School is to provide a language rich environment and an exposure to literature, while ensuring the mastery of basic skills, within the time constraints of a dual curriculum.
- The core of instruction in the primary grades is based on the Macmillan/McGraw Hill series, including the Anthology, Journals, Spelling for Writing, Resource and Theme books.
- Literature tapes, choral reading, partner reading, and independent reading are a few examples of the strategies incorporated into the classroom.
- At each grade level, students gain an appreciation for reading through assigned novels and "free choice" books. Time is set aside during the week for sustained silent reading and books read to the class by the teacher.
- Writing is viewed as a skill of primary importance for becoming a literate individual and, as such, is stressed daily. Reflecting this importance, our staff participated in special in-services in the area of writing which helped them to develop instructional strategies to ensure that our students learn to write effectively.
- The "writing processes" of pre-writing, writing, revising, editing and publishing are emphasized at all grade levels with the level of sophistication increasing as the student gets older.
- Each students work is organized into individualized writing portfolios highlighting the progress they have shown over the course of the school year.

MATHEMATICS

- The mathematics curriculum is oriented around the development of specific math functions and systematic reasoning skills as well as the development of confidence in and enjoyment of the subject.

- Students in Grades K-6 receive between 40 and 60 minutes of mathematics instruction each day. Teachers use manipulatives, games, and challenging problems in motivating their students.
- Students in Grades 7-12 receive 45 minutes of mathematics instruction each day. Our students are exposed to a high school level course in eighth grade and college level courses in high school by highly qualified Mathematics specialists.
- This year our school is preparing Math Nights for the elementary school students, which will include games, puzzles and challenging questions for children at every level of ability.
- Mathematics specialists at Providence Hebrew Day School are highly qualified and prepare our children to compete mathematically in a globally competitive society.

SCIENCE

- Providence Hebrew Day School's philosophy of science education is to develop each child's innate sense of curiosity and wonder about themselves and the world around them through active involvement in scientific activity and discovery.
- Our fully equipped science laboratory allows all of the students to have hands-on laboratory time.
- Grades 7-8 have a 45 minute science lesson every day.
- Special emphasis is placed on the importance of mathematics in the scientific process and the instructional materials reinforce that concept.
- Our science program integrates many subject areas and offers our students exposure to varied disciplines. By the time they have graduated, Providence Hebrew Day School students have explored life science, earth science, human biology, ecology and environmental science, physical science, and technology.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- A wide range of methodologies is employed in the Social Studies Department. The work is written, verbal, and artistic and requires students to make real world connections, gain in-depth knowledge, and develop creativity and artistic talent.
- In Grades 1 and 2, students begin by learning about their own individual uniqueness and how the family unit interacts. They begin map reading skill

development and study symbols and holidays, both national and religious that make us feel special about being Americans and Jews.

- In Grades 3 and 4, students begin by studying the natural landscape; how the land has influenced our history and culture, and how it continues to affect our daily lives. They learn about the state and the nation; and develop map reading and mapping skills to learn more about cities, states, nations, continents and ocean bodies. They also learn about Native Americans and their respect for nature, and, related to that, discuss the use of natural resources and how certain environmental problems can be solved.
- In Grades 5 through 8, the philosophy of the Social Studies Department is to provide students with a basic understanding of world and American history with focus primarily on cultural, economic, political, and social changes.
- In order to enhance the development of critical thinking and problem solving, upper grade students conduct research (including significant use of the Internet), learn to work on their own as well as part of a group, and learn "model building" in order to problem solve.
- Providence Hebrew Day School has achieved specific honors in the annual Mock Trial sponsored by the Legal Partnership of Rhode Island. Our teams have always been leaders in this competition including first place honors on a number of occasions. This is a tribute to our emphasis in the areas of critical thinking skills, verbal skills, vocabulary, and articulation.

FINE ARTS

- All art classes at Providence Hebrew Day School are conducted in the Art Studio and are designed to teach students about the particular influences and forces that have shaped major artists. Students learn to respond to these same stimuli by drawing upon their own experience. As part of the curriculum, students are exposed to the styles of prominent artists, and then create their own interpretation of those artists' techniques.
- Art activity and instruction are very frequently integrated with other aspects of the Providence Hebrew Day School curriculum. The most obvious opportunity for integration is the creation of artwork related to holidays and holiday seasons. Artwork is also engaged in relation to social studies lessons (particularly history, and even in coordination with math and science lessons).
- At the annual city-wide Chanukah contest our students achieved first, second and third place honors competing against the other day school and Hebrew schools in the community. Students' work is displayed in the

hallways throughout the school, and in the local newspapers. The Art contest and the display of students' work serve as catalysts for increasing students' self-esteem and pride in the work they've created. Most importantly, the creativity of the Fine Arts Program serves to foster in our students an appreciation and life-long love of art.

COMPUTERS

- PHDS is fortunate to have a Computer Lab with 16 computers and a number of printers. In addition, each classroom is now equipped with at least one computer.
- Older students are encouraged to use computers for their research projects while our youngest students are introduced to the "basics" of how a computer works through age appropriate and skill building software programs.
- In order to facilitate students' ability to conduct sophisticated research, the school is wired to a filtered Internet connection.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETIC PROGRAM

- The physical education classes at PHDS are geared to facilitate not only physical development but also leadership and inclusive sportsmanship skills.
- Each student in Grades Pre-K through 8 has two classes each week which are 30 to 45 minutes in duration.
- The program involves a diversity of skill-building and sports activities. It de-emphasizes concepts of winning and losing in favor of emphasizing the facilitation of skill, leadership, and responsibility.
- By 8th grade, students have participated and completed sports units and activities in softball, kickball, soccer, football, dodge ball, and volleyball.
- The Physical Education program has access to the excellent indoor facilities of the Jewish Community Center and the outdoor facilities of Brown University.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE: HEBREW STUDIES

At Providence Hebrew Day School, all students are involved in the study of Ivrit (Hebrew). The school follows a unique dual approach to language instruction focusing on both Modern Hebrew and the skills needed to interpret the prefixes and suffixes found in biblical Hebrew. This technique focuses not only on spelling and grammar but also on enabling our students to be able to converse, write, and comprehend in Hebrew. We believe that all of Torah learning can be maximized

throughout the study of Ivrit. We are constantly striving to improve our Ivrit program.

Ivrit is taught in Kindergarten through Grade Eight for a total of four periods per week for each grade level.

Providence Hebrew Day School utilizes the Madreigot and Lashon Hatorah Series, which includes texts, workbooks, games, tapes, art and more to achieve instructional goals in a fun filled and meaningful way.

JUDAIC STUDIES PROGRAM

One of the primary goals of the Judaic Studies Program is to have students internalize the teaching of the Torah. All teachers utilize their daily lessons to facilitate, in students, the skills necessary to live as a Torah Jew.

The teaching of Chumash (The Five Books of Moses) begins in our Early Childhood Department with the study of Parshas Hashavua (the "Portion of the Week"). Students in all grades review the weekly portion through animated discussions, question sets, and arts and crafts. Beginning in the middle of first grade, Chumash is taught using the actual biblical text and in third grade, Rashi (the respected commentator of the Chumash) script is introduced. In grades three and four, Rashi is a significant component of instruction and, while involved in Hebrew language instruction, we simultaneously focus on developing students' critical thinking skills through focus on Rashi's questions.

Naviim (Prophets) begins in grade four and we focus mostly on the story line and stress understanding. The goal is to finish one book of Prophets each year.

The teaching of Dinim (Laws) and Chagim (Holidays) offer our students a very special way to appreciate our Jewish holidays. The units of study are repeated in all grade levels with new units being added in every grade. Every chag is usually accompanied by a project, assembly, or other supporting activities and programs.

Mishna (explanations and commentaries related to the Oral Law) is introduced to our students in grade five as an elective. The Talmud (the Oral Law) is introduced in grades five and six as an elective and in grades seven and eight as an elective for girls and a requirement for boys. The focus in our Mishna and Talmud classes is to bring the students to a level of application by using modern day examples. We also focus on reading fluency and comprehension. With these goals in mind, students use Talmudic reasoning and Machlokes (arguments) to discuss the laws as they were argued by the rabbis. Modern research has verified

that this age-old practice of developing critical thinking skills further enhances students' learning.

In all Torah Studies activities, there is a good deal of emphasis on the integration of learning with components of the General Studies curriculum, particularly in grades one through four.

Middle School Grades 6, 7, & 8 General Studies

The sixth, seventh and eighth grades are a time of transition – students are no longer children but they are not yet adults. The time of adolescence is a critical time in the life of a young person, one in which he or she needs independence, but also support and guidance.

At PHDS the general studies program is completely departmentalized – each subject is taught by a different teacher. The middle school faculty works together as a team to ensure that all students receive the attention and guidance that they need.

The following table highlights the courses offered in the sixth, seventh & eighth grades:

Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
English Literature, Grammar, Writing	English Literature, Grammar, Writing	English Literature, Grammar, Writing
Earth Science A lab-science experience	Life Science A lab-science experience	Physical Science Or Earth Science Lab science experiences
U.S. History	U.S. History	Jewish History Or World Geography
Pre-Algebra	Integrated 7 th Grade Math Or Algebra 1 (Part 1)	Pre=Algebra Or Algebra 1 (Part 2)
Hebrew	Hebrew	Hebrew
Physical Education And Health	Physical Education And Health	Physical Education And Health
Computer	Computer	Computer

Middle School Grades 6, 7, & 8 Judaic Studies

The sixth, seventh and eighth grades are a time of transition – students become Bar and Bat mitzvah acquiring the responsibility and privilege to do Mitzvos. This time is a critical time in the life of a young person, one in which he or she needs independence, but also support and guidance. Our students are encouraged not only to learn and repeat knowledge, but to ask questions that reflect a deep understanding and internalization of materials learned.

At PHDS, the seventh and eighth graders are split by gender for Judaic Studies. The Sixth graders are split by gender just for Gemorah. The boys' day begins with Gemorah, for which they are divided into two groups by level of ability and skill. The girls' day begins with whichever elective they have chosen: Gemorah or Jewish Thought and Parshanim (an in-depth study of the commentaries on the Chumash). The day continues with the subjects of Chumash, Navi, Dinim, Lashon HaTorah, Parsha, and Hashkafa (Jewish Thought).

We are pleased that our students participate in many extracurricular activities of a religious nature. These include the Bar Ilan Chidon HaTanach and The Pirchei Siyum Mishnayos; programs sponsored by the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation. The sixth, seventh and eighth grade girls also get to display their talents along with our girls' high school students in the annual NEAT Production. Our students also volunteer throughout the community. Many of the young ladies in our school serve as B'nos leaders and several of the young men learn with younger students.

Middle School Student Activities*

Student Council	Mock Trial	Yearbook
Art	Math Team	Robotics
Band	John Hopkins Public	Speaking
Talent Search		

*Some activities vary from year to year

SCHOOL SPIRIT

At Providence Hebrew Day School we nurture the special individuality of every child. We plan many activities to bring out and display the creativity of the students and create an atmosphere of excitement and sharing. They include:

Assemblies: Judaic and secular holidays are celebrated with assemblies highlighting the special flavor and activities of the holiday. All classes are responsible for at least one assembly every year.

Academic Fair: In the spring there is a "celebration of learning" when students display projects completed on class curriculum. There is a 3 year cycle: The first year, displays are related to the general studies program, the second year to the Judaic program, and the third year is an integration of both secular and Judaic.

Field Trips: Students in all grades participate in at least one field trip every year. These trips are greatly subsidized by the PTF (Parents, Teachers, and Friends). Some field trips include: Phantom Farms, Roger Williams Zoo, Sturbridge Village, Providence Performing Arts, Biomes Marine Center, Whale Watch, and others.

Mock Trial Tournament: Students in our seventh and eighth grade participate in the state-wide Mock Trial Program. Students are given a fictional case, prepare either the prosecution or defense, and compete against another school in the state before a real judge in a real courtroom. Our school has been very successful in these competitions.

Poetry Arts Night: A culminating activity for the entire school, Poetry Arts Night celebrates the Arts: Music, art and drama. All classes perform a short poem, song, or play in an evening program to which parents and friends are invited. Artwork from the year is also displayed this evening.

Rosh Chodesh Breakfasts: Every Rosh Chodesh the students in Grades 1-8 gather in the lunchroom following davening to have a special breakfast together. One of the students prepares and delivers a D'Var Torah, and the special day begins! Parents sponsor the breakfasts.

Student Council: Our junior high school students, as student council officers, organize activities for the students. These activities include chesed projects and some fun too.

ADMISSIONS

We welcome parents' interest in Providence Hebrew Day School and try to make the Admissions process as easy as possible. With that in mind, the following details the proper procedures necessary for admission to the school.

- Parents make an appointment to visit Providence Hebrew Day School and be interviewed by a member (or members) of the administration. Potential students are also offered the opportunity to spend a day at the school.
- Parents are then asked to complete an application with all relevant records from previous schools included. A registration fee must accompany the application. Upon acceptance, this check will be cashed.
- Students entering grades K through 8 are academically screened to ensure that the school has the resources to meet their needs. Based on the previous school records and the screening, the school may require additional testing prior to acceptance.
- Upon acceptance, parents are required to sign the school's contract agreeing to abide by the school's principles and ideals.
- Once all parental financial obligations have been satisfied, students will be officially admitted to the school.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND: FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Since its inception over 50 years ago, Providence Hebrew Day School has upheld its commitment to the principle that every Jewish child, regardless of his or her family's financial situation, deserves a Jewish education. To that end, the school does not discriminate against those who are of limited financial means and, indeed, it is with tremendous pride that we can say that in five decades, no child has ever been turned away because of financial reasons. Many of our students receive some form of financial aid through our Scholarship Fund. The Providence Jewish community, as well as the nation's Jewish community in general, is invited to share in the support of this wonderful and worthy institution. By doing so, you are truly making a difference in a child's life.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Should you wish to contact us, the following information should prove helpful.

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Administration: Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, Dean
Mrs. Miriam Esther Weiner, Principal



