

HEAD OF SCHOOL



OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

ATLANTA JEWISH ACADEMY



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OUR SCHOOL AND VALUES

ATLANTA JEWISH ACADEMY (AJA) is a college preparatory, co-educational, Early Childhood - 12th Grade, independent Jewish Day School, guided by modern orthodox values and principles. The school provides a rigorous dual curriculum for the pursuit of excellence in General and Judaic studies. Torah study, love and support for Israel, and celebrating and learning from each other's differences make up AJA's core values.

Atlanta Jewish Academy was incorporated on July 1, 2014, as a result of the merger of Greenfield Hebrew Academy (GHA) and Yeshiva Atlanta (YA) - the oldest Jewish day schools in Atlanta. Founded in 1953, GHA had a history of distinction and achievement, and was twice honored as a National School of Excellence by the Council for American Private Education. Founded in 1971, Yeshiva Atlanta was Atlanta's oldest co-educational Jewish high school with a remarkable record of academic achievement. The merger of GHA and YA combined the best of both schools, in the formation of AJA.

AJA has a long history and reputation, both within the community and throughout the country, as a leading Jewish educational institution. The next Head of School will have the opportunity to partner and collaborate with the leadership team, the Board and the community to shape the legacy of AJA for many years to come, in line with its modern orthodox values, mission and vision.

Atlanta Jewish Academy embodies the ideals of Torah, Zionism, community, tradition, individual development, social/emotional wellbeing and educational innovation. The school is committed to providing an education of excellence that meets each student's interests, abilities, and needs. AJA students thrive in developmentally appropriate learning environments throughout the trajectory of grades, with graduates attending leading universities and/or Judaic institutions around the world. Alumni are community leaders, religiously grounded and inspired, imbued with a value system reflecting care, warmth and concern for the Jewish community and the world around them.

One of AJA's core values is a love for Israel. The school environment, faculty and programming instills this love in our students, from Early Childhood through High School. AJA is fortunate to have an excellent representation of Israeli families in the school community, as well as shlichim who teach in the school and contribute authentic Israeli culture and flavor. Israeli music and celebrations are part of AJA life, and most of our graduates go on to spend a gap year in Israel before beginning college.

Our families form the core of the AJA community. The school benefits greatly from the strong support of its PTSA, with the organization actively collaborating with our professionals in the full range of school activities.

Atlanta Jewish Academy is blessed to have extraordinary Jewish role models who form our Torah Advisory Council - Rabbi Adam Starr, Dr. Rebecca Winter, and Rabbi Tzvi Urkowitz. They work with our Board and school leadership collectively to provide direction and guidance related to the religious philosophy and values of AJA and how they manifest throughout the school.

OUR CAMPUS



AJA is located on a beautiful and expansive campus of more than 15 acres in suburban Atlanta, Georgia. The state-of-the-art facility houses all students from Early Childhood through High School and includes innovative STEM labs, a beit midrash, a formal 700 seat auditorium, an outdoor classroom and garden, playgrounds, a ropes course and soccer field, and full competition-size gyms for the Middle School and High School. The Atlanta Jewish community has been extremely generous in supporting the development of our campus, with the result that we have no indebtedness on our property.



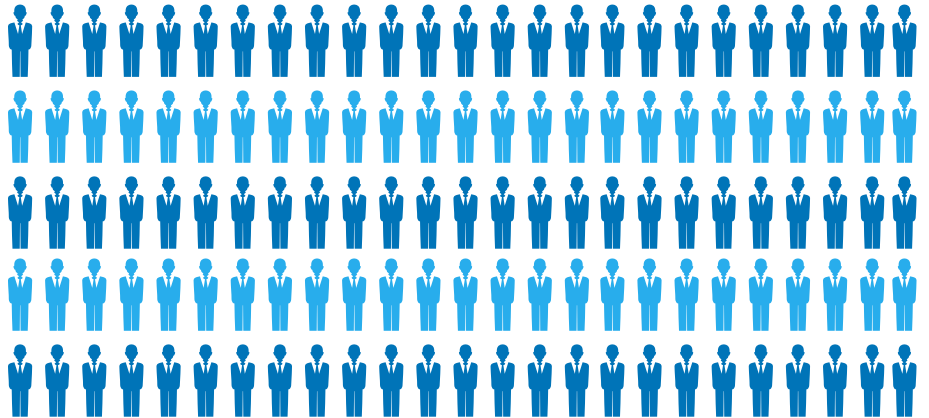
OUR NUMBERS



95%



General Studies Faculty with Advanced Degrees

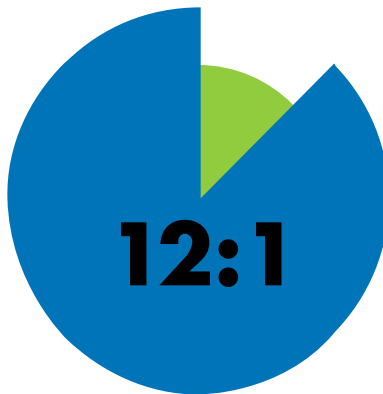


125 Caring Faculty and Staff

90+%



High School Judaic Studies Faculty with Advanced Degrees



Student Teacher Ratio

485+



Amazing Students



15+ Acre

Campus in the Heart of Beautiful suburban Atlanta

80%

of 2022 graduates spending a gap year in Israel



OUR ACADEMICS



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEPARTMENT

Our Early Childhood (infant through kindergarten) education is Reggio-Emilia inspired with a team of teachers in each classroom. Reggio-Emilia has a unique educational philosophy that is consistent with Jewish principles and beliefs. We provide Hebrew Immersion starting at this early stage, and emphasize Social-Emotional Ethical Learning (SEEL) in all that we do.

Conscious Discipline (Emotion/Behavior Regulation) and Zones of Regulation (a framework to foster self-regulation and emotional control) are a key part of our SEEL program. Our ECD children thrive in this play-based learning environment, including recess multiple times a day for children 2 years and older.

The children in our school demonstrate kavod (respect) in interactions with each individual in our school community. Students realize that AJA is a school that CARES, where Cooperation, Assertiveness, Respect & Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-control are valued.

The goal of Jewish Studies in the Early Childhood years is to foster an awe about the world around and a joy in what our Jewish tradition has to say about living and life. The beauty of our focus is that children “live” their Judaism before they formally “learn” about it in later years.

LOWER SCHOOL

In Lower School (grades 1 through 4) we focus on the development of the whole child - socially, emotionally, cognitively, physically, religiously, and ethically - within a supportive and challenging environment. The Lower School curriculum builds on the basic learning skills obtained in Early Childhood, enhancing students’ creative and critical thinking abilities. Students are challenged to move deeper into Jewish texts, the mechanics of Hebrew language and literacy, math, science, writing and reading comprehension. Students continue to develop spiritually through developmentally appropriate tefilla/prayer experiences. In order to meet each of our student’s needs and current levels, we have two teachers who co-teach and collaborate in each of our classrooms.

Student academic growth is measured in many ways. The MAP Growth Assessment provides us with information on exactly what each student is ready to learn in both reading and math. In addition, we have a dedicated Learning Specialist who monitors students’ progress and works with teachers and parents to ensure all students are reaching their potential.

Our children are encouraged to think, reason, and collaborate through active participation in the learning process. The Lower School is designed to engage developing minds and souls, build self-confidence, teach students to work cooperatively, and develop a concern for others. Our Lower School and Middle School teachers are trained in the “Responsive Classroom”, a student-centered social and emotional learning approach that creates safe, joyful and engaging classrooms, as part of the school community.

OUR ACADEMICS



MIDDLE SCHOOL

At AJA, we empower our Middle School students (grades 5 through 8) to have commitment to and responsibility for their own educational progress, which will help them on a road to achievement. Our Middle School experience capitalizes on our students' increasing ability to think abstractly, and we encourage our students to develop flexibility and complex strategies for thinking about the world in which they live.

General and Judaic Studies in the Middle School build on the achievements of Lower School, with ever-deeper study of texts and wide-ranging analysis and discussion. Students continue to advance their spiritual connections and religious personalities in a supportive environment of Torah learning and tefilla/prayer. AJA provides our students a safe structure in which they can take ownership of their education, strive for independence, and discover their uniqueness as individuals, as Jews, and as citizens of the world.

HIGH SCHOOL

In High School (grades 9 through 12), our talented faculty members engage students in vibrant General and Judaic Studies courses. We emphasize 21st Century skills and a standards-based curriculum that engage each learner and challenge each student to develop his/her skills.

We understand that adolescent growth involves four areas: intellectual, social-emotional, physical, and religious/spiritual. To nurture the well-rounded student, the school promotes participation in sports, fine arts, and STEM exploration, in addition to general academic excellence. Our supportive environment offers many opportunities for students to establish their own identities, both within our own Jewish community and in the wider world. Communal tefilla/prayer, Judaic studies classes, and other informal Jewish experiences foster individual religious and spiritual growth.

High School students have opportunities to cultivate leadership skills by taking responsibility for initiatives and by working with younger AJA students throughout the year. By cultivating a mindset dedicated to growth, resilience, and well-being, AJA High School students are well-prepared for the opportunities and challenges they will face after graduation. Our High School graduates apply to and are accepted at many top-ranked colleges and universities, as well as highly respected yeshivot, midrashot, and other gap year programs. Most importantly, our graduates are recognized as stellar members of the Jewish community wherever their journeys take them.

OUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



PERFORMING ARTS

Atlanta Jewish Academy performers in Grades 1 through 12 eagerly cultivate their talents in acting, singing, dancing, and technical theater arts. Experiences throughout our theater season enhance skills, build self-confidence, and spark new interests.

Our Lower School students get in on the act in a Junior Musical and learn about musical theater. They experience the process of building a show, and dazzle their families and friends on our stage in shows such as *101 Dalmatians* and *Winnie The Pooh*. For many children, this is a first glimpse behind the curtain!

The Middle School Spring Musical has been a highlight of our school tradition for more than a decade. With coaching from professional directors and choreographers, and live musical accompaniment from musicians, students gain valuable training and hone their performance skills to stage top-quality productions. Additionally, in recent years, students have formed the Technical Crew. The Tech Crew builds and manages sets, designs computerized stage lighting, and coordinates sound and special effects for shows in our state-of-the-art, 700-seat auditorium.

High School students work all year on our Girls' Chagiga (festivity). Our High School girls write, direct, produce, and act in this full-scale musical show. They base the drama on well-known Broadway musicals or create original scripts and infuse the show with Jewish conflicts, themes, and humor.



MUSIC

At AJA, there is a focus on teaching music by making it fun, exciting and relevant for all students. Our music program is an integral part of AJA's culture, with a focus on Jewish and Israeli music.



At AJA, music brings us together as a community. When we sing or perform together, it brings us closer to each other and strengthens our identity. In addition, our music program allows students to express themselves as individuals in a creative and nonjudgmental environment. It is our goal to create a welcoming and inclusive environment in music class.

It is imperative for a child's development to be exposed to many different genres, styles and types of music starting at a very young age. Our music program provides that opportunity to all students with a variety of fun and age-appropriate activities.

OUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



VISUAL ARTS

The Lower and Middle School Art program at AJA nurtures creativity while guiding students in activities in drawing, painting, art history, sculpture, printmaking and crafts. The program is aligned with the Georgia State Curriculum for Visual Arts. Art concepts are taught through activities based on the elements of design: line, shape, form, texture, space, color and value. Students are encouraged to stretch their thinking while participating in the creative process.



Upper School Art at AJA gives students the opportunity to develop an interest in art appreciation and to implement critical and creative thinking skills. The program is designed to help students develop the ability to communicate through art and a feeling of pride and satisfaction in their work.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We believe that athletic opportunities enrich students' school experience and give them a sense of belonging to something larger than themselves. Our athletics program is an extension of the classroom and teaches students important lessons, such as collaboration and cooperation, a strong work ethic, sportsmanship and leadership skills.

Our desire is for every one of our students to feel a sense of pride in representing the Jaguars with the character and ethical values taught in AJA's athletics program. AJA players are recognized for their high standards, kindness, and fair play (or *menschlichkeit*) on fields, mats, and courts across the state of Georgia and throughout the United States. In the Middle School, AJA Jaguars compete against schools of similar size and skill through the Metro Atlanta Athletic Conference (MAAC). The High School is a member of the Georgia Independent School Association (GISA).



OUR IDEAL HEAD OF SCHOOL



VISIONARY

A leader who focuses on the future, what we will need and how to get there

COLLABORATIVE AND DISPLAYS GROWTH MINDSET

An intentional and deliberate leader who wants to learn from and work with others

FRIENDLY, PERSONABLE, AND CHARISMATIC

A people-person who mirrors the warm, friendly nature of the school, and can connect with students, faculty and parents alike

MODERN ORTHODOX ROLE MODEL

A dynamic, inspirational, and passionate leader who can serve as a role model of religious Jewish observance for students and the community

COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY

A leader who appreciates the diverse nature of the school and can relate to and will be effective in drawing in families from across the religious spectrum

CREATIVE AND COURAGEOUS

A figure who can brainstorm new ideas, make difficult decisions and implement change when needed

STRONG MORAL COMPASS

A role model who is guided by core values in all of their decisions and actions

EXCELLENCE IN MANAGEMENT AND TEAM BUILDING

A leader who has effectively supervised individuals and departments, allowing them to grow and develop, and who will be effective in recruiting educational leaders for the school

BROAD VIEW ON EDUCATION

An educator who recognizes that a curriculum is more than what happens in the classroom and who promotes social/emotional learning beyond academic education

WELL-NETWORKED

A professional well-connected to others in the Jewish and general educational field



OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD AJA

THE HEAD OF SCHOOL will join a dynamic and experienced professional leadership team and will partner with an engaged and dedicated Board of lay leaders. The leader will inherit a warm, familial culture among the faculty and staff where parents respect the teachers and administration and embrace the school as a core element of the community. Our next Head of School will enrich our school by developing a diverse student body and school community. Our leader will develop standards that provide clarity for our students and other stakeholders, so they may strive for these goals and achieve them.

The Head of School will also join a growing Atlanta Jewish community. Our community and our school have enjoyed strong, consistent growth in recent years, with families moving to Atlanta from across the United States and abroad. This is indeed an inflection point in the history of Atlanta, and the new Head of School will have the opportunity to partner with the Board, faculty and staff, parents, and students to advance the school and community for the next chapter in its history.



WELCOME TO ATLANTA



It is easy to fall in love with the lush, bustling Southern city of Atlanta, with its abundant green space, beautiful neighborhoods and decades of rich history. The city boasts leading global businesses and high rates of job and population growth, offering a high quality of life. Atlantans enjoy easy access to parks, hiking trails and other outdoor activities, and the full array of professional sports teams, while nearby mountains and Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico beaches offer easy escapes. The city is home to world-class museums, a rich variety of performing arts and festivals, and leading universities and non-profit organizations.

There are three communities in Atlanta that have Eruvs - Toco Hills, Dunwoody and Sandy Springs - and AJA families also choose many other intown and suburban neighborhoods.

HOW TO APPLY



Interested candidates are encouraged to contact AJA's search consultant, Scott Goldberg Consulting, to discuss the opportunity and the process. All inquiries will be kept confidential.

Please submit the following two documents to search@scottgoldbergconsulting.com:

- Current resume
- Cover letter indicating why you are interested in the role of Head of School at Atlanta Jewish Academy, and what you hope to contribute to the school and community. Please touch upon your educational philosophy and leadership style, as well as your qualifications for this leadership position.