Columbus Torah Academy

CTA Dateline

School Highlights and Updates

Summer 2026/Tamuz 5786

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Our Graduates: Stepping into the World



High School graduation raised our emotions and reminded us why CTA matters to our community, the Jewish people, and each of our students as each graduate addressed the community to reflect on their journey. Nine of the ten graduates have been at CTA since kindergarten!

A special shout out to the family's youngest graduated marking their entry as Alumni Parents: Stacy Leeman and Gary Liebesman, Benjy and Rachel Metz, Naomi Myers, and Tali Preisler - it's not an end, just a new role!

The class of 2026 boasts students who are headed to Israel for yeshiva and seminary, staying in Columbus, going straight to college or technical school, and ready to face the world.

A special recognition to the first graduates of the CTA Girls High School who walked the stage and donned a blue gown.

Saying L'Hitraot and Thank You





The end of a the school year brings bittersweet goodbyes to staff as well as our graduates.

Rabbi Avrohom Drandoff, Head of School for the past ten years, from 2015-2026, has left an indelible mark in his relationships and strengthening our school financially and academically for the next chapter. He heads to Connecticut with his family and we wish him all the best.

Other see you laters to Constance Borro, Lower School Principal, and teachers throughout the grades headed to new personal and professional opportunities. Best wishes to Yaffa Gindoff, Stephanie Glitsch, Connor Hamilton, Sammy Jackowitz, Tracey McCarthy, Amy Rahav, Kayla Stern, Matt Travis, Monica VanHorn, Kelsey Yachnes, Rabbi Moshe Yachnes. There were many heartfelt goodbyes from students, colleagues, and parents.

Until our paths cross again, Once a CTA Lion, Always a CTA Lion!

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Board Slate 26-27

The CTA Annual Meeting and Elections was an opportunity to say Thank You to Naomi Myers as she finishes her term as Board President, to Aaryn Rubin as she finishes as PTO President, and Rabbi Drandoff as he completed his time as Head of School.

Welcoming back is new Board President, Steve Schottenstein, previously serving as president in the 1990s when the high school expansion was happening. The new board is printed to the left and we look forward to a strong cohesive approach that is rooted in meeting the needs of our students and community.





Around Campus

Adaptive Fairytales: Ms. Rahav's third graders wrote and performed fairy tale skits as part of their writing workshops. Amazing creativity and energy!







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End of Year Milestones Continued



Kindergarten Celebration overflowed with the cute factor, but more than that was knowing how much growth happened in just 10 months! Growing bigger, learning more, developing friendships, gaining new skills, the Class of 2038 (that's right!) is on its way to first grade! Parents and grandparents were grinning ear to ear. We can't wait to see how much growth will happen over the summer!

Check out the video as they received their certificates at https://youtube.com/live/-RiUqh0s-jw?feature=share

A new chapter has begun! Freshman Speech marked the incoming 9th grade class' first presentation to the community as high school freshman. They shared reflections and demonstrated the maturity of a CTA student. Next year will be bring challenge, opportunity, and change. Mazel Tov to their parents and teachers - you've done good!!



Unique to a CTA graduation and Freshman Speech are presentations by every student. Watch the full program at https://youtube.com/live/y8gcwFTWcHg?feature=share Photo credit lornspolterphotography

Twirlers/Heading to MS/Summer Slide



Lower School Last Day of School celebration assembly kicked off with a Twirlers performance and after highlighting Middot Winners, a 4th grade Judaics Video presentation, and a special Hebrew song goodbye to our leaving teachers, the students in grades 5 and 6 erupted into their final run as elementary school students as they head off to Middle School.

Students took home academic packets to stave off Summer Slide and we know everyone is looking forward to the first day of school!









Upper School Awards Ceremony











The Upper School Awards Ceremony is held on the last day of school. The Ceremony recognizes achievement, but also is a celebration of the school year. Emceed by Steve Guinan with involvement from many teachers, students, and community members, the program is a great culmination of the school year.

A special thank you to the many donors who have named and endowed awards over the years which is a continual investment in CTA and demonstrates to our students the widespread support for their education and future success. The Commendation Cup Awards represent to multifaceted disciplines and range of interests where our students excel.

Awards date back to the 1970s and the "modern day" Ceremony is now in its 22nd year and besides the awards, there is recognition of athletics, gabbaim, student council, and the Yakar and Cum Laude honor societies. Being at the Awards Ceremony fills you with CTA pride and optimism for our students' futures.

A big yasher koach to Rabbi Drandoff who ended the program with a standing ovation and lots of emotion from teachers and students.

Congratulations to the following 2026 winners (and their parents and teachers)! To see a full recording, go to and a list of the winners can be found at **www.torahacademy.org/usawards**

7th Grade Citizenship Award - Zach Zofan
8th Grade Citizenship Award - Ariella Wolf
Rabbi Julius L. Baker Torah Scholarship Award - Matil Teichman
Josh Wolf Award for Perseverance and Positivity - Eden Chaykin
Vaisberg Award for Kindness and Service - Sonia Weprin
Carl and Gussie Steinberg Scholarship Award - Yitzy Cooper
Deborah & Philip Millen Memorial Award - Tamar Preisler
Bob Binsky Mathematics Scholarship - Rena Harow

Harry & Ivan Gilbert Creativity Award - David Buren
David & Irene Cole Physical Education Award - Noah Blumberg
Max & Betty Ziskind Performing Arts Award - Jacob Cieplinski
Sage Moreno Language Arts Award - Mimi Myers
Dr. Carol Park Science Achievement Award - Eva Kruglov & Noa Berger
Herb & Francine Greff Mathematics Award - Noa Berger
Social Studies Award - Tahlya Chaykin
Ari Deshe Hebrew Language Award - Yitzy Cooper
Robert Leitson Visual Arts Award - Tamar Preisler
Cheri Leeman Talmud Award - Gabriela Ilin
Matthew Erik Peltz Talmud Award - Yitzy Cooper
Pearson & Thea Press Judaic Studies Award - Akiva Chaykin
Rabbi David Stavsky Midot Award - Sophia Zimm

If you have any questions about any of the awards or want to inquire about endowing an award, contact sherszage@torahacademy.org

Our Connection to Israel is Strong

The month of May brings a elevation of learning about our connection to the State of Israel and the opportunity to celebrate our Zionist roots which is core to our mission at CTA.

Starting with Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, our Hebrew Department led by Moreh Eilon and Morah Eva guided their students to plan programming for Upper School students with reflection, meaningful conversations, and a memorial ceremony. A "Zikaron BaSalon" was a chance for students to read about fallen soldiers, watch short clips from bereaved family members, and reflect on the solemn day. The Jewish Agency, in partnership with Jewish Columbus sent special visitors from Israel to our school, who spoke with Upper school students about service to country, bravery, resilience and perseverance. Our students prepared thoughtful questions for our guests in advance to spark the conversation, such as: "Does your faith in Hashem deepen when you have to fight?" "Why is it important for you to share your story?" "What position do you play in soccer?" "Based on your experience with the Jewish Agency, what are your thoughts about the importance of the relationship between Jewish in the US and Jews in Israel?" "What is the most meaningful message that you teach?"

The commemorative day culminated with a student-led Yom HaZikaron ceremony where 9th and 10th grade students created and led a meaningful, spiritual, and educational memorial ceremony. The ceremony commemorated IDF soldiers, victims of terror, and US service men and women who sacrificed their lives in defense of the State of Israel, the US, and the Jewish people. The ceremony opened with the customary siren and lowering of the flag, and included meaningful prayers, clips, and stories.

Our Israeli guests were also invited to participate and light memorial candles, adding a very personal connection.

Moving from solemn to celebration, the very next day was Yom HaAtzmaut, Independence Day, which encompassed the entire school with blue and white flags and outfits, joy and lots of fun activities, all organized by our Hebrew Language Department!

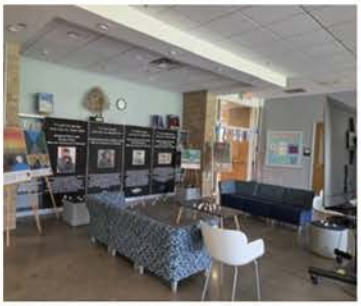
The day began with a festive Tefillah that included Hallel for Yom HaAtzmaut. All Lower school students had the opportunity to move between several creative activities organized and led by our Hebrew language teachers at including: Brave Heart art, 3D Jerusalem, Agamogram art, Israeli Jewelry, "We're on the Map", Niflaot Kahoot, and more. Jr. High and High School students alternated between two elaborate activities: Israeli Cooking led by Morah Dina, and supported by Hebrew and Upper school teachers, where they baked traditional and yummy potatoes Burekas, and made original Israeli salads to taste along with the savory pastry. While the pastries were baking students had the opportunity to play several games, and received extra points for playing only in Hebrew! Hebrew and High school Teachers facilitated the games, and Morah Dina's high school students encouraged everyone to speak in Hebrew!

The second activity for High School students, "The Race for Independence", led by Stand with Us regional manager Robin Silver-Katz, featured an 'escape room' in which students had to solve 8 different puzzles, questions, and clues, to 'gain independence for Israel'. This activity was created especially for our school with clues featuring Israeli and Jewish history, famous leaders, foods, communities, maps, timelines, and more. Hebrew and High school teachers assisted in this educational and fun activity and facilitated the game. When students solved the escape room and achieved 'independence' they received a renowned delicious Israeli treat, "Krembo"!

Yom HaAtzmaut celebrations continued AFTER school at the JewishColumbus community wide celebration at the JCC and CTA and Gan were there partnering with a fun activity table! Incredible to see so many CTA faces from students to teachers to parents to alumni to supporters. We are all sharing our love and prayers for Israel.

Yom Photos














Gan Ephraim Update

CTA's partnership with Gan Ephraim Preschool continues to be a growth point for Columbus' Jewish community. As the relationship strengthens we see a more collaborative approach to the transition from preschool to kindergarten.

Enrollment is still open for th e 2026-2027 school year and Gan Camp is a great opportunity for our youngest learners to have a great summer in a safe and strong learning space.

If you haven't taken the tour or want more information, contact Director, Miriam Gisser at mgisser@ganephraim,org







Lower School Academic Updates





As the school year ended, Mrs. Borro, Lower School Principal, shared some of the systems and progress which keep our students in a competive learning environment and prepare them for lifelong learning.

- Every single General Studies Teacher is now Orton-Gillingham trained, including our new teachers for next year and all intervention teachers who work with kids in literacy.
- Our Learning Center is systematized in processes and progress monitoring to know not only where students are, but how to escalate or de-escalate interventions based on progress data taken every 6-8 weeks.
- We have a strong relationship with Gan Ephraim, and we are carefully measuring and calibrating Kindergarten readiness both before and upon matriculation. We are providing extra support immediately in the fall of Kindergarten for students identified as of concern.
- Math extension opportunities are happening to make sure we are meeting all students' needs, even the ones who are at 95th percentile and above. All students deserve an education to help them grow no matter where they start. Some of our most dramatic growth measures have actually been in the students at the top of the percentile chart, as measured by raw RIT score on their last MAP math test. Incredible! This debunks the myth that high achievers can't also grow.

Whether a student is advancing to the next grade, entering kindergarten, or headed to Middle School and High School, CTA lower school is providing them the tools to become successful.

Middle School Preparations



As announced in March, CTA has been focusing its efforts on carving out a defined grades 6-8 Middle School in place of the grades 7-8 Junior High. By giving this age group their own identity and developmentally appropriate learning environment, we are setting them up to be strong high school students. At a Spring Parent Meeting more details were shared on the intentionality.

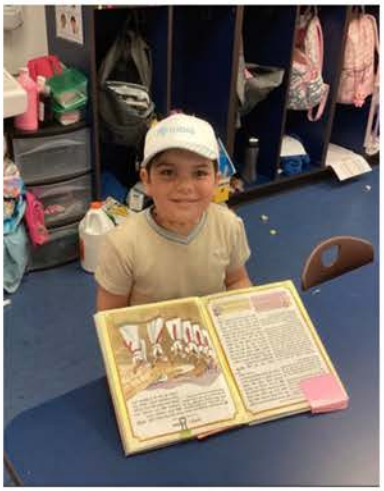
Goals include developmentally aligned learning, creating a stronger academic transition from elementary and to high school, targeted social emotional support, more leadership opportunities, reduced pressure from older teens, and more course opportunities

During the late Spring and Summer, Middle School teachers and administrators met and are continuing to plan for Fall 2026 including several Executive Functioning Professional Development seminars. We look forward to updating you and sharing more about the dedicated Middle School space and teachers.

Torah is the Name of Our Game

Having the best Judaics is a top priority and Rabbi Weiner, Judaic Studies' Principal, shared how some of our new initiatives have inspired our students this year and will serve as education building blocks.

Kriah- Partnering once again with the acclaimed Alephbeis Kriah program, our Lower School invested in a full slate of next generation kriah workbooks, designed to systematically engage students in age-appropriate Hebrew reading skills at every grade level in a standardized manner which allows for us to track our students progress alongside industry norms. Assessment results demonstrated significant gains in reading accuracy!





It Begins Here SHINES into the Future

It Begins Here, our 36 Hour Giving Day, began months before with generous Matchers stepping up to lay the foundation for a community to amplify their givinng and ensure that The CTA Way thrives where children grow with Torah knowledge, confidence, and purpose. Every donation sustains the education that our students carry with them for life and strengthens our community.





Thank you for the more than $725,000 raised by close to 800 individual donations from supporters who are parents, students, staff, grandparents, alumni, extended family, and countless friends near and far. It's just the tip of our annual fundraising iceberg and helps position us for the coming school year.





Every child deserves a life shaped by Torah, guided by caring teachers, strengthened by academic rigor, and enriched by the confidence that comes from being truly known. In classrooms filled with warmth, curiosity, and purpose, CTA helps every student grow into a thoughtful, knowledgeable, grounded Jew, prepared to meet the world with wisdom and strength. It Begins Here! More at www.charidy.com/cta





Torah... (continued from previous page)

Mishna & Talmud- In the pursuit of excellence and based on industry norms, we added a Mishna class to our 5th grade curriculum, and a Talmud class to 6th grade. These introductory courses served as an important developmental step which allows our students to thrive in our rigorous Upper School Talmud classes, creating a meaningful continuum as students progress from K-12. (article contiues on next page)



Tefillah- We piloted a Tefillah curriculum in conjunction with the Consortium of Jewish Day Schools in our Middle School grades (6-8). This curriculum focused on the Amidah prayer, with a stated goal of helping our students learn to daven with meaning, confidence, and joy. We learned a lot from piloting this program and look forward to seeing our students connection to Tefillah continue to blossom as the program's development takes its next step.



Programming- We incorporated a Rosh Chodesh assembly for our Lower School, held every Rosh Chodesh in school. At this assembly, our students were treated to guest speakers who inspired us all with Torah and stories and to a yummy snack courtesy of Mrs. Karan Tannenbaum, all of which was related to the underlying themes of the month!

Additionally, building off the popularity of our annual High School Shabbaton, we added a Junior High Shabbaton this year as well, held in March! A local Shabbaton, it was 25 hours jam-packed with Torah, ruach, fun, lasting memories, and very little sleep!

2026 Columbus Baseball Invitational Hits it Out of the Park

Columbus Torah Academy proudly hosted the 2026 Columbus Baseball Invitational Judith Weintraub Tournament - welcoming the BIGgest field EVER with close to 500 athletes, coaches, and chaperones from Jewish high schools and yeshivot across the country representing 10 states, 23 schools, and coast to coast nationwide coverage. We showed everyone a great time with incredible baseball, plentiful food, inspiration, an Eitan Katz Concert, and lots of Columbus hospitality!

Whether you took part as a player, coach, spectator, volunteer, or supporter of CTA and Jewish community, likely that you enjoyed all that is CBI!! This event is like no other and a chance for Columbus to showcase the excellence of CTA and the warmth of our thriving Jewish community through three days of competition, camaraderie, and community.

CTA Baseball Cards: Headed into the Columbus Baseball Invitational, our varsity team were on hand for a baseball card signing for CTA student and teacher fans! Amid cries of can I get a Yossi? A David, Jonah, or Coach? The kids were clamoring for their favorite Lions ball players! Love this new tradition to highlilight our athletes!

Israel Baseball wrote this great article on reflection of the recent 2026 Columbus Baseball Invitational. Starting with the question, "Is this heaven?" captures what CBI means to the many participants and fans. How a small school like Columbus Torah Academy creates an experience like no other in the Jewish high school realm speaks volumes to what CTA can do and the impact we can have when we work together.
https://www.israelbaseball.org/us/en/news/welcome-to-the-jewish-world-series/

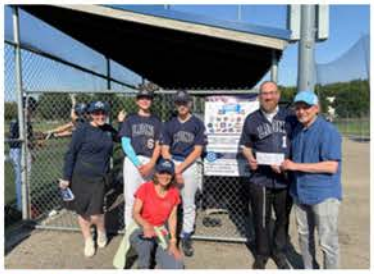
If you are interested in getting involved in planning for 2027, reach out to **sherszage@torahacademy.org**

Thank you to CBI sponsors: The Judith Weintraub Fund, Zwebner Family, International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, Wasserstrom Companies, and Grandstonne, Triple Whale, The Dental Hub, Brad and Camille, Arner, HTC , BJ Construction, Central East NCSY, Steven and Mina Stieglitz, Adam an Marni Neft, Chad and Shaindy Silverstein, Rabbi and Nechama Fried, Alan Levine, Jim and Jan Winnegrad, Raanan and Rebecca Lefkovitz, Lawrence and Kim Binsky, Sholom Meir Wilhelm.

www.columbusinvitational.com












Leeman Fund Speaker Series



CTA, in partnership with The Cheri Leeman Fund, proudly welcomed Shoshana Schechter and Dr. Isaac Schechter to Columbus on May 1-2 for a unique Shabbat scholar-in-residence weekend opportunity for both CTA and the local community!

The Schechters, who are each highly sought after lecturers on a wide variety of meaningful and relatable topics related to Jewish life, facilitated a "Yom Iyun", day of stimulation and growth, with CTA high school students and Judaic staff on Friday, May 1, as we prepare for the receiving of the Torah, commemorated and celebrated each year on Shavuot.

Additionally, they spent Shabbat with each of the shuls, providing memorable opportunities for connection and Torah learning!



Shoshana Schechter is the Dean of Torah and Spiritual Life at Yeshiva University Stern College for Women and the director of the Mechina program there.

Her presentation to the High School students included a panel with her former students who are now CTA educators.

Dr. Isaac Schechter is Chief Clinical Innovation Officer, guiding strategic vision, clinical innovation and overseeing therapies and trainings in Behavioral Health at CHEMED in Lakewood NJ, the largest Federal Health center of NJ.

The Cheri Leeman Fund is dedicated to strengthening Torah learning at CTA, most specifically, Talmud for women. We look forward to future partnerships through the Fund.

Around Campus

Fourth Grade Business: Ms. Papson's 4th graders had a great time with their class business called Picture Perfect Prints to make and sell commemorative buttons. Their entrepreneurial spirit was high as they worked on budgeting, product development, marketing, distribution, and more.





AP T-shirts: Following AP testing, the Mrs. Grashin and the computer science classes put their brains to work creating class shirts using tools in the Makerspace. It was a great stress reliever and a lot of fun!

Rabbi Sragow's 7th and 8th grade Gemara class took their learning beyond the book and created a play on what they have been learning in Tractate Berakhot on Rabbi Gamliel's deposition and reinstatement as Nasi (President) of Sanhedrin. The students learned a lot of practical insight about leadership, justice, and how humans respond to transition. They invited 6th grade up to watch. It was a lot of fun to learn through performance!





Around Campus

Yom HaShoah Exhibit: Students in Mrs. Neuman's 12th grade Holocaust Studies class worked on presentations showing how The Final Solution impacted Jews inn various world regions occupied by the Nazis. Students and teachers in grades 7-12 were able to view and engage in docent led tours by the Seniors.



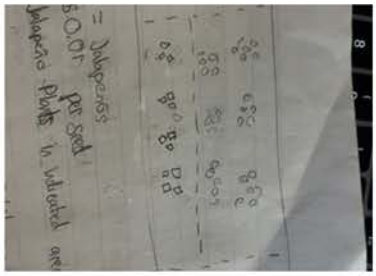



Girls on the Run: Way to go to the Girls on the Run team who culminated their program by running a 5k in downtown Columbus. The girls in grades 3-6 worked really hard to build up their stamina, strength, and confidence. Thank you coach Sydney, Shira, and Rachel!




7th Grade Garden Planning Project: Mr. Rubadue's 7th graders worked in groups to become "garden managers" by designing, planting, and maintaining their own garden bed over several weeks. Their efforts were a spring board for the CTA garden which had a hearty Spring planting season and Mr. Rubadue is maintaining over the Summer. Can't wait to see what the Fall harvest looks like! There are so many great learning opportunities in the CTA Garden!










The Class of 2039 had **Kindergarten Preview Day** which is a round up event for preschoolers headed to CTA! What a fun morning with lots of cognitive activities, story time with the kindergarten class (soon to be big first graders), recess, and gym! Teachers were so excited to meet everyone and the students were able to find out more about the "Kindergarten" they had been hearing about!

Writing Workshop Share Program was a full house of parents and grandparents coming to hear 2nd and 5th graders recite their original works following after working with Writer in Residence Amy Greenberg who came into the classrooms to help students develop their creative writing skills. 2nd graders wrote poetry and 5th graders wrote short stories. A full recording can be found here: https://youtu.be/fsPiZ-784AE?feature=shared Thank you to Mrs. Buster, Ms. Papson and all the educators who worked with Mrs. Greenberg and helped to make this program a success.





Around Campus

Lag BaOmer at CTA has long standing traditions and is filled with lots of memory making! Field Day, 8th grade Team Captains, Blue vs Red, High School BBQ at Blacklick Woods, and everything in between! What a day!










Torah Fair: Friday electives in grades 4-6 ended with a Torah Fair showcasing what the grades have been learning focused on the Mishkan, Masechet Sukkah and the Melachos of Shabbos, and the Mitzvot around the building of the Beis Hamikdash, the Matnas Kehuna (gifts given to Kohanim. They invited K-3 students to participate in hands on booths. A big thank you to Mrs. Fried, Rabbi Barer, and especially Morah Sarah for working with the students.






COSI Field Trip: What a fun end of year learning trip!






Earth Day: It's easy to celebrate Earth Day when your school is on a beautiful 22 acre campus! Classes collected trash, read books and articles, walked the nature trail, and did some clean up and planting in the CTA Garden! Students enjoyed some "dirt" pudding cups from the kitchen!






Mazel Tovs

March 27-July 7, 2026. Includes current and former families, faculty members, and supporters of CTA. Alumni graduates are listed by graduation year. Apologies in advance for any omissions or errors. Thank you for submissions and updates which can be sent to info@torahacademy.org

Yshai and Aliza Amichai on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Yishaya

Rabbi Levi and Aviva Andrusier on the engagement of their son Shmuli to Shayn Estrin

Rabbi Levi and Aviva Andrusier on the birth of their grandson, son of Mendel and Rivka Andrusier

Maxx and Liraz Blank on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Marvin (8th grade class of 1966) and Susie Blank

Noah Blumberg on his internship with Student to Student and to parents Dr. Lara and Gary Blumberg

Izzy and Samantha Cousin on the birth of a daughter

Simcha and Rivka Dubinsky on the birth of a daughter

Kayla Gorelik on publishing her first book through the Bigger than Me program at the Bexley Library

Amy and Josh Greenberg on the birth of a grandson, son of Daniel Zabludovsky and Rachael Leitson

Yael and Hezi Levi on the birth of a grandson to Noa Levi and Hen Sapir

Yonah Liebesman (Class of 2026) for winning third place in the 2026 David and Irene Cole essay contest

Rabbi Sender and Rochella Papoff on the birth of a son

Rabbi Yisroel and Suri Weiner on the birth of a son

Rabbi Binyamin and Ahuva Weinschneider on the birth of a daughter

1970s

Aaron (8th grade class of 1977) and Lisa Mellman on the birth of a granddaughter. Parents are Elisheva and Sammy Mellman.

Mazel Tov to Judy (Vinar) (8th grade class of 1978) and Ira Kahn, Skokie, IL on the birth of a grandson in Israel. Parents are Daniel and Dr. Tamar Kahn of Rehovot, Israel and maternal great grandparents are Barbara and Marvin Vinar.

Rabbi Jonathan (8th grade class of 1979) and Aviva Rosenberg on the birth of a grandson. Parents are Akiva and Shayna Rosenberg

1980s

Penina (Capland) (8th grade class of 1984) and Zalman Raksin on the engagement of their daughter Gitti to Mottel Moskowitz and to grandparents Chaim and Chani Capland

Marc (8th grade class of 1986) and Dina Romanoff on the birth of a granddaughter to Dovid and Noey Romanoff and to great grandparents, Sonny and Ellen Romanoff

1990s

Joe (8th grade class of 1997) and Kaitlyn Chay on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents David and Sara Chay

Dr. David (Class of 1997) and Daniella Weinerman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter and to grandparents Phil and Julie Weinerman

2000s

Araksiya (Savzyan) (Class of 2002) and Josh Linden on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Bella and to grandmother Asya Savzyan

Sara (Weinerman) (Class of 2002) and Noah Cheses on the Bar Mitzvah of their son and to grandparents Phil and Julie Weinerman

Leah (Weisfogel) (Class of 2002) and Natan Starkman on the birth of a son and to grandparents Rochell (Press) (8th grade class of 1969) and David Weisfogel

Etana Zack (Class of 2004) on her marriage to Mark Dredze of Rockville, Maryland and to parents Rabbi Howard and Linda Zack

2010s

Tal Benatar (Class of 2011) on his marriage to Dallas Brown and to parents Shirly and Gil Benatar

Zach Ebner (Class of 2011) on his marriage to Rebecca Buchwald and to parents Mark and Nicole Ebner and grandmother Sylvia Ebner

Mazel Tovs (cont)

Sarah Miriam (Ginsburg) (Class of 2012) and Zach Weixelbaum on the birth of a daughter and to grandparents Rabbi David and Shulamit Ginsburg

Noah Portman (Class of 2012) and Elana Lerner on the birth of a son and to grandparents Drs. David and Miriam Portman and great grandparents Dr. Sam and Susie Portman

Hannah Blumenfeld (8th grade class of 2013) on her engagement to Ethan Lerman and to parents Dr. Michael and Sarah Blumenfeld

Shmuel Kahn (8th grade class of 2013) on his marriage to Leah Mirzayeva and to parents Rabbi Zvi and Sara Beth Kahn

Alec (Class of 2013) and Shaina Salutsky on the birth of a son and to grandparents Fred and Shelly Salutsky

Rena Kahn (8th grade class of 2014) on her engagement to Yossi Dietz and to parents Rabbi Zvi and Sara Beth Kahn

Addison (Horwitz) (Class of 2015) and Dani Smith on the birth of a son and to grandmother Wendy Horwitz

Rikki Shenkar (Class of 2016) on her engagement to Ori Kenig and to parents Miriam and Dr. Oded Shenkar

2020s

Julia Cieplinski (Class of 2021) on receiving her nursing pin and her nursing degree from Columbus State and to parents Dina Vinar (8th grade class of 1991) and Eli Cieplinski and grandparents Barbara and Marvin Vinar and Bill and Feigue Cieplinski. She will be doing her 1 year nurse residency in Columbus.

Talia Delman (Class of 2021) on her marriage to Gabe Lovy and to parents Eliza and Todd Delman

Hannah Garvin (Class of 2021) on her engagement to Dov Jacobson and to parents Larry and Dr. Robin Garvin

Mina Schulman (Class of 2022) on being named 2026 Valedictorian of Touro's Lander College for Women and to parents Miriam and Yankee Schulman



Condolences

Ann Deshe, Elie (8th grade class of 1994) and Julia Deshe, David (8th grade class of 1997) and Danielle Deshe, Dara Deshe and Sharyar Aziz, and Daniel and Lakeyn Deshe and families on the loss of husband, father, and grandfather Ari Deshe

Galina Vaynshteyn, Areah Goldstein (Class of 2024), Lusia Vaynshteyn, and Victoria Liberman on the loss of daughter and mother, sister, and aunt Dina Goldstein (8th grade class of 1997)

Varda Yishai Korn and family on the loss of her brother David Habshush

Moshe and Judy Mizrachi, Levana (Mizrachi) Slabodnick (8th grade class of 1991) and family on the loss of Moshe's mother Luna Mizrachi

Gil and Shirly Benatar, Tal (Class of 2011) and Dallas Benatar, Orri (Class of 2015) and Rachel Benatar, and Paulette Benatar on the loss of father and grandfather and great grandfather Jacques Benatar

Benny Eisenstein, Rebecca Brandwein, David (8th grade Class of 1976), Lisa Eisenstein, Joel (Sara) Eisenstein, Paul (Emma) Eisenstein on the loss of son and brother Mark Eisenstein (8th grade class of 1979)

Paulanne Rosen, Steven (8th grade class of 1986) and Julia Hirschinger and family on the loss of husband, father, and grandfather Michael Rosen

Dr. Maynard Goldmeier, Linda (8th grade Class of 1972) and Steve Szames, Phil (8th grade Class of 1974) and Laurie Goldmeier, Helene (8th grade Class of 1976) and Mo Azose, Cheryl (8th grade Class of 1980) and Mitch Greene, Michelle (8th grade Class of 1997 and Ryan O'Donnell, Rachel (8th grade Class of 1999) and Adam Licker, and David (8th grade Class of 2003) and Elise Szames and family on the loss of wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother Miriam Goldmeier

Stay Connected to CTA

Make sure you are keeping up with what is happening at CTA. Jewish education is at the center of a thriving Columbus Jewish Community and it all starts with our children's education. If you haven't visited in a while, come schedule a tour! At a minimum, subscribe to our emails and stay connected or follow us on Social Media. Email to info@torahacademy.org or access links using QR code or go to:

www.torahacademy.org/socialmedia

Scan Me

Sponsor a day of learning

Show your support of our school, students and teachers!

Days of learning can be dedicated in memory or honor of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, b'nai mitzvah, for a speedy recovery or other life cycle event.

A Day of Learning is a $180 donation and dedications are listed on Fridays in the CTA Weekly Communicator and each month in the CTA Dateline. All proceeds directly support CTA.

Contact Shari Herszage to reserve your date.

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, we are proud to offer you the opportunity to participate in our Day of Learning program—a meaningful way to honor a loved one's yahrzeit or mark a special occasion through the power of Torah learning.

Sponsoring a Day of Learning at CTA is a beautiful way to connect to our students' Torah study and support our mission. Whether in honor of a simcha, in memory of someone special, or in recognition of a meaningful day, your dedication will be shared with the student and parent body and displayed prominently in our building.

There are several ways to participate:
Day of Learning: $180
Week of Learning or Special Program: $1,000
Month of Learning: $1,800
Day of Learning in Perpetuity: $3,600

To schedule your dedication, please click here or reach out to **sherszage@torahacademy.org** directly with any questions.

Thank you for your continued partnership and generosity as we look ahead to another inspiring year of Torah learning and growth.

Candlelighting

Times based on zip code 43209

July	10	Matot-Matei	8:43
July	17	Devarim	8:40
July	22-23	Tisha B'Av Fast Begins	8:55
July	24	Vaetchanan	8:34
July	31	Eikev	8:28
Aug	7	Re'eh	8:20
Aug	14	Shoftim	8:14
Aug	21	Ki Teitzei	8:01
Aug	28	Ki Tavo	7:51
Sept	4	Nitzavim-Vayeilech	7:40
Sept	11-13	Rosh Hashanah	7:28
Sept	20-21	Yom Kippur	7:13

Tzedakah

March 27-June 30, 2026. Does not includes donations to special projects, Scholarship Dinner or the Spring Fundraiser. Submit any updates or errors to info@torahacademy.org. Make a donation at www.torahacademy.org/give

Annual Fund
Marcia and Dr. Robert Hershfield in appreciation for a day of learning in memory of Max Ziskind

Victoria and Roman for a day of learning in memory of Roman's father's, Ilya Ilin

Debbie and David Grashin for a day of learning in memory of Marcia Grashin

In memory of Geraldine Schottenstein by
Ellen Siegel Pollack
Pamela and Jonathan Young

Buddy Adler in honor of Zev and Mindee Fredman
Yitzchak Gold in memory of sister Sonia G Fesman, AH

Tobi and Cantor Jeffrey Siegel in memory of Harriet Drandoff

Linda Klafter in honor of Dr. Jon and Miriam Gisser and David and Esther Bernzweig in appreciation for their hospitality

Stacy Leeman and Gary Liebesman in memory of Barry and Carrie Rosen

Renee and Josh Seidemann for a day of learning on commemorating the yarzheit of Ruth Seideman nee Safra

Mara and Chad Friedman in honor of the Zofans and Friedmans

Kim Geiger in memory of Steve Geiger and in honor of all CTA graduates

Ellen Siegel Pollack in memory of Miriam Goldmeier

Mark Epstein in memory of Elizabeth Jean Epstein, Bart Jacob Epstein, and Judith Joy Epstein on their yarzheits

Ely Zofan in honor of the 2026 8th grade trip to DC

Daniel Sragow in honor of Dena Sragow

Trouville East Condo Association in appreciation for annual meeting space

Tzedakah Boxes
Terri and Rick Barnett
Natalie Berenstein
Elana Burak
Eden Gersten

Dr. Irving Fried Fund
Cousin Family Philanthropic Fund to help CTA families

Days of Learning
Friday, April 17 by Henry and Candis Schwarz in memory of Kori Lessing - a righteous friend to CTA and the entire Jewish community.on her upcoming yahrzeit on the 1st of Iyar.

Thursday, April 23 by Victoria and Roman Ilin in memory of Roman's father's, Ilya Ilin, Eliyahu ben Simcha on his 3rd yahrzeit.

Thursday, April 30 in memory of Joel Wolff, father of Em Wolff (Class of 2024) and husband of Morah Dina. Today, the 13th of Iyar is the 9th yarzheit of Joel, of blessed memory. He loved CTA, especially the Columbus Baseball Invitational. His motto which he tried to live by was, "treat others as you wish to be treated".

Friday, May 1 by The Peltz Kids - Yaacov Moshe, Nuni, Reena, and Nava in honor of their father's 8th yarzheit - Elimelech Eitan Ben Reuven Halevi.

Monday, May 4 by Aaryn Rubin and Ephraim Hollander in memory of Tova Rivka bat Eliezer on his yarzheit Iyar 17. She is the great grandmother of the Hollander students.

Monday, May 4 by Henry and Candis Schwarz in memory of Henry's mother, Ruth Schwarz on her 15th yahrzeit on the 17th of Iyar.

Friday, May 15 by Aaryn Rubin and Ephraim Hollander in memory of Chaim Moshe Yosef ben Nachman Dov on his yarzheit Iyar 29. He is the great grandfather of the Hollander students.

Friday, May 15 by Debbie & David Grashin and Josh & Debbie Grashin in memory of David's Mother (Josh's Grandmother and Ari and Zoe Grashin's Great-Grandmother), Masha bas Shlomo (Marcia Grashin) on her 38th Yahrzeit (the 27th of Iyar, and in memory of David's Grandmother (Josh's Great-Grandmother and Ari and Zoe's Great-Great-Grandmother), Miriam bas Mordchai (Miriam Heckleman) on her 79th Yahrzeit (the 28th of Iyar). and commemorating the 58th anniversary of David's Bar Mitzvah, Parsha B'Midbar. Masha bas Shlomo and Miriam Mordchai both suffered great anti-semitism in their hometown of Pinsk, Poland and they were able to leave before the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party.

Monday, May 18 by Aaryn Rubin and Ephraim Hollander in memory of Faiga bat Yosef on her yarzheit Sivan 2. She is the alta bubby of the Hollander students.

Wednesday, May 20 by Josh and Renee Seidemann to commemorate the yarzheit of Ruth Seidemann nee Saffra, 4 Sivan (May 20, 2026).

Wednesday, June 24 by Aaryn Rubin and Ephraim Hollander in memory of Ephraim ben Hachaver Yitzchok Tzvi Halevi on his upcoming yarzheit Tammuz 9 which is this Shabbos. He is the great grandfather of the Hollander students.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars and get involved for these events at CTA. Check out updates and details at www.torahacademy.org/calendar

July 16 Fall Sports Sign Up
August 17-19 Teacher In Service
August 18 Kindergarten Meet the Teacher for Parents
August 19 Back to School Drop In
August 20 First Day of School 2026-2027

Photo Gallery

There are SOOO many pictures from this school year - some good and some bad quality, but all depict meaningful moments of learning and connecting.

Check it out at
www.torahacademy.org/photos

Feel free to add your own or like the ones that you think are best.

Send any pictures to info@torahacademy.org

Sports Sign Up: Registration for CTA Athletics for the 2026–2027 school year is now open!

CTA is proud to offer league athletics which elevates the CTA experience and provides students with a structured environment to develop physical health, learn critical life skills like teamwork and resilience, and build a sense of school community.

Sports Offered

- Varsity Athletics: Boys & Girls (Grades 9–12) - Soccer (B), Volleyball (G), Basketball, Baseball (B), Softball (G)
- Middle School Athletics: Boys & Girls (Grades 6–8) - Soccer (B), Volleyball (G), Basketball, Baseball (B), Softball (G)

For fans, check out the sports calendar at www.torahacademy.org/sports and head to a game to cheer on the Lions!

K-5 Register for F3/CESA Soccer
Skills. Friendship. Future CTA Lion!
www.finalthirdfoundation.org/cesa

Thank You for Your Strong Investment in a CTA education!

JEWISHCOLUMBUS