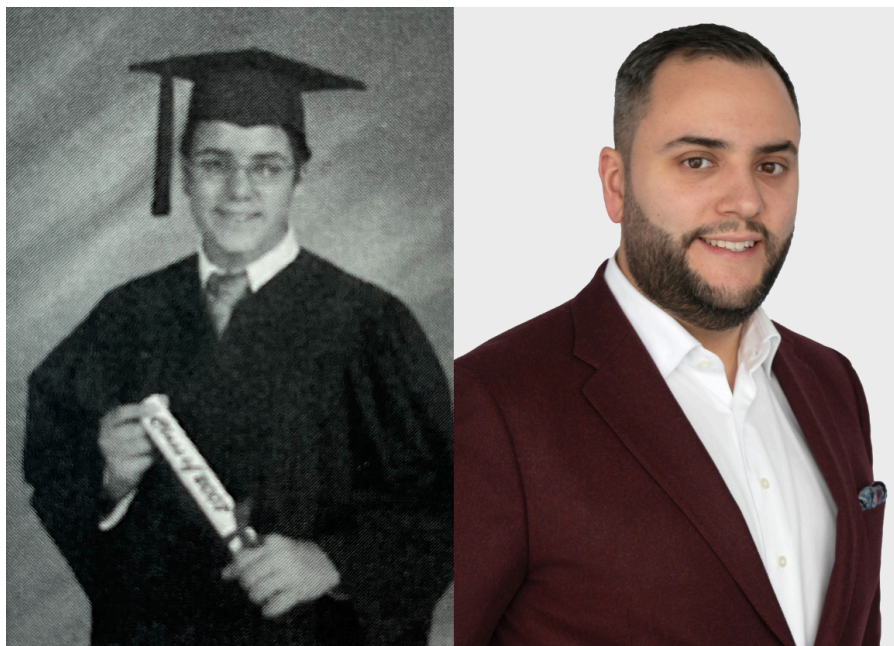




Philippe Mamane
Class of 2007



What inspired you to pursue your current career or field of study, and how did your time at HA influence that decision?

From a young age, I wanted to understand how people make decisions with their money and how financial security impacts our quality of life. My time at Hebrew Academy instilled in me a strong sense of responsibility and community, which translated naturally into a career in wealth management. It wasn't just about numbers, it was about helping families plan, protect, and build toward their goals, just as my education emphasized values, planning, and accountability.

Can you share a memorable experience or lesson from your time at HA that has stayed with you throughout your career?

One of the most lasting lessons from my time at Hebrew Academy was the importance of middot tovot; good values. Whether in the classroom, on the playground, or in our interactions with teachers and peers, we were taught that who you are is just as important as what you achieve. The value of integrity, humility, and respect were not just concepts, they were lived experiences at HA. Those middot have guided me throughout my career, especially in an

industry where trust and ethical behavior are foundational. My goal has always been to build relationships not just on performance, but on genuine care and doing what's right.

How do you stay connected to HA today, and what opportunities do you see for fellow alumni to get involved or give back?

Today, I stay connected to Hebrew Academy not only as an alumnus, but also as a parent, my children currently attend the school. I also serve on the finance committee. I chose to get involved because I believe that if we want to ensure the continuity of this amazing institution and everything it has given us, we have to actively give back. Improving the school, or any organization, doesn't come from standing on the sidelines or simply pointing out flaws. As the French saying goes, "on n'est jamais mieux servi que par soi-même". If we want things to improve, we have to roll up our sleeves and be part of the solution. I encourage fellow alumni to find ways to get involved; whether by mentoring, donating, or joining a committee, because our shared commitment is what helps this community thrive.

How did Hebrew Academy prepare you to navigate both your professional journey and your Jewish identity in the world?

My family gave me strong Jewish roots. Hebrew Academy nourished and strengthened those roots, both academically and spiritually, roots that continue to ground me to this day. Hebrew Academy instilled in me a clear sense of who I am, where I come from, and what I stand for. In a professional world that often pushes for conformity, HA gave me the confidence and clarity to be unapologetically Jewish. It reminded me that success doesn't require abandoning your identity, in fact, staying anchored to your values is what allows you to lead with purpose. That foundation has guided my decisions, shaped my relationships, and helped me remain steady even in moments of uncertainty or pressure.

If you could thank Hebrew Academy for one thing that shaped who you are today, what would it be?

I would thank Hebrew Academy for instilling a sense of identity and pride in my Jewish heritage while also preparing me to engage with the world at large. That foundation has been essential in both my personal and professional life.

What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced in your career, and how did you overcome them?

Starting a career in wealth management at a relatively young age was a challenge. Many clients compared me to their children and questioned my experience. I overcame this by focusing on preparation, empathy, and delivering results. Over time, trust was built not through age, but through consistency, professionalism, and genuine care.

What advice would you give to current students who are about to embark on their own professional journeys?

Don't wait to be "ready." Start now, stay curious, and be prepared to grow through challenges. Build relationships based on trust and always carry your values with you, especially in moments where it's tempting to compromise.

What's one piece of advice you wish someone had given you when you were a student at Hebrew Academy?

I wish someone had told me that life doesn't follow a straight line, and that's okay. Be open to pivots, embrace uncertainty, and don't be afraid to carve your own path, even if it looks different from those around you. Just as importantly, don't be afraid to fail. Failure isn't the opposite of success, it's part of the process. Some of the most valuable growth in my career has come from moments that didn't go according to plan. Learning how to regroup, reassess, and keep moving forward with resilience is one of the most important life skills you can develop.

What's a proud moment in your career or life that you believe current Hebrew Academy students would find inspiring?

One of the proudest accomplishments in my career has been building my own wealth management practice within a national firm, all the while staying true to my Jewish values. As the business grew, I remained committed to being present and involved in my children's lives and giving back to the community that shaped me. Whether it's volunteering my time, supporting local initiatives, or participating in school life as a parent, I've always believed that personal and professional success are most meaningful when rooted in a sense of purpose and connection. Balancing growth with family and community involvement has been challenging at times, but it's also what I'm most proud of.