

EARLY CHILDHOOD KEHILLAH

Our Early Childhood program is a community that values exploration and play. We create a rich and nurturing environment filled with discovery, where children's innate curiosity and creativity are respected. Using natural and open-ended materials our students' days are filled with opportunities to explore, question, and observe the wonder in their worlds. The student's point of view is cherished as they are encouraged to take ownership of their space and classroom filling it with play, artwork, and experiential learning. Inspired by the Reggio-Emilia approach, our teachers facilitate in-depth learning and discovery, incorporating math, literacy, Judaics, and science into the fabric of the classrooms. Weaving together both General and Judaic studies, our programs are designed to develop the skills, both academic and social-emotional, that our students will need as they continue on their journey through Schechter Bergen.



1-4 KEHILLOT

Peek into any of our 1-4 *Kehillot* classrooms in the morning, and you will see children sitting in a circle for their "morning meeting," turning to face each other, making eye contact, and greeting each other with a "*Boker Tov*." This act of seeing each other and being seen, a key component of our Responsive Classroom approach, is the foundation of the children bonding as a *Kehillah* (community) and creates an environment where students can do their best learning. Students' developing skills in Hebrew allow them to participate joyfully in daily *tefillah* (prayer) and connect with the stories and traditions of the Jewish people. Through small and dynamic differentiated groups and individualized attention in multiple curricular areas, including Hebrew, math, writing and reading, teachers foster academic achievement and stimulate critical thinking. They nurture strong relationships with each student, creating an environment of trust and growth in which students take ownership of their learning.



DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF
SCHECHTER BERGEN



5-8 KEHILLOT

For students in the 5-8 *Kehillot* the early adolescent years are a time of discovery. Using a Responsive Classroom approach, we encourage our students to remain open minded and curious to new experiences and knowledge, helping them to build meaningful connections and develop respectful and trusting relationships. Students develop spiritually through daily *tefillah* and delve into the stories of our sacred texts to become independent and engaged students of the *Tanakh*, *Mishnah* and *Gemara*. They strengthen their creative, scientific, mathematical, and design-thinking skills through a variety of engaging self-directed and collaborative projects. Students are challenged with material that develops analytical skills and deepens an orientation towards *Tikkun Olam* (making the world a better place). As they embark on the next step of their educational journey, Schechter Bergen students leave our campus with a strong sense of self and the courage and passion to forge their own path.



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OUR MISSION



Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County is a warm, inclusive Jewish Day School that educates children from Early Childhood through Eighth Grade with a vigorous dual curriculum in General and Judaic studies.

We inspire our students to be engaged, independent learners who embrace Jewish values and practices and strive with confidence and compassion to better the world.



CORE VALUES



מצינות אקדמית

M'TZUYANUT ACADEMIT - ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We provide our students with a first-rate education, allowing each to realize their full academic potential through independent, critical inquiry and authentic self-expression.

קהילה קדושה

KEHILLAH KEDOSHA - SACRED COMMUNITY

We create a sacred community of students, families, and educators based on a shared commitment to each other and to Jewish life and learning. We promote positive, healthy relationships in an environment of mutual respect.

כלל ישראל

KLAL YISRAEL - UNITY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

We embrace diverse Jewish beliefs, practices, and backgrounds, guided by our dual commitment to *Halakha* and egalitarianism. We are united by our shared values and strengthened by our differences.

תלמוד תורה

TALMUD TORAH - INSPIRED JEWISH LEARNING

We instill a deep love of Judaism, while helping students sanctify their lives and elevate the everyday. We guide our students to work collaboratively and creatively in their serious study of Jewish texts.

תיקון עולם

TIKKUN OLAM - IMPROVING THE WORLD

We inspire our students to pursue peace, compassion, freedom, and equality. We empower our students to make a difference by doing acts of *Tzedek* (justice) and *Gemilut Hasadim* (loving kindness).

ציונות

TZIONUT - ZIONISM

We foster a love of the State of Israel, Zionism and the Hebrew language as an essential part of each student's Jewish identity. Our Annual Eighth-Grade Israel Encounter solidifies our students' connection to the land, culture and people of Israel.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE



WE PRACTICE A THOUGHTFUL AND JOYFUL JUDAISM.

We incorporate Jewish values, culture, and rituals, as well as the Hebrew language into our lives. We understand and appreciate our responsibility and uniqueness within the tapestry of the Jewish people.

WE ENGAGE IN DEEP AND NUANCED THINKING.

We approach complex situations and sources — General and Judaic — with curiosity, confidence, introspection, and resilience. We are active learners asking challenging questions well beyond our time in the classroom.

WE LOVE AND SUPPORT ISRAEL.

We celebrate and advocate for the State of Israel as the home of the Jewish people and appreciate its full complexity. We understand and promote Israel's history, vibrant culture, and innovative spirit.

WE ENCOURAGE AND APPRECIATE DIVERSITY.

We practice *Ma'hloket L'Shem Shamayim* — constructive, principled, civil discourse — with respect, empathy and kindness. We distinguish between a person and their viewpoints and treat everyone as created *B'tzelem Elokim* — in the image of God.

WE ASPIRE TO IMPROVE THE WORLD.

We transform our Jewish values — with compassion and skill — into action. We lead with humility and a desire to better our community and world.

KEY CHARACTER STRENGTHS



As part of our commitment to the well-being of our Schechter Bergen *Kehillah*, we have identified five key character strengths as the cornerstone to our social-emotional framework: **Gratitude, Perseverance, Kindness, Empathy, and Curiosity.** Through intentional instruction, activities, and *Torah* study, students will learn to successfully exhibit and incorporate these character strengths into their daily lives.

