



KEHILLAH

EXTRAORDINARY FUTURES



leg·a·cy

noun

The long-lasting impact of particular events, actions, etc. that took place in the past, or of a person's life.

Dear Kehillah Families of 2023 Graduates,

Recently, I spoke with our students about the importance of Kehillah's commitment to support every student on their unique journey through high school and my expectation that they exhibit bravery to stand in their own burgeoning identity and bravery to allow others to stand in theirs. It's the best of our mighty little school – That our children have the time and support to figure out who they are, and accountability to find respect for the diversity of others around them.

For all of us at Kehillah, it's truly an honor to meet these kids as middle schoolers and play even a small part in guiding their high school experience before sending them off as college students into the big, wide world. These high school years are important and we take our responsibility to help them become who they are very seriously. As a parent of a 2023 graduate, I'm grateful to Kehillah for making the space and the time for both academic achievement and *identity development* as I get ready to send my youngest across the country to begin the next leg of his journey.

As you know, a key aspect of a Kehillah education is our yearly travel. We take some big trips! This past year, Argentina was an opportunity we didn't want to pass up. This grade, especially, deserved a Mulligan (for non-golfers, that's a do-over) after quarantine rules upset so many of the 11th-grade Israel travelers last year. A new adventure for Kehillah, our trip was steeped in learning about a unique Jewish diaspora history and vibrant present. Additionally, Argentina offered deep social bonding and a destination few students would experience otherwise. Upon our return, a student commented to me, "*This trip changed what I think of as my world.*"

At Kehillah, we believe in travel as integral to understanding ourselves as unique individuals and understanding diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging worldwide. We agree with Mark Twain who famously said,

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.

Having lived among or visited Jewish communities in six out of seven continents, I believe an understanding of global identity, practice, and commitment, strengthens us and positively affects how we show up for others in the world. To experience the many ways in which diverse communities work together and support one another, across racial, ethnic, political, and religious boundaries teaches us that we can do it too. Pirkei Avot (Jewish ethics - *Ethics of our Fathers*) reminds us to *not judge a man until you have reached his place*. Through Kehillah travel, we bring our students to the place of others. We expand their view of themselves, of others, and of the world.

We know that travel transforms.

Yet, each year, 30% of our students request our help to cover the cost of Kehillah travel. Each year, we are committed to finding a way to meet the needs of any student who wants to travel with their peers on these educational adventures. The average yearly need for additional financial support for trips, across all grades, is \$80,000.

We need your help.

Our goal is to raise one million dollars over the next five years for a perpetuating Legacy Educational Travel Fund to ensure ongoing access to travel for future Rams. The class of 2023 legacy gift is a starting place and we will build from *your* base each spring. Our 5-year goal for this fund is audacious and it starts with YOU because your class has been through a lot and has remained bonded to one another and supportive of the school. Please join RM and me, along with Seth and Sharon Leslie, Max Schireson and Deirdre Lyell, Ryan and Caroline Burkhardt, and Lydia Callaghan, in launching this Legacy Educational Travel Fund.

Warm regards and תודה רבה (*thank you*)!



Daisy Pellant, P'21, P'23
Head of School