



The Kehillah School

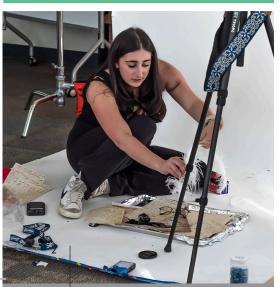
























Belong, Build, Become.











the Kehillahschool Mission We offer a rich and challenging

educational program guided by compassionate, expert educators. We inspire academic excellence, cultivate student voice, and foster a genuine sense of belonging. We embody the Jewish values of critical thinking, respectful dialogue, and the pursuit of justice. We empower students with curiosity, empathy, and agency to transform their experiences, their communities, and the world.

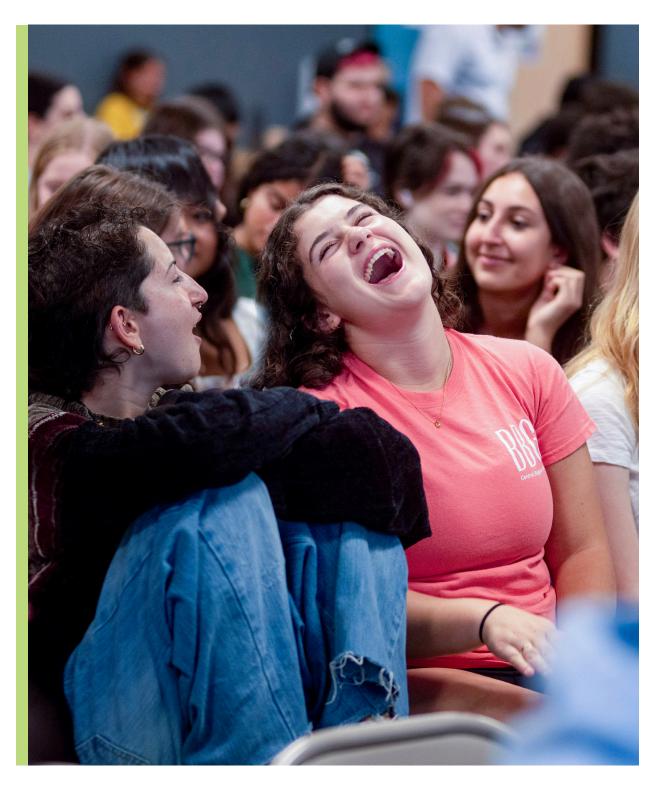


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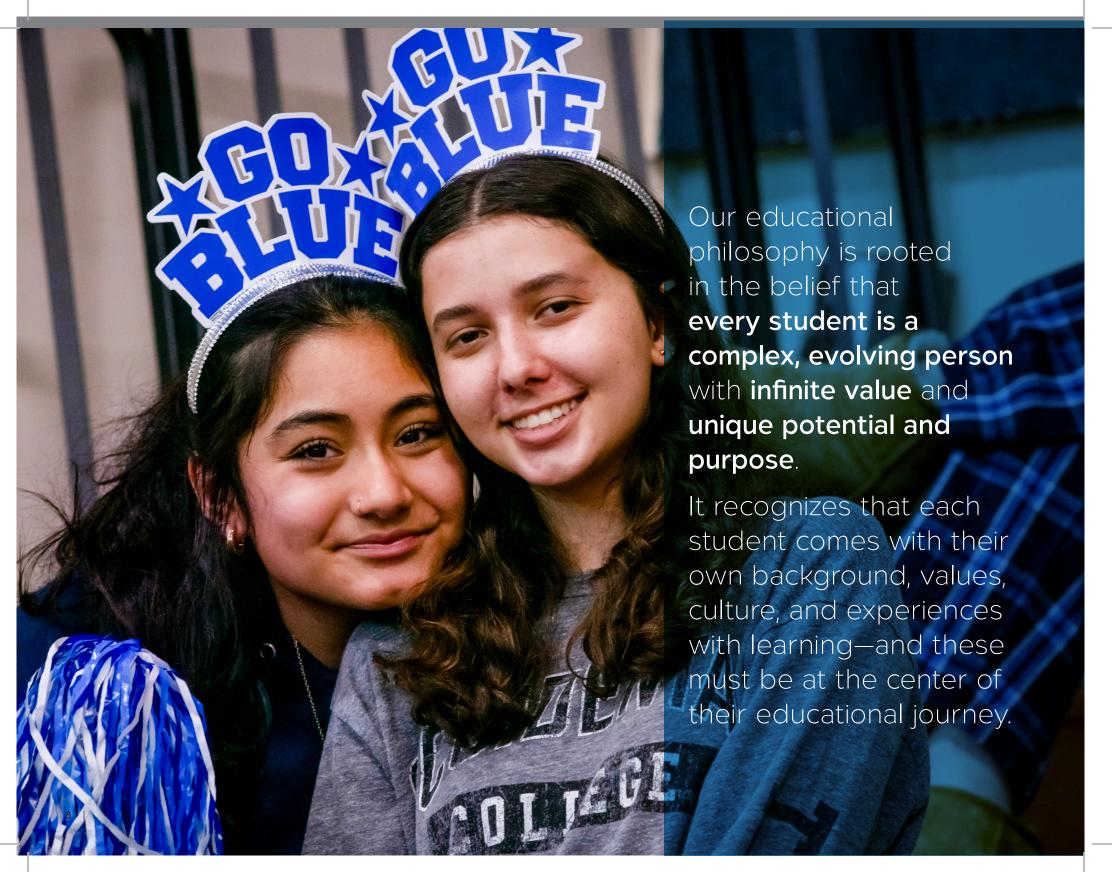
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Kehillah is redefining what it means to be a high school responsible for preparing students for college and life beyond.

Blending research-informed teaching, a deep understanding of adolescent development, universal Jewish values, and an unshakable commitment to a diverse community, we prove that achievement, well-being, and purpose can beautifully converge. We inspire each student to graduate with the skills and knowledge to grow into their ambitions and the values and character to contribute meaningfully to the world.

At Kehillah, we understand students thrive when they're known—not just for what they achieve, but for who they are.





Individuality, in Community

Importantly, individuality is never separate from community at Kehillah. By recognizing and valuing each student's unique identity, we cultivate a culture of belonging where students support one another and grow together. It is through the celebration of our diverse identities that our community becomes stronger, our learning more profound, and our shared purpose more expansive.

Learning as a Journey, Not a Destination

A student is not merely a brain to train, a test score to boost, or a college application to polish. At Kehillah, our community rejects the narrow, achievement-only mindset that too often drives stress and overshadows the deeper purpose of education. Instead, our expert faculty—grounded in research-informed teaching and a deep understanding of adolescent development—partners with students to co-create transformative learning experiences.

Through our **Belong, Build, Become** framework, students engage in a continuous cycle of growth that embraces rigor, agency, well-being, achievement, purpose, and joy—and we celebrate these equally. This approach centers individual development and meaningful connection while reducing the external pressures that too often reduce education to performance alone.

Character & Purpose

Rooted in Jewish values of community, knowledge, agency, dialogue, loving-kindness, and justice, our program offers meaning for everyone in our diverse community. These shared foundations enrich personal growth and deepen connection. Kehillah empowers students not only to grow in character but to uncover and pursue their unique purpose with intention and integrity. Through a culture that values both individuality and collective responsibility, students are supported in charting their own meaningful paths in the world.

Belong, Build, Become

Our framework for learning and growth

We support students through continuous cycles of growth, where they are empowered to achieve personal goals and embrace the process of always

becoming.

Belong

At Kehillah, we understand that a sense of belonging is the foundation for deep learning, risk-taking, and individuality. We therefore commit to creating and holding a welcoming space for all students to come as they are, express their diverse identities, build community, and forge meaningful relationships with faculty and peers. As we create this space for each student, they help create it for others.

Build

Learning at Kehillah is not a passive act—it's a co-constructed cycle of discovery, challenge, and growth. Our expert faculty, deeply attuned to adolescent development and research-informed teaching practices, partner with students to build academic prowess, self-reflection, agency, wellness, character, and joy.

Become

To "Become" at Kehillah means stepping into each stage of growth not as a finished product, but as a lifelong learner and contributor—ready to learn, question, and engage with purpose.

Graduation may mark the end of our students' time on campus, but it is only a milestone in their ongoing journey. Our alumni leave Kehillah equipped for success at top universities. Just as importantly, they carry with them a sense of self, community, and responsibility–and are ready for their next cycle of growth.



We create a strong, tight-knit

Honor Individuality

We recognize that students differ in how they think, learn, grow, and connect and that varied ways of learning are natural human diversity, not problems to fix.

community by cultivating environments that:

Align with Developmental Needs

Adolescents require identity exploration, agency, and emotional safety, alongside academic rigor and challenge.

Harnesses Eustress and Avoids Distress

Eustress is the positive form of stress that motivates and energizes. We challenge students in a way that feels manageable and leads to growth, instead of overwhelm and burn out.

Teach with Intention & Through Relationship

We prioritize connection, care, and trust between students and teachers as central elements of genuine learning.

Foreground Values and Contribution

We provide opportunities to engage and employ Jewish values to guide ethical decision-making and grapple with complexity.

Equip Students for a Life of Purpose

Preparing students for thoughtful citizenship and growth-minded inquiry, beyond high school.



muhitu

Einav Cohen has been teaching in the World Languages department at Kehillah for **20 years**. She teaches Hebrew, Israeli Law & Society Honors, and KAT Israeli Society through Media & Literature.

Kehillah has become my second home.

I love coming to school every day—
the students' energy, the parents'
appreciation, and the kindness of my
colleagues make this community truly
special. I've always felt supported,
accepted, and valued here,
which has allowed me to grow
as both an educator and a person,
and to bring my full self to my teaching."



Our values at Kehillah are more than statements on a piece of paper—they're principles we live through every day. Whether it's our no-cut Athletics program or our choice-centered Academic Pathways, every Kehillah experience is designed to bring our shared values to life.

Community – Kehillah

At Kehillah, community means creating a sense of belonging where every student is known, valued, and supported. We cultivate a diverse and inclusive environment of mutual respect and shared responsibility, fostering connections that transcend differences and strengthen our collective identity.

Pursuit of Knowledge דעת – Da'at

We believe that deep learning is the foundation for a meaningful life. Students are empowered to think critically, question thoughtfully, and build resilient, lifelong knowledge. They develop the skills to know themselves as learners, understanding how they think, process information, and grow intellectually—allowing them to engage with the world with confidence and curiosity.

Agency – Bechirah

Students at Kehillah take ownership of their learning and experiences by creating their own opportunities for growth, leadership, and impact. We encourage initiative, meaningful choice, and the confidence to navigate challenges with purpose and independence.







Dialogue – Machloket

Machloket, or constructive disagreement, encourages respectful debate as a means of pursuing truth and wisdom. Meaningful conversation is at the heart of growth and understanding. We cultivate open, respectful dialogue where diverse perspectives are explored and differences are engaged with curiosity, empathy, and a commitment to learning from one another.

Justice צדק – Tzedek

We are committed to fairness, equity, and ethical action. Inspired by the Jewish tradition's call to pursue justice, we encourage students to recognize injustice, take responsibility, and contribute to building a more just and compassionate world.

Acts of Loving-Kindness מסח – Chesed

Kindness is an essential part of how we learn, lead, and live. We practice empathy, compassion, generosity, and care for others without expectation of reciprocation or reward, recognizing that acts of kindness can transform relationships, communities, and the world.



A Culturally Jewish School—For Everyone Our Jewish lens serves as both anchor and bridge.



Whether rooted in lewish tradition or drawn to our shared values, every family has a place at Kehillah where their identity will be seen and supported.

Kehillah is a culturally lewish school by design—a place where lewish values, traditions, and wisdom shape our curriculum, community, and weekly rhythms in meaningful ways. We observe lewish holidays, Hebrew appears in our language and learning spaces, and traditions are woven into classroom and community life. Yet all student programming is offered as an invitation to explore and connect—not as a requirement of belief or practice.

Adolescent development research is clear: when young people are given the space to explore their identity, beliefs, and perspectives with curiosity and agency, they're far more likely to stay connected. At Kehillah, we don't tell students what to think or believe; we create the conditions for them to discover meaning on their own terms.

For students for whom Judaism is a meaningful part of their identity or interestswhether cultural, spiritual, or still evolving we offer pathways for robust lewish learning and leadership. Guided by deeply knowledgeable faculty, students are empowered to explore, express, and strengthen that connection in ways that are personal and meaningful.

Additionally, students don't need to be Jewish, practice ludaism, or adopt any identity other than their own to belong here fully. Our shared community is designed so that every student experiences the same depth of support, opportunity, and connection. We have created a space where lewish identity and diverse belonging are not in tension they are the point.

The richness of our community comes from the full diversity of identities, perspectives, and worldviews within it. We believe lewish values are not exclusive—they are expansive, resonating across traditions and belief systems and enriching the growth of anyone seeking to become a thoughtful, ethical human being. Our values form a shared foundation for the kind of world we're preparing our students to create.



At Kehillah, we see it as our responsibility to continually develop a research-informed educational program. This means staying current not only with best practices in teaching and learning, but also with research in **adolescent development**, **psychological safety**, **technology**, and **wellness**. We approach even the most widespread educational trends with a critical eye, measuring them against what the research truly shows and against our own shared values. **Here, we outline what we see as challenges in education today—and how Kehillah is solving for them.**

Developmentally:

Postponing Impact on the World Until Adulthood

Students are often treated as though their voice and contributions will only be activated in the future. Social and civil concerns are treated as case studies or thought experiments instead of engagement opportunities.

The Disconnect
Between Education
and Adolescent
Development

Many schools are structured in ways that ignore how teenagers actually develop—socially, emotionally, and cognitively. Students are expected to function at adult levels without the necessary scaffolding for independence and self-understanding.

Our Solutions

Kehillah rejects the idea that students are only *eventual* citizens of the world. We help students develop the skills and habits of mind to take an active role in effecting meaningful change *now*.

Kehillah is committed to an approach that honors adolescent development, balances academic challenge with genuine care, and fosters student agency. We know how to scaffold the transition from middle school to college so that students grow in confidence, independence, and capability.



- -Developmentally
- -Educationally
- -Culturally



4)hat 4)e Solve For

Educationally:

The Factory-Based Model of Schooling

Students are ushered through the highly rigid "assembly line" of education where one size fits all. Many feel that high school is something to "get through" rather than a place of exploration, intellectual curiosity, and joy.

High-Pressure,
Toxic Achievement
Culture

Schools often equate success with relentless rigor, leaving students feeling isolated, anxious, and burned out. In the monomania of college applications, the Bay Area culture often prioritizes competition, perfectionism, and achievement over all else, including the student's health and well-being.

A One-Size-Fits-All Approach to Success Students feel enormous pressure to take certain classes, enroll in specific activities, and conform to a narrow definition of what a good candidate for college looks like.

Our Solutions

At Kehillah, the connection between teachers and students is at the heart of meaningful learning. We replace busywork with authentic experiences that challenge, excite, and spark curiosity.

At Kehillah, we believe true success is defined by the convergence of achievement, well-being, and purpose. We balance high expectations with care so that students can lead meaningful, resilient, and healthy lives.

Kehillah resists the idea that there is only one path to achievement. We foster a more personalized approach, where students can pursue the education they *want* integrated with the education that will take them where they want to go.







Culturally:

The Trap of Binary Thinking

Many schools and academic cultures operate in rigid either/or frameworks. They flatten complexity and force students into narrow identities that don't allow for growth, self-discovery, or nuance.

Jewish Identity as a Mandate

In some Jewish schools, students feel like they must conform to a specific way of being Jewish. Others see Judaism as something uniformly expected of all students. Many Jewish schools require students and families to have a Jewish identity or background.

A Lack of True Belonging in Schools

Many students feel like outsiders in rigid, hierarchical school cultures. Even in "inclusive" schools, students often feel unseen, pressured to conform, or like they are not enough.

Our Solutions

Kehillah rejects binaries and instead embraces the complexity of both/and thinking, allowing for nuance and agency.

At Kehillah, we are a Jewish school for everyone. Students of all backgrounds explore Jewish values, ethics, culture, and history, and are invited to find personal meaning within them. We teach students how to think, not what to think.

Kehillah embraces authentic inclusion, where students can be themselves, feel known by their teachers and peers, and develop a deep sense of community.

Person Furpose



Kehillah's multidimensional educational approach is focused on the individual and their goals. We don't just ask:

How well did this student perform?

We ask:

Who are they becoming—and what partnership do they need from us to get there?







I love the seemingly impossible balance Kehillah has between academic rigor and social-emotional prosperity. I am receiving such a high-quality education. I am always challenged, and my curiosity is fueled. And at the same time, I feel unbelievably supported. Kehillah is a very special place."









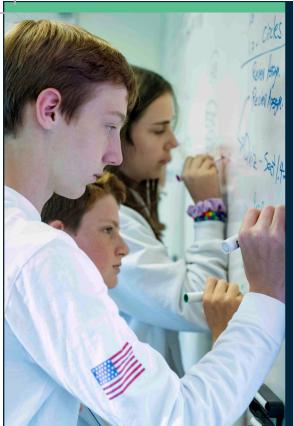


















Academic Lepartments

Our full Curriculum Guide has current offerings, course descriptions, graduation requirements, and more information about our academic program.







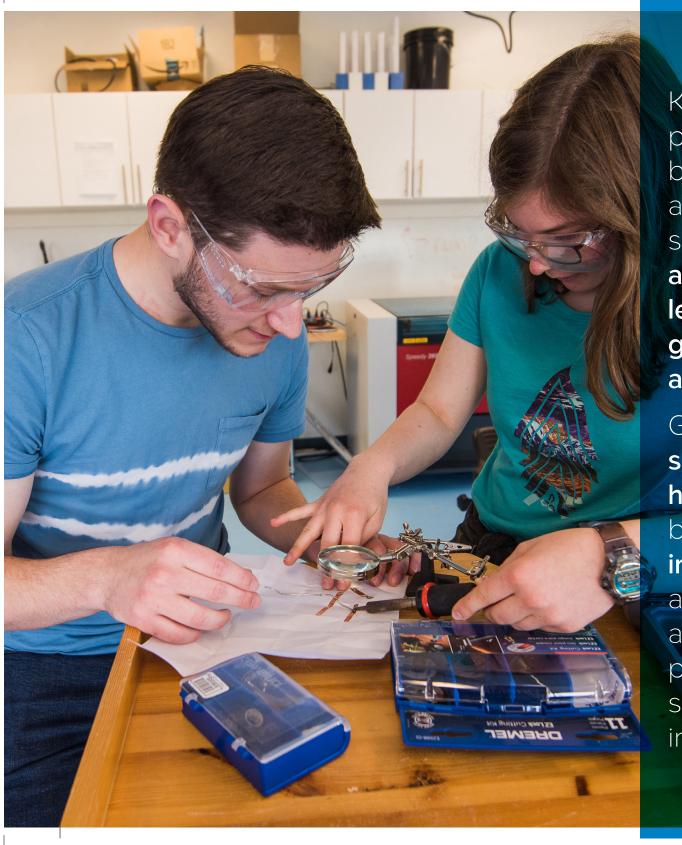






At Kehillah, students can cocreate an Academic Pathway that reflects their interests and aspirations. Working closely with college counselors and academic leadership, they build a schedule tailored to their goals. For those seeking the highest level of challenge, our Kehillah Advanced Topics (KAT) courses provide the opportunity to engage in collegelevel work and explore specific disciplines in greater depth.

English
History & Social Sciences
Jewish Studies
World Languages
Math
Science & Engineering
Visual & Performing Arts (VPA)



Kehillah's academic program is an intentional blend of rigor, purpose, and care. It challenges students not only to achieve at their highest levels, but also to grow into the people they are meant to become.

Grounded in the science of how learning happens and shaped by a commitment to inclusion and meaning, our approach is both practical and philosophical—preparing students for success in college and in life.



#FindYourVoice

In English, every student learns to be bold—whether by speaking up in class discussions or discovering their own power through writing. From hesitant writers to confident essayists, students grow into voices that matter.

Sample Course Offerings:

- English 9
- English 10 (+Honors)
- English 11
- KAT English 11: What is "Human"?
- KAT English 12: The History & Theory of Literature
- 19th Century Russian Literature
- Banned Books
- Chaos or Control: Dystopian Literature
- The Harlem Renaissance





#Relatable

History & Social Sciences inspire students to see themselves as active participants in the human story. By creating welcoming spaces to explore challenging subjects, we encourage students to relate to each other, to the past, and to their own developing identities. Beyond "just history," our department helps students uncover their stories within the greater narrative.

Sample Course Offerings:

- World History 1 & 2 (+Honors)
- US History
- Diaspora History
- Economics: Dollars & Sense
- Economics: Personal Finance
- Women's & Gender Studies
- KAT Government: Global Politics
- KAT Government: The American Political System
- KAT History: The Idea of Europe
- KAT Psychology: Human Behavior
- KAT The Modern Middle East

Sample Course Offerings:

- Bibliodrama: 440 Years
- Breaking Open the Heart: Jewish Plays
- Cana'an to Kehillah
- Contemporary Israel
- Creative Midrash: Classical Texts
- Ethics, Law, & Medicine
- Feminism, Law, & Tradition
- Holocaust & Human Behavior
- Illuminating the Margins: Women in Tanakh
- Introduction to Jewish Studies 101
- Jewish Legal Codes
- Kabbalah: God, Ourselves, & Each Other
- LovIN The Torah
- OMG: 20th & 21st Century Jewish Theology
- Prophets & Politicians
- Sinners: Psychological & Theological Explorations
- JSH/JSHI Great Debates of the Talmud
- JSH/JSHI Moral & Spiritual Challenges
- KAT Water: Families, Prophecy, & Wisdom

#ThePointIsToMakeMeaning

Jewish Studies invites students to explore meaning, identity, and tradition in new and relevant ways. Together, we cultivate a space where rooted tradition and shared learning create connection and belonging, uncovering possibilities that empower every student to grow.



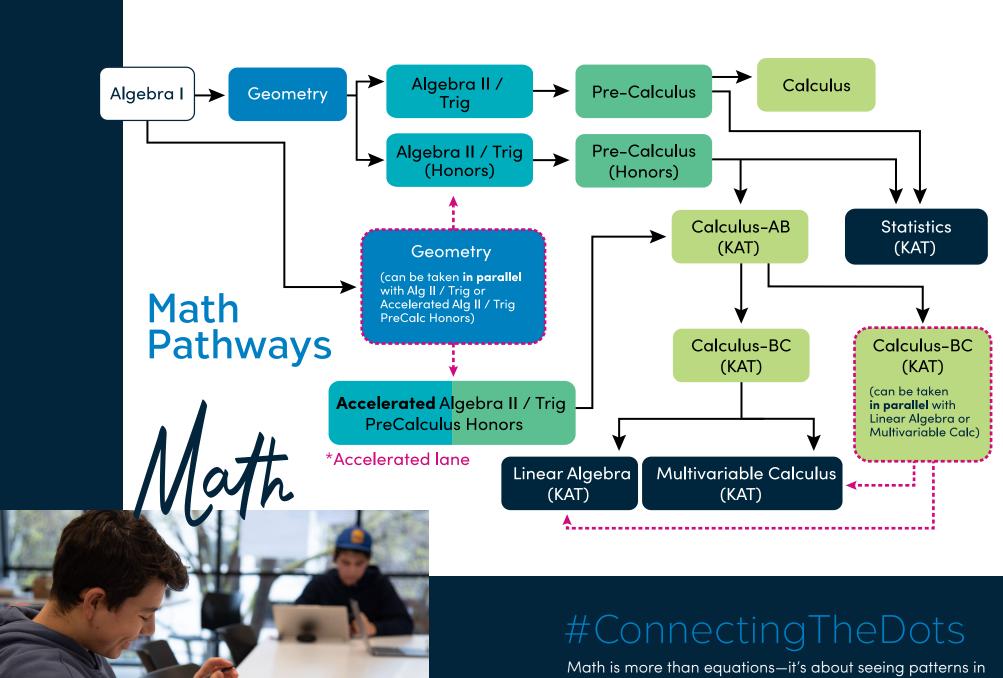
#Authentic Konnections



Languages foster connection that extends far past the classroom walls. Through authentic texts, cultural engagement, and meaningful relationships, students learn to connect with each other, with community, and with the world.

Sample Course Offerings:

- Hebrew 1, 2
- Hebrew Honors 3, 4, 5, 6
- Israeli Law & Society Honors
- KAT Israeli Society through Media & Literature
- Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4
- Spanish Honors 3, 4
- KAT Perspectivas y Narrativas: The Diverse Identity of the Spanish Speaking World
- Latin 1, 2, 3
- Mandarin 1, 2, 3, 4



Math is more than equations—it's about seeing patterns in the world and building connections with others. Through discovery and real-world problem solving, students experience math as a bridge to understanding.



#Your**K**ability

Agency drives everything we do in Science and Engineering. Through hands-on experiments, innovation, original research, and national competitions, students take ownership of their learning to explore the world around them.

Sample Course Offerings:

- Biology
- Chemistry (+Honors)
- Conceptual Physics
- Physics (+Honors)
- Human Anatomy & Physiology
- Marine Biology
- Introduction to Astronomy
- KAT Biology
- KAT Chemistry
- KAT Physics C
- Computer Science & Coding
- Robotics 1 & 2
- KAT Computer Science
- KAT Data Structures
- KAT Advanced Algorithms



#CommunityThroughCreativity

The arts build belonging. As students collaborate in the creative process, they discover their voices, their talents, and a community where imagination thrives. Beginning with Applied Arts in the ninth grade, students steadily build a creative tool belt of skills—collaboration, design thinking, communication, and confidence—that enrich every stage of their lives.

Sample Course Offerings:

- Applied Arts Studio
- Studio Art
- Intro to Illustration
- Digital Design 1 & 2
- Digital Photography 1 & 2
- Advanced Art Making
- Publication Design (Yearbook)
- Acoustic Guitar–Family Ensemble 1 & 2
- Jazz/Rock Ensemble
- Music Studio 1 & 2
- Music Theory & Composition 1 & 2
- Senior Studio
- Theatre Arts 1: Create
- Theatre Arts 2: Explore
- Theatre Arts Honors: Lead





Through guidance, care, and connection, we help students understand themselves as learners, integrating academic growth, emotional wellness, and purposeful decision-making into every step of their journey.

The Center for Learning Success

The Center for Learning Success at Kehillah empowers students to understand themselves as learners and to grow with confidence and purpose. Grounded in our belief that every student has infinite value and unique potential, The Center partners with students, families, advisors, and teachers to build individualized strategies for academic success and personal growth. Through this collaborative approach, students develop the self-awareness and agency to excel.

Mental Health and Wellness

Our wellness programming equips students with skills for respectful communication, active listening, conflict resolution, and relationship repair. Our School Counselor provides a safe and confidential space for students to talk about personal challenges that affect their well-being at school, as well as offering short-term counseling, and connects families with referrals and resources for longer-term support when needed. Our student support staff also nurture healthy adolescent development by encouraging independence, self-advocacy, and the confidence to navigate challenges with empathy and purpose.

College Counseling

Each student's path is unique, and Kehillah's college process is intentionally designed to be a journey of growth, reflection, and purpose. Beginning in the ninth grade, counselors work closely with students to help them understand their strengths, interests, and aspirations so they can make thoughtful choices about their future.

Our students are accepted to highly selective colleges and universities across the country, and just as importantly, they pursue paths that reflect their individual goals, passions, and sense of purpose. At Kehillah, we understand that success takes many forms, and each one is celebrated as an authentic expression of who a student is and who they are becoming.



Student Life at Kehillah is vibrant, inclusive, and fueled by student imagination. From Robotics, Student Government, and Theatre to clubs, travel, and volunteering, there are countless ways for students to get involved. And, if an opportunity doesn't yet exist, students are empowered to create it!

Athletics at Kehillah is equally inclusive—centered on teamwork, growth, and belonging. Our no-cut policy ensures that anyone who wants to participate has the opportunity to do so. We also offer both competitive and recreational options that allow every student to find their place on the field or court.













Student Life & Athletics #OpportunitiesForAll







Sample Sport offerings:

Fall Sports:

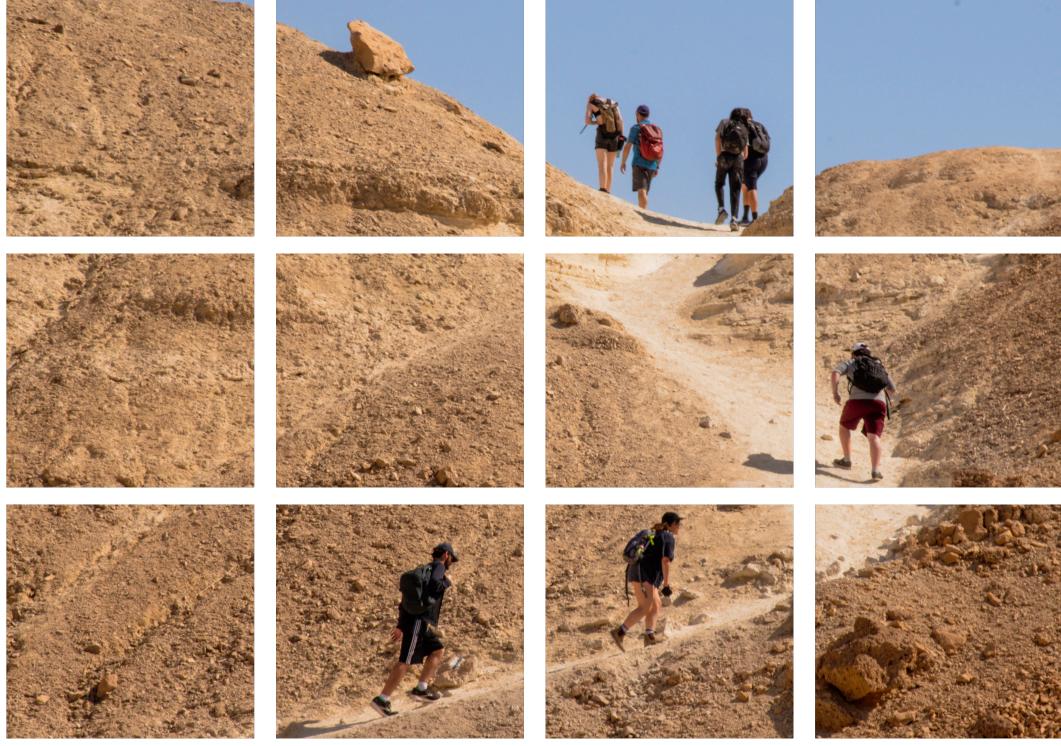
- Cross Country
- Girls Volleyball
- Soccer

Winter Sports:

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball

Spring Sports:

- Tennis
- Track
- Boys Volleyball
- Baseball



A Pre-Collegiate School Where independence is learned, supported, and lived



As a community, we understand that preparing students for college—and for life—doesn't just happen. Our intentional scaffolding ensures that by the time they graduate, students can navigate independence, self-advocacy, time management, and choice with confidence and purpose.

This growth unfolds over four years through increasing levels of agency and responsibility. Ninth graders begin with guided independence that gradually expands into full open-campus privileges by eleventh grade. Each student also has free blocks throughout the week to manage their time, building the judgment and accountability essential for life beyond high school.

Our campus mirrors this balance of freedom and structure. Students choose from a variety of spaces that support their diverse needs—from lively social areas and outdoor spaces to quiet corners for study, reflection, or wellness. Every part of our environment is designed with students in mind, reinforcing that Kehillah is their community.

Throughout this journey, students are surrounded by caring adults who know them well: teachers with flexible time for extra help and exploration; advisors, counselors, and our rabbi; and academic leaders who maintain opendoor policies. We understand that growing into adulthood is an intentional process—and our faculty manifest this progression through practices grounded in research on adolescent development, strengthened by trust, care, and a deep commitment to fostering belonging. Students enter Kehillah as middle schoolers and graduate as confident young adults, ready to take on the academic, social, and personal challenges of college and beyond.

Community + Values + Achievement + Gr Achievemensch

Inspired by the Yiddish word mensch—a person of integrity and honor—our "Achievemensch" strives to do well and do good, pursuing excellence while staying grounded in compassion and a deep sense of responsibility to others.



frowth + Individuality + Wellness + Purpose =

During their time at Kehillah, our students will gain:

Emotional Resilience & Well-Being

Equipped with wellness tools and supported by meaningful relationships, students demonstrate emotional intelligence, resilience, and a lasting commitment to their personal well-being.

Academic Excellence Without Burnout

They will achieve high academic standards without the anxiety and stress typically associated with competitive environments.

A Strong Sense of Identity & Purpose

Through intentional exploration, they will gain clarity about their personal values, interests, and goals, leading to a confident sense of self.

Critical Thinking & Intellectual Curiosity

Their intellectual curiosity will be robust, supported by the ability to engage thoughtfully, ask meaningful questions, and embrace complex issues.

Cultural Competence & Global Citizenship

Having explored culturally Jewish and universally applicable values, they will appreciate diversity, engage thoughtfully across cultural divides, and act responsibly within global contexts.

Agency & Self-Direction

By practicing autonomy and meaningful choice, they will be proactive, self-directed learners and leaders.

Ethical Awareness & Social Responsibility

Guided by values like justice, dialogue, and kindness, they will consistently demonstrate ethical reasoning and an engaged commitment to their communities.

Interpersonal Skills & Empathy

Being a part of a relational, inclusive environment will result in well-developed interpersonal skills, empathy, and the ability to connect deeply and meaningfully with diverse groups of people.

Preparedness for Life Beyond High School

They will not only be prepared academically for top universities but also possess life skills crucial for thriving in personal and professional settings.

Lifelong Learning & Adaptability

They will embrace the idea of continual growth, remaining adaptable, curious, and ready to navigate future uncertainties with confidence and competence.









In Short

Kehillah is an inclusive, independent school rooted in Jewish values and culture, where students are placed at the center of their learning journey. Guided by expert educators with a deep understanding of adolescent development, our students co-create a community dedicated to growth, purpose, and a true sense of belonging. Here, excellence is pursued not at the expense of well-being, individuality, or community—but made possible through them.

Ve're glad you're here.

Together, we can ensure high school isn't just a race to a finish line—it's the beginning of who your student will become.



Go Rams!



































VEW YOR

Learn more. **kehillah.org**



Belong, Build, Become.

The Kehillah School · Grades 9-12 3900 Fabian Way, Palo Alto, CA, 94303

kehillah.org