



Belong, Build, Become.

## As 25th Anniversary Nears, Kehillah Jewish High School Introduces New Mission Statement, Name, and Logo

*Updates come after yearlong study and extensive family and community engagement*

**Palo Alto, CA — [Sept. 20, 2024]:** After a yearlong study of the school’s values and community, the Board of Trustees at Kehillah Jewish High School shared an updated mission statement, name, and logo with students, families, and alumni.

The new mission statement reads:

*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.*

This mission statement is the culmination of extensive research focused on clarifying and strengthening the school’s organizational identity. The findings, which were presented to the school community at a webinar on September 15, align with insights from the California Association of Independent Schools accreditation process, the school’s work with Challenge Success at Stanford, the Independent School Management Survey, and the Listen & Learn Tour.

The research found that Kehillah offers a unique and transformative educational experience. It also indicated that the school is often misunderstood and undervalued in the secondary school landscape.

“Despite the remarkable achievements of our students and the strong sense of community that defines us, external perceptions haven’t kept pace with Kehillah’s programming,” Jonathan Manson, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Daisy Pellant, Head of School, wrote in a recent [message to the school community](#). “Therefore, a broader effort is necessary to better communicate the exceptional nature of our school.”



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As a result of years of thoughtful exploration, discussion, and these most recent findings, coupled with the adoption of its new mission statement, the Board voted to change the name of the school from Kehillah Jewish High School to The Kehillah School. The heart of the name and identity remains rooted in the Hebrew word for community, “kehillah,” and the school remains steadfast in its commitment as a Jewish school, cultivating student voice, pursuing justice, and embodying Jewish values such as critical thinking and respectful dialogue.

In many respects, this change is simply a formality as “Kehillah” has been how the school has been referred to for years.

Additionally, the school has designed a new logo, inspired by a ram’s horn and the four blasts of the Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) shofar, symbolizing a call to unity and a new beginning. The new logo will be officially unveiled at an upcoming event for the school community, and the school will transition in print and digital over the current school year.

The Kehillah School offers a rich and challenging educational program, led by compassionate, expert educators who guide students toward success without the stress of constant competition. In addition to rigorous academics, students are encouraged to use their voices, engage in respectful discourse, and take action in the pursuit of justice — all while developing a genuine sense of belonging within the school community.

*For more information about The Kehillah School, visit [www.kehillah.org](http://www.kehillah.org).*

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