

Curriculum

2018 - 2019

תשע"ט

Menacheles

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ע"ש מרת
פריידא בת
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ע"ה



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PRIORITYZE
STUDY FUN TIPS
TEST TOOLS
SUPPORT SUCCESS
DEVELOP GOALS
TIME QUIZ WORK
OUR QUESTIONS ANSWERS
GROWTH
LEARN WRITE
REVIEW
THINK TRANSLATE
TECHNIQUE PLAN
PREPARE
KNOWLEDGE
PRACTICE
REENAS BAIS YAAKOV
SKILLS
MANAGE







"When I go to shul, I look forward to hear the פסוקים of the הפטרה; I am transported back into the dynamic classroom where the love of the נביא and the lessons came alive."

- C. S. Kamin
Class of 2017

פרשת השבוע

The פרשה course presents students with an insightful analysis of פרשת השבוע and focuses on the development of a particular ענין each week.

מגילות

With the goal of exposing our students to a mature understanding of the חמש מגילות, this eleventh grade course is developed through the lens of חז"ל and contemporary מפרשים. The curriculum includes an in-depth study of מגילות רות and שיר השירים, an independent research study on מגילת אסתר, and an introduction to קהלת, providing students with a unique perspective and appreciation of the קריאות read on יום טוב.

"My goal is to impart to our students the beauty and strength of our מסורה, and help them incorporate the lessons of חומש into their daily lives."

- Mrs. E. Nusbaum

משלי

Through the comprehensive study of ספר משלי, students learn to appreciate the enduring wisdom of שלמה המלך. This twelfth grade course focuses on internalizing the life lessons implicit in the פסוקים through thought-provoking, text-based and interactive discussions. The topics that the course addresses include רעות, בטחון, שמחה, and מדות such as עצלות and קנאה, culminating in the in-depth study of אשת חיל.

למודי קודש - תוכן ענינים

תנ"ך

נביא

The נביא curriculum at RBY equips students with a deep and meaningful understanding of the נבואה שהוצרכה לדורות. Teachers cover most of each ספר, thereby enabling students to grasp the unique message and style of each נביא as it relates to his generation as well as to ours. Our נביאים program combines tenth and eleventh graders in small קבוצות to facilitate the learning of both content and skills.

חומש

RBY's חומש program provides a medium through which students can attain a scope and breadth of understanding in חמשה חומשי תורה. By combining both עיון and בקיאות components, students reach the remarkable goal of completing a full ספר each year. An additional eleventh grade course in ספר ויקרא, enables them to make a full fledged סיום on all five ספרים by the end of twelfth grade. The comprehensive חומש curriculum encourages students to draw relevant לימודים from the פסוקים and fosters skill development through the analysis of מפרשים including ראשונים and רש"י, רמב"ן and other מפרשים, while imparting an appreciation for the richness of Torah and its centrality in guiding our lives.



תהלים

Using classic and contemporary מפרשים, this tenth grade course takes a thematic approach to various פרקים throughout ספר תהלים, highlighting the profundity and relevance within the timeless words of דוד המלך. The curriculum follows the Jewish calendar, with an emphasis on פרקים that are recited at various times of the year. Our hope is for students to develop a connection to this ספר which will accompany them throughout their lives.



"Historia classes connected me to my roots, so that I can build my future based on the important lessons that I learned from our past."

- C. Leiter
Class of 2016

מחשבת ישראל

This eleventh grade course is an overview of the Rambam's י"ג עקרי אמונה. The objective is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the Thirteen Principles of Faith so that they internalize a synthesis of דעת and אמונה.

תולדות ישראל

In accordance with the mandate of "זכור ימות עולם בינו שנות דור ודור" this course develops within students a personal connection to כלל ישראל's past. The four year curriculum begins with חורבן בית ראשון, and follows כלל ישראל through the Diaspora and into the 20th century. We focus on the themes of the eternity of כלל ישראל and תורה and a recognition of the השגחה פרטית throughout. With extensive use of primary source material, students learn to interact with difficult text and emerge with both the basic facts and a wonderfully nuanced understanding of the selected topic. Source material covers a wide range of both ספרי קדש and secular sources, including Midrashic and Talmudic excerpts, medieval commentators, halachic responsa, the works of Josephus, eyewitness accounts, and formal edicts, charters, legislation, and speeches.

"My teachers in Reenas didn't just teach me **what** to think; they taught me how to think."

- E. Eisenberg
Class of 2014

באור תפלה

The ninth grade באור תפלה course which focuses on ברכות השחר and פסוקי דזמרה, provides students with insight into the profound words and concepts of our תפלות. Through mastering the meaning of the verses, students learn to utilize the valuable gift of תפלה.

למודי קודש - תוכן ענינים

נושאים ביהדות

ש.א.ג.י.

ש.א.ג.י., an acronym for שבת אחים גם יחד, is our tenth grade course devoted to improving interpersonal relationships. Topics include and כבוד חברים, אונאת דברים שמירת הלשון.

יהדות

Our יהדות program targets the emotional, spiritual and intellectual needs of our adolescent student body and is designed to ensure that students leave high school with a solid background and a depth of understanding in יסודי יהדות. This comprehensive course builds upon sources in מאמרי חז"ל and is developed through the prism of תנ"ך, ספרי מוסר, and ספרי מחשבה. The ninth and tenth grade curriculum covers fundamental themes in Jewish life including ימים טובים, אמונה, בין ישראל לעמים שבת, גדלות האדם, בחירה, and תיקון המדות, while the eleventh grade curriculum addresses more mature themes such as the essence of the Jewish woman and her unique role in כלל ישראל.



הלכה

The הלכה curriculum in RBY inculcates our students with a steadfast and unwavering commitment to דעת תורה and שמירת הלכה. Students are equipped with the knowledge and tools to anticipate and ask relevant שאלות in their daily lives. The primary areas of study are שבת, ברכות, and בשורות, along with other critical areas of הלכה למעשה, including יחוד and הלכות כבוד אב ואם, ממונות.



"It is unbelievable how our teachers have cared for us way beyond our high school years. Whether it was shidduchim, college, or just general advice - once their student, always their student."

- D. Tam
Class of 2011

עברית דקדוק

Our עברית course is designed to ensure that students emerge with a fluency in the language that will enable them to engage in their own learning of ספרי קדש, as well as to communicate in spoken עברית. Hebrew language skills are developed by emphasizing all facets of the language through ספרות, שפה, and דקדוק.



"I love the warmth in RBY, and how the teachers and staff look out for every individual girl."

- E. Emmer
Class of 2020

פרקי אבות

This ninth grade course develops awareness and fosters growth in areas of ביו אדם לחבירו and בין אדם למקום by utilizing the words of חז"ל as a springboard for discussion and introspection.

Course Content

Secular Studies

SCIENCE



The student-centered learning experiences of our science curriculum are designed to instill an appreciation for Hashem's world, develop an intellectual curiosity, and expose our students to a broad science knowledge base. The curriculum ensures that they work toward mastery of the College Board's seven science practices; using models, using math, asking scientific questions, collecting data, analyzing data, working with scientific explanations, and building connections within and between domains. We begin with a comprehensive biology program in the 9th grade, with an emphasis on cellular biology, genetics, and human body systems. 10th and 11th grades rotate yearly between chemistry and physics. In these two disciplines, students select between conceptual, math-based, or AP tracks, allowing students to explore similar topics while staying within their zone of proximal development. Science electives offered in 12th grade include AP Biology and AP Environmental Science.



MATH



Our math program develops students' clear deductive reasoning and mathematical thinking while building real world mathematical skills. To facilitate the learning of those skills in both a challenging and supportive environment, we have a tracked program, often offering pull-out classes in both directions. Our curriculum has embraced the new shifts driving math education, such as the Common Core and the new SAT, which have brought probability and statistics to the mathematical forefront. Students in 9th grade take Algebra I or II, depending on their track; they continue in Algebra II or Pre-calculus in 11th grade. All 10th graders take Geometry. Math electives in both 11th and 12th include AP Calculus, College Math, and AP Statistics. Our statistics class utilizes the STATA program which enables students to apply statistical skills and data analysis across many areas.

Course Content

Secular Studies

HISTORY



The RBY History department emphasizes that learning about our past initiates understanding about ourselves and our world. Students are asked to engage with historical actors on their own terms through the use of primary sources; to analyze and question the judgments of professional historians; and ultimately to form their own interpretations using the tools and methods of historical analysis. Students also learn to recognize universal themes and motifs that link disparate events. The well-rounded course of study includes a year and a half of Global studies in the 9th and 10th grades; American History begins mid-year 10th grade and continues into 11th. All 12th graders take Holocaust studies with many students also taking our AP U.S. Government elective.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



The Reenas ELA program is both literacy rich and writing intensive. Tapping into the Common Core and the creativity inherent in private schools, Reenas teachers create units of study that interest and challenge our students. Students are exposed to a wide variety of genres, both fiction and non-fiction, which are used to develop critical analysis skills and build content knowledge of the literary canon. The 9th and 10th grade classes study World Literature, while the 11th and 12th grade are historically specific, studying American and British literature, respectively. Unique to RBY is a writing portfolio program in the 10th-11th grades. Students keep track of their structure and style development by reflecting on teacher feedback and applying it to future writings. Throughout the grades, vocabulary and grammar are taught in context and with real world applications.



"History always came to life in the Reenas classrooms. I could not be where I am today in my career as a Museum Educator without Reenas inspiring my love for learning about the past in history classes."

- M. Gordon
Class of 2012



COMPUTERS



RBY recognizes the importance of equipping students with the technology skills of the future. To this end, we have implemented a comprehensive computer curriculum that develops expertise in both business skills and graphic design. The 9th grade curriculum develops the students' proficiency in Microsoft Office, focusing on Word and Excel. The 10th grade curriculum switches from the business mode to design through the study of Adobe Photoshop and InDesign, while 11th graders return to develop their business skills through Quickbooks. Our 12th grade computer electives include AP Programming and Web Design. The 12th grade yearbook is the pinnacle of our computer curriculum, as students combine all their computer knowledge to create a personal and unique publication.

"Reenas computer classes gave me the skills to start a successful business - printing and mailing invitations.

- Leah Finkel
Class of 2011



Course Content

Secular Studies

ART



In this tenth grade course, students cultivate the skills necessary to draw realistically, while enhancing their individual creativity. Using a variety of media, they learn about contour, line, form and negative space, relative size and proportion, perspective, light and shadows, and the proper use of equipment, in an enjoyable and supportive studio format.

SPANISH

Our two year Spanish curriculum focuses on basic reading, writing and grammar skills. The immersive environment enables students to develop the ability to converse comfortably in the Spanish language.



CURRENT EVENTS



In our Current Events class, students are exposed to the issues of the day through both textual and audiovisual materials. Students evaluate the newsworthiness of events, connect the news to their own lives, and formulate educated opinions about world affairs. Special attention is given to events in the U.S. and Israel.

LIFE SKILLS

This series of six self-contained modules is designed to enhance and develop ninth grade students' understanding and exposure to life skills such as: Study Skills, First Aid and CPR, Nutrition and Culinary Arts, and Sewing.

FINANCIAL LITERACY



This 11th grade class is designed to give students the tools to manage their finances correctly and achieve financial stability. Based on the Mesila curriculum, units of study include budgeting, investing, loans and borrowing. Students gain knowledge and skills such as understanding mortgages, calculating compound interest, tracking expenses and building a cash flow plan, that will serve them well in their post-high school life!

"One of the amazing things about Reenas is that there are always new programs, workshops and ideas being offered. If we asked for it we got it!"

- Y. Dolinger
Class of 2014



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education at RBY serves as an exciting outlet and promotes healthy living through physical activity. All students take gym one period per week and may opt to take an additional class in dance or fitness during clubs period.



CLUBS

Reenas Bais Yaakov is proud to offer students the opportunity to develop skills in diverse areas. Clubs offered include guitar, creative writing, dance, hair design and culinary arts. The club period is an exciting time for students to learn both practical and social skills across the grades.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Between the Lines is a school wide program that promotes the skills necessary for higher education in a fun and meaningful way. Our entire student body reads and annotates select expository texts and responds to them using textual sources and personal background. The ideas are then discussed by a panel of students at a school-wide assembly. Awards are given for innovative thinking and creative writing.



STEM

STEM education is an innovative, hands-on approach to teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM education weaves together these four disciplines into a single curriculum that bases learning on real-world examples. The STEM program is designed and supported by the Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE), a non-profit organization that seeks to enhance the quality of Jewish education in the US. It is a two year, optional program offered to our 10th and 11th graders.

"Between the Lines gives me the opportunity to challenge myself to express an articulate opinion."

- E. S. Eidelman
Class of 2019

CO-CURRICULAR

Special Programs

BOOK CLUB

In this voluntary program, students read a select Jewish book and then discuss it as a group over a school sponsored lunch. Guided by teachers, students engage in fascinating conversations as they examine themes, historical eras, famous people, and ideas raised in the text.

SENIOR SEMINAR

This weekly course addresses areas of relevance to young adults on the threshold of graduation. The major topic “דע מה להשיב”, equips students with the knowledge to be articulate spokeswomen for Torah Yiddishkeit. Smaller units include צניעות in the workplace and responsible technology use, amongst other topics of importance to our Seniors.



BETTER TOGETHER

This program, funded by the Legacy Heritage Foundation, pairs seniors with seniors! Twelfth grade students join a group of elderly people at the JCC each month for an hour of discussion and socializing. Students benefit from the wealth of life experience that these Seniors impart and learn about Jewish history through the eyes of those who lived it. Students journal their impressions and collect their thoughts in a publication which they present to the seniors at the culminating banquet.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Activities

G.O.

Reenas Bais Yaakov believes that wholesome fun is an essential component of the high school experience, and G.O. brings that belief to life! Monthly Rosh Chodesh assemblies, trips, and weekly activity periods are only some of the ways that G.O. infuses the school with ruach and simcha. Visit our hallway on any day of the year and you'll be amazed by G.O.'s beautiful decor, cleverly planned games, and lively music. No day is just 'another day' at Reenas!

TON

Our chesed program invites students to undertake a one-hour-weekly volunteer position to fill a vast array of chesed needs within their communities. Whether they are spending time with special needs children, helping a busy mother of young children, serving as Bnos counselors, or tutoring, Reenas students develop a strong chesed ethic, gaining even as they are giving.



PRODUCTION

Production at Reenas alternates between a full-scale play and a Mother/Daughter מלוה מלכה presentation. Students from all grades have the opportunity to utilize their talents to produce a 100% student run event, from script to lyrics, music and dance, scenery and costumes, production is a result of magnificent teamwork.

CHAGIGOS - ACTIVITY PERIOD



At RBY, we realize that personal growth and character development take place as often outside the classroom as inside. Our rich co-curricular and extra-curricular programs allow students to develop their talents and abilities by taking on leadership roles and helping to orchestrate school events.

HALICHOS

הליכות קילא רות, a program dedicated in memory of our student Kayla Rus bas Bunim Tuvya ע"ה, addresses personal development through mini presentations and engaging activities. This year we are exploring the מידה of שמחה from many angles. Units include: "Happiness- an Inside Job" (defining the מדה), "When Fun is NOT Funny" (exploring the negative repercussions of לצנות), "Dance in the Rain" (living and thinking optimistically) and "Bring on the Simcha!" (an exposition of different simchos and their significance in the life cycle.) Through the use of real life examples and hands-on workshops, students gain insight that will enhance their personal lives as well as their relationships with others.



"Extra curricular activities helped us all feel more united and connected, forming a bond of a family rather than a school."

- R. Schreiber
Class of 2012

YIMEI IYUN

Quarterly Yemei Iyun uplift the 'Reenas calendar' and offer students the opportunity to think deeply about fundamental topics in Yahadus, and to explore them on many levels. These original programs feature engaging interactive workshops, in addition to world class speakers, student and guest panels, and audio-visual presentations. Every student owns a Yom Iyun binder which is used to collect each signature Reenas Yom Iyun packet, a treasure of memories to take with her from these special days.

SHABBATON - CLASS TRIPS



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