Curriculum

2021 - 2022

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

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 חazole and contemporary מפרשים. The curriculum includes an in-depth study of מגלותרות, 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 ויהי into their daily lives.”

- Mrs. E. Nusbaum

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, ממדות, וקנאה, culminating in the in-depth study of אשת חיל.

“When I go to shul, I look forward to hearing the פסוקים of the חפשה; I am transported back into the dynamic classroom where the love of the נביא and the lessons came alive.”

- C. S. (Kamin) Cohen
Class of 2017
The curriculum at RBY equips students with a deep and meaningful understanding of the Bible, from the Shas to the Tora. Teachers cover most of each book, thereby enabling students to grasp the unique message and style of each Bible as it relates to his generation as well as to ours. Our נביא program combines tenth and eleventh graders in small groups to facilitate the learning of both content and skills.

RBY’s program provides a medium through which students can attain a scope and breadth of understanding in the בחם חומשי תורה. By combining both יspirational 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 למידות from the פסוקים and fosters skill development through the analysis of מפרשים including רש''י, רמב''ן and other ראשונים, while imparting an appreciation for the richness of Torah and its centrality in guiding our lives.

Using classic and contemporary מפרשים, this tenth grade course takes a thematic approach to various פורקים 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 פורקים 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.
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 אמונה and דעת. In accordance with the mandate of “זכור ימות עולם בינו שנות דור ודור” this course develops within students a personal connection to כלל ישראל 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 teach me what to think; they taught me how to think."  
- E. Eisenberg  
Class of 2014

The ninth grade באור תפלה course which focuses on בורא תפלה and פסוקי ודודות provides students with insight into the profound words and concepts of our תפלה. Through mastering the meaning of the verses, students learn to utilize the valuable gift of תפלה.
Our 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 תנ"ך, ספרי מחשבה, ספרי מוסר, ספרי חכם, and מאמצי חז''ל. The ninth and tenth grade curriculum covers fundamental themes in Jewish life including ימים טובים, אמונה, שבת, גโลות, נפרדות, ביזה, 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 כל ישראל עין ישראל.

An acronym for שד.ג.י, שד.ג.י, is our tenth grade course devoted to improving interpersonal relationships. Topics include כבוד חברים, אונאת דברים, and שמירת הלשון.

The הלכה curriculum in RBY inculcates our students with a steadfast and unwavering commitment to שד.ג.י. Students are equipped with the knowledge and tools to anticipate and ask relevant שאלות in their daily lives. The primary areas of study are ברכות, ס︰יו, and שד.ג.י, along with other critical areas of הלכה, including שד.ג.י and הלכות בודד אב ואם, מומונות, and שד.ג.י.
Our 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 שפה, ספרות 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

“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. (Avraham) Tam
Class of 2011

This ninth grade course develops awareness and fosters growth in areas of ביו אדם and בו אדם לומדים להיבר, utilizing the words of חז”ל as a springboard for discussion and introspection.
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 base of knowledge in the sciences. 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 Honors tracks, allowing students to explore similar topics while staying within their zone of proximal development. Science electives offered in 12th grade include AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, and Principles of Modern Biology.

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, which has brought probability and statistics to the mathematical forefront. Students in 9th grade take Algebra I or II, depending on their track; they continue to Algebra II or Pre-calculus in 11th grade. All 10th graders take Geometry. Math electives in 12th grade include AP Calculus, College Math, and Statistics.
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.

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-12th 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

ART

In this ninth 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 speaking skills. The immersive environment enables students to develop the ability to converse comfortably in the Spanish language.

“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
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. 11th grade is a time that students can pursue their computer interests by electing to take either an Introduction to Programming course or an advanced Graphic Design class. 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.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education at RBY serves as an exciting outlet and promotes healthy living through physical activity. Students have the opportunity to participate in various sports and activities, including basketball and yoga.

CURRENT EVENTS

The Current Events course in tenth and eleventh grades exposes students to contemporary national and international issues. The class addresses a range of topics and analyzes them using critical thinking and textual analysis. In Current Events in RBY, students move beyond voicing opinions to defending their thinking and perspective-taking. Lessons are interactive and student-centered.

HOME ECONOMICS

The 10th grade home economics class gives students the instruction and the time to learn necessary life skills. The class is divided into modules including practical economics and budgeting; sewing and housekeeping; nutrition and meal planning, and time management and organizational skills. Classes are hands-on, practical, and fun!

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

- L. (Kamin) Finkel
Class of 2011
STEM education is an innovative, hands-on approach to teaching science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. STEM curricula provide students with the challenge and the knowledge to use problem solving skills and technology to solve real world issues. We have offered a 9th grade STEM immersion class where students learned the basics of engineering and coding to design and build their own robot and a STEM elective course. Our two year STEM elective class is run in conjunction with CIJE, the Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education. The curriculum covers design skills, mathematical processes, and the technology knowledge base that students will need to create their own projects from the initial point of hypothesis/question all the way to the final project.

“There is a whole team of staff that is working on helping each girl shine in every single area - academic, social, and emotional. This gives each student an experience during this pivotal time of development that will carry them through life.”

- S. Feigenbaum
Class of 2011

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.

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- S. Feigenbaum
Class of 2011
CO-CURRICULAR

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 "דוע מה לתיישב", 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.

TECH TALK

With the ever-changing world of technology, we at Reenas appreciate the importance of keeping an ongoing conversation about its challenges. A weekly class called TechTalk, as well as various school wide events and functions, help students gain the necessary self awareness to make good choices in their personal technology engagement. Topics such as healthy relationships, menuchas hanefesh, privacy, and self-control are all addressed through the lens of technology, allowing students to explore these central themes with relevant examples that can be applied to their teenage lives.
EXTRA CURRICULAR

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!

PRODUCTION

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

CHAGIGOS - ACTIVITY PERIOD

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.
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.

HALICCHOS

הליכות קילא רות, is our school’s unique program dedicated in memory of our student Kayla Rus bas Bunim Tuvya א"ה. Through mini presentations and engaging activities, Halichos offers students practical ways to advance their personal development. This year we are exploring the theme of בובד ממדת, beginning first with the topic of בובד עצמי - self respect, and then moving on to discussions about בובד וחברים, followed by בובד וחברים ואב ואמא. Halichos is an innovative and interactive learning forum which uses real life examples and hands-on workshops to allow students gain the insight that will enhance their personal lives and 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. (Schein) Schreiber
Class of 2012

YIMEI IYUN

 Quarterly ימי ינון 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
# Reenas Bais Yaakov Curriculum Map

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*Elective Course Offerings*