



# REENAS BAIS YAAKOV CURRICULUM

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**2023-2024**  
תשפ"ד

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





"When I go to shul, I look forward to hearing 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. G. (Kamin) Cohen  
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 and an independent research study on מגילת אסתר, providing students with a unique perspective and appreciation of the קריאות read on טוב יום.

"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. The comprehensive חומש curriculum encourages students to draw relevant לימודים 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.



### 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.”

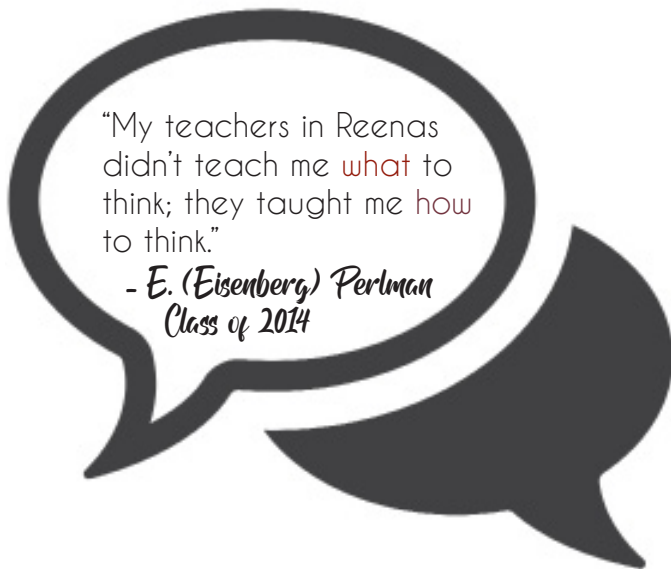
- C. Leiter  
Class of 2016

# מחשבת ישראל

This eleventh grade course is an overview of the Rambam’s חורבן בית ראשון and 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 teach me what to think; they taught me how to think.”

- E. (Eisenberg) Perlman  
Class of 2014

# באור תפלה

The ninth grade באור תפלה course which focuses on פסוקי דזמרה and ברכות השחר, 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 כבוד חברים, אונאת דברים and 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, בחירה, and גדלות האדם. The eleventh and twelfth 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.



"What is so special about Reenas is the unique approach to growth. We were gifted with a beautiful package of Torah and Hashkafa which we chose to open at our own pace. Limudim were stored on our spiritual "heartdrive", ready for us to inculcate as we matured and realized their significance to our lives.

- C. Steinberg  
Class of 2021

# 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 and דקדוק.



# פרקי אבות

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

Reenas cultivates an environment that is warm and growth oriented. It provides its students with tools to expand their minds.

- A. (Hershkovich) Elgav  
Class of 2016



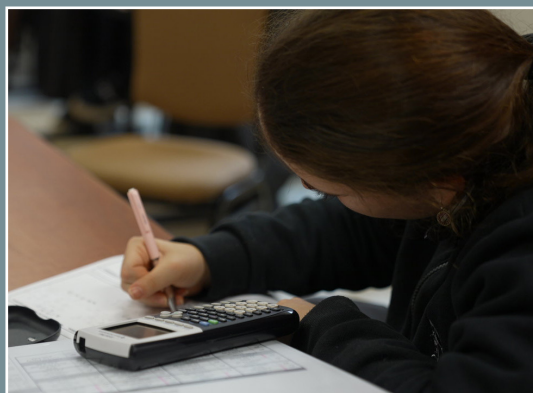
# Course Content

## 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 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 ninth grade, with an emphasis on cellular biology, genetics, and human body systems. Tenth and eleventh 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 twelfth grade include AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, and Principles of Modern Biology.



### 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, which have brought probability and statistics to the mathematical forefront. Students in ninth grade take Algebra I or II, depending on their track; they continue to Algebra II or Pre-calculus in eleventh grade. All tenth graders take Geometry. Math electives in twelfth grade include AP Calculus, College Math, and Statistics.

# 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 World History in the ninth, beginning from the classical civilizations and ending at World War I. In tenth and eleventh grades, students study U.S. History with the goal of covering the entire 20th century. All twelfth 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 ninth and tenth grade classes study World Literature, while the eleventh and twelfth grade are historically specific, studying American and British literature, respectively. Unique to RBY is a writing portfolio program in the tenth-twelfth 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.





What gives RBY its extra special flavor? Its warmth and small size, and the boundless devotion of teachers and mechnachos to the success and the well-being of their students.

- B. Cherns  
Class of 2022



# 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 ninth grade curriculum develops the students' proficiency in Microsoft Office, focusing on Word and Excel. The tenth grade curriculum switches from the business mode to design through the study of Adobe Photoshop and InDesign. Tenth grade students also have the option to take an Intro to Computer Programming elective. Eleventh graders can elect to take the AP Computer Programming course or further their business skills through the study of Quickbooks. Video editing using Adobe Premiere is offered as an elective in the twelfth grade.



"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. (Friedman) Dolinger  
Class of 2014

# CODING

In the tenth grade Introduction to Programming class, students are learning to program using Python, a primary computer language that will enable them to learn more complex languages in the future. This class is a stepping stone for students who will want to take the more advanced AP Computer Science class as an elective the following year. AP Computer Science is an immersive and intense Java language class which culminates with the AP exam in May.

# Course Content

## Academic Electives



Our academic electives program allows our tenth and eleventh grade students to immerse themselves in a subject of their choice. Students gain practical skills in a more relaxed academic environment. The following courses are being offered this Fall.

## NUTRITION

Our nutrition elective is perfect for girls who are interested in learning about the connection between food and body and for all future mothers. Students learn about the chemistry of food through experimentation and exploration and use that knowledge to create healthy meals and to make good food choices.

## VIDEOGRAPHY

Using Adobe Premiere, students learn professional filming and editing techniques. Each student has the opportunity to create a film using footage and interviews to advertise an event.

## STEM

Our STEM elective 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 all the way to the final project.

## CREATIVE WRITING

Students who love experimenting with the written word can hone their skills under the expertise of a published author. Using samples and creative activities, girls learn to express themselves and use feedback from peers to improve their writing.

## הלכה

In this elective class, halachos of בין אדם לחבירו are explored in both a practical and hashkafic manner. Discussions are text based, most commonly from the ספרים of the חפץ חיים, רמב"ם, רמב"ן, and the אדם הראשון.





# 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.

# 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 at RBY, students move beyond voicing opinions to defending their thinking and perspective-taking. Lessons are interactive and student-centered.

Reenas feels like my home. I feel valued and that I am an integral part of this school. I love that I can contribute my unique ideas and talents to the greater student body.

*- H. Greene  
Class of 2023*



# 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 cardiovascular fitness and strength training.





Now that I myself am a teacher, I look back to my Reenas teachers as models of methodology, and perhaps more importantly, teacher-student relationships. My appreciation for Reenas' school culture of fostering intellectual curiosity and academic growth has only grown as I've worked in other schools.

*- M. (Gorotzkin) Pinter  
Class of 2017*

## 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.



## FINANCIAL LITERACY

This twelfth 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!

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

This twelfth grade course enables students to become effective public speakers through theory and more importantly, practice. Students learn concepts and models of communication, how to adapt a speech for different occasions and audiences, how to effectively support ideas, how to select and organize materials in preparation for a speech, and how to utilize multimedia tools in presentations, among other skills. This course prepares students for success in academic, business, and social settings.

# 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.



### TECH TALK

With the ever-changing world of technology, Reenas appreciates the importance of keeping an ongoing conversation about its challenges. A weekly class called TechTalk, offered in the ninth and twelfth grades, helps 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

## 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 chessed program invites students to undertake a one-hour-weekly volunteer position to fill a vast array of chessed 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 chessed ethic, gaining even as they are giving.



### PRODUCTION

Our bi-annual play offers students from all grades 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





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 is our school's unique program dedicated in memory of our student Kayla Rus bas Bunim Tuva ע"ה. Through mini presentations and engaging activities, Halichos offers students practical ways to advance their personal development. Last year we explored the שמחה of מידה, discussing essential elements of the שמחה including the source of true שמחה, ways to access שמחה, and overcoming impediments to שמחה. This year we are focussing on the פנימיות of מידה. Halichos is an innovative and interactive learning forum which uses real life examples and hands-on workshops to allow students to 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 ימין 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



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





# Reenas Bais Yaakov Curriculum Map

לימודי  
קודש

12	11	10	9	
ספר בראשית	ספר דברים ספר ויקרא	ספר במדבר	ספר שמות	חומש
ישעיה	ירמיה/ תרי עשר	ירמיה/ תרי עשר	מלכים ב	נביא
משלי	מגילות	תהילים		כתובים
עולם הישיבות חסידות, השכלה מדינת ישראל	תקופת ראשונים ואחרונים	תקופת תנאים, אמוראים, וגאונים	גלות בבל- בית שני	תולדות ישראל
	לשון וו	לשון וו	לשון ו	עברית דקדוק
בשר בחלב	הלכות שבת וו	הלכות ברכות	הלכות שבת	הלכה
יהדות, אגרות, פרשה	יהדות מחשבת ישראל	יהדות, פרשה ש.א.ג.י.	יהדות, פרשה באור תפלה פרקי אבות	עניני יהדות

## Secular Studies

	9	10	11	12
ELA	World Literature	World Literature	American Literature	British Literature
Math	Algebra I/ Algebra II	Geometry	Trigonometry Algebra II/ Pre-Calculus	*Statistics *AP Calculus *College Math
History	World History	US History	US History	*U.S. Government Holocaust Studies
Science	Biology	Chemistry/ Physics	Chemistry/ Physics	*HGD *Psychology *AP Biology *Honors Biology
Computers	Microsoft Office: Word, Excel	Intro to Computer Programming /Pho- toshop/Indesign	AP Computer Programming / Quickbooks / Advanced Graphics	Adobe Premiere Video Editing
Academic Electives		הלכות בין אדם לחברו STEM, Video Editing, Nutrition, Creative Writing	הלכות בין אדם לחברו STEM, Video Editing, Nutrition, Creative Writing	
Other	Life Skills Art, Gym	Current Events Gym	Current Events Gym	Life Skills Public Speaking Senior Seminar *Studio Art

\* Elective Course Offerings

