



FRANKEL JEWISH ACADEMY

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

OUR MISSION

Frankel Jewish Academy is a rigorous college preparatory high school pursuing academic excellence and Jewish literacy.

We inspire students to think critically, creatively, and compassionately;
to dedicate themselves to Jewish tradition, peoplehood, and the State of Israel;
and to become lifelong learners and leaders.



DISCOVER *YOUR* TOMORROW.

As a dual curriculum college preparatory school, high academic achievement in a supportive and nurturing environment is a hallmark of our program and culture. However, to fully nurture and foster growth, we have multiple co-curricular opportunities. Athletics, performing arts, fine art and music, all contribute to addressing the development of the whole child.

The 2021-2022 school year was a long awaited return to Frankel Jewish Academy's boldest educational initiatives yet to nurture social and emotional growth. After a nearly two year pause due to COVID, we shifted back to many of our traditional routines. We brought back important learning and bonding programs like Shabbatonim, Town Halls, dances, spirit week, and much more. But, our most distinctive accomplishment was the once-in-a-lifetime experiential learning trip each grade embarked on.

In late May, students in every grade left the FJA campus behind, but not their learning. The world became their classroom allowing students to

learn by doing, exploring, seeing, and experiencing in authentic and unique settings. It allowed them to learn in ways that will have a deep and long lasting impact on them as humans and as a Jews for years to come.

Through these experiences, they returned as classmates closer-knit and more self-aware than ever. Students drew strength from each other during their early sunrise hike up Masada; they actualized the verse "the world will be built with kindness" (Psalm 89:3) as they constructed homes for those without shelter in Portland; they gained a new perspective on Jewish history, traditions, and Israel, by exploring the passion and commitment of the Northern Cheyenne to their language, culture, and ancestral homeland.

It is our commitment to provide a first rate college preparatory education within a warm and supportive community that has established FJA as one of the elite private schools in Michigan. It is our mission to inspire students, preparing them for leadership and lifelong learning founded in Jewish values, in innovative and



impactful ways, that sets us apart from every other private school. Thank you for supporting Frankel Jewish Academy, a superior school by any measure and an invaluable institution within our community.

Rabbi Azaryah Cohen
Head of School

FJA

BY THE NUMBERS

100%



Of FJA students attend their 1st or 2nd choice college.



65%

Of students receive tuition assistance.



Rated #4 Best Private High School in Michigan.



Our student teacher ratio is

6 TO 1

37%

of FJA students come from public schools.

1:1 TECHNOLOGY

Every student gets a MacBook Air laptop with the full Adobe suite.



92%

of FJA students take at least 1 AP class during high school.

18

AP Courses



2

Dual Enrollment Courses



77%

of our students participate in athletics.

\$2.18 MILLION -

Scholarships earned by the class of 2022.



871

Alumni



2000

community service hours performed by FJA students annually.



4 +

experiential learning opportunities for students to explore the world.

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WELCOME NEW FJA BOARD MEMBERS

JILL DEAN

Jill Dean is a current FJA parent and she feels a sense of responsibility to support FJA and share her family's positive experience with the community. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and received her law degree from Wayne State University. Jill and her husband of 32 years, Steve, have four children, including Hayden '25. Jill believes that serving on the board is a privilege and is excited to share the FJA magic with future students and their families.

MATT GORMAN NEXTGen LIAISON

Matt Gorman grew up in Livonia and now lives in Birmingham with his fiancée Julia. He graduated with a bachelor's from Michigan State University and master's from Oakland University, and currently works as a technical engineer at General Motors. From Sunday school to high school youth group, Matt's life was greatly influenced by Jewish education and social experiences at Temple Shir Shalom. He looks forward to being connected to the Jewish Education system and hopes to bring new ideas and perspectives to FJA.

JEREMY MICHAELSON

Jeremy Michaelson is a graduate of the University of Rochester. After graduating, he attended graduate school in Boston and Detroit, studying dentistry and endodontics. He has been a practicing endodontist for the past 20 years. Jeremy is passionate about the outdoors and being active, but the most important and rewarding part of his life are his two children, current FJA students Merrick '23 and Sydney '26. To Jeremy, being a part of the Board of Trustees feels like the perfect combination of philanthropy and parental involvement.

DAVID SALAMA

David Salama attended Hillel Day School and is an active leader in the metro Detroit Jewish community. David attended Brandeis University majoring in Sociology, minoring in both Hebrew and Near Eastern Judaic Studies. He then attended medical school at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed anesthesiology residency at Henry Ford Hospital and now works at Northland Anesthesia Associates at Ascension Providence Hospital. He looks forward to giving back to the area that helped form his Jewish identity. David and his wife Pauline have three sons, Elliot '24, Ari, and Oliver.

SARAH SALLEN '04

Sarah Sallen graduated with the first class to attend FJA for four full years. She attended Tufts University and studied Child and Human Development and Political Science, later attending Loyola University-Chicago School of Law. Sarah began her legal career as a juvenile public defender and guardian ad litem in Detroit with the Michigan Children's Law Center. She is now the Staff Attorney in the Pro Bono Litigation Clinic at UIC Law School, instructing the State/Civil section which handles matters related to record relief, family law, and name changes. Sarah lives in Chicago with her husband, Jordan, and son, Arbor.

ILLANA STERN

Illana Stern is a graduate of Hillel Day School and is a strong advocate of Jewish education. She has been active on many boards across the community. Illana and her husband, Noah, have been married for 16 years and initially met on the very first Detroit Federation Teen Mission to Israel in 1996. They have three sons, Henry, Leo, and Isaac. She believes that Jewish literacy is a key component to Jewish continuity and a thriving Jewish community, and she looks forward to being a part of the FJA Board of Trustees.

FACULTY & STAFF LEADERS



KAT UNTENER is an English and Journalism instructor at FJA. In her fifth year at Frankel, she explains that teaching and helping the next generation of students become the best versions of themselves is her passion. “My favorite moments in teaching are the ones that happen everyday: when a student who didn’t understand a concept suddenly does, or when a student realizes how much they have grown as a writer,” Untener says.

Mrs. Untener’s classroom is known as a place of fun, learning, and compassion.

“My students know that I am there for them always because I want each and every single one of them to succeed, whatever that looks like for them,” she says.

When asked what she loves most about FJA, Mrs. Untener expressed that she is thankful for the community.

“I feel like I am truly part of the FJA community and experience. I can count parents, alumni, and fellow staff members as close friends, and knowing those kids in my classroom will never truly be more than a message away.”

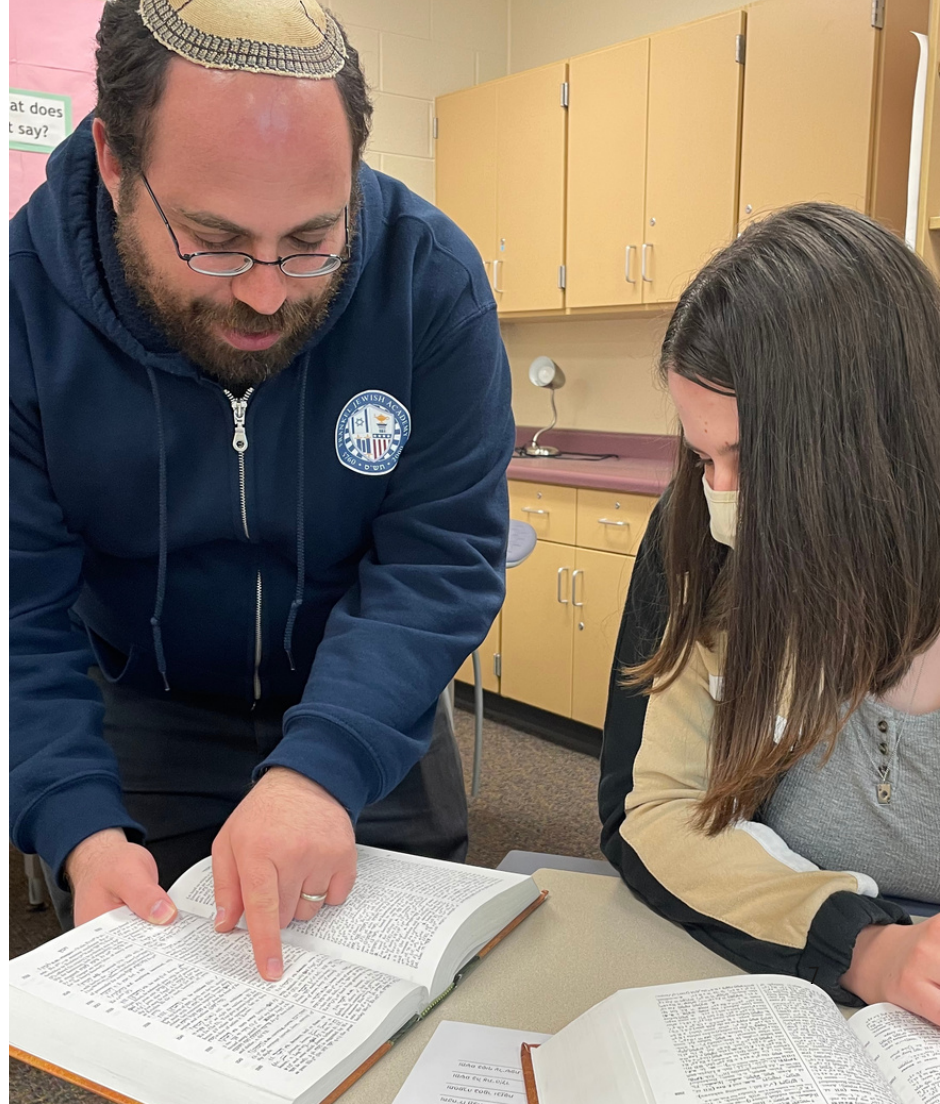
In his seventh year as a Jewish Studies instructor at FJA, **RABBI MICHAEL LANGER** explains,

"I love working at FJA because of the way the students respond to our open-ended, inquiry-based educational model. Not a day goes by that I don't learn something from my students and this is the most satisfying and fulfilling professional experience I've ever had."

What motivates Rabbi Langer as a teacher is the knowledge that in the future, the world is going to be a better place because of the work that he and his fellow teachers do. "I have a unique opportunity to help form my students' moral and spiritual foundation that they will use to navigate the challenges and opportunities of emerging adulthood. Whether they know it or not, they will constantly refer back to this foundation as they make choices later in their lives. When those choices make the world a better place, as they will inevitably do, my role as a teacher played a part in bringing about that change."

When reflecting on his favorite moments of teaching, he says,

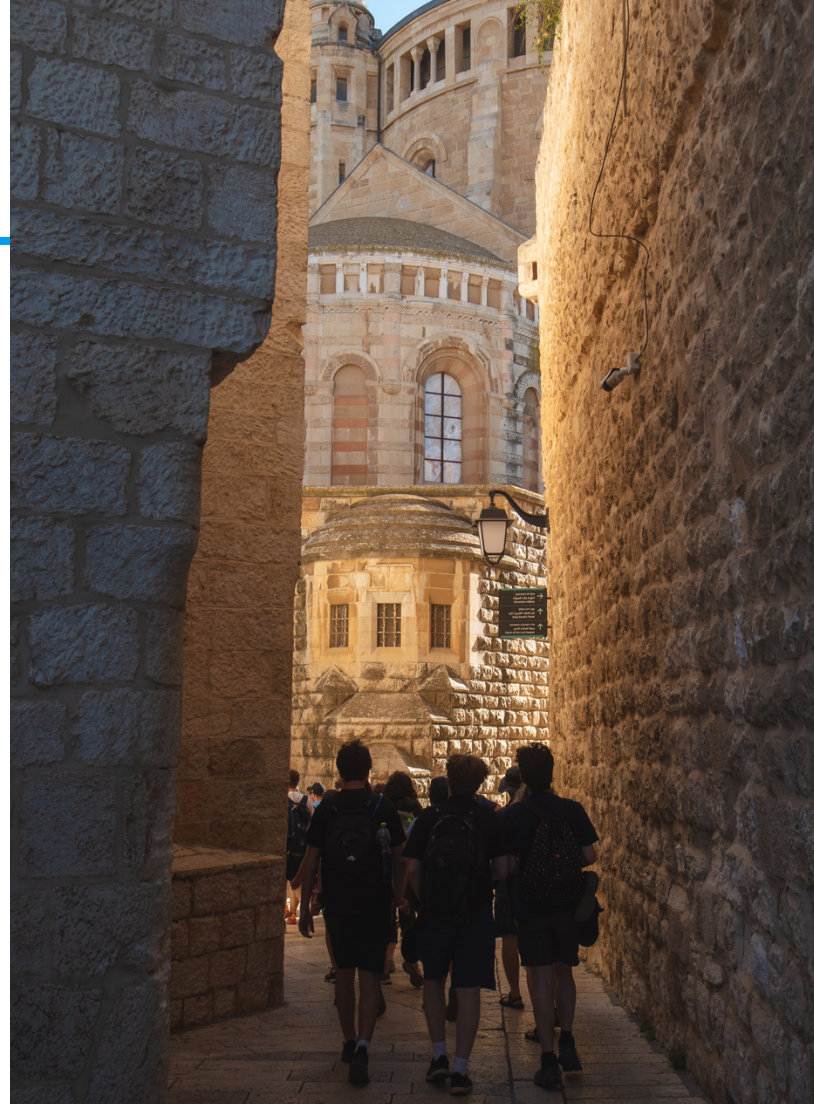
When a student recognizes that what we do in class is about so much more than just absorbing content, that it's about changing the way your mind operates, it makes me feel like I'm doing something right. And the fact that I get to use our shared heritage and tradition to change the way our minds work only makes it more satisfying!"



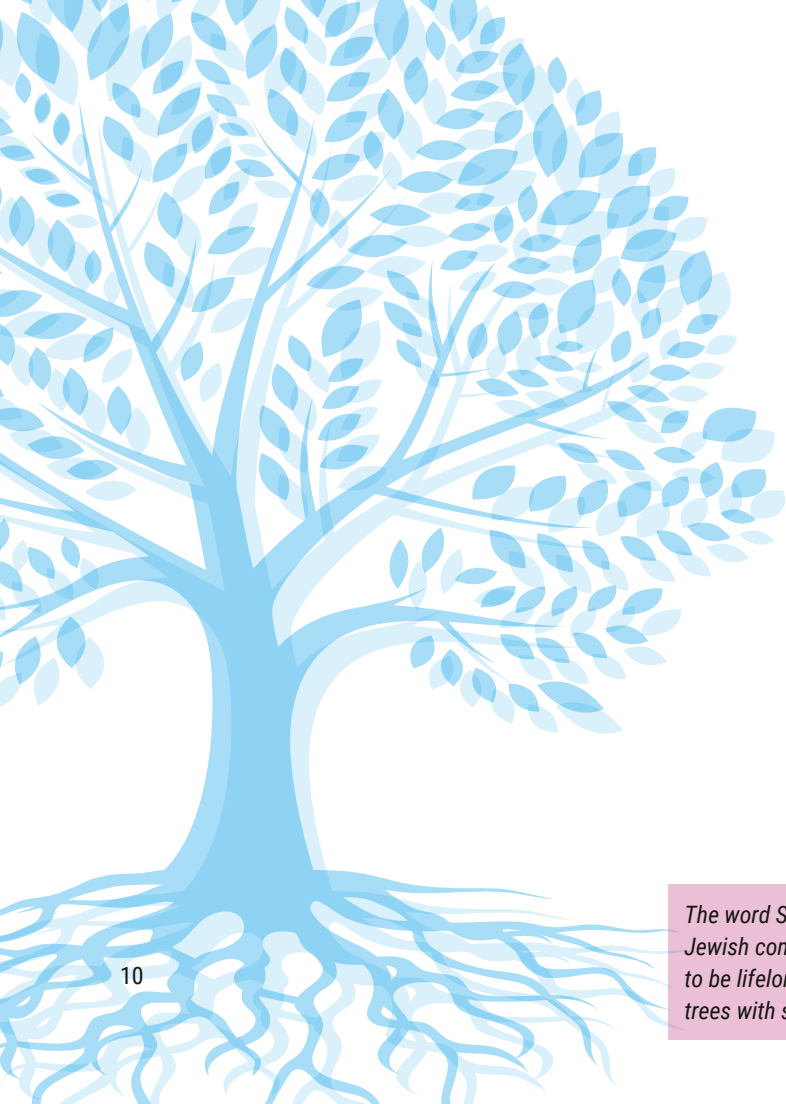
THRIVING & EXPLORING

Beginning this year, all FJA students had multiple opportunities to leave the four walls of school behind and explore the world around them. These opportunities for experiential education were each framed by Jewish texts and values, and focused on the identity of each student. They offered unique experiences for students to take a physical journey, but also an educational journey. Students learned together, bonded over unique opportunities, and were challenged to create and build Jewish communities together. Faculty and staff guided them on explorations as they learned from the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, did community service in the Pacific Northwest, and traversed Israel. It was an opportunity for students to learn about themselves, too.

FJA's travel experiences were sponsored by the William Davidson Foundation as part of a grant focused on experiential education.







ADVANCEMENT NEWS

In 2022, FJA was blessed with an incredible opportunity made possible through contributions from a generous group of donors. The donors created the Shorashim Tuition Grant, an opportunity for current and incoming families, regardless of the ability to pay, to opt-in to grants that help reduce the cost of annual tuition. The Shorashim Tuition Grant is available at up to \$10,000 per student and families will choose the amount that fits their needs.

The group of donors have offered this statement in regards to the grant:

"Frankel Jewish Academy is such a gem in our community. We feel strongly that there are so many more Jewish teens in metro Detroit who should have the opportunity to benefit from attending FJA. The future of our community depends on having educated and committed Jewish leaders who grew up learning about their history, culture, and traditions while also receiving an excellent education that prepares them for college and beyond. Attending a Jewish Day School is a perfect way to achieve this goal. Even though Frankel Jewish Academy is only 22 years old, we can already see the impact the school has had on metro Detroit. Many of our young Jewish volunteer and professional leaders are proud graduates of FJA. Their leadership, and therefore Frankel Jewish Academy's impact, will be felt for years to come."

The word Shorashim means "roots" in Hebrew. These grants will help FJA provide roots for the Jewish community in metro Detroit by educating our Jewish young adults and preparing them to be lifelong leaders. Additionally, FJA is represented by a pomegranate, a fruit that grows on trees with strong roots in the land.

FJA's Annual Gala honored Vadim Avshalumov '03 and distinguished faculty member Eric Rapp! After two years of hosting the event virtually, we celebrated the opportunity to gather together. FJA parents, students, grandparents, alumni, and community members came together on a picture-perfect evening. Guests enjoyed an indoor/outdoor strolling dinner, followed by a program in the Berman Theater.

Thanks to our generous community, the Gala helped to raise crucial funds for FJA's Annual Fund.



For the first time ever, FJA held a crowdfunding campaign. We were blown away by the support from our community. Thanks to Nancy and Jim Grosfeld, all gifts made during the crowdfunding campaign were 3x matched. In two days, we raised \$152,642! Special thanks to all of the donors who helped surpass our goal, especially the crowdfunding ambassadors! In addition to hitting our goal, we were so proud to see a significant rise in alumni donors, more than any other year.

LIFETIME GIVING

**Frankel Jewish Academy
recognizes the generosity of
benefactors with lifetime
contributions of \$50,000 and up.**

***THANK YOU TO ALL THE DONORS WHO
WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.***

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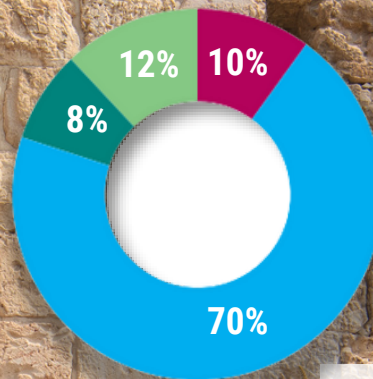
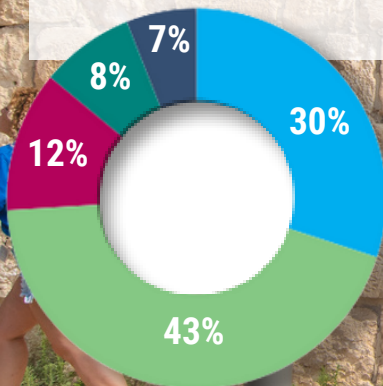
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FINANCIAL REPORTS

REVENUE

- 30% Tuition & Fees
- 43% Direct Donations
- 12% Annual Fund
- 8% JFMD Grants*
- 7% Other Income



EXPENSES

- 70% Program Expenses
- 12% Occupancy
- 10% Management & General Expenses
- 8% Fundraising & Development

WE THANK OUR DONORS

2021-2022 Annual Fund This list represents annual donations received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.



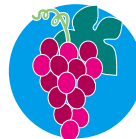
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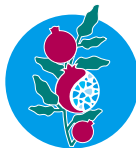
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We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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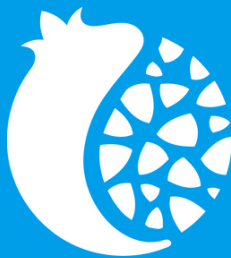


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