



# **FRANKEL JEWISH ACADEMY**

**OWN YOUR JOURNEY.**

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**DISCOVER YOUR TOMORROW.**

# FJA BY THE NUMBERS

100%



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



68%

of students receive tuition assistance.



Rated #4 Best Private High School in Michigan.



Our student : teacher ratio is

6 TO 1

27%

of FJA students come from public schools.

## 1:1 TECHNOLOGY

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



89%

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

18

AP Courses



3

Dual Enrollment Courses



73%

of our students participate in athletics.

## \$70K per student

On average, each student in the class of 2023 earned \$70k in scholarships.



920

Alumni



2000

community service hours performed by FJA students annually.



4 +

experiential learning opportunities for students to explore the world.

## WHY CHOOSE FRANKEL JEWISH ACADEMY?

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As the only Jewish community high school in metro Detroit, FJA provides you with a challenging dual curriculum, supportive teachers, and a safe high school environment that allows you to prepare for a lifetime of learning and leadership.

FJA's integrated dual curriculum and warm community will help you embrace your Jewish identity and become a deep, independent thinker who will excel in college and initiate positive change as a young Jewish leader.





## MISSION STATEMENT

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.

## CORE VALUES

- Respecting the importance of Jewish values, mitzvot, and daily prayer.
- Acting with derech eretz (respect).
- Pursuing excellence in Jewish and general scholarship.
- Committing to honesty, integrity, accountability, and personal responsibility inside and outside the classroom and in the general community.
- Respecting all members of the FJA community and all human beings as created in the image of God.
- Participating in and serving the FJA community and the larger Jewish and general communities.



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT WE'RE A JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL?

It means we welcome all perspectives, celebrate the many ways to be Jewish, champion diversity as essential to learning, and allow our individual, intellectual, and spiritual journeys to elevate each other.

"FJA has given me a sense of identity in multiple ways: through athletics, through academics, through friendships, and through being a Jew. I've learned how to defend my religion and how to be strong for the State of Israel. I don't think I would have had that experience anywhere else."

**- Ilana Weinfeld, FJA Class of 2017**

# WHO ARE FJA STUDENTS?

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## WELCOMING

FJA students respect the diverse perspectives represented in our community and celebrate the many ways to be Jewish.

## DRIVEN

FJA students know the path that will carry them to their destination and choose to pursue it with purpose and passion.

## SELF-ASSURED

FJA students are proud of who they are today, knowing that this foundation defines who they will become tomorrow.

## INDEPENDENT

FJA students have different talents and pursue unique journeys. They all become individuals who will challenge the ordinary and change the world.

## CREATIVE

FJA students are offered limitless opportunities to invent, test, and perfect ideas because they are the innovators who will shape tomorrow.

## THOUGHTFUL

FJA students are encouraged to grow intellectually and spiritually through a purposeful and meaningful approach to learning.



**"There are many reasons to be thankful for FJA, but no other compares to the community and opportunities that it has provided me with. As I grow in age, FJA teaches me to grow in maturity, academics, and ethics. Without the environment that FJA provides, with small classes and supportive teachers, I would not be able to flourish and be my best self."**


**Genny Aronov, FJA Class of 2024**

## COLLEGE READINESS

FJA's college counseling program is highly regarded in the community for working individually with families to find the perfect college match for each student's ambitions.

You will excel in college because of our unparalleled dual curriculum program. Learning and conversing in Hebrew, whether you're a novice or an expert, expands the brain's intellectual capacity. Analyzing biblical texts heightens critical thinking, and debating rabbinic texts increases the ability to articulate and persuade.

**Colleges are aware of FJA's impressive student outcomes and are eager to meet FJA students.**

A photograph of two graduates in white gowns and caps standing at a podium with a microphone. The background is dark with some stage lights.

The class of 2023  
earned  
**\$70,000**  
per student on average in  
college scholarships.

## **FJA students have gone on to attend many prestigious colleges, universities, and gap year programs, including:**

|                                 |                                   |                                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Albion College                  | Grand Valley State University     | University of Arizona                 |
| American University             | Indiana University                | University of California, Los Angeles |
| Arizona State University        | Kalamazoo College                 | University of Colorado-Boulder        |
| Babson College                  | Lansing Community College         | University of Florida                 |
| Ball State University           | Lawrence Technological University | University of Kansas                  |
| Bar Ilan University             | Miami of Ohio                     | University of Maryland                |
| Barnard College                 | Michigan State University         | University of Michigan                |
| Binghamton University           | Multimedia Makeup Academy         | University of Southern California     |
| Brandeis University             | New York University               | University of Tampa                   |
| College of the Atlantic         | Northeastern University           | University of Toledo                  |
| Colorado State University       | Northwestern University           | University of Western Ontario         |
| Columbia University             | Northwood University              | University of Wisconsin               |
| Cornell University              | Oakland Community College         | Vanderbilt University                 |
| Dartmouth College               | Purdue University                 | Washington University in St. Louis    |
| DePaul University               | Rochester Institute of Technology | Wayne State University                |
| Eastern Michigan University     | Syracuse University               | Western Michigan University           |
| Florida Institute of Technology | Savannah College of Art & Design  |                                       |
| George Washington University    | Tulane University                 |                                       |

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

FJA is a college preparatory school, but we have fun, too! You have the option to participate in a variety of Junior Varsity and Varsity sports including: cross country, volleyball, tennis, golf, soccer, basketball, baseball, and bowling. If you're more interested in the performing arts, we stage a musical in the fall and a play in the spring in a professional theater on our campus.

Student leaders help to organize school activities, including spirit week and dances. They are the leaders of FJA Shabbatonim and community Jewish celebrations. We feel ruach (spirit) every day at FJA, where you are immersed in the hub of Jewish culture in metro Detroit.

Experiential education is a hallmark of FJA. Each grade has the opportunity to travel the country and the world, with class trips to Montana, the Pacific Northwest, Israel, and Europe. These experiences bring you out of the classroom to explore the world.







## MENTORSHIPS THAT SPAN GENERATIONS

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With an average class size of 11 students, FJA students are able to form meaningful and lasting bonds with their teachers. FJA faculty concern themselves with the whole student—their ideas, their interests, their hopes, their family, and their future. Faculty treat students like the young adults they are. As a result, students are comfortable to share lunch, discuss their spiritual journeys, debate American and Jewish law, tour their dream college, run a marathon—all with faculty who they're proud to call their mentors and friends. When they graduate, students actively seek mentorships with professors and professionals in their careers.



"I have made amazing friends at FJA, but I am also grateful for the relationships I have with my teachers. Not only do they want me to succeed, they take a vested interest in me and what is going on in my life."

**- Zachary Elbinger, FJA Class of 2025**



## FACULTY & STAFF LEADERS



**MELANIE SESI** has been an esteemed Social Studies instructor at FJA since 2011. She also serves as the Chair of the Social Studies Department, Professional Development Co-Coordinator, and was the 2019 Faculty Honoree at FJA's Annual Gala.

She teaches variety of Social Studies courses including: US Government, HERStory, Practical Law, AP Government and AP Microeconomics.

Mrs. Sesi planned and led our school's first trip to Washington D.C. for students to see our government at work.

She values teaching life lessons and helping students make connections to the real world.

**Mrs. Sesi believes FJA is a place where students and faculty can grow and find themselves.**

**RABBI MICHAEL LANGER** is a Jewish Studies instructor at FJA. He 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."



## AFFORDING FJA

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We award more than \$1.5 million in aid each year to families with diverse financial needs. FJA's tuition assistance program is one of the most generous of all private schools in Michigan. Our business office works with all families to ensure your student has access to the incredible education FJA provides.

There are a number of factors taken into consideration when determining a family's tuition assistance award, such as household income, expenses, assets, allowable debts, family size, number of children attending tuition-charging schools and colleges, costs of synagogue membership, summer camp, and other expenses.

**\$10,000**  
*per student per year*

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### **THE SHORASHIM DAY SCHOOL AFFORDABILITY GRANT**

is an opportunity for current and incoming families to opt-in to a grant that helps reduce the cost of tuition. The grant is not need-based and is available to everyone. Visit [frankelja.org/shorashim](http://frankelja.org/shorashim) for more information.





## CONTACTING THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE

If you haven't seen our school yet, we encourage you to visit and learn more! Tours and student shadow days are available throughout the school year.

Director of Admissions: Rachel Maxbauer  
Phone: 248-671-3248  
Email: [rmaxbauer@frankelja.org](mailto:rmaxbauer@frankelja.org)

FJA is located on the campus of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit.

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West Bloomfield, MI 48322





**WWW.FRANKELJA.ORG**