



# FRANKEL JEWISH ACADEMY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



## 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.

In 2018 we developed our “Portrait of a Graduate,” five succinct statements describing the type of student characteristics we aim to nurture. Each one captures elements of our Mission, highlighting the educational goals we aspire to. The final element captures our commitment to foster student dedication to lifelong learning and leading. “FJA Graduates,” reads the fifth element of our Portrait of a Graduate “are inspired to improve the world around them.” Indeed, now more than ever, the future of our community and nation depends on deep conviction and a motivation to act.

At FJA, we continuously strive to design and implement a comprehensive curricular and cocurricular program for impacts that last a lifetime. During these critically formative years, students engage in multidisciplinary learning experiences, providing the basis for success long after students graduate high school.

Our General Studies curriculum, which includes AP and dual-enrollment college level courses, meets the academic needs of all students; our Jewish Studies program is designed to foster students’ passion and commitment to Jewish tradition, peoplehood, and the State of Israel; FJA’s performing and visual arts opportunities invoke students’ creativity and innovation; athletics hones students’ ability to compete and collaborate; student clubs, grade level trips, dances, holiday celebrations, and spirit week engender stories, lessons, and unforgettable character building memories.

These transformative experiences are due to the tireless work of our dedicated staff and faculty who, to quote one of FJA’s nine Characteristics of Professional Excellence, “inspire students to approach the world with awe and wonder.” These characteristics were formulated by our staff and faculty to describe



**Rabbi Azaryah Cohen**  
Head of School

how they approach their work. The dedication of our staff and faculty, and the commitment of our generous donors, impact the lives of our students in ways that transcend their four years as students at FJA. We thank you, our stakeholders and supporters, for the inestimable impact you have enabled, which carries over into students’ lives as professionals, family members, and community leaders.

Todah Rabah,  
Rabbi Azaryah Cohen  
Head of School

# FJA

## BY THE NUMBERS

2022-2023

100%



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



of students receive tuition assistance.



Rated #4 Best Private High School in Michigan.



Our student teacher ratio is  
**6 TO 1**

35%

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.

17  
AP  
Courses



2  
Dual Enrollment  
Courses



67%

of our students participate in athletics.

\$1.18 MILLION

Scholarships earned by the class of 2023.



920

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

## LAURA CHARNAS

Laura Charnas is a current FJA parent. Laura earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and has been in the field of education for the past 20 years. She has held leadership roles at Tamarack Camps during the summer, beginning in 2003 and has been the Teen Board Coordinator at The Jewish Fund since 2020. Laura has demonstrated a long commitment to our local Jewish community. She is passionate about Jewish education and community and looks forward to sharing her family's positive FJA experiences. Laura and her husband Craig have two daughters at FJA, Gillian '27 and Madison '24.

## MEREDITH DAHLEN '03

Meredith is a Jaguar, Spartan, Wolverine, and Warrior! She is a proud member of the first graduating class of JAMD, and thereafter graduated with a Bachelor's in Social Work from Michigan State University. She then went on to receive her law degree from Wayne State University and a Master's of Social Work from the University of Michigan. After graduating, she moved into the Detroit Moishe House. After working in the Detroit foster care system in various capacities, and working at the Michigan Supreme Court evaluating our local court systems, she settled into practice as a family law attorney and mediator. Since then, she has also added "Rebbetzin" to her list of titles after marrying her husband, and together they have welcomed their two sons, Elior and Ezra!

### **RABBI ARIANNA GORDON**

Rabbi Arianna Gordon is the current Director of Education and Lifelong Learning at Temple Israel. She grew up attending Hillel Day School, is a current Hillel parent, and is a lifelong member of Temple Israel. Rabbi Gordon is passionate about Jewish education, and is dedicated to providing meaningful Jewish learning opportunities for students of all ages.

Rabbi Gordon graduated from Brandeis University before going on to Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion to become a rabbi and earn her Master's in Jewish Education. Before coming to Temple Israel, she spent three years working in Cleveland as Religious School Director at The Temple-Tifereth Israel.

Rabbi Gordon, and her husband Stephen, also a native metro Detroiter, live in West Bloomfield with their two precocious children. She is honored to be a part of FJA's board, and to support the community and Jewish education through this new lens.

### **MARK SCHWARTZ**

The father of two current FJA students, Rebekah '24 and Ethan '25, Mark Schwartz is a practicing attorney specializing in aviation law, complex personal injury matters, and civil litigation on a nationwide basis. Mark has been married for 20 years to Stacey Schwartz, a podiatrist in Farmington Hills. Having attended a rigorous college preparatory high school, Mark was impressed with the quality of instruction and course offerings at FJA. But even more inspiring – and what most separates FJA from other college prep schools – is FJA's sense of community, Jewish identity, belonging and pride that is instilled in the students. Mark is honored to serve on the board of trustees and looks forward to being able to meaningfully contribute to the continuing success of the school.



## FACULTY & STAFF LEADERS



**HADASS KIDRON** has been a Hebrew instructor at FJA since 2011. She loves seeing the growth of her students in Hebrew and their growth as they become mature young adults.

**"It is amazing when a student says 'oh, I know this word from the prayer' and they make a connection between the words in the siddur and conversational Hebrew,"** she says.

She has been told that her love of Hebrew is contagious and because of her, they also love Hebrew. She especially appreciates when a student comes from public school with very little Hebrew experience and enjoys the beauty of the language.

**"Since I was a young child, I always had a group of younger kids around me. I would tell them stories and keep them busy and happy. My family says they always knew I would become a teacher. And here I am, doing what I love most."**

**LEROY ZAGATA** joined FJA in 2015 as an English instructor. He became an English teacher largely because of his love of literature.

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

**"It's easy to get caught up with big, exciting projects, but working with a student who is struggling with a concept or technique, and watching them start to understand brings the most joy to my day."**

Reflecting on his time at FJA, Mr. Zagata says:

**"Looking to move to Metro Detroit after the 2014 school year, I applied at FJA, almost on a whim, and not really knowing what to expect. What I found was a group of dedicated educators who do anything for the success of their students and the school. I consider myself lucky to have found this school community and a group of teachers who care so deeply about their colleagues and students."**



## STUDENT LIFE

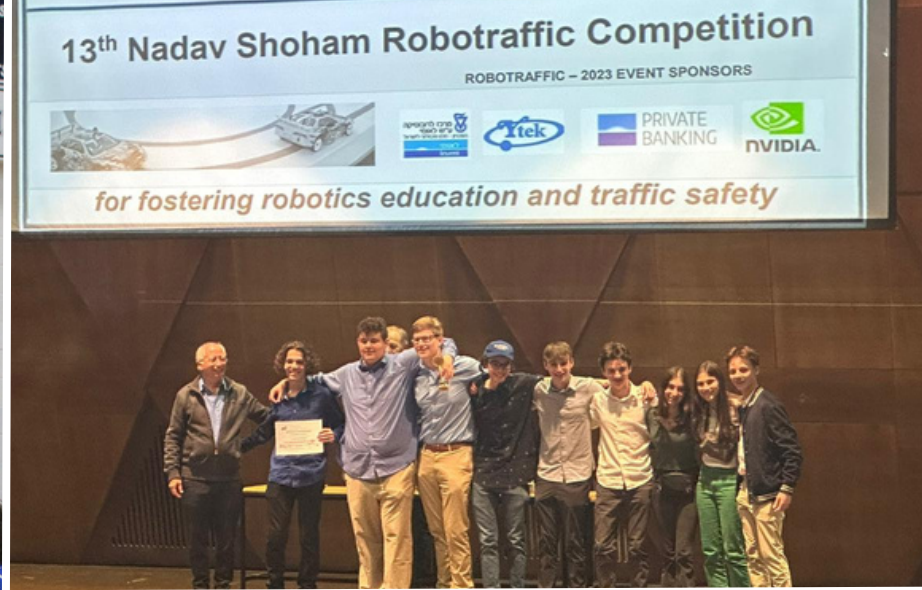
At Frankel Jewish Academy, a student's high school experience extends well beyond the classroom. Student Life is a key component to their time at FJA, whether it is on stage, on the field, or in various leadership roles.

FJA students take ownership of Student Life. Student government, led by student leaders from each grade, manages spirit week, dances, and weekly Town Hall. Aside from student government, various clubs are offered and entirely student-run.

In addition to the grade-level experiential trips offered at the end of the school year, our Robotics team traveled to Israel to compete in the Technion University's Robotraffic competition. They competed against students from schools in Argentina, Mexico, and Israel and placed fourth in the competition! Thank you to the Ravitz Foundation for helping to make this trip a possibility for our students!









## TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

Thank you to the many FJA parents for organizing and contributing to Teacher and Staff Appreciation week, March 27-31, 2023. The slogan for the week was “we think the world of our teachers and staff.” As part of the around the world theme, each day the teachers and staff were transported to a different country to enjoy a treat inspired by that country.

# ADVANCEMENT NEWS

## GRANDFRIENDS DAY

We were thrilled to welcome 150 guests for our annual Grandfriends Day on October 14, 2022! Grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and family friends joined their student to experience a glimpse of their time at FJA. Guests attended two classes and participated in a Sukkot celebration. After two years of virtual visitors, it was so nice to open our doors for an in-person experience.





## GALA

FJA celebrated the Annual Gala on May 11, 2023. Over 200 people joined the event at the Berman Center for Performing Arts to recognize distinguished alumni honoree David Kurzmann '04 and distinguished staff honoree Pat Anderson.

The event was a resounding success, bringing in significant funds, and highlighting the critical role FJA plays in inspiring the next generation of community leaders.

Thank you to our generous donors and supporters who continue to make Jewish education a top priority.





# 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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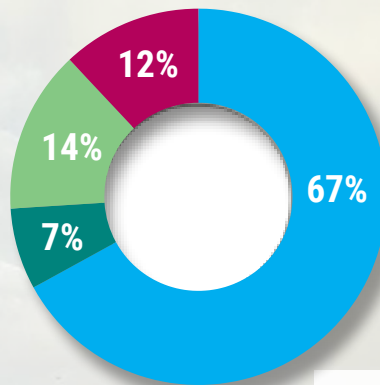
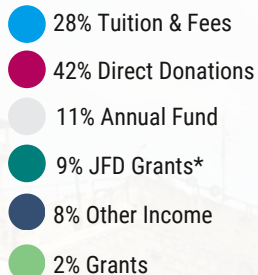
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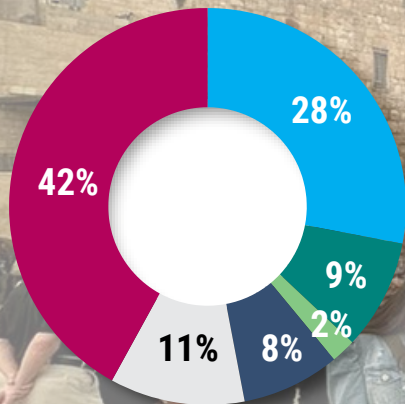
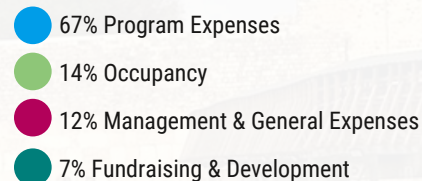
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\*Support of the Shiffman Family Tuition Assistance Millennium Fund, Schostak Family Jewish Academy Millennium Fund, William M. Davidson Centennial Fund, Jewish Education Trust Fund, J.S. Kahn Dance Endowment, and Mantel Memorial Fund.





# WE THANK OUR DONORS

**2022-2023 Annual Fund** This list represents annual donations received between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

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



## L'DOR V'DOR

We recognize and honor those who have made a legacy commitment by including Frankel Jewish Academy in their estate plans. If you would like to make a legacy commitment, please contact our Advancement Office.

Sheri and David Jaffa  
Beth and Steve Margolin  
Pam Torracco

## DESIGNATED GIVING FUNDS

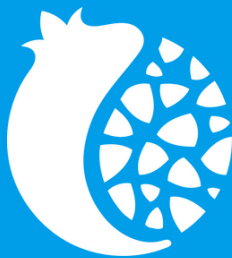
Donations have been made to the following Designated Funds during 2022-2023:

Jennifer Lanxner a"n Scholarship Fund  
Zipser Fund for Music Education & Performance

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If an error has been made, please accept our apologies.*



# THANKS!



## 2022-2023 STAFF & FACULTY CAMPAIGN PARTICIPANTS

By any definition, the commitment of the faculty and staff to FJA is inspirational. We extend our deepest gratitude to the employees for their generous support. Together, they have given over \$9,000 at all giving levels including \$5,000+.

Patricia Anderson  
Kathleen and Greg Angelosanto  
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Leah and Joseph Bernstein  
Christine Chadwick  
Elizabeth Chambers  
Angelia and Chris Chandler  
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Sonya and Nick Mantas

Mitch Master, In Honor of Eli Master  
**Rachel and Reuben Maxbauer\***  
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**"FJA is remarkable because of its unique ability to foster academic, social, and athletic growth simultaneously. Immense opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom allow for students, like myself, to meaningfully engage with peers from across all grade levels and backgrounds. Serving as Student Government All-School President, I have first-hand experience of the partnership between students, faculty, and staff which makes FJA a special place to grow and prepare for college."**

**Harry Shaevsky '24**



## WHERE DOES YOUR DONATION GO?



### TUITION ASSISTANCE

68% of FJA students receive tuition assistance. Your support ensures that any teen can receive a Jewish education.



### EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Create opportunities for students to choose from an array of offerings including STEM, art, performing arts, sports, and much more.



### SUPPORT FACULTY

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**Rabbi Azaryah Cohen** *Head of School*

**Mitch Rosenwasser** *Chief Operating Officer*

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