

AKIBA

בית ספר עקיבא



Enter the foyer of Akiba...

...you'll feel the excitement. Here is where students from every spectrum of Jewish observance and life pause to exchange ideas, to review assignments, to informally discuss ideas with teachers, to relax and catch up. The energy in this room is almost tangible. It is the energy of Jewish youth who are being challenged intellectually and enriched spiritually. Youth actively engaged in the process of becoming thinking, caring Jewish adults and leaders.



Peer into Akiba's classrooms...

...and you'll see something inspiring. A discussion of the *Book of Job* evolves into a gripping dialogue about the nature of good and evil. A teacher pauses in a trigonometry class to discuss proofs and the power of problem solving. Students in a chemistry lab explore the complexity of matter, stretching minds and imaginations. A review of the career of Pericles serves as a catalyst for students to develop their rhetorical skills. The study of Jewish ethics and traditions perpetuates Jewish life and values, connecting one generation to the next.



Stroll past Akiba...

..... on a weekday evening and you'll notice something unusual. The lights are on. Inside, students are rehearsing plays, painting murals, discussing the hottest software, preparing for a community service project, honing their debating skills, editing the student literary magazine, school newspaper or perhaps just shooting hoops after basketball practice.



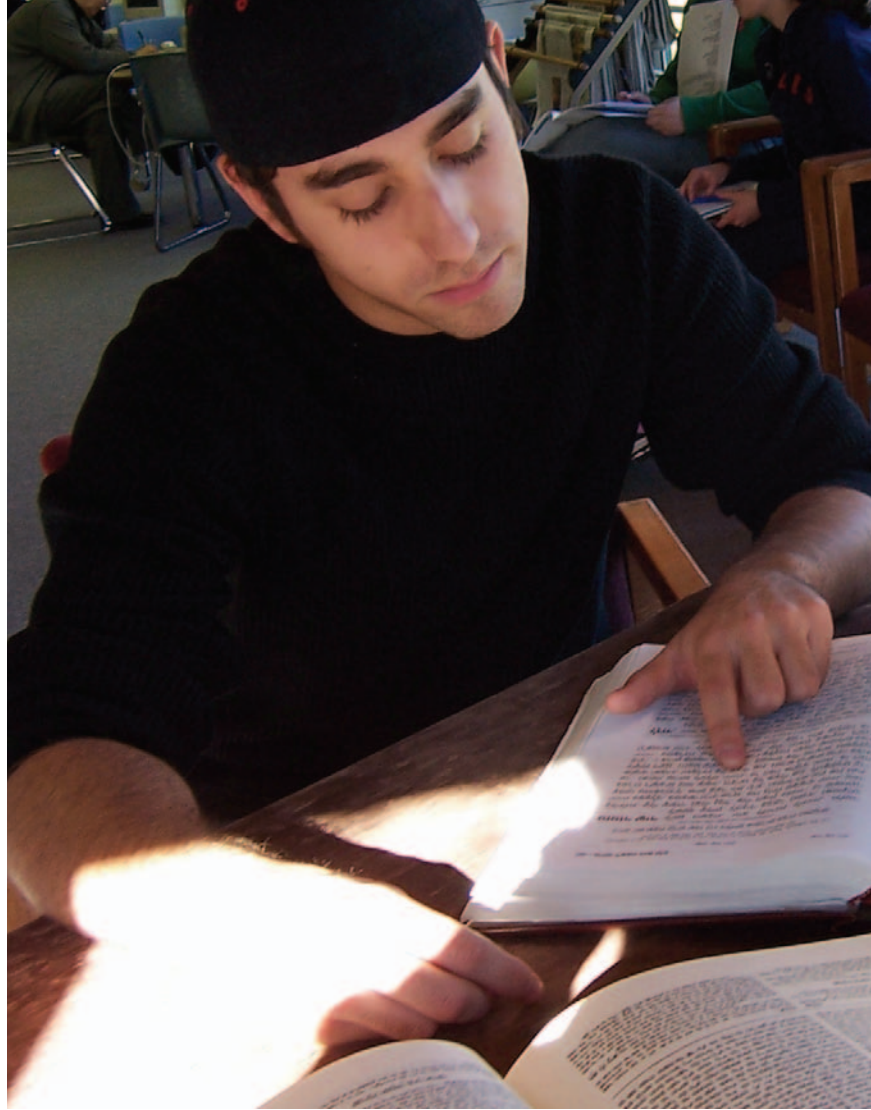
Akiba Hebrew Academy is a house of study, a second home to our many students. With a student-faculty ratio of 10-1 in both our Middle School (grades 6-8) and Upper School (grades 9-12), Akiba students enjoy the benefits of individual attention in a warm, supportive, and enlightening environment. Akiba's noted faculty, counselors, advisors, and administrators work in concert to help students achieve their full potential. No matter their age or grade, Akiba students are inspired to achieve their personal best, to develop their unique talents and interests.

In our Middle School, students enjoy the best of both possible worlds -- an educational and social program customized to meet the needs of 6th to 8th graders and continuity that helps provide a smooth transition to Upper School where they feel at home. Dedicated teachers, attuned to the needs and aspirations of adolescents, work with Middle School students in small classroom settings. Students are engaged in an innovative curriculum of general and Jewish studies that helps build independent learning skills and provides a solid foundation for future success. Beginning Hebrew classes and resource support are also available. Middle School students have their own student council, clubs, drama programs, and athletic teams, providing opportunities for leadership and student participation. In addition, students have the benefits of Upper School facilities and friendships, including access to sophisticated technology in Akiba's computer and science labs, a library of 15,000 volumes of secular and Jewish works, as well as interaction with Upper School students who become mentors and friends.



A Home *of* Learning

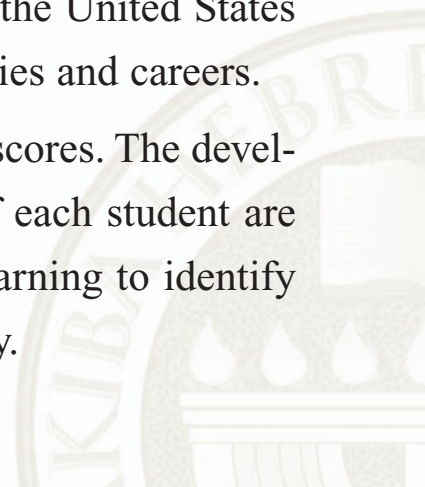




A New Generation *of* Leaders

In Upper School, students continue to be challenged by an innovative curriculum of mathematics, humanities, foreign languages, sciences, the Arts, Jewish studies, and a full range of Honors and Advanced Placement courses which provide thorough preparation for college and for life. Akiba students earn top math and verbal SAT scores, are accepted to the finest colleges and universities in the United States and Israel, and go on to assume leadership roles in their communities and careers.

At Akiba, our focus goes beyond college admissions and high test scores. The development of individual identity and the personal spiritual growth of each student are top priorities. Akiba students relish the community they create, learning to identify as links in the larger chain of Jewish, American, and human history.



A House *of* Jewish Study

Akiba's students explore the values, texts, and traditions of Judaism. Akiba's Jewish studies curriculum includes Hebrew language, Tanach (Bible), Talmud, Jewish Law, Jewish History, Zionism, and Israel. While Akiba's general studies curriculum is demanding, its pluralistic focus on Judaic studies defines Akiba and distinguishes it from other schools in the area.

Akiba draws students from diverse Jewish backgrounds. Accordingly, our flexible groupings in Hebrew and Judaic studies enable us to

consider each student's experiences and meet his or her educational needs. Indeed, we value the diversity in our student body and faculty, viewing it as a model of pluralism for the community around us and as an opportunity to promote tolerance and respect for each other's opinions and beliefs. Akiba's Jewish focus naturally includes Israel. Our Akiba-Muss Israel program allows juniors to live and study in Israel for five months, carrying a full academic course load and immersing themselves completely in the language, culture and history of Israel. Students who choose not to participate in this program enjoy an especially enriching program of educational, cultural and social activities, including an intensive study of modern Israel.



A Community *of* Responsibility

Akiba develops leaders today for tomorrow. Our students are encouraged to take on community responsibilities in and out of the classroom.



They serve on a variety of clubs and student committees which any four students can form with the cooperation of a sponsoring faculty member. Clubs range from Chess to Fine Arts, from Israel to Intramurals.

Akiba students are also represented on various administrative committees, including the Education Committee and the Board of Directors, where they are expected to make meaningful contributions. This spirit of leadership and responsibility fosters a sense of fellowship among the students which is especially important as students enter Akiba at all grade levels from public, private and Jewish day schools.

After leaving Akiba, students assume leadership roles in college, in their communities, in the world at large. Our distinguished alumni make outstanding contributions to all fields of endeavor: literature, the arts, medicine, mathematics, science, politics, journalism, education and Jewish studies and communal life.



A Way *of* Life

Judaism is not just studied at Akiba, it is lived. Every morning, students can attend voluntary minyanim (prayer services) conducted at the school. Throughout the year, the cycle of the Jewish calendar is observed, including special celebrations for Rosh Chodesh, the new month. Students observe the holidays. They build their own sukkah and join with other Jewish schools on Shabbatonim, special Sabbath youth encounters. Another key component of Akiba's Jewish experience is the Chesed outreach program which includes visits to hospital patients, participation in community outreach efforts and raising funds for a variety of charities. During the last quarter of their senior year, Akiba students also participate in a Senior Week Project of community service.

An Array *of* Opportunities

At Akiba, a substantive education includes the body and the imagination, as well as the mind. As a member of the Tri-County Independent School League for men and the Penn Jersey League for women, Akiba fields highly competitive and championship teams in cross country, basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, swimming and tennis. Our intramural program is a full and active one that generates high levels of enthusiasm. Akiba also encourages students to develop their imaginations and their appreciation of culture. The school offers a range of art classes and programs, as well as a fully-supported drama program that includes both professionally directed and student directed performances.

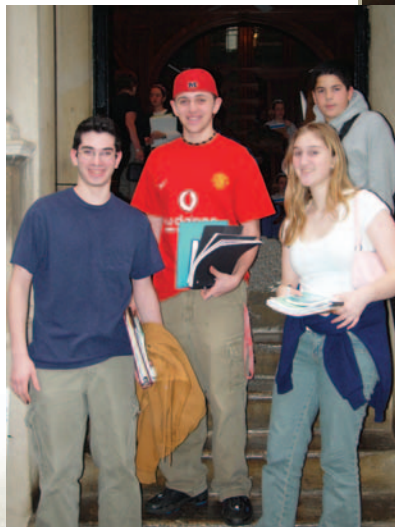


Throughout the day and into the night...



...the learning process continues. Our students learn how to think, how to question, how to take responsibility for their actions and ideas, and how to celebrate and perpetuate Jewish life and values.

This is the mission of Akiba, a unique learning community of teachers, students, counselors, and administrators who are dedicated to bringing out the best in each other.



“The teachers are very nice...very, very helpful. They're almost like parents... And I can tell that they really like teaching here.”

Evan Finkelstein '11

“Akiba has given me everything I need to be successful in college and in life...intellectually, spiritually, and socially.”

Rachel Sugarman '05

“Akiba's not like a school; it's more like a family... a supportive community. As President of the Middle School Council, I enjoy helping to create a close community for 6th-8th graders and appreciate having the opportunity to be a school leader.”

Emily Alloy '09

“We selected Akiba for our children for a host of reasons, including the school's sense of community and Jewish identity....The fact that Akiba is a pluralistic school and that the children learn the different ways Jews practice Judaism is an excellent model for tolerance and acceptance, while at the same time celebrating who they are....”

Debby and Joe Foster

(Parents of Rachael '06, Hannah '08, and Jonathan '10)

“I am encouraged to succeed in the classroom and on the tennis court....The great academic environment and the emphasis on teamwork carries into sports.”

Alexis Kushner '06

“When Jewish parents look at independent schools, they certainly should look at Akiba....Our daughter did not come from a Jewish day school, and we belong to a Reform congregation. Yet she feels at home and is doing well in Akiba's dual curriculum.”

Margo and Ian Michel (Parents of Laura '08)

“At Akiba, we learn to appreciate our heritage, while forging ahead into the future....prepared to become community leaders. I've never been afraid to express my opinions here...there is a mutual respect shared by teachers and students...encouragement to discuss diverse points of view...to think for ourselves and to listen to others.”

Ira Stup '05

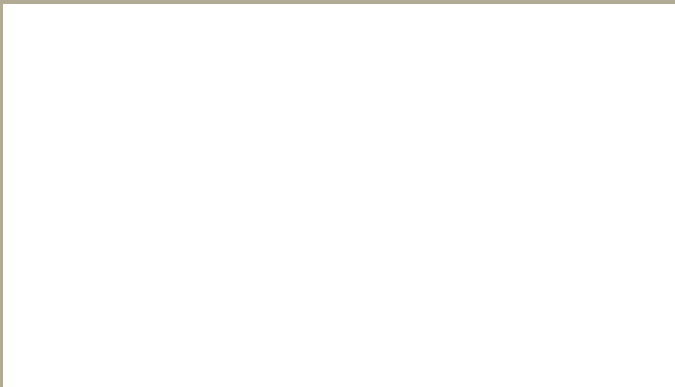
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