



## **The Garfinkle Center for Jewish Values**



**Promoting And Encouraging Leadership  
Through Tzedakah, Mitzvot And Social Action**

*Jacobson Sinai Academy provides academic excellence while nurturing souls for a fuller Jewish life.*

## **What is The Garfinkle Center for Jewish Values?**

Integrated into the school's core curriculum - Hebrew, Jewish and General Studies - the mission of the Garfinkle Center at Jacobson Sinai Academy is to promote Jewish values and teachings in the everyday lives of our students. This is accomplished through classroom teaching, as well as enrichment activities, projects and trips that emphasize Jewish values and assist young people in converting those Jewish values into meaningful and concrete *tzedakah* projects and community involvement.

## **What are our goals for our students?**

- To teach and develop character and leadership through existing core curriculum and special programs.
- To raise the level of accountability and engagement among both parents and staff, enabling them to provide better support for their children as they grow into mature, adult partners in the wider Jewish community.
- To teach children to be proactive, giving them responsibility for their own actions and for the consequences of those actions.
- To encourage children to recognize that there is a time and a place for work and for giving back, and that it comes before self and play.
- To show children that everyone can make a difference, that everyone has talent, and that everyone can be successful.
- To help children understand the needs of others in the world, and play a part in making the world a better place for everyone



At Jacobson Sinai Academy we believe that Judaism is a powerful partner in raising moral, intellectually curious, grounded children, and that it takes a loving family, in the context of a vibrant, Jewish community, to raise a child. Our school aims to develop the Jewish character of each student and family so that we can maximize the potential to influence the Jewish future of our children and our children's children. Jacobson Sinai Academy understands that it has a responsibility to pursue a true partnership between itself and the families of its students in order to realize these goals:

*God – Torah – Mitzvot - Am Yisrael - Eretz Yisrael – Leadership - Responsibility*

Every day at Jacobson Sinai Academy our students have opportunities to act in ways that are concrete expressions of the *mitzvot*. Students care for themselves and each other in ways that reflect a regard for one another as godly. In addition to reverence for human life, Jewish tradition teaches that each human being is a *shomer ha-adamah*, a caretaker of the earth. Throughout the years at Jacobson Sinai Academy each student learns that it is our Jewish responsibility to sustain the delicate ecological balance of our Earth.

In their planning, and in selecting instructional goals and materials, teachers are guided by the mission of Jacobson Sinai Academy: "to nurture souls for a fuller Jewish life." They provide our students and their families opportunities to transform words and ideas into actions by initiating and implementing a variety of *tzedakah* projects, each appropriate to the grade and developmental level of the students. These projects emanate directly from their studies and classroom conversations. Our children use these experiences as models for "grown-up" lives as Jews.

The Hebrew vocabulary used by students (*g'milut chasadim, mitzvot, tikkun olam, chesed, tzedakah*, etc.) reflects their understanding that mitzvot are a part of our everyday life. Every child who graduates from Jacobson

Sinai Academy will know and understand that it is their responsibility as a Jew to make a difference in the world.

*Mitzvot* must be more than what we do at home. They involve outreach to the community through targeted fund-raising and social action projects. Performing *mitzvot* is about attitude as well as action; our children understand that they are the future leaders of the Jewish community, and that this is their training.

Performing *mitzvot* and *tzedakah* is not just about collecting money; it's about humanity: caring for people, plants and, animals, for the ecology of the planet. It is not enough to be a practicing Jew, it's how we treat our fellow humans, how we take care of the community. "Do unto others..." can bring pleasure, through the joy of giving which is even greater than the gift of receiving.

*Tzedakah* is one of the three most important Jewish values along with Torah and *T'fillah*. *Tzedakah* means righteousness, and to be righteous one must perform deeds of kindness. If we teach our children that "it feels good", the children will pass that message on to others: to their parents as well as the next generation.

### **So how does it work in practice?**

Based on the specific *mitzvot* which are focused on at each grade level, and building on the *mitzvot* from previous grades, students at JSA learn and reflect upon ways of impacting the community through service and social action. The implementation of this curriculum further develops leadership skills and Jewish values embedded in the curricula in all subject areas. Service projects and activities vary each year and are determined by student interest and available opportunities.



## Kindergarten

Manners and Courtesy/*Derech Eretz*

דרך ארץ

For their part in the ethics curriculum of JSA, Kindergarten students learn about manners, social skills, and etiquette, thus building character and self-esteem. Classroom lessons focus on multiple areas in which students need to demonstrate manners towards their peers and adults. Key vocabulary is taught, and practiced: politeness, tact, consideration, courtesy and respect. Rabbi Hillel's words, "Do not do to others what you would not have them do to you" are particularly emphasized. Students learn through song, role-playing, stories, games, art activities and more.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Loving Your Neighbor/*V'ahavta l'rayacha kamocho*

ואהבת לרעך כמוך

Community/*Kehillah*

קהילה

The 1<sup>st</sup> grade students learn that they are part of many communities including their family, school, neighborhood, synagogue, etc. They continue to discuss and practice treating others as they wish to be treated. Daily routines, class assignments, and *mitzvah* projects teach our children the importance of treating others the way we want to be treated ourselves and of being part of a community.



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Kindness to Animals/ *Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim*

**צער בעלי חיים**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students help those less fortunate than themselves, specifically animals. The students are exposed to and involved in literature and experiences regarding this topic across the curriculum in different subject areas. They build knowledge and gain awareness of the need to inquire, preserve, and educate others about the importance of protecting the many living things around them. They visit Flamingo Gardens and tour the grounds which house many protected or injured wild animals. Students demonstrate the Jewish values of *Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim* by raising money in a meaningful way in order to adopt an injured animal at Flamingo Gardens to help maintain its survival.



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

Fixing the World (Recycling, Go Green!)

*Tikkum Olam*

**תקון עולם**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students learn about the importance of preserving the natural world around them. In an effort to inspire our team, the curriculum is designed to include many "EARTH shattering" experiences. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students partner with Southeastern Recycling Corp. to collect the paper recycling material for JSA on a daily basis. In addition, they promote awareness of recycling to all students. Class assignments, school-wide drives, and family *mitzvah* projects are undertaken to teach our children the importance of guarding the Earth.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Respect for All Human Life/ *Mishaneh Habriyot* משנה הבריאות

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students recognize that God created people differently and learn to appreciate and respect these differences. In addition to class activities related to this topic, students raise money for Chanukah candles in December to help support The Center for the Advancement of the Blind, *Beit Yael*, in Israel, and sell Shabbat-O-Grams daily to contribute to Chai Lifeline. Students also participate in local community service projects related to the value of *Mishaneh Habriyot*.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Acts of Loving Kindness/ *G'milut Chasadim* גמילות חסדים

Charity/ *Tzedakah*

צדקה

*"Tzedakah is as important as all other mitzvot combined."*

Bava Batra 9a

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students identify the needs of others and recognize how they can help others meet those needs. Students research and choose organizations they would like to help. Projects, speakers, and class trips are planned to educate and implement the value of long term commitment to giving *tzedakah* and participating in community service.



## UPPER SCHOOL

Many aspects of the Garfinkle Center for Jewish Values are addressed in the Upper School from 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. *Tikkun Olam* and *Ahavat Tziyon* are foremost among these values, and they are integrated throughout the secular and Judaic curriculum at all grade levels. All students must fulfill 20 hours of approved community service per year. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, led by Student Council and National Junior Honor Society members, participate to help developmentally disabled children in Israel at the *Beit Issie* center. Students learn how to work together cooperatively toward a goal, and demonstrate caring and love for others. To do their part to make the world a better place, students collect food for the needy at Thanksgiving time, and purchase candles to benefit the blind in Israel. All students participate in a *Chidon L'Israel* or a *Chidon l'Tanach* event meant to strengthen their core knowledge of their heritage, while fostering healthy competition at the same time.



### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

As part of their study skills curriculum, 6<sup>th</sup> graders undertake a "Go Green" group project that explores the causes and effects of water and air pollution, issues of waste and recycling, energy conservation, and endangered species. Every student is responsible for researching one of these topics and writing an explanatory piece, as well as creating a list of "10 things we can do at home, in our school and community to effect a positive change for the Earth." Students are asked to create mottos and slogans that serve as a reminder of our responsibilities for *Tikkun Olam*.



### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade research pertinent aspects of the environment through their geography studies, and pinpoint specific areas of environmental damage, such as that caused by Communist expansion in Eastern Europe, and the damage to the Alps caused by human encroachment. They work on a "Save the Alps" activity to stimulate interest in the subject. Students participate in a rainforest fundraiser after studying environmental risks posed by development.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

8<sup>th</sup> Graders strengthen their love for *Eretz Yisrael* as they study Zionism, and their knowledge of the Holocaust is expanded to assure that history is not repeated. They understand how the Holocaust led to the creation of the State of Israel, and why the existence of Israel is key to the survival of the Jewish people. Further, the students study the history and culture of both ancient and modern Israel, and this year culminates with either an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to Israel, or a trip to a destination in the United States with a firm Jewish connection.



## What do we mean when we speak about “Jewish Values?”

The list below is not comprehensive, and constantly updated; what follows are some of the core values that we embrace at Jacobson Sinai Academy.

REPAIRING THE WORLD	<i>TIKUN OLAM</i>	תקון עולם
ACTS OF LOVINGKINDNESS	<i>GEMILUT HASADIM</i>	גמילות חסדים
AIDING THOSE IN DISTRESS	<i>HAKEM TAKIM IMO</i>	הקם תקים עולמו
ALL OF ISRAEL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE ANOTHER	<i>KOL YISRAEL AREVIM ZEH BASEH</i>	כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲרֵבִים זֶה לַזֶּה
AWE, REVERENCE	<i>YIRAH</i>	ירא
BEHAVING PROPERLY WITH GOOD MANNERS	<i>DEREKH ERETZ</i>	דרך ארץ
BEING CHEERFUL	<i>SEVER PANIM YAFOT</i>	סבר פנים יפות
BRINGING PEACE BETWEEN PEOPLE	<i>HA VA'AT SHALOM BEIN ADAM LAHAVERO</i>	הבאת שלום בין אדם לחברו
CHOOSING BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG	<i>BECHIRAH HOFSHIT</i>	בחירה חפשית
CLEAVING TO FRIENDS	<i>DIBUK CHAVERIM</i>	דבוק חברים
CLOTHING THE NAKED	<i>HALBASHAT ARUMIM</i>	הלבשת ערומים
COMFORTING MOURNERS	<i>NICHUM AVEILIM</i>	נחום אבלים
COMMUNITY	<i>KEHILLAH</i>	קהילה
COMPASSION	<i>RACHAMIM</i>	רחמים
CONTENTED PERSON	<i>SAMAYACH B'CHELKO</i>	שמח בחלקו
COURAGE	<i>OMETZ LEV</i>	אומץ לב
CRITICIZING CONSTRUCTIVELY	<i>HOCHEACH TOCHEEACH</i>	הוכח תוכיח
DECENT PERSON	<i>MENSCH (Y)</i>	מנשט
DECENT SPEECH	<i>LASHON TOV</i>	לשון הטוב
DEVOTION, SHOWING SINCERITY	<i>KAVANAH</i>	כוונה
DOING RIGHTEOUS ACTS/CHARITY	<i>TZEDAKAH</i>	צדקה
FEEDING THE HUNGRY	<i>HA'AKHALAT RE'EVIM</i>	האכלת רעבים
FORGIVENESS	<i>SELICHOT</i>	סליחות
FREEDOM OF CHOICE	<i>BECHIRAH HOFSHIT</i>	בחירה חפשית
GENEROSITY	<i>NEDIVUT</i>	נדיבות
GIVING THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT	<i>DAN L'CHAF ZECHUT</i>	דן לכף זכות
GOOD NAME	<i>SHEM TOV</i>	שם טוב
HONESTY, TRUTH	<i>EMET</i>	אמת

HONOR, RESPECT FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS	<i>KAVOD</i>	כבוד
HONORING HUMAN BEINGS	<i>KEVOD HA-BERHOT</i>	כבוד הבריאות
HONORING PARENTS	<i>KIBBUD AV VA-EM</i>	כבוד אב ואם
HONORING TEACHERS	<i>KIBBUD MORIM</i>	כבוד מורים
HONORING THE AGED	<i>KIBUD ZEKAYNIM</i>	כבוד הזקנים
HOSPITALITY, WELCOMING GUESTS	<i>HACHNASAT ORCHIM</i>	הכנסת אורחים
HUMILITY, MODESTY	<i>ANAV</i>	ענו
HUMILITY	<i>ANAVAH</i>	ענוה
IMPULSE TOWARD GOOD, A GOOD INCLINATION	<i>YETZER HA-TOV</i>	יצר הטוב
INDIVIDUALITY	<i>VIKUACH</i>	וכוח
JOY, HAPPINESS	<i>SIMCHAH</i>	שמחה
KEEPING ONE'S WORD	<i>NEDARIM</i>	נדרים
KINDNESS TO ANIMALS	<i>TZA'AR BA'ALEI HAYYIM</i>	צער בעלי חיים
LOVE FOR TORAH	<i>AHAVAT TORAH</i>	אהבת תורה
LOVE OF LEARNING	<i>AHAVAT LIMUD</i>	אהבת למוד
LOVING ALL OF GOD'S CREATION	<i>AHAVAT HA-BERHOT</i>	אהבת הבריאות
LOVING ONE'S NEIGHBOR	<i>V'AHAVTA L'REYACHA</i>	ואהבת לרעך כמוך
MITZVAH OF TEACHING, MITZVAH OF LEARNING	<i>TALMUD TORAH</i>	תלמוד תורה
MERCY, COMPASSIONATE	<i>RACHAMIM</i>	רחמים
MINIMIZING SMALL TALK	<i>MIYUT SICHAH</i>	מעוט שיחה
MODESTY	<i>TZENIUT</i>	צניעות
NOT DESTROYING	<i>BAL TASHCHIT</i>	בעל תשחית
NOT EMBARRASSING	<i>LO LEVAYESH</i>	לא לביש
NOT STANDING BY WHILE OTHERS ARE THREATENED	<i>LO TA'AMOD AL DAM RE'ECHA</i>	לא תעמוד על דם רעך
OBSERVING SHABBAT	<i>SHEMIRAT SHABBAT</i>	שמירת שבת
PEACE	<i>SHALOM</i>	שלום
PEACE IN THE HOME	<i>SHALOM BAYIT</i>	שלום בית
PEOPLEHOOD	<i>KLAL YISRAEL</i>	כלל ישראל
PRESERVING PEACE	<i>DARCHEI SHALOM</i>	דרכי שלום
REMEMBRANCE	<i>ZACHOR</i>	זכור
REPAIRING THE WORLD	<i>TIKKUN OLAM</i>	תקון עולם
REPENTANCE	<i>TESHUVAH</i>	תשובה
RESPECT	<i>KAVOD</i>	כבוד
RETURNING LOST PROPERTY	<i>HASHAVAT AVAYDAH</i>	השבת אבידה
RIGHTEOUSNESS, GIVING	<i>TZEDAKAH, TZEDEK</i>	צדקה צדק
SAVING HUMAN LIFE	<i>PIKUACH NEFESH</i>	פקוח נפש

SCHOLAR	<i>TALMID CHACHAM</i>	תלמיד חכם
SEEKING PEACE	<i>REDIFAT SHALOM</i>	רדיפת שלום
SEEKING JUSTICE	<i>DIRSHU MISHPAT</i>	דרשו משפט
STRENGTH	<i>KOACH</i>	כֹּחַ
STRENGTH OF SPIRIT	<i>RUACH</i>	רוח
STUDYING TORAH	<i>TALMUD TORAH</i>	תלמוד תורה
TAKING CARE OF ONE'S BODY	<i>SHEMIRAT HAGUF</i>	שמירת הגוף
TRUTHFULNESS	<i>DIBUR EMET</i>	דבור אמת
VIRTUOUS PERSON	<i>BAL MIDDOT</i>	בעל מדות
VISITING THE SICK	<i>BIKUR HOLIM</i>	בקר חולים
RECOGNIZING THE GOOD YOU ENJOY, GRATEFUL ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE	<i>HAKARAT HATOV</i>	הכרת הטוב
FRIENDS	<i>CHAVERIM</i>	חברים
KINDNESS	<i>CHESED</i>	חסד
GOOD QUALITIES OF A PERSON	<i>MIDOT TOVOT</i>	מדות טובות
PATIENCE	<i>SAVLANUT</i>	סבלנות
DOING THE BEST POSSIBLE JOB	<i>AVODAH TOVAH</i>	עבודה טובה
PREVENTING ANIMALS FROM SUFFERING	<i>TZAAR BAALEY CHAYIM</i>	צער בעלי חיים
WISDOM	<i>CHOCHMA</i>	חכמה
WISE PERSON	<i>CHACHAM</i>	חכם
EFFORT	<i>HISHTADLUT</i>	השתדלות