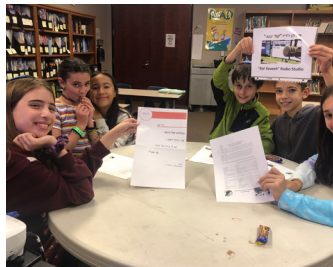
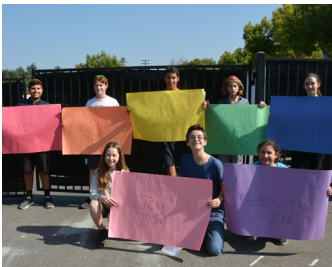




Middle School Curriculum Highlights



Yavneh Day School's Mission

Yavneh Day School is committed to academic excellence in General and Jewish studies within a strong, vibrant community where each child is celebrated and challenged. A Yavneh education is about discovering how a child learns in order to maximize each student's potential while fostering curiosity, encouraging risk taking, and ingraining a love of learning.



14855 Oka Road
Los Gatos, CA 95032
(408) 984-6700
www.yavnehdayschool.org

Highlights of the Middle School

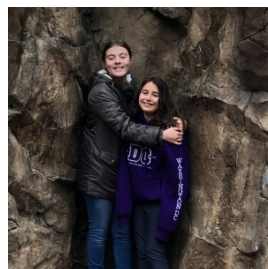
Yavneh's middle school provides innovative programming that encourages leadership and empowerment. We support early adolescents' developmental needs as we challenge and enrich their minds and spirits. We welcome students transferring from both public and independent schools, and offer Hebrew language instruction at various levels to accommodate both new and Hebrew fluent students. The Middle School Curriculum is designed to emphasize academic and social-emotional development, self-responsibility, becoming a positive community member, and being an active participant in one's own learning. Yavneh's outstanding teachers emphasize four key 21st century skills: collaboration and teamwork, creativity and imagination, critical thinking, and problem solving.

A Year at a Glance

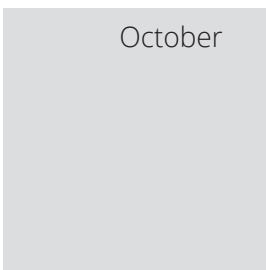
August
September



Tashlich



October



Cross Country



Simchat Torah



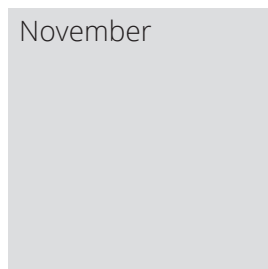
Sukkot



Student Council



Keshet Crew



November



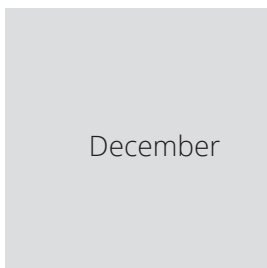
Reading week



Veteran's Day



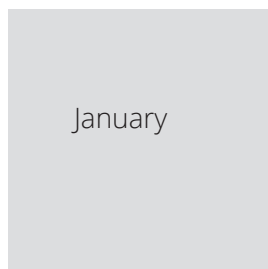
Day of Code



December

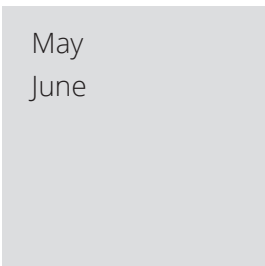
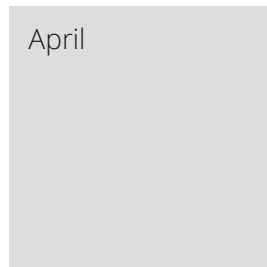
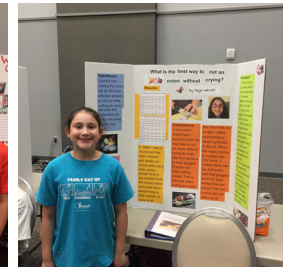
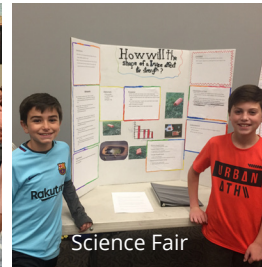
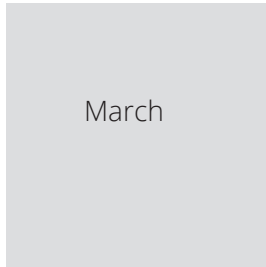
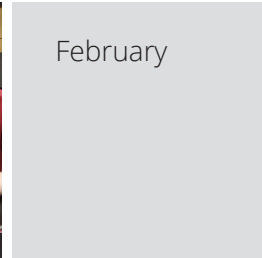


Hanukkah



January





Sample 6th Grade Schedule

Period	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Community Tefilah	Math	Math	Torah Service	Language Arts
2	Hebrew	Hebrew	Hebrew	Hebrew	Global Research
Morning Recess					
3	Global Research	Global Research	Global Research	Science	Math
4	Science	Science	Science	Language Arts	Science
Lunch					
5	Language Arts	Jewish Studies*	Elective**	Elective**	Elective**
6	Math	Language Arts	Language Arts	Jewish Studies*	Elective**
7	Advisory	P.E.	P.E.	Math	Kabbalat Shabbat

Schedules vary from student to student and each trimester

*Trimester rotation between Israel Studies, Beit Midrash, and Social Justice.

**Electives vary from year to year and from trimester to trimester. See pages 13-14 for elective information.

Language Arts

In middle school, Yavneh students are moving away from literal thinking and are becoming interpretive thinkers. The language arts curriculum is designed to help the students develop their critical and interpretive thinking skills. Through reading projects, students build up their reading comprehension skills and analysis of literary concepts such as plot, conflict, character development, and figurative language. They concentrate on the writing process in order to write research papers, expository essays, persuasive papers, response to literature essays, and narratives. Students expand in their internet research, note taking, and vocabulary skills. In addition, students work on their public speaking and listening skills.

Alongside the reading and writing curricula, the students also receive direct instruction in grammar, mechanics, and style. The goal is to help the students become masterful and creative users of the English language.

In addition to examining poetry, myths, and nonfiction text related to the novels and themes, students read from the following selection of short stories and novels:

Kitah Vav (Sixth Grade): "On the Bridge," Bud, Not Buddy, and The Giver

Kitah Zayin (Seventh Grade): "The Lottery," Amigo Brothers," The Devil's Arithmetic, Walk Two Moons and a Fantasy unit

Kitah Chet (Eighth Grade): "The Most Dangerous Game," The Outsiders, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian, Book of Esther, and Warriors Don't Cry

Jewish Studies Integration

Jewish Studies is seamlessly integrated into the Language Arts and Global Research curriculum by matching themes and ideals studied in those subjects with parallel ideas in Jewish text and scripture. Alongside the thematic and text parallels, we also focus on the physical practice of chevruta - partnered study that is a cornerstone of Jewish learning practice. Yavneh teachers have been trained in and practice the Pedagogy of Partnership, which focuses on the use of chevruta study (the Jewish tradition of collaborative learning) in all content areas.

Global Research

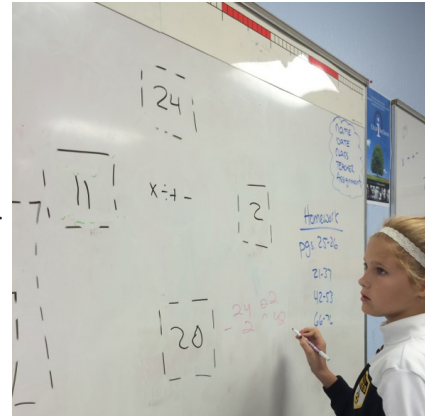
Yavneh's global research curriculum teaches skills and concepts that are essential to the study of history and social studies. Students become well-prepared for advanced placement and honors-level history classes as they move on to High School. Students develop writing skills using their own voice and unique point of view while collaborating with others. They develop important skills that include note taking, researching and analyzing sources, summarizing, using primary sources, geography, critical thinking, text analysis, discussion and political debate, and speech.

Big Ideas Learned

- Studying the past helps us to understand the present
- Physical geography plays a role in how civilizations develop and decline
- Geography shapes the political, economic, and political challenges our region faces
- Geography influences the divergent paths of people resulting in physical, economic, and political challenges and rewards
- People's social status affects how they live
- Different social, economic, and political classes can exist in society
- Civilizations with strong economies prosper and grow
- Religion influences how cultures develop, just as culture shapes how religions develop and how culture spreads
- As different societies interact, they often bring about change in each other
- Exploration and trade spread ideas and goods
- Immigration influences a region's economy and society
- Political ideas and major events shape how people form government
- Conflict often brings about great change
- Economic, social and political changes create new traditions, values, and beliefs
- Differences in economic, social and political beliefs and practices can lead to division within a nation and have lasting consequences
- A constitution reflects the values and goals of the society that creates it
- Civilizations are strengthened by a variety of advances
- Innovations in technology and business help build a nation's industrial power
- All civilizations depend upon leadership for survival
- System of order, such as law and government, lead to stable societies
- The interaction of different societies brings about the development of new ideas, art, and technology
- As society matures, a distinctive culture can develop
- Citizen participation is essential to the foundation and preservation of the U.S. political system
- Political, social, religious, and economic changes influence the way Americans think and act
- Reactions to social injustice can lead to reform movements
- Integration of Jewish values, history, and Israel

Math

Yavneh offers a challenging mathematics program for middle schoolers designed to create interest and enthusiasm in mathematical studies. Middle school math encompasses topics in Pre-algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Probability and Statistics. Students start learning new vocabulary that enables them to navigate the new core ideas of a subject. Each subject is taught meticulously from concept to solving practical, everyday problems. Finally, these subject matters are not detached from one another and are integrated seamlessly to enhance the students' proficiency in each individual subject.



Yavneh's middle school math program, based on Singapore Math, is rich in problem-solving investigations and emphasizes a depth of mathematical reasoning skills. The curriculum is built to empower each student with the tools and methods that will enable application of mathematical thinking to real problems. Teachers of this program make use of manipulative and self-discovery investigations to help students fully understand "why" the mathematical concepts are true. These include hands-on projects and other fun activities that develop the precise cognitive functions to lead the students to success.

Each grade has multiple math levels to better meet the needs of the student population that are structured to challenge students to develop their potential and extract high level cognitive functions. Differentiated thinking methodologies, such as the use of meta-cognitive reflection (thinking about the way one thinks), enable students to improve upon their own intellect and break possible mental barriers that hinder their progress in math and possibly other fields as well. All students have opportunities for skill practice and enrichment, as needed.

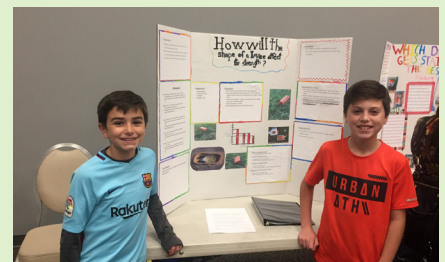
Science

Middle school students are educated in an environment promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) using a curriculum based on the new Next Generation Science Standards.

- As often as possible, students have a practical application of the theoretical work by either hands-on or virtual labs.
- Students are empowered to carry out inquiry based activities where they determine the correct approach to gather experimental evidence to support phenomena they are investigating.
- Students practice 21st century skills (such as collaboration, teamwork, research etc.) in small team based project groups.
- Students use their senses (and other tools) to make detailed observations about the world around them.
- Students become more proficient in designing and conducting experiments to answer questions about scientific concepts.
- By gaining a familiarity with measurements and different units, students estimate relative and absolute sizes.
- Using their lab notebooks, students practice organizing and collecting data.
- Students decode science articles or passages that are written using grade-level appropriate academic language.
- After students have made their scientific discoveries, they practice clearly communicating their findings both verbally and in writing.
- Students are presented with open-ended questions that they answer using their own approaches.
- Through various design challenges, students practice the fundamentals of the engineering process.

Science Fair

Middle school students create science fair projects that are presented to the entire school in the spring. These projects give students experience in designing and carrying out experiments following the scientific process and reporting results in a clear, meaningful fashion. Students also have the opportunity to take their projects to the Santa Clara County Synopsys Science and Technology Championship and compete against students from all over the county. In addition, students have other opportunities for bringing their projects to the community such as the Technion Design Challenges and programs of Silicon Valley companies.



Hebrew

Yavneh's Middle School Hebrew program offers leveled programming designed to fit the skills of each student. Students are divided into small groups according to their ability, enabling new students to fit comfortably into the program.

The students continue to develop their conversational fluency and their writing skills by using Israeli music, poems, stories, newspaper articles, and a variety of books. Students create projects using Hebrew in many creative ways. Daily immersion in spoken and written Hebrew is used in all levels. This helps students to experience the Hebrew language and gain confidence as they practice.

Yavneh maintains a commitment to “deep textuality” engaging students in the study of sacred texts in their original language - Hebrew. As literary archeologists, students engage in character analysis of biblical personalities, probe shifts in Hebrew, and debate the articulation of a motif.

Social Justice

Yavneh middle school students will gain and embrace social responsibility through study and hands-on activities built into a curriculum designed to:

Learn about the process of creating non profit organizations and understanding their role in our society by analyzing them as a case study via the Design Thinking methodology (Sixth Grade)

Understand the challenges of resolving social injustice through philanthropic giving and carry out a thoughtful allocation of philanthropic funds garnered through a special bar/ bat mitzvah gifting model (Seventh Grade)

Engage in community service activities designed to embody the principle of giving of personal time, effort and mental and/or physical energy to address social needs and injustices (Eighth Grade)

Israel Studies

Israel Studies aims to have students understand where we as the Jewish people have come from, where we are today and where we are going. It involves big questions, many of which don't necessarily have concrete answers. It centers around ideas of peoplehood, statehood, and legitimacy and requires an in-depth study of geography, history and belief.

Taught in trimester blocks, we are part of the pilot program from Jewish LearningWorks, called, "On The Map". This integrative, experiential program will help us understand not only the land, but its population, history and emerging future. In addition, we will explore the contradictions and disagreements that may arise between different narratives that will lead each of our students to their own informed understandings. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, our students have the chance explore how this story relates to them personally as they figure out who they are each becoming as people and as Jews.

Beit Midrash

In Beit Midrash, students work in partnership and on partnership while delving into the ancient texts of the Jewish tradition. Students learn the skills necessary to become close readers of the text, attentive listeners, imaginative wonderers, focused challengers, staunch supporters, and articulate interpreters. Most importantly, they become an integral link in a chain of sacred interpretative tradition that started long before them and, through their work, are ensuring will continue long after them. Over the course of Middle School, students are exposed to Midrash, Mishna, Talmud and other biblical and legal commentaries. The frameworks we are using help students cultivate both the dispositions and skills that contribute to deepening their intellectual, social, ethical and spiritual capacities while exercising the core practices of critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity.

Keshet of Kavod

For eighth grade students who have the role of being the "Keshet Crew", this time is designated to them to study to value of the month and create an educational presentation for the school to be able to understand and enact the value.



Physical Education

Athletics is an integral part of Yavneh's middle school curriculum. Beyond physical fitness and skill development, Yavneh students learn to make healthy life choices, link exercise to overall well-being, and experience the joys and life lessons that come from teamwork. Middle School P.E. is led by certified personnel at the JCC and Yavneh's coach and takes place on the JCC field, gymnasium, swimming pool, or fitness rooms. Students participate in: soccer, tennis, swimming, dance, speed and agility training, fitness training, volleyball and basketball.

Team Sports

Yavneh offers a competitive interscholastic athletics program that fosters fair play, sportsmanship, team spirit, team building, and friendly competition. Sports offered include: cross country, volleyball, basketball, soccer and track and field.

Advisory

The vision of the Yavneh Middle School Advisory program is to create a safe space and caring community through which students engage with their social and emotional intelligences. Our task is to help students navigate this uncertain time of early adolescence by fortifying them with critical skills and tools that they can use as they progress through their task of becoming a confident individual and successful young adult.

Advisory is a time for students to gather in small groups with their advisor and reflect upon their week, share how they are feeling, address any social or academic issues that arise, discuss upcoming activities and projects, and work on team building and conflict resolution. These weekly sessions will also be used to guide students in study skills, organization and goal setting.

Journeys

Each spring, the middle school travels with their class and advisors for an extended learning trip. Each journey moves the student further in their growth intellectually, socially and emotionally and is often a transformative experience. The journeys are tied to our integrated curriculum. Our 8th grade journey to Israel is a capstone event for the students' entire Yavneh education.

Electives

Electives change every trimester; following are examples of electives offered

Academic Electives

Innovation Lab: Like a built-in “Genius Hour”, innovation lab can be a unique project for each student focusing on a particular passion. Students submit a proposal for a project that must meet requirements according to the four pillars: rigorous new learning, be interdisciplinary, produce something of value, and benefit a community of need.

Journalism: Students put out the Yavneh school newspaper, *Y Life*, using both online and print media. Students take photos and document events throughout the community. The students also help put together the Yavneh school yearbook in the spring trimester.

Chess: Students learn the game of Chess, improve chess skills and enjoy friendly competition.

Math Olympiads: Students will learn more about problem solving strategies by trying out some new approaches and techniques.

Arts Electives

Art: Students will explore new techniques in this elective. They will create color field sketchbooks using stain painting and create a journal with padding paper into a sketchbook with a stain-painted canvas cover. In addition, students will learn about Batik Art, a traditional art-form which involves using wax and dye to create beautiful and intricate patterns on cloth.

Modern Band: Modern Band is modeled after the Little Kids Rock band curriculum (www.littlekidsrock.com). Students learn to perform, improvise and compose using the popular styles that they know and love including rock, pop, reggae, hip hop, R&B and other modern styles. Students in Modern Band classes will learn guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, vocals, technology, and computers.

Performing Arts: Students will learn dramatic arts through acting, technical theater, and an exploration of theater within an historical and cultural context. They will further their skills in public speaking, line memorization, and improvisation, and learn about stage performance and history of drama, as well as a variety of theater genres (musical theater, comedy, etc.).

Mixed Media Art: Students will learn many art mediums, from watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, chalk, pencil, clay, metal, glass, mixed media, print making, batiking, and more. They will learn to create art installations.



Electives

STEAM Electives

Animation, Robotics and Coding: Students will learn how to use the Animation Studio app and the Animation Stations with our iPad Minis to create scenes and dramatic reenactments. Students will also learn coding with Scratch, use the Makey-Makey and learn Robotics.

Robotics Competition: Learn how to program Dash and Dot and compete in the international Wonder League challenge. The Wonder League is a world-wide robotics organization that invites teams of students to use a lot of creativity and some coding concepts to solve challenges using specific robots and accessories. Prior to entering the competition, students will have time to learn how to code with Dot and Dash and solve past challenges. (6th grade only)

Jewish Learning Electives

Teva, Trek and Torah: Students in this class will walk on the wild side--actively exploring the natural areas surrounding Yavneh through a physical and spiritual lens. The final group project will be the designing and creation of an outdoor installation for the Yavneh community.

Shabbat Shabband: Take ownership over Kabbalat Shabbat the Yavneh way by being a musician or singer in Yavneh's first official Shabbat band! You do need to be able to play an instrument or sing, and you need to be ready to lead like a champion! Shabbat Shabband will run Kabbalat Shabbat once a month, bring tunes, new tunes and a host of your own tunes for the Yavneh Kabbalat Shabbat experience.

Yehumanoot: Judaism & the Arts: Students will explore various ways to problem solve different worlds of Jewish understanding AND creating one-of-a-kind, incredible art installations that will help beautify our school. We will be experimenting with different materials and media including wood, glass, metal and more.

Classroom Helpers: Students will have an opportunity to volunteer in K - 3 classes. Activities will include reading or listening to students read, assisting with math problem solving or leading a center activity.

