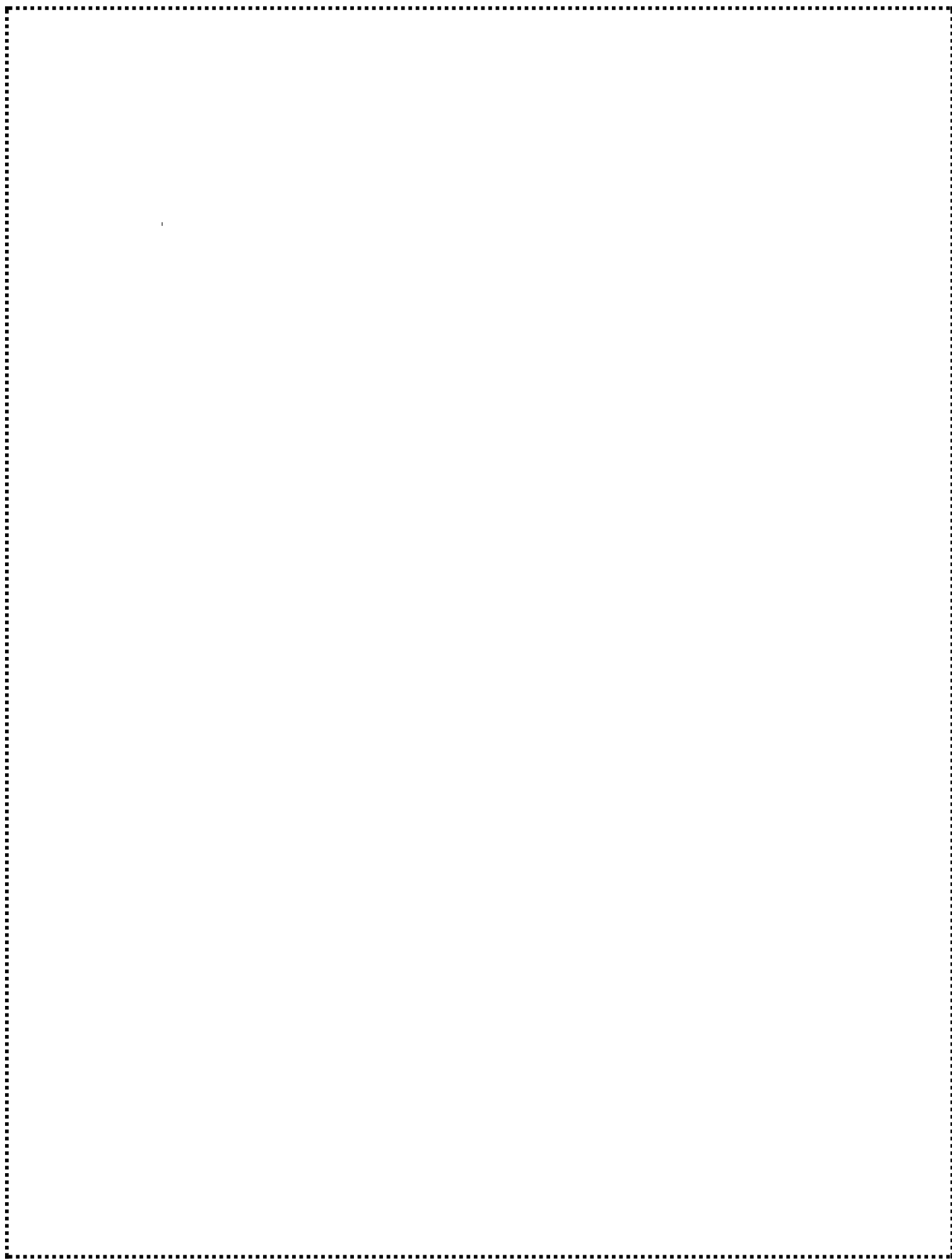


# Course BCHSJS Catalog



# 2018-2019



## WHY COME TO BCHSJS?

Engage in  
Passionate Learning  
Discuss what really matters  
to YOU with open-minded  
teachers. Hang out with  
your old friends and make  
new ones! Discover a safe  
place to find out who you  
really are.  
Change the World!

## WHAT IS BCHSJS?

It's about being with friends, learning new things,  
figuring out who you are and making a difference in a  
Jewish environment.  
It's not just the classes, it's also the retreats and the  
special trips!  
It's the place to be on Sunday mornings!

## WHO WILL YOU FIND AT BCHSJS?

8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Teens:  
Amazing friends who will change your life!  
Charismatic, Energetic, and Knowledgeable Teachers.  
All Kinds of Jews!  
Reform, Orthodox, Renewal, Conservative, Unaffiliated, Atheist,  
Questioning, Cultural, Rebelling,  
Humanist Jews, and "just Jewish" Jews... & the real you!

*"Thanks to the amazing staff  
and students at BCHSJS, I  
have made memories I will  
never forget."*

*Brianna Leopold  
12<sup>th</sup> grade*

*"I love all the new friends that  
I made and all the trips that  
we get to go on"*

*Gabby Rubin  
9<sup>th</sup> grade*

*"At BCHSJS we have more  
freedom and we get to  
choose our classes."*

*Jillian Heit  
10<sup>th</sup> grade*

*"BCHSJS has been a terrific  
experience. There is a wide  
variety of engaging subjects  
and classes to pick from  
which are taught by  
involved, capable teachers.  
And there is a strong sense  
of community here. I'm very  
glad I chose to continue my  
Jewish education at  
BCHSJS."*

*Sam Pitchkhadze  
11<sup>th</sup> grade*

*"I started out not knowing  
anyone. Now I have so  
many friends."*

*Jaiden Clark  
9<sup>th</sup> grade*

*"It's really fun at BCHSJS. I  
met really nice/great  
friends and teachers."*

*Molli Gordon  
10<sup>th</sup> grade*

WEEKDAY OFFICE INFO:  
475 Grove Street – Lower  
Level  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
Phone: 201-488-0834  
Fax: 201-488-2126

WHEN AND WHERE IS BCHSJS?  
Sunday Mornings from  
9:30am – 12:45pm at  
The Moriah School  
53 South Woodland Street  
Englewood, New Jersey 07631

## Period 1 - Class Choices

### **Avengers Assemble! A Study of the Marvel “JEWniverse**

**Grades 9-12**

**Ms. Yardená Bannett**

Are you a fan of the Marvel Universe? Then come and study the Marvel “Jew”niverse! In this fun and interactive class, we will be exploring characters such as Captain America, Iron Man, and the Hulk, finding out what they can teach us and what Judaism has to say about their personalities and powers!

### **Connections Through Time**

**8th Grade Core Requirement**

**Mr. Barnett Goldman & Ms. Tova Sklar**

This will be a highly interactive course for students to learn about BCHSJS, themselves, and their new classmates. Not only will there be a ton of fun activities, there will also be opportunities to explore the history, beliefs, and customs of Judaism. Look forward to some awesome projects, activities, videos, and discussions!

### **Contemporary Issues**

**Grades 9-12**

**Rabbi Gary Hoffman**

What does Judaism say about torturing a terrorist for information? What is the Jewish perspective on Mossad spies committing adultery to accomplish their missions? What does the Torah have to say about committing suicide to avoid suffering? What exactly is it that makes us human anyway? What do the Rabbis say about human-animal hybrid experimentation? We will use primary and secondary Jewish sources to discuss these and other fascinating contemporary topics such as: Pro-Life/Pro-Choice debate; Uber in Jewish law; contraception; is violence ever justified?

### **The Ethicist**

**Grades 9-12**

**Dr. Daniel Rynhold**

You rent a house with some other students who give you permission to host a party. After the party you discover that a housemate has borrowed a bike and left it in a downstairs hallway. The bike has been vandalized, presumably by a party guest. Given that no one will confess to the crime, are you responsible for the repairs? Every weekend, the New York Times Magazine article *The Ethicist* takes a moral dilemma like this and offers an answer. Taking some of the very same dilemmas as our starting point, we will explore what a Jewish perspective can add to the discussion. *Former students may enroll in this class again as there are all new issues.*

### **I Hope You're Somewhere Praying**

**Grades 9-12**

**Ms. Avital Moss**

Prayer experiences can sometimes leave people feeling bored, disconnected, and counting the pages until it's over. This prayer workshop takes an interactive approach at looking at the historical context in which traditional prayers were written. We will also address the emotional connection and challenges that many people feel when opening a prayer book.

### **Jewish Infused Improv: Advanced**

**Grades 9-12**

**Dr. Mark Silk**

Using Judaic content, strengthen your skills and broaden your repertoire in this advanced improv class. *This course is open to students with prior improv experience at BCHSJS.*

### **Learning Through the Cinematic Lens**

**Grades 9-12**

**Mr. Bruce Prince**

Learning through a visual narrative offers a series of layers that will enhance your process of learning. We all know the adage that states: “A picture is worth a thousand words”. We will learn to understand just how true this is. Here's some of the films (or clips) that will help us learn how to “read” a movie: *Schindler's List*; *Shoah*; *The Jazz Singer*; *Annie Hall*; *A Serious Man*; *Gentlemen's Agreement*; *Exodus*; *Crossing Delancey*; *The Golem*; ...



## More American Jewish Short Stories

Grades 9-12

**Ms. Deborah Stack**

We will explore a new short story each week, with a focus on great American authors. Each student will have a chance to read aloud from influential American Jewish authors spanning the past two centuries, followed by analysis and discussion. Explore American Jewish history through the authors who lent their voices and experiences to tell the American Jewish short story. *Students who took American Jewish Short Stories in the spring may enroll as there are new stories.*

## Period 2 - Class Choices

### Cardiac Jews: Is it Enough to Just Feel Jewish? Part II

Grades 10-12

**Ms. Yardena Barnett**

Most people are familiar with mitzvot such as giving charity and lighting the menorah, but what about the other 611 commandments in the Bible? Do we need them? We will explore the significance of mitzvot in general and delve deeper into the what's and why's of some of the stranger commandments! *This is a continuation. Students who took the class in the spring and new students are welcome.*

### The Holocaust Through the Eyes of Maus

Grades 8-9

**Dr. Daniel Rynhold**

Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer prize winning book, Maus, is one of many works about the Holocaust. But Maus is unique in being a graphic novel – ok, it's a comic strip – that depicts Jews as mice, and Nazis as cats. We will be studying Maus to learn about the Holocaust through one man's experience while also raising questions about appropriate ways of preserving the memory of the Holocaust in art – whether in novels, films, paintings or historical research.

### Jewish Law Review II: Finders Keepers?

Grades 9-12

**Dr. Mark Silk**

You just found an unlocked smartphone. What should you do? We will explore the issues surrounding lost and found items through Rabbinic and contemporary lenses.

### Jews in Sports

Grades 8-9

**Mr. Barnett Goldman**

For many years, jokes have been made about the lack of Jews in sports. Well, the joke is on them. In this action-packed class, you will learn about the numerous Jewish athletes who have been on the court, ice, and field. You will learn about the impact that various Jewish people had in the world of sports. Come prepared to learn and have fun in this energetic class.

### Judaism in a Nutshell

Grades 10-12

**Ms. Avital Moss**

“Hey, why are you eating a huge cracker for lunch? So I get that you're having a party for turning 13, but why are you reading from that ancient looking scroll?” If your friends have ever asked you questions like these, and your response is “uhh because”, then this class is essential for you. This public speaking focused class will allow students to learn background material regarding Jewish customs via *chavruta* (partner) learning, as well as group discussions. Students will also practice public speaking in every class using the material they learned on how to succinctly explain Jewish customs.

### Midrash Manicures (Add'l Fee \$35)

Grades 8-12

**Ms. Deborah Stack**

In this awesome mix of art and learning students will partake in *chavrutah* style learning of the week's Torah portion and creatively express their own modern Midrash on their nails! Each week you and your friends will design your nails in all sorts of cool and artistic ways.

### Pirkei Avot - Ethics of the Fathers

Grades 8-9

**Rabbi Gary Hoffman**

*Pirkei Avot* is one of the earliest and best of the “How to...” books. It provides direction on “how” to live a moral and ethical lifestyle. We will analyze selections of this classic Jewish work and have lively classroom discussions from each of the chapters of this masterpiece. We will also compare various selections from *Pirkei Avot* to the ethics that should be part of today's society.

### **That Was the Week That Was Mr. Bruce Prince**

**Grades 10-12**

Not a week goes by without a major catastrophe, and there are dozens of news reporting agencies that will report on each and every one. However, they all seem to tell a different story of the same news event. A wise man used to say, "There are three parts to every story: Yours, mine, and the third that is usually somewhere in between." Are there reporters that can provide an unbiased report? How do so many world events involve Israel? We'll learn how to sift through the layers of truthiness and develop an appreciation for truth, justice, and the American way. *Former students may enroll in this class again.*

### **What on Earth is That? Ms. Tova Sklar**

**Grades 8-9**

Ever think to yourself, "What the heck is that Jewish tradition about?" Judaism involves a lot of cool, but funky things...We're going to learn the who's, what's, where's, when's, and why's of many interesting mitzvot that we do, and get to experience them! This class will involve a lot of eating, hands-on demonstrations, and games to test our knowledge of mitzvot. By the end of the semester, we'll become familiar with many Jewish concepts that may have seemed foreign at first.

## **Period 3 - Class Choices**

### **Disney and Judaism Ms. Tova Sklar**

**Grades 8-9**

Disney is known for great movies, awesome soundtracks, and stories involving Jewish ideals and Biblical themes. (Wait...what??) Shocking, isn't it? Test your knowledge of Disney and Torah as we watch clips from some of the best-loved Disney movies and delve into Jewish texts, discovering common themes or similar story lines between the two. Perhaps Walt Disney and his staff weren't as original and innovative as they claimed to have been.

### **Jerusalem of Gold Dr. Mark Silk**

**Grades 10-12**

Whose Jerusalem? Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. Palestinians dream of making Jerusalem the capital of a future Palestinian state. We will explore the historical, religious, and political basis for this competing narrative.

### **Jewish Volunteer Corp Mr. Barnett Goldman**

**Grades 9-12**

In the Jewish tradition, there is a mitzvah to honor the elderly. In this service-learning class, we will learn together as well as be actively involved in volunteering with a group of seniors. Approximately one third of our class sessions will take place (during school hours - transportation provided) at The Daughters of Miriam in Clifton. We will build relationships with a group of seniors and learn their Jewish histories. This class is for those who want to make a difference for the young at heart and to build a bridge to the generations that came before us. *Students who previously took this class may enroll again.*

### **Judaism in the Modern World Dr. Daniel Rynhold**

**Grades 10-12**

*(May be taken for Middle College Credit for additional fee of \$400 by 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders)*

Up to the eighteenth century, Jews pretty much knew where they stood. With some regional variations they shared a core of central beliefs and practices. Jews knew what it was to be Jewish, even if a hostile non-Jewish environment sometimes made life difficult for them. Now, Jews flourish in the world around them. They can enter into every aspect of society. Yet what it means to be Jewish is a very complicated matter. There are Orthodox Jews, Conservative Jews, Reform Jews, Reconstructionist Jews, Secular Jews, and so the list goes on. So what changed? We will trace how the changes in the wider civil and political world led to the emergence of the varieties of modern Judaism that we encounter today.

### **Rabbis in Residence Various Rabbis**

**Grades 10-12**

Study with various area rabbis on their approach to Judaism, what challenges they grapple with, and how they respond to our concerns. Students are encouraged to ask tough questions. *Students who took the class previously may enroll as there are new topics.*

### **What's on Your Mind?**

**Ms. Deborah Stack**

**Grades 10-12**

What's on your mind? With so many different current events taking our time and attention, we often have many concerns and worries, or exciting occurrences to discuss when we come in on Sundays.

### **Muggles, Magic, and Matzah Balls**

**Ms. Yardená Bannett**

**Grades 8-9**

Step into the magical world of Hogwarts as we explore Judaism through the lens of Harry Potter. Explore classic Potter themes such as immortality, good vs. evil, love, and prejudice. Plus find out whether Hippogriffs, Unicorns, and Thestrals really exist!!!!

### **Netflix and Jews**

**Ms. Avital Moss**

**Grades 8-9**

Let's binge learn something that matters. Explore parallels between Netflix's most popular shows and the current week's Torah portion. This is a skill building class where students will increase their familiarity with finding the appropriate text and commentary while learning b'chevruta (in pairs). Students will also be expected to develop their public speaking skills as they present a short weekly D'var Torah on the portion that they learned that day.

### **The Week in Review**

**Rabbi Gary Hoffman**

**Grades 8-9**

The major newsworthy events of the week will be examined in light of their effects upon Israel and Jews everywhere. How do the happenings in the Middle East affect you? What happened at the White House this week? Who's who in the Jewish world? These and many more questions will be answered each week as we take an in-depth look at the world around us. *Former students may enroll in this class again.*

### **You Be the Judge II**

**Mr. Bruce Prince**

**Grades 8-9**

Morality and ethics are barometers for choosing a path of goodness. As our world seemingly is becoming smaller, our understanding of right and wrong becomes harder to distinguish the difference between them. We will be learning to make the right calls by example. Our text: You Be the Judge II provides examples and possible solutions from a Jewish "Halachic" perspective on each case. Each student will have an opportunity to weigh in on each case study, as well. *You may enroll in this class if you took You Be the Judge I and/or III last year as this semester we are using book II.*

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TIKKUN OLAM MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Whether it's collecting food for the needy or helping out in the Northern NJ region, BCHSJS provides various ways to fulfill community service obligations to your secular school.**

## JEWISH VOLUNTEER CORP

Participate in this year-long service learning class, and have the opportunity to be actively involved in volunteering with a group of seniors. Approximately one-third of the class sessions will take place (during class hours - transportation provided) at the Daughters of Miriam facility. Build relationships with a group of seniors and learn their Jewish histories. This class is for those who want to make a difference for the young at heart and build a bridge to the generations that came before us.

## SUPER SUNDAY – 2019

BCHSJS students can volunteer to participate in Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey's Super Sunday! Students receive training before making calls or help with filing and sorting. As a beneficiary agency of Federation, it is important that we show our support on this day!

## YAD LEAH - PACK FOR ISRAEL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019 AFTER-SCHOOL

Students will take a trip to visit Yad Leah's Volunteer Center to participate in a pack for Israel experience where they will help sort and pack clothing to be sent to Israel.



## WINTER TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS FEBRUARY 17-20, 2019

This February, BCHSJS will collaborate with NCSY in working with Habitat for Humanity to help out a community that is still continuing to recover.

Volunteer your time over Presidents Week and be inspired!





# BCHSJS SCHOOL-WIDE TRIP

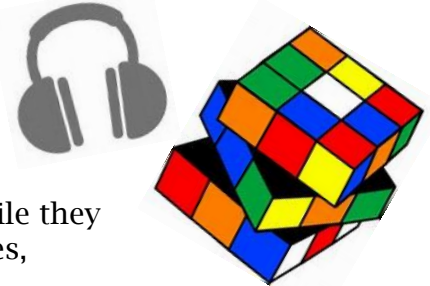
## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018

In lieu of regularly scheduled classes at Moriah, we will be embarking on a school-wide Scavenger Hunt in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. We will discover some of the most fascinating Jewish places! Look for details and the permission slip in upcoming weeks!

## DRIVES AND COLLECTIONS

### Tackle Kids Cancer Teen Supplies Drive September 16 thru October 7, 2018

Students can participate in a collection of supplies for teens battling cancer. Bring in items that will help teens pass the time while they undergo treatment. Suggested items include arts and crafts supplies, earbuds, fidget spinners, and puzzles.



### Chanukah Toy Drive October 14 thru November 11, 2018

Join BCHSJS students in collecting unwrapped, new toys. Toys will be distributed to children through the Bergen County Chanukah Toy Drive.

### Clothing Drive for Israel January 6 thru February 10, 2019

BCHSJS will collect new and gently used clothing for *Yad Leah*, an organization that sends clothing to communities throughout Israel for families in need. Students will then take a trip to visit Yad Leah's Volunteer Center in Passaic on February 10, 2019 after-school to participate in a pack for Israel experience where they will help sort and pack the clothing to be sent to Israel.



### Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey's March Mega Food Drive February 24 thru March 31, 2019

Students are asked to bring in food items for the March Mega Food Drive to benefit five northern New Jersey food pantries whose shelves are low in stock this time of year. Students and their families are also invited to a program at the Federation office in the afternoon of March 31, 2019 to help sort and pack the food.

### Weekly Tzedakah Collection

Each week tzedakah is collected for a special BCHSJS yearly project. Allocation decisions are made by the students.



# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

## FALL SHABBATON

Friday afternoon, December 14 to  
Saturday night, December 15, 2018

Fun and friends from Friday afternoon  
to Saturday night.  
Learn the true meaning of Shabbat while  
spending time with your BCHSJS friends.  
*USY members will join us at this  
Shabbaton.*

## SPRING SHABBATON

Friday afternoon, April 5 to  
Sunday afternoon, April 7, 2019

An incredible weekend away,  
jam packed with fun, friends, and  
programming!  
This is the event of the year –  
**DON'T MISS IT!!!!!!**

# AFTER-SCHOOL TRIPS

## 8th Grade Bowling September 16, 2018

All 8th graders are invited  
to go bowling with  
BCHSJS!  
A great opportunity to  
meet new people and  
make new friends!!

## Escape Room Saturday night, October 13, 2018

Join your friends for this  
interactive  
adventure experience.  
You must work together as  
a team to solve clues,  
puzzles and challenges  
to escape the room.  
Can you escape before  
time runs out?

## Sky Zone

October 28, 2018

Jump around with your BCHSJS  
& USY friends at this indoor  
trampoline park where you can  
bounce on a trampoline into a  
foam pit or duck an incoming  
dodge ball!  
So much high-flying fun!

## BCHSJS Goes to Broadway

Sunday, January 13, 2019  
A New York City experience-  
BCHSJS goes to see  
*Once On This Island*.  
Don't miss this Tony Award  
Winning Musical!

## Ice Skating

January 27, 2019

Chill out and join us at the Ice House in Hackensack for an  
afternoon of fun! You won't want to miss it! USY members will join  
us for this slippery fun!

## High Exposure Rock Climbing

February 24, 2019  
Build strength and courage  
with your BCHSJS friends at this  
indoor rock climbing facility.  
This will surely be a good  
climb!

## One World Observatory

May 5, 2019

Join your BCHSJS friends to ascend the top of the tallest building in  
the western hemisphere and explore three levels filled with  
innovation and inspiration. An experience like no other!

*The Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies is the recipient of an allocation and grants from the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey.*



*We collaborate on several projects with NCSY who also provides us with a teacher.*



*The North Jersey Board of Rabbis provides us with teachers for a class.*

**NORTH JERSEY BOARD OF RABBIS**

*We collaborate on several trips and events with USY.*

