

# Course Catalog

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# 2019-2020

## 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

## 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!

## 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,

*"I like the teachers and the classes."*

*Arielle Fronimos*  
10<sup>th</sup> grade

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

*Cobbe Rubin*

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

*Jillian Heit*

*"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*

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

*Jaiden Clark*

10<sup>th</sup> grade

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

## WEEKDAY OFFICE INFO:

475 Grove Street  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
Phone: 201-488-0834  
Fax: 201-488-2126  
[office@bchsjs.org](mailto:office@bchsjs.org)

## WHEN AND WHERE IS BCHSJS?

Sunday Mornings from  
9:30am - 12:45pm at  
Temple Israel & Jewish Community  
Center  
475 Grove Street

# Period 1 - Class Choices

## Connections Through Time

## 8th Grade Core Requirement

### Ms. Avital Moss

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!

## Headlines: Halachic Debates of Current Events

Grades 9-12

### Rabbi Gary Hoffman

We will be examining articles and discussing podcasts which take items drawn from the news as starting points for in-depth analysis of questions at the forefront of our contemporary conversation. Issues to be examined include Leiby Kletzky's Killer, The Gilad Shalit Deal, A Kosher Cheeseburger, and many more.

## 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.*

## Jewish Medical Ethics

Grades 9-12

### Ms. Tova Sklar

Is it moral to "pull the plug" on someone whose heart is still pumping, but brain isn't working? What's stopping us from cloning human beings? How do doctors triage during a crisis? If a baby is carried by a surrogate, who is considered to be the mother? These are a few of the many ethical questions that we'll be tackling from the perspective of family members, lawyers, rabbis, and doctors. Jewish law and modern science definitely have what to say. Together we will show the authenticity and relevancy of ancient Jewish texts in solving these modern medical dilemmas.

## 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: *Crimes and Misdemeanors; The Pianist; The Frisco Kid; Everything is Illuminated; Crossing Delancey; the Revolt of Job.....* *Former students may enroll in this class again as there are all new films.*

## Mishna and Minyan

Grades 9-12

### Rabbi David Fine

The Temple Israel Sunday morning minyan begins with Rabbi fine teaching a couple of paragraphs of Mishna with open discussion followed by minyan. Students must receive permission from the Principal to register.

## Topics in Genesis

Grades 9-12

### Ms. Yardena Bannett

The REAL Genesis: Forget what you thought you knew. We often hear the story of creation - Adam and Eve, the forbidden fruit, but what really happened and why are these stories important for our lives today? We will explore the Genesis that you thought you knew and dig underneath the surface, discovering a wealth of wisdom that will amaze you.

# Period 2 - Class Choices

## **Kosher Movies**

**Grades 8-9**

### **Rabbi Gary Hoffman**

There are movies and television programs that have something valuable to say about the community in general and ourselves in particular. Films and television are tools for self-discovery. A “kosher movie” is a movie or television program that has something meaningful to say about life. What can Keanu Reeves teach us about being pretentious? What does Bill Maher have to say about the mitzvah of having children? What does *Wreck It Ralph* teach us about our quality of life? What does *Mr. Rodgers* have to say about Tikkun Olam? How does *Zootopia* teach us how to manage ethical challenges? What can we learn about the mitzvah of hospitality from Anthony Bourdain? Students will be challenged with these questions and more in trying to understand Jewish values, morals, and ethics in a society where personal opinions all are considered equally valid. We will grapple with the fact that there may be more than one correct answer; and there may be no answer.

## **Moses, Monty Python, and the Mishna**

**Grades 8-9**

### **Dr. Daniel Rynhold**

“He’s not the Messiah; he’s a very naughty boy.” Thus, says Brian Cohen’s mother in the classic Monty Python movie, *Life of Brian*. But the question of messianism is also, of course, an important question in Judaism. “What have the Romans ever done for us” comes out of the mouth of John Cleese in the same movie. It also happens to be a question asked in the Talmud. We will tackle questions using the humor of the Pythons and the classical texts of Judaism to entertain and engage in discussion of real Jewish questions about God, religion, and politics.

## **Oy, The Places You’ll Go!**

**Grades 8-9**

### **Ms. Yardená Bannett**

From classics like *The Sneetches* to the *Grinch that Stole...Chanukah?! we will explore the works of Dr. Seuss, having fun and meaningful discussions with a Jewish twist!*

## **Adult Education Lecture**

**Grades 11-12**

Join the Temple Israel adult education lecture. Rabbi Fine will be teaching *Jewish-Christian and Jewish-German Relations*. Some Sundays Rabbi Leah Moser will teach *Judaism and Mysticism*. Students must receive permission from the Principal to register.

## **Pretty Little Liar: Queen Esther**

**Grades 10-12**

### **Ms. Avital Moss**

Raised an as orphan, a young woman named Hadassah was thrown into a powerful king’s harem. Through subterfuge and great personal risk, she was able to ultimately save her entire nation, and become a hero. This text-based class will explore the *Book of Esther*. Prepare to delve into the words of the *Megillah* to gain a deeper understanding of her journey, and what we can learn about contemporary leadership.

## **TED Talks: Ideas Worth Spreading**

**Grades 9-12**

### **Ms. Tova Sklar**

We all have “Ideas Worth Spreading”. TED talks are thought-provoking speeches in which dynamic speakers share their thoughts, ideas, and personal life stories. Many famous people, including Jews, have inspired millions through their TED talks on various topics. Together, we will watch and discuss TED talks that convey important messages for Jewish teens growing up in the modern world. By the end of the class, every student will give his or her own TED talk, sharing ideas worth spreading.

## **That Was the Week That Was**

**Grades 10-12**

### **Mr. Bruce Prince**

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 who 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.*

# Period 3 - Class Choices

## Disney and Judaism

Grades 8-9

Ms. Tova Sklar

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.

## The Week in Review

Grades 8-9

Rabbi Gary Hoffman

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.*

## Biblical Figures in the Analyst's Chair

Grades 10-12

Dr. Daniel Rynhold

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

We all know some Bible stories. But don't we worry how it could be that one of our forefathers - Jacob - was such a liar? And what exactly was Jonah's problem with giving a town the opportunity to repent? Why was the prophet Elijah suicidal? We will be digging beneath the surface of the Torah to reveal the deep lessons we can learn from the personalities behind the stories.

## Israel and International Criminal Law

Grades 10-12

Ms. Avital Moss

When one hears media coverage today, it's commonplace to hear content such as "Israel is an occupying force" and "determination that Hebron is a Palestinian heritage site". This should beg the question of "Who is this all knowing all seeing body that determines the rights and wrongs for the world?" We will explore the history of how international law was established, it's evolution and how this all affects Israel today.

## Jewish Volunteer Corp

Grades 9-12

Mr. Bruce Prince

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.*

## Pirkei Avot: On the Shoulders of Giants

Grades 9-12

Ms. Yardena Bannett

On the Shoulders of Giants: Timeless Wisdom from Jewish Greats

We will be learning and analyzing sections from the classic work called *Pirkei Avot*. We will have fun and deep discussions about ancient Jewish wisdom that is surprisingly relevant for contemporary minds!

## Rabbis in Residence

Grades 10-12

Rabbi David Fine and Various Other Rabbis

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.*

# 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 – MARCH 1, 2020**

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 2, 2020 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.



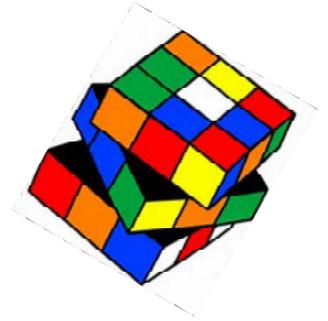
### **Winter Trip to New Orleans, LA February 16-19, 2020**

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!

# Drives and Collections

## Tackle Kids Cancer Teen Supplies Drive September 15 thru October 20, 2019

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

**November 3 thru December 8, 2019**

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 5 thru February 2, 2020

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 2, 2020 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 March 1 thru March 29, 2020

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 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  
13 to  
Saturday night, December 14,  
2019

Fun and friends from Friday  
afternoon  
to Saturday night.

Learn the true meaning of  
Shabbat while spending time

## SPRING SHABBATON

Date to be Determined  
March 2020

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 8,  
2019**

All 8th graders  
are invited to go  
bowling with  
BCHSJS!

**Ice  
Skating  
January 26,  
2020**

Chill out and join  
BCHSJS and USY for

***Snow  
Tubing***  
**February 22,  
2020**

Hit the slopes on  
Saturday night with  
your BCHSJS friends

**Humdingers  
October 27,  
2019**

Batting, bowling,  
and BCHSJS! USY  
and BCHSJS teens  
will join together

**Six Flags/Great Adventure  
Sunday, April 12, 2020**

It's back - during Passover break!  
Join us for our Annual Six Flags trip! Enjoy  
thrilling rides and make memories with your

**BCHSJS Goes to  
Broadway  
November 17, 2019**

A New York City  
adventure as BCHSJS  
goes to see  
*Beetlejuice*.  
You won't want to

**Escape Room  
May 3, 2020**

Join your friends for this interactive  
adventure experience.  
You must work together as a team to solve  
clues, puzzles and challenges to escape the

*The Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies is the recipient of an allocation 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.*

