



# Period 1

## In-Person Class Choices

### 11:30am - 12:10pm

#### Follow the Leader

**Mr. Barnett Goldman**

**Grades 8-10**

Leadership comes in all sizes, shapes, and ages. It may just be semantics, but is there a difference between being a Jewish leader versus a leader who is Jewish? Participants in this unique course will learn the nuts and bolts of what historical leaders, our ancestors, and our role models might say it takes to be a Jewish leader. We will grapple together with the following questions: How are 21st Century teens in America, and all over the world, prepared to be leaders in their communities? Are there differences between how leadership is perceived in our youth vs. adults? Is Jewish leadership different from American leadership? Come hone your leadership skills that can be used in your Jewish community and in your everyday community by learning how to lead a discussion, manage your time, and deal with conflict resolution. There will be opportunities for debates, creative work, and possible guests. This is a class for those who want to have their voices heard!!

#### That Was the Week that Was

**Mr. Bruce Prince**

**Grades 8-10**

Not a week goes by without a history making moment, and there are dozens of news reporting agencies that will report on it. However, they all seem to see a different angle 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 journalists 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.

#### Headlines: Halachic Debates of Current Events

**Rabbi Gary Hoffman**

**Grades 10-12**

Students will take items drawn from news articles as starting points for in-depth analysis of questions at the forefront of both American and Jewish law and ethics. Our discussion will cover issues over six categories: Society, Family, Israel, Shabbat & Holidays, Kashrut and Business. Some of the topics we will address deal directly with Jewish life and Israeli concerns; others discuss recent events, technological developments, and political situations. Our topics directly impact the everyday lives of contemporary Jews.

#### How (and Why) Judaism Changed in Modern Times

**Rabbi Dr. David J. Fine**

**Grades 10-12**

Continuing our study of modern Jewish history from the fall semester, this course will involve a close reading of primary sources showing the different ways that Jews responded to the challenges of Emancipation and Enlightenment in the nineteenth century. How did Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Judaism begin? *(One does not need to have taken the fall semester course first.)*

#### That 90's Show

**Ms. Yardena Bannett**

**Grades 10-12**

Travel back in time to the good' ole days of television's finest including: *Friends, Seinfeld and the Simpsons!* We will watch some relevant clips and delve into Jewish questions and themes which come up along the way!

## **Period 2**

### **In-Person Scheduled Social Activities**

#### **12:15pm - 12:45pm**

#### **Structured Breaktime Activity**

Making friends is a core part of why students love BCHSJS. Returning students will spend a half hour in a peer group participating in a fun, social, SAFE activity run by our BCHSJS educators. Some examples of these activities include scavenger hunts, lawn games, ice breaker style activities, charades, and more. Activities and groups will change as the semester progresses.

#### **Senior Seminar**

This course will challenge students to think about their own Jewish identity. Where do they fit in the American Jewish experience and how will religion play a part in their lives in the future? We will prepare you for the potential challenges you will face as a Jew on your college campus, including handling anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism on the college campus, and we will also help you process the end of a great journey through BCHSJS and your path following high school. We will help prepare you for your life ahead while setting the groundwork for staying in touch in college and beyond. This is for in-person and on-line learners who are seniors.

#### **Senior Requirement**

## **Period 3**

### **In-Person Class Choices**

#### **12:50pm - 1:30pm**

#### **Ecology and Environmentalism**

**Rabbi Gary Hoffman**

**Grades 8-10**

The Torah teaches that God created the world for the benefit of mankind, and yet this right is also a responsibility. The world belongs to God and we are its stewards, charged with the task of working and guarding it. This basic point is borne out by the mitzvot of the Torah and the teachings of Judaism's greatest sages. Through the prism of the Torah's moral and legal guidelines, we will discover an environmental ethic that can guide our thinking on today's major ecological issues. With careful looking, you will find within the sources presented solace, support, and hopefully further inspiration in your quest to protect our planet.

#### **From T-Swift to Bruno Mars: What Pop Music Can Teach Us About Judaism**

**Ms. Yardena Bannett**

**Grades 8-10**

Love at first sight? Perfection? Music is one of the greatest outlets and pleasures we have. It also contains many ideas and themes for us to learn from. We'll listen to popular artists and have interesting and interactive Jewish discussions!

#### **Jewish-Infused Improvisation - Black Box Studios**

**Grades 8-12**

Students in this hands-on, on-your-feet workshop learn collaborative improvisation skills based on their varying levels of experience, under the guidance of Black Box Studios' professional working Teaching Artist, Ilana Schimmel and in collaboration with BB's Artistic Director - and a longtime BCHSJS instructor - Matt Okin. Fully fleshed out scenes - both short form and long form improv - are created not from scripts, but from Jewish themes, personalities, and ideas that are introduced at the start of each session. If health protocols allow, performance opportunities could be offered for the community and peers at the end of the semester. Suitable for all grade levels.

#### **Science and Technology**

**Ms. Tova Sklar**

**Grades 10-12**

What are the moral considerations of self-driving cars? According to Jewish Law, can I clone myself? And if I did, would the new "me" be considered Jewish? If I travel to space, do I have to keep Shabbat? If the Torah makes no reference to extraterrestrial life, does that mean that it does not exist? We're going to explore how Judaism gives us new perspectives on today's scientific and technological advancements. While these questions may seem theoretical now, they may become relevant sooner than we think!

#### **Equality for All**

**Bruce Prince**

**Grades 10-12**

We will be learning about the origins of American slavery, horrendous mistreatment, lack of empathy and inhumane conditions forced upon our early settlers. We will trace the evolution of institutional racism, the Emancipation Proclamation and the horrors of Jim Crow Laws and how they evolved through a Jewish lens. We'll continue through mistreatment, lynching and the evolution of Civil Rights. We'll also highlight Jewish involvement in the NAACP, Sears Roebuck (The predecessor of Amazon) and the circuitous pathway of Henry Ford. Lots to discuss, and film clips to view.

# On-Line Class Choices

## Period 1

11:30am - 12:10pm

### Netflix and Jews

Ms. Avital Moss

Grades 8-10

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.

### Tough Questions in Judaism

Ms. Tova Sklar

Grades 8-12

How could God tell Abraham to sacrifice his son? Does our responsibility for helping fellow Jews extend to people imprisoned for 1st-degree offenses? What's the Jewish view on abortion, and does it clash with modern values of autonomy? What's the Torah's perspective on LGBTQ+ issues, and how can we best support Jews belonging to that community? We are *not* going to shy away from tackling these questions. Join us as we discuss, read articles, watch clips, and find answers that speak to us and strengthen our connection the Judaism

## Period 2

12:15pm - 12:45pm

### Structured On-Line Breaktime Activity

All Online Students

All online Students will participate in a fun, social, online activity run by our BCHSJS educators. Some examples of these activities include kahoots, charades, quizlets, 20 questions, mad libs, and more. Our online students will participate in this activity as a cohort, with visits from in-person students who are on-line for any period of time.

## Period 3

12:50pm - 1:30pm

### Better Together: A Virtual Volunteering Project

Ms. Jessica Spiegel

Grades 8-12

The Better Together program is a movement all over the country bringing teens and seniors together. Getting to know seniors in the community is meaningful, and creating community together is priceless, especially now when we are feeling isolated and alone. We will work with the Jewish Home at Rockleigh to create relationships and meaningful moments between you, our BCHSJS students, and their residents. Students can get volunteer credits for school for being in this course. Additionally, students who participate in this course are encouraged to write an essay to be entered into a national essay contest with awards from the Legacy Heritage Foundation.

### Judaism in a Nutshell

Ms. Avital Moss

Grades 10-12

"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.

*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.*

