



# JEWISH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF THE BAY

## School Profile 2023-2024

1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 | 415.345.9777 | F:415.345.1888

Rabbi Howard Ruben, Head of School

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### THE SCHOOL

Jewish Community High School of the Bay (JCHS) is a pluralistic, college preparatory high school committed to integrating deep learning, universal wisdom, and Jewish values. Located in San Francisco, our school welcomes economically, socially, and ethnically diverse Jewish students from San Francisco, the East Bay, Marin, and the Peninsula. Our 40 faculty members instruct students in a rotating block format of 70-minute periods. On average, 95% of graduates attend 4-year colleges and universities, 4% attend 2-year institutions, and 1% will join the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces). One quarter of each graduating class will also choose to pursue a gap year. JCHS is accredited by CAIS and WASC.

### STUDENT BODY

JCHS is open to all self-identifying Jewish students. Enrollment is 180, with 15% being students of color. The Class of 2024 totals 47 students, 32% of whom have dual citizenship with Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Luxembourg, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and/or the UK.

### CURRICULUM

JCHS students participate in a rigorous college preparatory curriculum divided into three main components: math and science; humanities, the arts and world languages; and Jewish Studies. Students maintain a minimum course load of six or seven classes per year in grades 9 through 12.

### JEWISH STUDIES

The Jewish Studies curriculum focuses on four core subject areas within Jewish learning: Tanach (literacy and interpretation of the Hebrew Bible), Rabbinic Literature (Talmud, ethics and civil law), Jewish History, and Jewish Culture. All core courses and most electives are University of California A-G approved. These courses are rigorous in nature and place heavy emphasis on analysis, interpretation and writing on original Jewish texts. They ask students to grapple with moral and ethical dilemmas, consider multiple perspectives, and to develop thoughtful and persuasive arguments. Texts are often in original biblical Hebrew, Modern Hebrew and Aramaic. The curriculum culminates in a lengthy research paper on a topic of philosophy or Jewish Thought.

### GRADING AND CLASS RANK

Annual weighted grade point averages for courses taken at JCHS are reported on the transcript. Service learning, PE, and Tefillah are not included. JCHS does not rank or award academic distinctions. Numerical equivalencies are:

A+ = 4.33	B+ = 3.33	C+ = 2.33	D+ = 1.33
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0
A- = 3.67	B- = 2.67	C- = 1.67	D- = 0.67

### SENIOR KEYSTONE PROJECT

Keystone is a yearlong educational exercise that provides students with the opportunity to design and implement an independent research project on the topic of their choice. Seniors then presents their Keystone Projects in half hour public presentations before the school community.

### STUDENT AND JEWISH LIFE

JCHS' student life program encourages students to explore their passions, celebrate Jewish traditions, and participate in shaping our school community. Our student life program includes experiential education, service learning, and Jewish Life initiatives.

**Community Engagement:** Community work is a graduation requirement and integral to a JCHS education - students are encouraged to investigate how they can be of service, stand up against injustice, and use their talents towards making the world a better place.

**Journeys:** Annual, grade-specific Journeys are the centerpiece of the JCHS experiential education program. They combine learning with trips designed to teach life lessons on the road. 9<sup>th</sup> graders build community at Brandeis Bardin in Los Angeles, 10<sup>th</sup> graders develop their authentic selves in Zion Canyon National Park, 11<sup>th</sup> graders travel to Israel as part of their Jew in the Modern World course, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders participate in community outreach in New Orleans.

**Student Activities:** JCHS provides many leadership opportunities and a rich program of extracurricular activities. Sample student activities include Book Club, Chess Club, Environmental Club, GSA, JTV, Knesset, Literary Magazine, Math Club, The Observer, Russian Club, Student Alliance for Israel, Student Ambassadors, Yearbook, and Young Activists.

### ATHLETICS

JCHS offers athletic choices to student athletes of all abilities, including club, junior varsity, and varsity sports. Options include Baseball, Basketball, Cross-Country, Soccer, Swimming and Volleyball.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English	4 yearlong courses
History	2 yearlong courses
Jewish Studies	6 yearlong courses
Laboratory Science	3 yearlong courses
Mathematics	3 yearlong courses
Visual/Performing Arts	1 yearlong course
World Languages	2 yearlong courses*
Electives	4 yearlong courses

Service Learning	52 hours
Physical Education	1.5 yearlong courses

Senior Keystone Project

Tefillah (morning reflection)

\*2 courses through Level 2 required

### DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

JCHS will report disciplinary actions to colleges that require it. In the spirit of *teshuvah* (repentance), students have the option to petition to expunge their disciplinary history in the fall of senior year. Petitions are granted by the Head of School if the student has fulfilled the requirements of *teshuvah*, and demonstrated learning and growth over time.

## Academic Profile: Class of 2024

GPA (weighted)	Middle 50%	Average		
47 Seniors	3.31-4.02	3.62	AP Scores 3 or Above	80%

## 2023-2024 Course Offerings

### English

World Literature  
American Literature  
Writing and Rhetoric  
Senior Seminar: Literature & Culture  
AP Language & Composition  
AP Literature & Composition  
Creative Writing

### History

The Past in the Present (World Civ)  
United States History  
AP United States History  
AP Comparative Government  
AP Psychology

### Mathematics

Fundamentals of Algebra  
Algebra I  
Geometry  
Geometry Advanced  
Algebra II

Algebra II Advanced  
PreCalculus  
AP PreCalculus  
Statistics  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC

### Science

Conceptual Physics  
Chemistry  
Biology  
AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP Physics C: Mechanics  
AP Computer Science Principles  
AP Computer Science A  
Digital Design & 3D Modeling  
Environmental Science  
AP Environmental Science  
Foundations of Computer Science  
Human Anatomy & Physiology  
Robotics and Engineering

### World Languages

Spanish I-IV  
AP Spanish Language and Culture  
Hebrew I-VII  
Hebrew Literature & Language

### Jewish Studies

#### Required (4):

Individual & the Collective (English)  
Individual & the Collective (Dual)  
Individual & the Collective (Hebrew)  
Introduction to Rabbinic Literature  
Mishna & Gemara  
Jew in the Modern World  
Senior Seminar: Issues in Jewish Thought  
Senior Seminar: Issues in Jewish Thought Honors

#### Electives (2):

Advanced Bible & Commentaries I  
Advanced Bible & Commentaries II

Advanced Talmud  
Comparative Religion  
Jewish Social Justice  
L'Chaim: Jewish Celebrations and Consecrations  
Modern Jewish Ethics

### Visual and Performing Arts

Combined Music Ensemble  
Acting I  
Filmmaking  
Honors Filmmaking  
Materials and Methods (Intro to Studio Art)  
Concepts and Processes (Intermediate Studio Art)  
Fundamentals of Photography  
Honors Photography  
AP Studio Art

## College Acceptances 2019-2023 (matriculation in bold)

American University  
**University of Antwerp**  
**Arizona State University**  
**University of Arizona**  
Babson College  
Bard College  
Barnard College  
Beloit College  
**Berklee College of Music**  
**Boston University**  
**Brandeis University**  
**Brown University**  
Bryn Mawr College  
Bucknell University  
University of British Columbia  
**California College of the Arts**  
California Institute of the Arts  
California State University (campuses):

**Chico**  
East Bay  
**Humboldt**  
Long Beach  
Monterey Bay  
Northridge  
Pomona  
**San Diego**  
**San Francisco**  
**San Jose**  
**San Luis Obispo**  
**Sonoma**

University of California (campuses):

**Berkeley**  
**Davis**  
**Irvine**  
**Los Angeles**  
**Merced**  
Riverside  
**San Diego**  
**Santa Barbara**  
**Santa Cruz**

Carleton College  
**Case Western Reserve University**  
University of Central Florida  
**Chapman University**  
City University of London  
**University of Chicago**  
Claremont McKenna College  
Clark University  
Clemson University  
University of Colorado at Boulder

**University of Colorado at CS**  
**University of Colorado Denver**  
**Colorado College**  
Colorado School of Mines  
**Colorado State U Ft. Collins**  
Columbia College Chicago  
**Columbia University**  
Connecticut College  
**Cornell University**  
Cornish College of the Arts  
**Culinary Institute of America**  
**University of Delaware**  
Denison University  
**University of Denver**  
DePaul University  
Dickinson College  
**Dominican University**  
**Drexel University**  
Drew University  
Eckerd College  
The University of Edinburgh  
Elon University  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical U  
Emerson College  
Emory University  
The Evergreen State College  
**Fashion Institute of Technology**  
Florida State University  
**Fordham University**  
Franklin & Marshall College  
George Mason University  
**George Washington University**  
**Georgia Institute of Technology**  
Gettysburg College  
Gonzaga University  
**Goucher College**  
**Grinnell College**  
Hampshire College  
**Harvey Mudd College**  
**University of Hawaii at Manoa**  
**Hofstra University**  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of Illinois at UC  
**Indiana University**  
**Ithaca College**  
**Jewish Theological Seminary**  
**Kenyon College**  
Kingston University London  
Knox College  
Lafayette College  
**Lehigh University**

### Lewis & Clark College

Linfield College  
Loyola University Chicago  
Loyola Marymount University  
Macalester College  
University of Maine  
**U of Maryland College Park**  
Marymount Manhattan  
U of Massachusetts, Amherst  
**Massachusetts College of Pharmacy**  
McGill University  
Menlo College  
Miami University  
University of Miami  
Miami University (Oxford)  
**University of Michigan**  
**Mount Holyoke College**  
**Muhlenberg College**  
University of Minnesota  
University of Nevada (Reno)  
University of New Hampshire  
University of New Mexico  
The New School Eugene Lang  
**New York University**  
UNC School of the Arts  
**Northeastern University**  
Northern Arizona University  
**Oberlin College**  
**Occidental College**  
Ohio State University  
University of Oklahoma  
**Oregon State University**  
**University of Oregon**  
Otis College of Art & Design  
Pace University, NYC & Westchester  
University of the Pacific  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pitzer College  
**Pomona College**  
**University of Portland**  
Portland State University  
**University of Puget Sound**  
Purdue University  
**Quest University, Canada**  
**University of Redlands**  
**Reed College**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
University of Rhode Island  
**University of Rochester**

### Royal Central School of Speech and Drama

**Rutgers University**  
**Saint Mary's College of California**  
University of San Diego  
**University of San Francisco**  
**Santa Clara University**  
**Sarah Lawrence College**  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
**Scripps College**  
**Seattle University**  
Skidmore College  
**Smith College**  
**University of Southern California**  
Southern Methodist University  
**Stanford University**  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Suffolk University  
**SUNY at Binghamton**  
SUNY at Purchase  
**Syracuse University**  
**The University of Tennessee**  
Temple University  
**Texas A & M University**  
**Texas Tech University**  
Trinity University  
University of Toronto  
**Tufts University**  
**Tulane University**  
Union College  
Vassar College  
**University of Vermont**  
Victoria University of Wellington  
Virginia Tech  
**University of Washington**  
Washington and Lee University  
Washington State University  
Washington U in St. Louis  
**Western Washington University**  
Whitman College  
**Whittier College**  
**Willamette University**  
**University of Wisconsin, Madison**  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Xavier University  
**Yale University**  
Yeshiva University  
York University

### Other Destinations:

Bay Area Community Colleges  
Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)



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## School Profile COVID-19 Addendum 2021-2022

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### 2020-21 History

Historically JCHS has offered eight yearlong class blocks with a recommended course load of seven academic classes per year and one study hall. Given the challenges presented by the pandemic, we made substantial changes for the 2020-21 school year in anticipation of allowing the community to move from in-person to distance learning with the least disruption possible to the student experience. Unfortunately, we spent most of the year in distance learning, finally returning to the Ellis Street campus at 50% building capacity on March 15, 2021 – a full year after closure. Highlights of the augmented 2020-21 schedule included:

- **An Alternating Quarter System**, in which previously year-long courses were compressed into a single semester to enable students to pursue fewer courses at a time. This supported executive functioning, focus, depth of learning, and student well-being. Semesters were divided into alternating quarters with a course taking place during either Quarters 1 and 3, or Quarters 2 and 4. Over the course of the school year, students could pursue the same number of classes as in normal circumstances.
- **Four Day Weeks Plus Fridays**, in which we ran synchronous classes on a block schedule Monday through Thursday via Zoom, with Fridays reserved for community gatherings, additional AP course support, office hours, and faculty meetings.
- **JCHS grading remained consistent with past years**, with yearlong letter grades reported on student transcripts.

### 2021- present

JCHS returned to fulltime in-person learning in the fall of 2021, restoring our classic schedule of eight yearlong class blocks with a recommended course load of seven academic classes per year and one study hall.

**Important Contextual Notice:** The Bay Area was under a shelter-in-place order for almost a year from March of 2020 to March of 2021. This had a profound effect on our students, limiting everything from extracurricular involvement to standardized testing. Despite the Bay Area slowly reopening in March of 2021, limits on large group gatherings, travel, and service opportunities persisted well into 2022.