



JEWISH LIFE

"The Jews started it all—and by 'it' I mean so many of the things we care about, the underlying values that make all of us, Jew and Gentile, believer and atheist, tick. Without the Jews, we would see the world through different eyes, hear with different ears, even feel with different feelings.....we would think with a different mind, interpret all our experience differently, draw different conclusions from the things that befall us. And we would set a different course for our lives."
Thomas Cahill, The Gifts of the Jews

Jewish Life and Philosophy

Education and critical thinking is of central importance in Judaism. It is the key to the future of our Jewish community. At Masada we offer an enriched Jewish Life program, providing a solid foundation to develop, nurture and build a Jewish way of life in each student.

Programs

At Masada, students in Year 7 to 10 participate in engaging Jewish Life lessons 4-5 times a cycle. During these lessons students learn a wide range of Jewish topics and how they are relevant to their everyday lives. Students are kept engaged and stimulated through the use of ICT, relevant media, interactive lessons and interesting reading material. Topics include:

- Important Jewish personalities and their contributions to Jewish thought.
- Jewish Halachah (law) - from Kashrut (Jewish dietary requirements) to the observance of Shabbat and various other relevant categories.
- Chagim (Jewish Festivals) - including why we observe the particular Chag to what Halachot are involved in the observance and its spiritual significance.
- Examining the Tanach and the associated Rabbinic commentaries.
- Jewish moral issues—from how do we know there is a G-d to why we need to give Tzedakah (charity) and much more.
- Practical Judaism—from how to navigate through a siddur to how to treat your fellow man and contribute to your community.
- Students are offered the choice of choosing Classical Hebrew for the HSC.
- Many opportunities to do Chesed in the community and beyond.

Informal

Our JEM (Jewish Experience @ Masada) team are a group of young and dynamic alumni and Israelis. They bring Judaism to life outside the classroom through our informal program. Some highlights include:

- Informal Shiurim (lessons) and Chevrotas (study sessions) are held daily at lunchtime and after school where students can direct their choice of learning.
- Various other informal programs are offered to enrich the appreciation for chaggim and national days of celebration and mourning.
- Assemblies designed to educate on current Jewish calendar or Israel news.
- Exciting Shabbat programs.

Highlights

- Year 7 camp has been extended to include a Shabbat experience.
- A highlight of the Year 8 calendar is the annual Shabbaton. The students spend Friday engaging with issues facing the Jewish community. The students then experience a real Shabbat experience, singing, dancing, eating and learning together.
- The Year 9-11's each have a week of Jewish Studies camp. Madrichim from Israel team with local alumni to engage students with rich and challenging informal Jewish programs. A highlight is always Shabbat and the fun filled ruach sessions.
- Visits to Our Big Kitchen to cook and distribute food to the needy.
- The Living Historians program in which students meet and interview Holocaust survivors. The students gain a rich understanding of the Holocaust and make meaningful presentations to their survivors.
- The Prefects coordinate an annual Shavuot dinner where students enjoy a delicious meal and engage in ethical and moral debates.

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