

Get to Know Ida Crown Jewish Academy

A Summary of the Academic and Extracurricular Programs

Student Body and Faculty

The present enrollment of the Academy is 270 students, including 2 students from outside Illinois, and 15 immigrant students. There are currently 57 faculty members: 30% have a B.A., 61% have an M.A. or Rabbinic Ordination, and 7% have a Ph.D.

Judaic Studies Program

- Four years of study of traditional Jewish texts in Hebrew and Aramaic including Bible and Talmud. Girls select a specialty of concentration, either Jewish Law/Thought or Talmud in grades 10 – 12. Boys study Talmud in grades 9 – 12. Modified, Regular and Honors levels are offered in grades 9 – 12.
- Four years of Hebrew language are required for graduation. Modified, Regular, Honors, and Accelerated levels are offered in these courses.
- The Academy is a pilot site for both NETA, an innovative Hebrew language program created by Hebrew University and Boston Hebrew College, and Gemara Berura, a computer-based learning program designed to increase the understanding of Talmudic texts.

A major component of the program at Ida Crown is the Kollel Torah MiTzion – a post-graduate Judaic fellowship program housed on campus. These Modern Orthodox scholars from Israel study with students, staff, and parents, creating additional opportunities for academic enrichment. The Kollel has initiated numerous exciting programs within the school, from formal to informal educational activities and has added an exciting dimension to community life.



General Studies Program

- Four years of English are required for graduation. Regular and Honors levels are offered in grades 9 – 12 as well as an Accelerated level in grades 10-12. Advanced Placement (A.P.) English is offered in the Senior year. Junior and Senior Seminars meet weekly for outstanding English students.
- Three years of Mathematics are required; however, most students choose to take four years. Mathematics is offered at four levels of increasing depth and sophistication: Modified, Regular, Honors, and Accelerated. The curriculum includes Algebra, Geometry, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and A.P. Calculus (AB and BC.)
- Two years of Science are required, although most students take three or four. Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry, Physics, A.P. Biology, and A.P. Physics are offered. Chemistry may be taken at a Regular or Honors level, and Physics may be taken at Regular, Honors, and Accelerated levels.
- Three-and-one-half years of History are required. Freshman study Western Civilization, Sophomores study Jewish History; Juniors study U.S. History or A.P. U.S. History; and Seniors study Modern Jewish History and may enroll in A.P. European History.
- All Seniors are eligible to participate in the JELI Scholars Program, a series of college courses taught by Loyola University, sponsored by the Jewish Educational Leadership Institute.

- Electives offered include A.P. Psychology, Psychology, Consumer Education, Business Law, Spanish, Journalism, Band, and Advanced Art.
- Four years of Physical Education are required, as is one year of Art and a Driver's Education course.

Grade Point Averages

The Academy assigns grade points in accordance with the following schedule:

Grade:	Type of Course:		
	Regular	Honors	Accelerated
A	4	5	5
B	3	4	4
C	2	3	3
D	1	2	2

Higher Education

Academy graduates continue their education in colleges and universities. A selection of schools they have attended includes Barnard College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Emory University, Georgetown University, George Washington University, Indiana University, Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University, New York University, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Parson School of Design, Princeton University, Rutgers University, Stern College for Women, Touro College, Tulane University, University of Arizona, University of Chicago, University of Illinois-Chicago and -Urbana-Champaign, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Washington University, and Yeshiva University.

Israel Study

The Academy strongly encourages students to pursue post-high school learning experiences in Israel. Yeshivot and Midrashot, which recent Academy graduates have attended, include Beit Midrash L'Nachim, Bnot Torah, Darchei Bina, Machon Gold, Michlelet Esther, Midreshet Lindenbaum, Michlala, Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim, Midreshet Moriah, orot, Torah Shraga, Yeshivat Birkat Moshe, Yeshivat HaKotel, Yeshivat Har Etzion, Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavne, Yeshivat Lev Yerushalayim, Yeshivat Maale Gilboa, Yeshivat Mevaseret Yerushalayim, Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh, Yeshivat Or David, Yeshivat Reishit Yerushalayim, and Yeshivat Shalavim.



Community Service

Twenty hours of community service per year are required for graduation. Students volunteer their services at social service agencies, hospitals, and programs for the disabled in the evenings and on Sundays.

School Day

The program begins at 8:05 a.m. and ends, Monday – Thursday, at 5:39 p.m., and on Fridays, between 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., according to the calendar.

Dress Code

The school has a simplified dress code to further enhance the academic atmosphere of the Academy. In general, all students are expected to dress in a manner appropriate for a religious educational environment. Details of the dress code are contained in the Student Guide.



Mordechai David Weinfeld Torah Society

Torah study is the centerpiece of Jewish living. The Mordechai David Weinfeld Torah Society was established to encourage Torah study beyond the required classes and times offered at the Academy. Students who engage in significant voluntary study during each of their four years in the Academy are inducted into the Torah Society upon graduation.

Deborah L. Katzin z"l Chesed Society

Through a generous endowment, the Academy has established a unique program of Chesed, involving both respite care and service training. Students in the Sophomore and Junior classes are eligible to apply to participate in this program.

National Honor Society

The Academy sponsors the Torah Chapter of the National Honor Society. Membership is granted to those students selected by the faculty council based on scholarship, character, service, and leadership.

Student Activities

The heavy time demands made by the dual curriculum limit the range of extra-curricular activities, but students may take advantage of a wide range of school activities, either during school hours, after school, or on Sundays. Listed below are some of the school activities. Exact times and days are announced during the school year so that students will be made aware of opportunities available to them.

Boys' Sports

- Interscholastic Basketball
- Interscholastic Wrestling
- Intramural Floor Hockey
- Intramural Basketball
- Intramural Baseball
- Intramural Soccer



Girls' Sports

- Interscholastic Basketball
- Intramural Baseball
- Intramural Volleyball

Activities Available to Boys and Girls

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| ■ Student Council | ■ Recycling Committee | ■ "Crown Prints" Student Newspaper |
| ■ National Honor Society | ■ Library Assistants | ■ "Panim El Panim" Political Awareness |
| ■ Community Service Club | ■ Debate Club | ■ Intramural Sports |
| ■ School Retreats | ■ Model United States Programs | ■ Chesed Committee |
| ■ Choices Club | ■ Office Assistants | ■ School Pride Committee |
| ■ Ham Radio Club | ■ Service Points Committee | ■ Mashpiim/Mashpiot |
| ■ Avira (School Spirit) Committee | ■ Science Club | |
| ■ Yearbook | | |

The Academy encourages students to take the initiative of forming new committees by satisfying two criteria:

- (1) arranging an adult sponsor, and
- (2) forming a group of a minimum of ten students

Out-of-Town Students

Mr. Phil Zbaraz, Director of Student Social Services, acts as an informal liaison between out-of-town parents and students who wish to board in Chicago and members of the local community who have expressed an interest in having a student board with them.



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