



"AMERICA'S PREMIER JEWISH PLURALISTIC COLLEGE PREP BOARDING SCHOOL"

PRINCIPAL: DR. GARY M. GRANDON  
DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: DR. TAMMY WILLIAMS  
DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING: DR. SANDRA L. TARBOX

## SCHOOL PROFILE 2009-2010



## THE SCHOOL AND STUDENTS

The American Hebrew Academy (AHA) opened its doors to students in September of 2001. As part of its mission, the American Hebrew Academy strives to produce young adults whose strength of character and Jewish identity become lifelong resources for personal growth, commitment to the creative continuity of the Jewish people, and the betterment of the world in which we live. This year, AHA's 157 students come from twenty-three different states, and from countries as far away as Moldova, Thailand, Mongolia, Israel, Mexico, Canada, Germany, Chile, Hungary and England. Each year, approximately 80% of our students board on campus and 20% commute from the surrounding area. The Academy serves a population of economically diverse families. This year, over 60% of our students receive scholarship aid to attend the Academy.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM – DUAL CURRICULUM AND CALENDAR

Students at the American Hebrew Academy follow a demanding curriculum that offers the best qualities of a rigorous, secular college preparatory education with a relevant and equally challenging Jewish Studies program. Students generally take up to seven college preparatory core classes each trimester: five secular studies classes in English, Mathematics, Hebrew, Social Studies and Science, and two Jewish Studies classes. In the senior year when students are taking their AP classes, many will take four core classes plus Jewish Studies classes. In addition, students take one or more elective classes each trimester. The Academy uses a TRIMESTER CALENDAR, with a modified block schedule (85 minute core classes and 45 minute elective classes, that meet every other day).

## JEWISH STUDIES AT AHA

Jewish Studies courses are differentiated according to student knowledge and experience. Alongside a normal introductory sequence of coursework, there is an Advanced sequence of coursework for students with a strong background in Hebrew language and Jewish Studies. Students are identified for the Advanced path if their academic record demonstrates a sufficient history and knowledge base. Understanding the pluralistic and global nature of our student body, the Jewish Studies Department works with each student, identifying their skills, needs and interests and develops a personal action-plan that will enhance their knowledge base and prepare them for more advanced studies in their post high school academic careers. Advanced courses are often taught using Hebrew language texts, and many of the classes focus on HISTORY, LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES, ETHICS, and PHILOSOPHY and are designed to develop critical thinking skills needed at the college level.

## ELECTIVE COURSES AND ATHLETICS

To complement their required core classes, AHA students choose from a rich variety of electives in five areas: Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Information Technology (e.g., Robotics, Programming); Academic Electives (e.g., Literary Magazine, Philosophy, Leadership) and Physical Activities. There are 10 Interscholastic Sports - basketball, track and field, cross-country, swimming, soccer, volleyball(girls), baseball (boys), tennis, wrestling and golf; and Intramural and Club Sports including ultimate Frisbee, rock climbing, racquetball, boating/sailing, cheerleading/dance and swing dancing.

## JUNIOR TRIMESTER ABROAD – ALEXANDER MUSS HIGH SCHOOL IN ISRAEL

A particularly significant portion of an Academy student's education takes places at Alexander Muss High School in Israel. Juniors spend the fall trimester in the interdisciplinary program offered by AMHSI, which immerses students in the historic, geographic, and cultural resources of Israel. At AMHSI, students continue classroom instruction in core areas, while benefiting from field study and from practicing their Hebrew skills with native speakers. Credits from the Junior Fall Trimester at Alexander Muss High School in Israel are awarded by AMHSI and are not included in the AHA tally; junior year core classes at AHA will therefore appear as two credits (instead of three) on the American Hebrew Academy transcript.

## HONORS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

AHA follows a rigorous college preparatory curriculum and does not designate any of its classes as "Honors." Advanced History Seminar and Advanced Constitutional History are senior level courses that are designed as introductory college level courses. **Most AP courses will be taken by students their senior year since AP courses are not available at the Muss school in Israel.** AP Courses offered in 2009-10 at the American Hebrew Academy include:

AP English 11 (Language)	AP Studio Art
AP English 12 (Literature)	AP Computer Science
AP Chemistry	AP Calculus AB
AP Biology	AP Calculus BC
AP Physics	AP Psychology

## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS

- The Academy's first 7 senior classes (198 students) have included 2 National Merit Scholarship Recipients out of the 8 National Merit Finalists, 1 National Achievement Finalist, 3 National Merit Semifinalists, 9 Commended Scholars and 1 National Achievement Outstanding Participant.
- In 2008-09, 58 of the 62 juniors and seniors (93.5 %), had taken a total of 151 AP Examinations. 65% of the exams were scored 3 or higher. Data from the 2009 AP Exams indicates that 9 AHA students were named AP Scholars, an additional 2 were AP Scholars with Honor, and 3 were named AP Scholars with Distinction.

# Course List of the American Hebrew Academy

## English

ESOL English (Replaces English 9 or 10 for FIRST trimester of the year for students with high need for additional transitional time for the English language. Students taking ESOL English are assigned to ESOL elective after the first term to support the student in English language across all academic areas.)

English 9  
English 10  
English 11  
English 12  
AP English Language and Composition  
AP English Literature and Composition

## Math

Algebra I  
Geometry  
Algebra 2A (formerly Algebra II)  
Algebra 2AB\* (new for 09-10)  
Statistics  
Pre-Calculus A (formerly Pre-Calculus I)  
Pre-Calculus AB (formerly Pre-Calculus II)  
Calculus (formerly Calculus A)  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC

## Sciences

Physics A (Prerequisite Algebra I) – formerly Physics  
Physics AB (Pre-requisite Geometry) – new for 08-09  
Chemistry A (Pre-requisite Geometry) – formerly Chemistry I  
Chemistry AB (Pre-requisite Algebra II) – new for 09-10  
Biology  
AP Computer Science  
AP Environmental Science  
AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
AP Physics

## Social Sciences

World History  
European History  
U.S. History  
Advanced Constitutional History  
Advanced History Seminar  
AP Psychology

## Languages

Hebrew I  
Hebrew II  
Hebrew III  
Hebrew IV  
Hebrew V  
Hebrew VI  
Hebrew VII  
Hebrew IX Literature II  
Arabic

## Arts

Introduction to Arts  
Art 1: Fundamentals of Art  
Art I: Drawing and Watercolor  
Art II: Acrylics and Oils  
Art III: 3-D (Sculpture)  
Experimentation in Design/Techniques  
Studio Art  
AP Studio Art  
Photography I  
Photography II  
Photography III  
Bible in Art  
Holocaust Imagery  
Introduction to Theatre

Acting I  
Acting II  
Acting III  
Acting IV  
Playwriting  
Directing Plays  
Introduction to Music  
Music Theory  
Film, Philosophy and Art  
Art of Viewing Films  
Basics of Fashion and Costume Design

## Wellness

Wellness I – 9th Grade  
Wellness II – 10th Grade  
Advanced Wellness

## Jewish Studies

American Jewish History  
Bible 9-1 and 9-2  
Bible Archeology  
Bible III  
Bible: Exile and Return  
Bible In Art  
Bible: Tests of Faith  
Biblical Justice  
Comparative Judaism  
Comparative Religion  
Davenology  
EcoJudaism  
Ethics Topics  
Great Thinkers  
Hasidism  
Holocaust  
Israel & Neighbors  
Israeli Advocacy  
Israeli Society  
Jewish Ethics  
Jewish History 9-1 and 9-2  
Jewish History 10-1 and 10-2  
Jewish Law  
Judaics Research Seminar  
Judaism 101  
Judaism 101 Pt. 2  
Judaism and Popular Culture  
Kashrut  
Liturgy  
Megillot  
Mishnah  
Monotheistic Faiths  
Moot Beit Din (Students Prepare Legal Arguments  
for the RAVSAK Moot Beit Din Competition)  
Rabbinic Thought  
Talmud 1  
Talmud Pt. 2  
Talmud: Selected Readings  
Women and Jewish Law  
Women and Judaism  
Zionism  
Advanced American Jewish History  
Advanced Bible I  
Advanced Bible III  
Advanced Biblical Studies  
Advanced Comparative Liturgy  
Advanced Holocaust and Human Behavior  
Advanced Introduction to Rabbinic Texts  
Advanced Talmud  
Advanced Talmud 2  
Advanced Topics in Jewish Studies

\*AB designation connotes higher degree of rigor and challenge beginning in the 09-10 academic year for math and 08-09 year for Physics)

## Non-Graded Electives

### Academic Electives

Success 101  
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)  
Literary Magazine  
Yearbook  
Journalism  
Leadership I  
Leadership II  
Astrophysics  
Plant Biology(Botany)  
Philosophy  
Philosophy 2  
Introduction to Programming: Robotics  
Computer Based Graphic Design  
Energy  
European History Review (for AP Exam)  
US History Review (for AP Exam)  
Spanish I  
Exploring French

### Arts

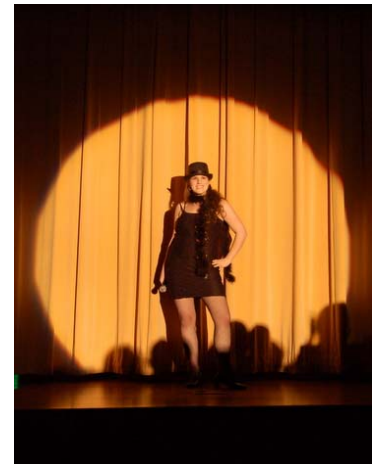
Discovery Improvisation  
Performance (Fall/Winter/Spring)  
Theatre of Witness  
Comedy Improv Troupe  
Directing 1  
Student Directed One Acts  
Chorus  
AHAcapella  
Voice  
Songwriting  
Senior Cabaret  
Show Choir  
Jazz Band  
Performance Ensemble  
Rock Band  
Private Lessons  
Swing Dancing

### IT

IT Orientation  
Web Design  
Digital Movie Making  
Computer Programming  
Introduction to Robotics  
Making Movies/TV

### Physical Activities/Sports

Cross Country  
JV Soccer  
Varsity Soccer  
Volleyball  
JV Basketball  
Basketball  
Swim Team  
Wrestling  
Baseball  
Tennis  
Track and Field  
Golf  
Swing Dancing



REQUIRED GRADUATION CREDITS		GRADING SCALE	GRADE AND SAT DISTRIBUTION	
<b>ENGLISH</b>	11 Credits	AHA uses a traditional 100 point un-weighted marking system that translates into the following grade equivalents: 97-100 4.1-4.3 A+ 94-96 3.9-4.0 A 90-93 3.6-3.8 A- 87-89 3.2-3.5 B+ 84-86 2.9-3.1 B 80-83 2.5-2.8 B- 77-79 2.2-2.4 C+ 74-76 1.9-2.1 C 70-73 1.5-1.8 C-  Prior to 2008-09 all Elective classes were graded as follows: O = Outstanding G = Good N = Needs Improvement P = Poor (No Credit Given)  Beginning in 2008-09, established Academic Elective Classes became graded on the standard 100 point scale used by the Academy.  The lowest passing grade is 70. If a student fails a course and retakes it for credit, the new grade will replace the failing grade in the calculation of the GPA, although the transcript will show that the class was taken twice.	<b>CLASS OF 2010 (27 STUDENTS)*</b> (Grades as of end of 11 <sup>th</sup> grade)  GPA (Un-weighted)    NUMBER of SENIORS  97-100                    0 94-96                    1 90-93                    12 87-89                    10 84-86                    2 80-83                    2 77-79                    0 74-76                    0 70-73                    0  Mean GPA    89.43	
<b>MATHEMATICS</b> (Including one class beyond Algebra II)	11 Credits*			SAT SCORE DISTRIBUTIONS (through Nov. 09) Score Range    CR    Math    WR  730 – 800        3    1    2 660 – 720        3    7    2 590 – 650        9    11   11 510 – 580        9    6    6 400 – 500        3    2    5  Mean SAT        594   614   588  Mean SAT (1600 Scale) = 1208 Mean SAT (2400 Scale) = 1796  The American Hebrew Academy does not rank students.  * Includes five students (18.5% of class) for whom English is a second language.
<b>SCIENCE</b> (Must include Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	8 Credits**			
<b>HISTORY</b> (Including 3 credits of U.S. Based, and 3 credits Non-U.S. Based)	8 Credits			
<b>HEBREW</b> (Through Level III)	11 Credits			
<b>JUDAIC STUDIES</b>	22 Credits			
<b>WELLNESS I &amp; II</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> )	6 Credits			
<b>ADVANCED WELLNESS</b> (Or Two Sports) 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup>	6 Credits			
<b>INTRO. TO TECHNOLOGY</b>	1 Credit			
<b>SYNAGOGUE SKILLS</b>	4 Credits			
<b>FINE ARTS</b> (Including 1 credit Visual Arts, 1 Credit Performing Arts)	4 Credits			
<b>ACADEMIC</b> or <b>ELECTIVE</b> Credits	8 Credits			
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	100***			
* Math is required for 4 years ** Science is strongly encouraged for 4 years *** Plus successful completion of the Alexander Muss High School in Israel. Credits for this are reported separately on the Muss transcript.				

SELECTED COLLEGES WHERE SENIORS FROM THE CLASSES OF 2007- 2009 WERE ACCEPTED:

University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa	Emory University	University of Minnesota	Tulane University
American University	University of Florida	Mount Holyoke College	Union College
Austin College	Fordham University	Muhlenberg College	United States Military Academy (West Point)
Binghamton University	George Washington University	New College of Florida	United States Naval Academy (Annapolis)
Brandeis University	Georgia Institute of Technology	New York University	Vanderbilt University
Bucknell University	University of Georgia	University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill	Vassar College
University of California – Berkeley	Grinnell College	North Carolina State University	University of Vermont
Carnegie Mellon	Hamilton College	Northeastern University	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Case Western Reserve University	Haverford College	Northwestern University	University of Virginia
University of Chicago	Indiana University – Bloomington	Occidental College	Wake Forest University
Clark University	University of Iowa	University of Pennsylvania	Washington University in St. Louis
University of Colorado – Boulder	James Madison University	Pitzer College	University of Washington
University of Connecticut	Johns Hopkins University	Princeton University	Wellesley College
Cornell College	Juniata College	University of Puget Sound	Wesleyan University
Cornell University	Kalamazoo College	Reed College	Wheaton College (MA)
University of Delaware	University of Kansas	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Whitman College
University of Denver	University of Maryland – College Park	Rutgers – New Brunswick	Whittier College
Dickinson College	University of Massachusetts – Amherst	Saint Louis University	College of William and Mary
Drew University	University of Miami	Smith College	University of Wisconsin – Madison
Drexel University	University of Michigan	Stevens Institute of Technology	College of Wooster
Duke University	Michigan State University	Stony Brook University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
	University of Michigan – Ann Arbor	Syracuse University	
		Texas A & M University	
		Tufts University	