



LET YOUR CHILDREN DISCOVER THE JOY OF LEARNING

Kehila Jewish Community Day School strives to be a partner with parents in raising their children - children who have the skills, knowledge and values to thrive in a changing world: children who can take pride in their history and are part of a community:

Kehila means 'community' in Hebrew, and at our school our students feel a part of their own Jewish community as well as the wider non-Jewish community around them. We take part in regular programs with our elderly at Shalom Village: organize food drives for the Kosher Food Bank: and enjoy reciprocal visits with peer grades at public schools in our neighbourhood.

To educate children for the 21st century is a challenging and inspiring task. Our children will need to become critical thinkers, able to analyze and evaluate the many alternatives that will be placed before them as they grow. Our society will need people who are firmly rooted in a value system that cherishes human life and is committed to social justice and world peace. Our Jewish community will need individuals deeply committed to pluralism, who are knowledgeable and engaged with the classical wisdom of our Tradition.

Kehila reflects an appreciation of the pluralism of contemporary Jewish life.

The school is not affiliated with any synagogue or denomination. We celebrate all forms of Jewish belief and observance and are respectful of tradition. Kehila is committed to providing both girls and boys a full Jewish experience within an egalitarian environment.

An education of excellence, which weaves together the worlds of Jewish and General Studies allows children to develop a Jewish identity filled with meaning and purpose. Educating children to their responsibilities for all their fellow human beings and the world will produce ethically sensitive leaders for the next generation.

THE MISSION OF KEHILA SCHOOL

Kehila School is committed to academic excellence while developing strong Jewish identity through Jewish values and literacy. Our goals are to:

1. create an institution recognized for excellence in secular and Judaic education
2. develop a strong sense of social responsibility, based on Jewish concepts of social justice such as: Tikkun Olam, Tzedakah and Gmilot Chasadim.
3. promote an appreciation of the centrality of the State of Israel in Jewish life, historically and in the present
4. teach Hebrew as a living language
5. develop in students the lifelong capacity for independent thinking, ethical behavior and academic achievements
6. learn to appreciate the diversity of Jewish expression as a mark of our strength and vitality.

We strive too encourage our children to build a community both locally and globally. Looking forward we recognize the roles that they will play as our future community leaders. Alternative ways of viewing the world and their roles in it will only help to strengthen our traditions. By learning to question, our children will learn to grow and strive for excellence.

AN EDUCATION OF EXCELLENCE

Kehila's curriculum is committed to excellence. Licensed by the Ontario Ministry of Education, the school follows and enriches - the new (1997) Ministry Curriculum Guidelines. The program ensures a solid foundation in language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and technology.

Planning, critical thinking and communications skills are emphasized, and our curriculum is integrated. Wherever possible, subjects are non-compartmentalized, woven together instead of taught in isolation so that our students become accustomed to making connections between the disciplines. Knowledge and skills learned in social studies, science and technology reinforce aspects of the language arts and mathematics curricula, and vice versa.

Throughout the program, computer technology is used for a variety of purposes, such as searching the Internet for topics related to units of study, communicating with students in other schools and lands, compiling and organizing data and writing reports.

The world is our classroom, and our students thrive on educational outings that tie in with curriculum units. Regular outings include museum and art gallery programs, professionally guided nature hikes, concerts and theatre productions. Visiting experts conduct in-class workshops: these include a science enrichment program provided by McMaster University; creative writing and drama; music and art.

OUR STRUCTURE & STAFF

Through an AVI CHAI grant initiative our school goes from Kindergarten to Grade 5, feeding into Hamilton Jewish Middle School for grade 6,7,8. Experienced and creative professional teachers and administrators staff the school. With our emphasis on individualized instruction, every student is given the opportunity to achieve to the very best of his or her ability and potential, and children are encouraged to learn at their own pace.

OUR PARENTS

Parents are encouraged to be as involved as they wish in school life, from volunteering in the class to sitting on our Board. Kehila is a family-friendly home away from home. Parents are invited to attend weekly Kabbalat Shabbat programs.

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