
HILLEL'S CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY!

IN THIS ISSUE

A Letter from Our Head of School, Allison Oakes

Early Learning Center Progress

Our 2021-2022 Application is Open!

Images from the Hillel-JCC Early Learning Center

National Junior Honors Society

Gratitude

A Message From Hillel's Board of Trustees

HILLEL'S CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY!

OCTOBER THOUGHTS



A LETTER FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL
ALLISON OAKES

Can you believe it?! We have surpassed the 8-week mark at Hillel Academy in what has proven to be an extraordinary school year. While we started the school year with about 10% of Hillel students attending virtually, over the weeks, the number has diminished to just a handful. While offering a synchronous virtual option is more taxing on our teachers, it helps to ensure ill students or even simply not feeling well stay home and still stay connected and learning.

The highlight at Hillel is absolutely the building of the Early Learning Center. After experiencing minor “earthquakes” for a week as the rollers compacted the foundation, the structure of the building has been going up in what feels like record pace! The 6500 sq. ft. brand new facility and accompanying 4000 sq. ft. playground will be open in May! Between kids re-enrolling and the inquiries we are already receiving from new families, spots are going to fill quickly! Definitely contact Keri for a tour and then get your application in quickly!

Finally, I cannot thank the faculty and staff enough! In order to manage teaching and learning during a pandemic, one of our teachers wisely stated, “It is like being a first year teacher all over again!” There is exhaustion and a feeling of being overwhelmed; however, the support of our parents, the excitement and joy of our students, and our team keep us all going because we are truly in this together!



MEET OUR CO-DIRECTORS

Hillel is so lucky to have two of our long-term educators, Elizabeth Glidden and Tracy Gold, in the roles of co-Directors of our new Early Learning Center! They are both also classroom teachers, Tracy with our youngest Parparim (Butterflies) class, and Elizabeth leading our VPK Yanshufim (Owls) class.

We are so impressed by the program they have built and the leadership they are bringing to the entire preschool team!



EARLY LEARNING CENTER PROGRESS

The Hillel-JCC Early Learning Center brand new 6500 square foot building is well on its way! Construction began again in August and we can finally see the building in progress!

This year we opened the program with 3 classrooms of 1-4 year olds, and will have the capacity in our new building to have up to 5 classrooms.

If you are interested in hearing more, contact us for a virtual tour today! Our application for the 2021-2022 school year is currently open.

admissions@hillelacademytampa.com

HILLEL ACADEMY KESHER

The 2021-2022 application is now open!

Ages 1 year old - 8th Grade



Interested in learning more about Hillel Academy?
Join us for a virtual tour!

[Click Here to Apply or Request More Info](#)

Images from the Early Learning Center



National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

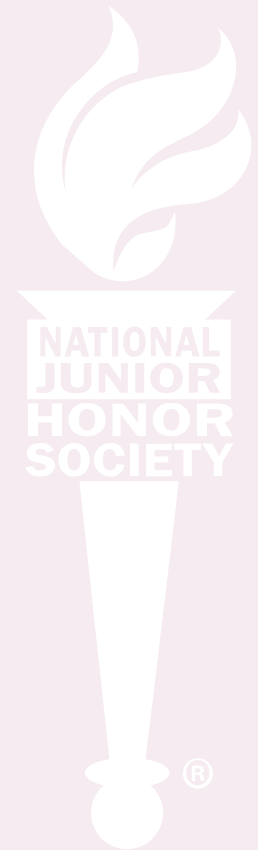
Hillel Academy is proud to announce our new and returning NJHS members for the 2020-21 school year. These students have met the standards of scholarship, leadership, service and citizenship. This is one of the highest honors that a Middle School student can achieve!

NEW MEMBERS

Eve Anton
Nadav Egosi (Co-Secretary)
Madeleine (Emmi) Genia (Co-Secretary)
Natalie Gordon
Samantha Fisch
Jacob Shor
Erin Turkel
Ariella Chauca
(President)
Zion Phoenix

RETURNING MEMBERS

Alex Glidden
Ezra Gondelman
Harrison Hirsch (Treasurer)
Zara Kattan
Nana-Yaa (Naki) Nanor (Vice-President)
Gavin-Simon Gardin
Rachel Vidars



Gratitude

The following people made donations to the Hillel Fund in
September:

The Kattan Family, in honor of Luna's birthday
Nicole Yunger Halpern
The Kattan Family, in honor of Bobe's birthday



Hillel Academy is proud to be a
beneficiary agency of Tampa Jewish
Community Centers and Federation.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

My name is Carolyn Fink and I am a mom of three boys. One just graduated last year with the other two at Hillel. I am also the Board Chair for the Hillel Academy Board of Trustees. Many parents are unaware of the Board's role and responsibilities in an independent day school (i.e. private school). In the monthly Kesher newsletter, I plan to include information on different areas of focus and responsibility by the Board of Trustees.

Hillel Academy is accredited by the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS). What does this mean and why does it matter? FCIS is the largest accrediting organization of independent schools in the United States. FCIS reviews a school's curriculum, financials, and board governance every five years, or within a year if there is a change in the Head of School. Since we are accredited, the Board has specific Standards of Conduct that we need to follow.

Three basic principles guide the standards for board conduct: these are often referred to as the duties of care, duty, and loyalty. The following guide is adapted from the NAIS Trustee Handbook, ninth edition.

The Duty of Care: make good decisions that support the mission of the school with reasonable care. Board members are not expected to be experts in child development or education, but we are expected to make "informed" decisions. We recognize when we need to enlist the help of people with the necessary wisdom, skills, and expertise to enact the school's programs and mission.

The Duty of Loyalty: put the school's interest first. When making decisions a trustee must put the school first. Parent trustees face unusual conflicts of interest. It is important for the board to openly acknowledge the financial and potential personal conflicts created when parents serve on an independent day school board. Individual trustees need to take personal responsibility to manage these conflicts. All decisions need to be made by putting the school's interest first.

The Duty of Obedience: be true to the school's mission. Board members can execute their own resound judgment in how the school can best achieve its mission. But they cannot act in a manner that is inconsistent with the mission. Any discrepancy between the school's mission and what the school actually delivers can weaken the school's integrity. Also, this duty requires that the board and the school observe local, state, and national laws and regulations that apply to independent schools.

"There are no problems, only opportunities for growth" -Rebbetzin Dena Weinberg
