EXPLORE MIDDLE SCHOOL AT HANNAH SENESH

Rooted in Wisdom.
Ready for the Future.
Our values, which are deeply rooted in Jewish teachings, guide us in all that we do at Senesh.

**Kindness – Chesed – חסד**
We treat each other with respect and strive to demonstrate compassion and empathy.

**Openness – Elu v’Elu – ואלו ואלו**
We seek to understand diverse perspectives and embrace those with different ideas and backgrounds.

**Responsibility – Areivut – ערבות**
We support the well-being of others in our community and the world around us.

**Perseverance – Hatmadah – התמדה**
We apply ourselves in all we do and earn the satisfaction of seeing things through, especially when the challenge is great.

**Journey – Masa – מסע**
We embrace life as a continuous journey of learning and growing.
OUR VISION & MISSION

Our Vision:
We envision a world shaped by Senesh alumni who lead with a strong sense of self, a connection to community, and a commitment to doing good in the world.

Our Mission:
Rooted in Jewish values and wisdom, we foster a love of learning guided by intellectual curiosity and social responsibility in a vibrant and inclusive K-8 independent school community.
DIVERSITY STATEMENT

As an open and inclusive Jewish day school in the heart of Brooklyn, we strive to provide an unparalleled, modern academic home that is committed to the rich mosaic of Jewish life. We are committed to intentionally building this mosaic with our students, faculty, administration, and families through their diversity across ethnicity, race, nationality, Jewish identity and practice, interfaith family composition, sexual orientation, gender identity, life experiences, socio-economic status, perspectives and worldviews. We value the dignity and self-worth of each member of our community.

We believe in ensuring that our students are prepared to be global citizens who can be productive agents of change toward a more just world. Our core Jewish value of Openness/Elu v’Elu guides our work in building empathy, promoting tolerance, and valuing difference. We live this value daily at Senesh in our curriculum, programming, admissions, hiring, professional development, and dialogue with our broader community. It is integral to our ongoing journey/Masa as a school to embrace the complex conversation of diversity in the 21st century, which we believe will continue to make our school community even more vibrant and strong.

“What I learned from my parents and at Hannah Senesh was the importance of justice above all else...I was taught to live a purposeful life and do something that benefits the world.”
—Ezra, Class of 2005
LEARN JOYFULLY

Through student-centered, inquiry-based learning, and differentiated instruction, students explore, build connections, and construct meaning through experiences.

Small School: Classes are 12-15 students with a maximum of 30 students per grade; teachers “know” each and every student

Personalized Learning: Project based, student directed, small group work, different assessment modes, leveled math and Hebrew classes

Advisory: Small groups meet three times a week to build social skills, review schedules, work on executive functioning skills, etc.

Technology: 1-to-1 Chromebook per student, iPads, classes in coding and digital citizenship

Senesh students are part of a warm and nurturing community

- Children develop strong connections with classmates, teachers, and staff
- Buddy program helps children develop relationships with lower school students
- Shabbat and Jewish holidays are celebrated together as a grade or whole school
- School-wide, grade-wide, and whole-family social justice projects foster a sense of responsibility for the greater community
- Endless ways for parents to volunteer
- Families create lifelong friendships and support one another

"Hannah Senesh is a great choice for Middle School because it allows you to thrive...if you don’t go to Senesh for Middle School, you’re missing out on a family."
—Robert, Class of 2018
At Senesh, our students:

- **Explore** ancient texts to foster critical-thinking
- **Engage** in values-based text study
- **Develop** a toolbox of diverse Jewish skills including prayer, customs, traditions, and practices to forge their own Jewish paths
- **Learn** Israel’s history, culture, and current events
- **Study** Hebrew as a modern, living language with three levels of Hebrew including Bridge for those who have not had Hebrew before and Heritage for native Hebrew speakers
- **Live** the Jewish calendar by studying and celebrating holidays and Jewish customs from around the world

"One of my favorite things about Jewish life at Senesh is celebrating holidays together. It feels like we are all connected even when we are not at school."

—Susannah, Class of 2023
At Hannah Senesh we applaud the diversity of our Jewish community. The bar/bat mitzvah experience is a testimony to the many different ways our families express their Jewish identities. By participating in each others' bar/bat mitzvot, students engage in a variety of Jewish expression and practices.

"Having my Bar Mitzvah at Senesh really added an extra layer of meaning. Teachers were so helpful and having my Senesh classmates there was truly special because we had grown up together. It was also deeply empowering to see their ceremonies and witness their growth and transition into Jewish adulthood."

—David, Class of 2020

Planning the B-mitzvah that best suits your family can be overwhelming and we are here to help you all along the way!
STUDENT LIFE

Our Middle School students are leaders in a number of ways:
Student Council
Student Ambassadors
Plan field trips and special events
Buddies to lower school students
Lead holiday programs
Lead tefila (prayer)
Assistants in after school program

Special Class Events

5th Grade: Celebration of Civilizations, Book Clubs, Brooklyn Autism Center Partnership

6th Grade: Heroes Convention, Health and Disease Project, Ecology Partnership

7th Grade: STEAM Fair, Renaissance Remix, Brooklyn Landmark School Partnership

8th Grade: US Constitution Project, Musical, Project Ezra

Middle School Trips:
5th Grade: NYC Challenge
6th Grade: 4-Day Teva Nature Retreat
7th Grade: 3-Day Washington, DC
8th Grade: Two-week Israel Trip
Trips for specific chugim (electives)

Sports Teams:
Varsity Soccer Team
Varsity Basketball
5th/6th Grade Intramural Basketball

Enrichment Programs:
After School Classes - Coding and Technology, Tae Kwon Do, Musical Theater
After School Helpers/Interns
Chugim (Elective) Classes

"What I love about Senesh is learning about new experiences. but it's not just about having fun. I also like that we help people, matanot l'evyonim.”
—Noa, Class of 2023
The Senesh journey doesn’t end after 8th grade!

High School Placement:

- Process begins in January of 7th grade
- Full class meeting, family meetings, prep work with students
- Tours of high schools and visit from high school admissions professionals
- Fully supported program with Outplacement Director

Alumni Events:

- All graduates are part of our alumni network
- Alumni are invited back to Senesh regularly to celebrate holidays, present to middle school students, and more!

“I believe my time at Senesh set me up for success. I felt further ahead academically than many of my peers because Senesh provided me with a very individualized approach. If I had been in a bigger school, I may not have developed the same passion for learning.”

—Alexander, Class of 2012
Senesh Graduates Have Attended the Following High Schools

The Abraham Joshua Heschel School
Avenues: The World School
Bard High School Early College
BASIS Independent Brooklyn
Bay Ridge Preparatory School
The Beacon School
The Berkeley Carroll School
The Brearley School
Bronx High School of Science
Brooklyn Friends School
Brooklyn High School of the Arts
Brooklyn Latin School
Instrumental Music
Brooklyn Technical High School
The Calhoun School
Choate Rosemary Hall
The Churchill School and Center
Cresskill High School
The Dalton School
Dwight School
Edward R. Murrow High School
Elisabeth Irwin High School (LREI)

LaGuardia High School of Music & Art Performing Arts
Friends Seminary
Grace Church School
Harvest Collegiate High School
The Harley School
High School of American Studies at Lehman College
High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology
High School for Fashion Industries
Horace Mann School
Hunter College High School
James Madison High School
Landmark High School
The Lawrenceville School
Léman Manhattan Preparatory School
Leon M. Goldstein High School for the Sciences
Magen David Yeshivah
Manhattan/Hunter Science High School
Midwood High School
Humanities Program
Medical Science Institute
Millennium Brooklyn High School
Millennium High School
NEST+m

Northport High School
NYC iSchool
NYC Lab High School for Collaborative Studies
NYC Museum School
Pace University High School
The Packer Collegiate Institute
Phillips Exeter Academy
Poly Prep Country Day School
The Ramaz School
Rudolph Steiner School
Saint Ann’s School
Special Music School
SAR Academy
Stuyvesant High School
Townsend Harris High School
Trinity School
Yeshivah of Flatbush
York Preparatory
The Winchendon School