

IDENTITY

Students at HDS develop a natural pride in their heritage because they live their Jewish values. The half-day of **Hebrew immersion** and Judaic studies allows them to express themselves in the timeless language of the Jewish people, and have access to **classical and modern texts** and a rich culture that guides day-to-day living. Students also express their Jewish identity through song, music, art, dance, drama, and community service.



“HDS helped make me a proud Jew. I have acquired a passion for being Jewish that hasn’t left me since, and that has made me a better person.”

Josh Berman, HDS '95

“Families at HDS come from a wide spectrum of religious and cultural Jewish identification. When we first enrolled our daughter at HDS, we were unaffiliated and did not belong to any synagogue or Jewish group. We were completely comfortable at the school. HDS promotes respect for everyone.”


Angie Chernin, Alumna Parent



DID YOU KNOW?

- The Hebrew Day School offers the only language immersion program in Ann Arbor (half day).
- The average class size is 16.
- The school as a whole consistently scores at or above the 96th percentile on standardized tests.
- The school population reflects the wide diversity of Jewish expression: 43% Conservative, 24% Reform, 18% Unaffiliated, 11% Orthodox, 4% Reconstructionist & Renewal.
- Our graduates have attended Brown, Columbia, Harvard, Harvard Law, Harvard Medical School, Carnegie Mellon, McGill, NYU, Oxford, Stanford, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, Yale, Yale Law, and others.
- A recent study on the integration of day school graduates into secular colleges shows that day school alumni are well represented in the ranks of student leaders, are more resistant to social pressures than their peers from other private and public schools, and exhibit a stronger sense of civic responsibility by volunteering their time.

Please contact info@hdsaa.org or 734-971-4633 for more information.

The Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor
is a beneficiary of the 

Non-discrimination policy: The Hebrew Day School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship/loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs.



a strong foundation • a bright future



THE HEBREW DAY SCHOOL
of ANN ARBOR

2937 Birch Hollow Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48108
www.hdsaa.org * (734) 971-4633

ACADEMICS

The HDS curriculum is designed to give each student the tools that he or she needs to become a **life-long learner** and an active and involved citizen. The school emphasizes critical thinking, high-level reading, fluent writing, and confident public speaking. It ensures that students graduate with the mathematics, science, and computer skills they need for middle school. The integrated nature of the curriculum helps students ponder and interpret complex information and **analyze problems from multiple perspectives.**

The dual-language program promotes academic achievement in many disciplines, as multiple studies have shown. Whether students are reading a passage from E.B. White, giving an oral presentation dressed as Abraham Lincoln, connecting electrical circuits, building simple machines, recording the behavior of mealworms, or using fractions to make a quilt in art class, they learn how to **extract and synthesize key ideas** and **make practical connections** to the world around them.



“When my children graduated from HDS and entered into middle school, they were extremely well prepared and ahead in most subjects. The confidence and skills they gained at HDS ensured a smooth transition.”

David Palan, Alumni Parent



COMMUNITY

HDS is more than an elementary school. It is a **cohesive and dedicated community** of teachers, parents, students, and administrators. Teachers team together around the academic, social, and emotional needs of each student. Children work together with partners and with students from other grades. The values of **volunteerism and charitable giving** are instilled through community service projects and through regular collecting and allocating of Tzedakah. Parents help out in the classrooms. Monthly school-wide assemblies bring the whole community together for spirited singing, class presentations, community projects, and student recognition. There is an active Student Council and PTO, and **all students and teachers know one another.**



“I was taught that school atmosphere has a profound effect on student achievement, but I never experienced such a community feeling in a school setting until I came to HDS.”

Judy Musket, Kindergarten teacher

PASSION FOR THE ARTS

The Hebrew Day School produces young adults who are literate in both **music and the visual arts**. Choral music training begins in kindergarten, and recorder and **music theory** begin in 4th grade. In 5th grade, students choose between cello, viola, and violin. **Performances** are scheduled throughout the year and are considered an important part of the learning experience. Participation in the **Klez Kids Band** gives students additional performance opportunities.

The visual arts program is **integrated into the curriculum**. It supports **visual literacy** through an understanding of art concepts including line, shape, form, color, value, texture, dimension, unity, balance, movement, rhythm, contrast, emphasis, and pattern. Expression in the arts encourages students to think creatively, appreciate their world, express their personal interpretations, and mentally organize their thoughts in new ways. These skills of **observation, analysis, and interpretation** support study and communication skills that benefit every part of the curriculum.

“Hebrew Day School gives you the passion to express yourself, and gives you the courage to stand up and use expression in any situation in your life.”

Robert Axelrod, HDS '03

