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MELVIN J. BERMAN HEBREW ACADEMY

Rabbi Dr. Yossi Kastan Head of School
Ms. Elana Hoffman Co-Director of College Counseling
Mr. Evan Read Co-Director of College Counseling
Mr. Jonnel Hector Upper School Counselor
Ms. Ariel Kramer Upper School Educational Support Services

Mrs. Malka Popper
Mrs. Malkie Hametz
Ms. Aimee Fanning

Upper School Principal
Upper School Dean of Students
Upper School Administrative Assistant

SCHOOL PROFILE 2021-2022

MISSION

Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy (Berman) is an Orthodox day school that provides a comprehensive Jewish and secular education in an atmosphere of reverence, good citizenship, and love of the Jewish people and Israel. Adhering to standards of academic excellence and exemplary moral conduct, it prepares its graduates to become Jewishly observant and well-educated. It provides opportunities for each student to achieve the maximum of his or her potential, engaged with and contributing to both the Jewish community and society at large.

OVERVIEW

Berman’s integrated Judaic and general curriculum combines a warm and caring environment with a dynamic, challenging and creative co-educational course of study. Small class sizes and individualized attention mean that students can engage in activities they need to become well-rounded while discovering and nurturing the greatest strengths within themselves.

Berman Hebrew Academy, founded in 1944, provides a comprehensive Jewish and general education in an atmosphere of reverence, good citizenship, and love of the Jewish people and Israel. In partnership with the community, Berman strives to continue this journey, shaping a future for our students that is filled with purpose, accomplishment, caring and commitment to Jewish life and Jewish values.

Our graduates go on to our nation’s top universities and Israeli yeshivot and seminaries. They become successful in their chosen fields and leaders in their communities as they live as committed, observant Jews in today’s world.

ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT BODY

Families and faculty come from across the globe, including the United States, Latin America, and Israel, and predominantly represent the Modern Orthodox Jewish community. The school offers financial support to more than 30 percent of its students. Berman is a place where children learn not only from their teachers but also from each other, reflecting the essence of the school’s mission.

CURRICULUM

Berman offers a rigorous academic education and solid preparation for college through its integrative dual curriculum model. Each year all students complete 15 credits of general studies, 12 credits of Judaic courses, 4 credits of Hebrew language. In addition, students are provided with a variety of opportunities to explore their passions and develop leadership skills through a robust set of student clubs, activities, and athletics. Furthermore, students are encouraged to contribute to their community and explore their co-curricular and career interests by completing a minimum of 36-hours of community service and participating in the Berman Senior Internship Program—a 120 hour, 4-week professional internship experience.

FACULTY AND ACCREDITATION

Within Berman’s faculty, teachers have doctoral degrees, master’s degrees, specialist degrees, and rabbinical degrees. Berman is proud of its teaching ratio of one faculty member for every seven students. Berman holds a Certificate of Approval from the Maryland State Department of Education and is a member of NACAC. Berman aspires to uphold the core values and guiding principles outlined in National Association of College Admission Counselors Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission.

LEARNING DURING COVID

From mid-March 2020 through June 2020, students continued their coursework virtually, with letter grades reported for each class. Final assessments were adjusted but students were assessed on end-of-year material in a number of ways and those assignments were calculated into the final grades. Beginning in September 2020, students continued to learn virtually, and Berman switched to a block schedule with an A/B rotation.

In mid-October 2020, Berman returned to school on a hybrid schedule, with two grades in person and two grades learning virtually each week. Throughout, teachers continued teaching on a rigorous level and met all curricular goals. Students were assessed frequently in order to measure academic progress and document learning. Students with personal or family health issues remained virtual for the entire school year. In April 2021, while seniors were completing their internships, grades 9-11 were all in person until the end of the school year. We are now 100% in person.

In addition to their coursework, the school day now includes a period that is used for grade-level advisory, club meetings, office hours, or grade level activities.

ENROLLMENT 2021-2022

Total students (N–12):	Upper 640
School:	185
Seniors:	46

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS, CLASS OF 2021

Applications:	212
Admissions Offered:	128
Enrolled:	
College or University	88%
Gap Year Program	92%

ACADEMIC YEAR

Berman’s academic year is divided into two semesters. The standard school day runs from 8:15 AM to 4:30 PM.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

General Studies Courses	Credits
English/Literature	4
Mathematics	4
Lab Sciences	3
History	3
Hebrew Language*	4
Jewish History	1
Science/Social Science	1
Additional Electives	3

Judaic Studies Courses

Chumash (Bible)	4
Combination of courses	8
<i>Talmud (Rabbinic Law/Literature)</i>	
<i>Kodesh/Toshba (Rabbinic Literature)</i>	
<i>Navi/Nakh (Prophetic Literature)</i>	

Other Requirements

Physical Education	4 years
Senior Internship	120 hours
Community Service	36 hours/year

* Some students in Study Skills or Resource are precluded from taking Hebrew Language. These students demonstrate the equivalent of two years of Hebrew Language through an exam. The Kollel (boys) and 11-12 Talmud Midrasha (girls) are taught in Hebrew which counts as Hebrew Language credit.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND ELECTIVE OFFERINGS

The following courses represent AP offerings available to the Class of 2021 during their time in our Upper School (2018-2022):

Biology (12)	Computer Science A (9-12)	Computer Science Principles (9-12)	European History (11)
Calculus AB/BC (12)	English Language & Composition (11)	English Literature & Composition (12)	Studio Art: 3-D Design (11-12)
Physics 2 (12)	Psychology (12)	Studio Art: 2-D Design (11-12)	

The following courses represent additional elective offerings for the Class of 2021 during their time in our Upper School (2017-2022):

American Sign Language	Beit Midrash (Torah Study)	Ceramics	Digital Photography
Engineering I	Engineering II	Holocaust & Human Behavior	Home Economics/Life Skills
Independent Study	Introduction to Business	Media	Painting
Sports, Health, & Fitness	Studio Art	Study Hall	

Students may pursue coursework through other means including at local colleges and accredited online programs with permission from Upper School administration. There are no limits to the number of AP courses a student may take, although some AP courses are offered concurrently.

MEAN SAT REASONING DATA (2020-2021)			AP RESULTS (2020-2021)	MEAN ACT SCORES (CLASS OF 2020)
Class	CR	M	Total	
2020	667	666	1344	English 30.3
2021	690	688	1378	Math 27
HONORS AWARDED (2020-2022)			# of students: 71	Reading 32.1
2 National Merit Semifinalists			# of exams: 123	Science 28.7
3 National Merit Scholars			% scores of 3 or above: 90%	Composite 29.5
7 National Merit Commended Students			9 AP Scholars	
			2 AP Scholars with Honors	
			14 AP Scholars with Distinction	

GRADING SCALE (%)

A+	97-100	C+	77-79
A	94-96	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63

Below 60 is not a passing grade.

Average Unweighted GPA	3.66
Average Weighted GPA	3.86
Unweighted GPA Maximum	4.33
Highest Weighted GPA in class	4.58
Highest Unweighted GPA in class	4.15

Courses designated with (*) are not included in the overall GPA. Berman awards 0.5 quality points per semester for Honors courses (with the exception of Honors Talmud 11-12, which earns 0.25 quality points per semester and 1.0 quality points per semester for AP courses.

Berman does not report individual class rank.

GRADING LEVELS

No designation: Preparing student for academic work at the college preparatory level

Plus (+): Preparing student for academic work at the advanced college preparatory level

Honors (H): Provides coursework to foster growth for advanced learners

Advanced Placement (AP): Most rigorous coursework offered

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES AND MATRICULATION (2015-2021)

Bold indicates colleges where one or more students matriculated.

American University	Drexel University	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Purdue University-Main Campus
Community College of Baltimore County	Fashion Institute of Technology	McGill University	CUNY Queens College
Barnard College	George Mason University	Michigan State University	Rutgers University-Camden
CUNY Bernard M Baruch College	George Washington University	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Binghamton University	Goucher College	Montgomery College	School of Visual Arts
Boston University	University of Hartford	Muhlenberg College	Syracuse University
Brandeis University	University of Hawaii at Manoa	New York University	Temple University
California College of the Arts	IDC Herzliya- Raphael Recanati	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Touro College (Lander College for Women)
University of California-Los Angeles	International School	Northeastern University	Towson University
Catholic University of America	Indiana University-Bloomington	Pace University, New York City Campus	University of Vermont
College of Charleston	List College - JTS	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus	Virginia Commonwealth University
University of Chicago	Loyola University New Orleans	University of Pennsylvania	Washington University in St Louis
University of Colorado Boulder	Maryland Institute College of Art	University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg	University of Washington-Seattle Campus
Cornell University	University of Maryland-Baltimore County	University of Pittsburgh	Yeshiva University (Yeshiva College and Stern College)
University of Delaware	University of Maryland-College Park	Princeton University	
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology		