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## MELVIN J. BERMAN HEBREW ACADEMY

Rabbi Dr. Yossi Kastan  
Ms. Elana Hoffman  
Mrs. Anne Greenspoon  
Mrs. Adira Botwinick  
Ms. Ariel Kramer O'Brien

Head of School  
Co-Director of College Counseling  
Co-Director of College Counseling  
Upper School Counselor  
Upper School Educational Support Services

Rabbi Allan Houben  
Mrs. Malkie Hametz  
Ms. Aimee Fanning

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

### SCHOOL PROFILE 2022-2023

#### 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 was founded in 1944. 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. During high school, students are required to complete a minimum of 24 general studies credits, including 4 years of Hebrew Language, and 12 credits of Judaic studies. In addition, students are provided with a variety of opportunities to explore their passions and develop leadership skills through an wide array of elective courses and a robust co-curricular program, including student-led clubs, publications, performing arts, and competitive academic and athletic teams. Students are encouraged to contribute to their community and explore their career interests by completing a minimum of 36-hours of community service each year and participating in the Berman Senior Internship Program--a 120 hour, 4-week professional internship experience. We have opened our Innovation Lab which provides students with access and training to cutting edge tools and techniques, including Sewing/Embroidery machines, Laser cutters, 3D printers, Vinyl Cutters, CNC machines and more.

#### FACULTY AND ACCREDITATION

Within Berman's faculty, teachers hold 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. Berman is a provisional member of the Association of Independent Maryland and DC Schools.

#### 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 in person until the end of the school year. We are now 100% in person.

In addition to their dual curriculum coursework, students are involved in other structured learning opportunities. These include an advisory program, focused on social emotional learning, student advocacy, digital citizenship, etc., as well as a series of intensives targeting specific learning goals by grade; these intensives range from a Study Skills curriculum for our freshmen, to financial literacy for seniors, and our Health & Jewish Intimacy curriculum which spans all four years of high school.

### ENROLLMENT 2022-2023

Total students (N-12):	705
Upper School:	195
Seniors:	48

### COLLEGE ADMISSIONS, CLASS OF 2022

Applications:	172
Admissions Offered:	105
Enrolled:	
College or University	94%
Gap Year Program	75%

### 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
Additional Judaic Studies Credits	4

*Courses may include the following:*

- Talmud (Rabbinic Law/Literature)
- Kodesh (Rabbinic Literature)
- Navi/Nakh (Prophetic Literature)

#### Other Requirements

Physical Education	2 years
Senior Internship	120 hours
Community Service	36 hours/yr

\*Some students in Study Skills or Resource are precluded and exempted from taking Hebrew Language.

Our 11th & 12th grade students who show a level of proficiency in both Talmud and Hebrew can qualify for our highest level Talmud classes- Kollel (boys) or Midrasha (girls); these 2 period classes are taught in Hebrew which counts as their Hebrew Language credit.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND ELECTIVE OFFERINGS

The following courses represent AP offerings available to the Class of 2023 during their time in our Upper School (2019-2023):

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

The following courses represent additional elective offerings for the Class of 2023 during their time in our Upper School (2019-2023):

American Sign Language	Engineering I	Sports, Health & Fitness	Computer Integrated Design
Beit Midrash (Torah Study)	Engineering II	Studio Art	Judaics Electives
Ceramics	Holocaust & Human Behavior	Study Hall	Drama
Computer Integrated Manufacturing	Home Economics/Life Skills	Painting	
Digital Photography	Mixed Media	Business	

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 (2021-2022)				AP RESULTS (2021-2022)	MEAN ACT SCORES (CLASS OF 2022)	
Class	CR	M	Total	# of students:	English	32.2
2021	690	688	1378	# of exams:	Math	28.7
2022	666	646	1312	% scores of 3 or above: 91%	Reading	30.9
<b>HONORS AWARDED</b>				7 AP Scholars	Science	27.7
2 National Merit Semifinalists (Class of 2023)				10 AP Scholars with Honors	Composite	29.2
4 National Merit Commended Students (Class of 2022)				10 AP Scholars with Distinction		
4 National Merit Commended Students (Class of 2023)						

### GRADING SCALE (%)

A+	97-100	C+	77-79
A	93-96	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D	65-69
B	83-86	F	60-64
B-	80-82		

*Below 60 is not a passing grade.*

Average Unweighted GPA	3.76
Average Weighted GPA	4.01
Unweighted GPA Maximum	4.33
Highest Unweighted GPA in class	4.33
Highest Weighted GPA in class	4.88

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 (2017-2022)

*Bold indicates colleges where one or more students matriculated.*

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