



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Where do Tehiyah families live?**

The largest percentage of Tehiyah families lives in Berkeley (36%), followed 20% in El Cerrito, 13% in Richmond, 10% in Oakland, 6% in Albany, 5% in Kensington, and 3% in El Sobrante. The rest of our families live in Sonoma, Piedmont, Vallejo, San Pablo, Crockett, Emeryville, and Alameda (less than 1% in each city).

### **What does Tehiyah's diversity look like?**

Diversity can be defined in a variety of different ways. In terms of ethnic/racial diversity, 15% of Tehiyah's student body is of color, and the school includes many different types of families, including traditional, blended, single parent, gay/lesbian, and families created by adoption. Additionally, Tehiyah's commitment to socio-economic diversity within the community is reflected in the large percentage of families who participate in the tuition assistance program. There are many different nationalities represented at Tehiyah. In addition to our Israeli population, families come from Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, Mexico, Honduras, China, Morocco, New Zealand, Australia, Russia, Eritrea, Canada, England, Germany, France, Italy, and Holland.

While the majority of families are Jewish, Tehiyah welcomes all families who want to offer their children an excellent independent school bilingual education in Hebrew and in English, in a community that teaches and celebrates Jewish culture, and honors and practices Jewish values. The school is not affiliated with any denomination or movement and welcomes the diversity of Jewish experience and tradition; Tehiyah has observant families, secular families, and everything in between.

### **What is the school's philosophy on teaching children about Judaism?**

Tehiyah welcomes families from all ends of the religious spectrum. There are non-Jewish families who have chosen Tehiyah's Jewish independent school education for their children, and also observant, conservative, reform, renewal, and secular Jewish families here. The goal is that, no matter where a family lies on the religious spectrum, everyone should feel respected, appreciated, and welcome at Tehiyah. Tehiyah is not affiliated with any particular synagogue or religious movement and there is no *right* way to be Jewish.

### **How much time is spent each day in General vs. Judaic studies?**

Kindergarten is taught with a team approach, including three full-time teachers (two general studies teachers and one Judaic studies teacher), who work together each day in a fully-integrated curriculum. Beginning in first grade, we break the day up into seven periods. Of those seven: five are General Studies (language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and enrichment classes); one is Hebrew instruction; and one is Judaic studies.

### **What does Judaic Studies entail?**

Judaic studies includes: Jewish history, Jewish holidays, *t'fillah* (prayer), Israeli history and culture, *Shabbat*, *Torah*, *parashat ha'shavua* (the portion of the week), and Jewish ethics and values. For more information about the specific subjects covered in each grade, please see the Curriculum Guide.

### **Do you teach any other languages besides Hebrew?**

We made the decision to focus our daily language instruction on Hebrew for grades K-8 for a variety of reasons. Primarily, our students gain the benefits of a bilingual education. The learning of ANY language at a young age has been shown in countless studies to enrich and enhance a child's development of cognitive and creative thinking skills, and actually *improve* reading and writing skills in the child's native language. Learning a language – any language – while young also creates maps in the brain which support future language acquisition when children move to high school. In addition, when our students are able to understand and speak Hebrew, they can travel across the globe, enter any synagogue, and be able to read the prayer book, and can converse with Israelis if they travel to Israel. But, whether or not Hebrew will be a “useful” language for individual students, the gifts of learning a second language last a lifetime.

### **Where do Tehiyah graduates go to high school?**

Tehiyah graduates have their pick of high schools. The school usually sends around half of our graduating class to the most prestigious private schools in the Bay Area. Our acceptance rate into private high school is much higher than that, but half of our graduates opt to attend public high schools with the largest group going to Berkeley High School. Below is a list of recent high school attendance:

Acalanes High School

Albany High School

Athenian School

Bentley High School

Berkeley High School

Bishop O'Dowd High School

Branson School

College Preparatory School

Drew Preparatory School

El Cerrito High School

Head-Royce School

Ignacio Valley High School

Jewish Community High School

Lick-Wilmerding High School

Marin Academy

Maybeck High School

Millennium High School

Miramonte High School

Orinda Academy

Piedmont High School

Pittsburgh High School

San Domenico High School

Urban High School