



# Meet the Faculty: Grades 1-5

The Rashi School Virtual Open House  
Dec. 3, 2020



# Faculty Grades 1-5



Emily Ferestien  
Grade 1 Assistant Teacher



Janie Lubarsky  
Grade 1 Teacher



Corey Roberts  
Grade 1 Teacher



Debbie Alper  
Grade 2 Teacher



Heidi Sisenwine  
Grade 2 Teacher



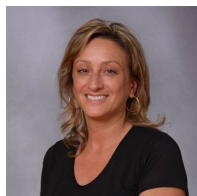
Carolyn Susman  
Grade 2 Assistant  
Teacher



Erika Annatone  
Assistant Teacher



Kate Armstrong  
Grade 3-4 Remote Teacher



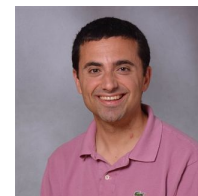
Jean Ricker  
Grade 3 Teacher



Jessica Solomon  
Grade 3 Teacher



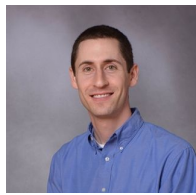
Sarah Monderer  
Grade 4 Assistant Teacher



Joey Regen  
Grade 4 Teacher



Melissa Rosenblatt  
Grade 4 Teacher



Aaron Fischlowitz-Roberts  
Grade 5 Teacher



Anne Glanz  
Grade 5 Teacher



Melanie Kenion  
Grade 5 Assistant Teacher



Ianne Sherry  
Grade 5 Intern



# Specialists Grades 1-5



Ari Marcovski  
Hebrew Teacher



Stephanie Rotsky  
Director of Social Justice



Fallon Katz  
Mathematics Specialist



Bonny Goldberg  
Theater Director



Larisa Grinis  
Hebrew Teacher



Erica Smiley  
Director of Visual Art



Adar Hascal  
Hebrew Teacher



Ayelet Lipton  
Hebrew and Spanish  
Department Chair



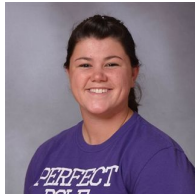
Hanna Perkins  
Literacy Specialist



Sherman Goldblum  
Social Justice Assistant



Darcey Angelo  
School Psychologist



Jen Shaw  
Fitness & Health Teacher



Julie Koven Levine  
Librarian



Rabbi Sharon Clevenger  
Dean of Jewish Learning



Dalia Mendel-Ferentz  
Hebrew Teacher



Nick Linder  
Director of Music



# Why Rashi Lower School?

With Dave Rosenberg

- Growth from Grade 1 (emerging readers, pre-readers in some cases) to Grade 5 (writing Holocaust reflections/doing Shark Tank style pitches of their science fair projects)
- Team teaching model
- Strong academic program without being a “pressure cooker” — homework begins in Grade 3
- Fluid groupings and 3x/year assessments = meeting children where they are and acknowledging/supporting cognitive and social-emotional development
- Throughout the children maintain their curiosity, their commitment to Social Justice, and grow as critical thinkers
- The teachers will love your children, care for your children, and share their passions with your children



# Grade 1

with Corey Roberts

## Two key aspects of Grade 1

- Teaching independence: organizational skills, predictable structured routines, learning
- Literacy: small reading groups of no more than four students

## Fundations

- Multisensory phonics program (students learn to read and spell with magnetic tile boards, dry erase white boards, sky writing, etc.)
- Accessible to all students (concepts are taught and practiced in multiple ways that target many learning styles)
- Includes explicit handwriting practice (sky line, plane lane, grass line, worm line)
- Logical scope and sequence that follows a predictable pattern (includes spiral review for continued practice opportunities)

# Grade 2

## With Debbie Alper

- **The Brain and Growth Mindset**

- In Grade 2 students begin to understand themselves as learners through our study of the brain and their introduction to Growth Mindset. They begin to appreciate the importance of accepting mistakes, as they develop a vocabulary of positive self-talk. Children learn that they do not yet have the neural pathways for topics that are new to them, and this helps them to embrace the “productive struggle” inherent in learning new things across all curriculum areas, throughout the year.

- **Economics**

- Grade 2 students learn about *needs/wants*, *goods/services*, *supply/demand* and *producers/consumers*. They explore many aspects of an economic system, which they later relate to our study of how food chains work in an ecosystem.





# Grade 3

## with Jessica Solomon

### Integrated Curriculum

- **Science:** forces and laws of motion, simple machines, design process, engineering
- **Jewish Studies/Language Arts:** mitzvot (*shomrei adamah*), torah text (*Noah's Ark*), midrashim (*the story of Naamah*)
- **Digital Literacy:** the use of Flip Grid platform
- **Rashi Core Value of *Kehillah*:** Family Education

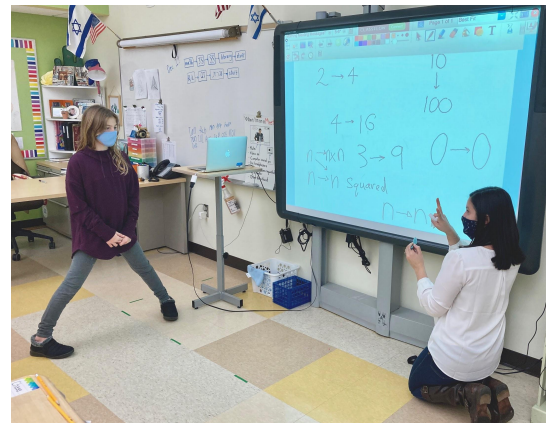
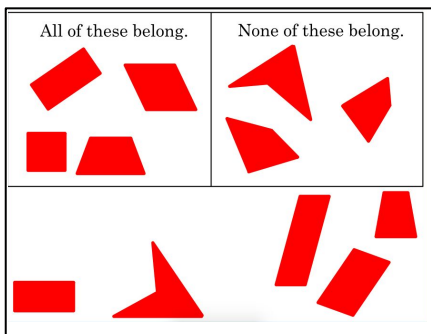


# Grade 4

## with Melissa Rosenblatt

### Silent Teaching

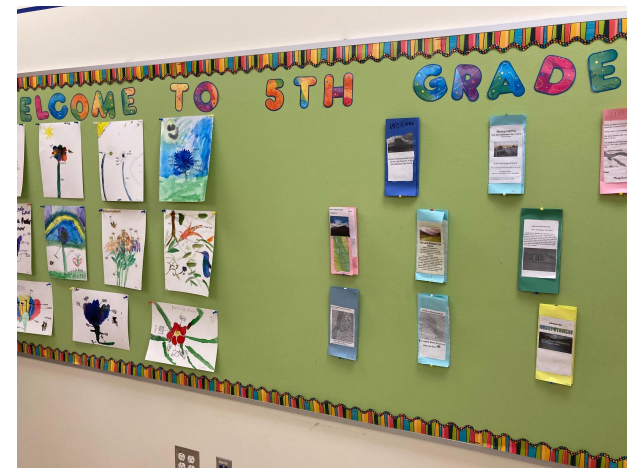
- An instructional tool that can be used in all areas of mathematics
- Allows students to look for patterns, test solutions, work forwards and backwards, take risks, and experiment with algebra
- Extends thinking beyond basic computation







- [illegible]





# Math

## Fallon Katz, Lower School Math Specialist

- Improve mathematical learning
  - Customize resources & environment based on unique student profiles
  - Collaborate with teaching teams regularly
- Provide a variety of support — to students & teachers
  - Analyze data to inform instruction
- K-5 Scope & Sequence — Student abilities grow, and the curriculum increases in complexity
- Foster a love of math and expand curiosity





# Literacy

## With Hanna Perkins, Literacy Specialist

- Know students throughout their time at Rashi, K-4
- Big picture: scope and sequence
- Share resources with classroom teachers & provide training on best practice
- Differentiate instruction to support and enrich
- Benchmark screenings and progress monitoring data
- Small group instruction
- Tech tools: LexiaCore5 and Raz-Kids



# Library

## With Julie Koven Levine

- Story elements / author studies
- Hands-on literature extensions
- Research skills — critical thinking skills
- Digital literacy skills
- Digital Citizenship
  - **Jewish values** integrated into digital citizenship lessons





# Arts

## with Nick Linder, Director of Music

- Hands on approach to rhythm through movement and instruments
  - Lessons for younger grades are rooted in play, and Orff style activities
- Music notation and literacy
- Listening and exploration of composers throughout history and the present
- Active use of musical improvisation and ensemble playing
- Exploration of Jewish music through holiday songs, singing in Hebrew, and notable Jewish composers





# Hebrew

## with Ayelet Lipton

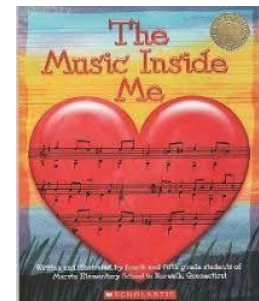
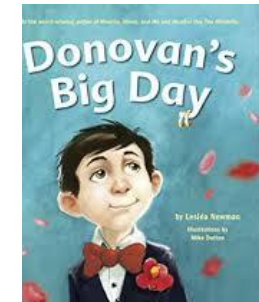
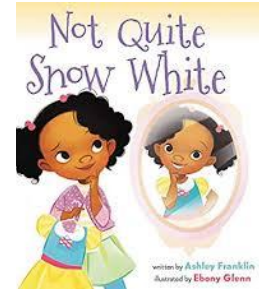
- Proficiency Approach
  - Play-based in our younger grades
- Spiraling Thematic Units
  - Learning language in context
  - Expanding on topics from year to year (eg school, food)
- Comprehensible Input: Target language throughout each lesson
- Language & Culture: Authentic Israeli/Spanish/Latinx texts (stories, songs, poems, video clips)
- Differentiation within each class



# Social Justice

## with Stephanie Rotsky

- Social Justice is an academic pursuit; Learning informs and inspires action
- Students are empowered with the knowledge, skills and consciousness to identify their passions and how they want to use them to do *tikkun olam* - repair the world
- Countless Rashi alums reflect that they carry with them the social justice learning and hands-on experiences from Rashi that informs their current social justice work
- Social justice learning and action is integrated at every grade level and through all-school community initiatives; examining the world through a Jewish lens provides a rich context for deeper understanding of issues & taking action





# Jewish Studies

with Rabbi Sharon Clevenger

- Being Jewish at Rashi is fun, hands on and meaningful.
- See the world through a Jewish lens
- Academically rigorous and integrated into all subjects
- Worship: student-led and centered. What are the prayers and what to they mean? How do I relate to God and the world around me?
- Israel learning and Israel trip
- Middle School: The *b'nai mitzvah* experience, celebrating student learning and leadership in a relaxed and sacred environment



Questions or want to learn more?

[Admissions@rashi.org](mailto:Admissions@rashi.org)