Meet the Faculty: Grades 1-5

The Rashi School Virtual Open House
Dec. 3, 2020
Facility 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
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
Grade 5
With Anne Glanz

- “Big Idea” focused: Essential Questions such as….
- Content Rich: Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece and The Holocaust
- Reading, Writing, Analysis Skills taught through Social Studies
- Multiple project opportunities: natural differentiation
- Preparation for the increased rigor and autonomy of Rashi’s Middle School
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 (e.g., 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 do 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