

GRATITUDE & GROWTH

KEHILLAH 2022-2023 IMPACT REPORT

HELLO!



Friends:

This impact report was heading to the printer when the terrorist attack of October 7 halted our world. Our hearts broke as we learned of the heinous destruction and innocent lives lost. Knowing we wanted to share this report within the new context, we halted printing to take stock of this moment and consider Kehillah's role.

We believe the time is now.

We want you to contribute to efforts to bring peace to Israel and the Middle East. We want you to contribute to the fight against antisemitism and all forms of hate.

The time is now.

Now, more than ever, schools like Kehillah matter. Our open and welcoming community goes beyond our commitment to belonging. Rooted in the Jewish values of *shalom* (peace, prosperity, and wellbeing) and *shlemut* (wholeness), the Kehillah experience develops *upstanders* — young people who will lift up their voices, unafraid, to end antisemitism. They will do this on behalf of themselves, their friends, and for the creation of a humane world.

Kehillah is part of the solution, and we need your support now.

Kehillah has helped our children grow into the amazing young adults we always knew they could be by empowering their voice, choice, and agency in their learning journey. They are given access to classes with expert teachers, resources for exploring their passions, and tools to help them learn about themselves and others, in addition to affording a safe space for personal reflection. As parents, "thankful" doesn't cover the depth of our feelings towards Kehillah for making this all possible.

Like independent schools across the country, Kehillah relies each year on tuition and our annual fund. We are grateful for more than 200 donors who helped make 2022-23 a success, and we are now looking ahead to this new year with a greater responsibility shared among us.

We hope you will join us in supporting the Kehillah Fund (K-Fund) for 2023-24. The K-Fund is our primary philanthropic vehicle, empowering our high-quality and diverse academic faculty and expanding offerings for our students as they come of age in an increasingly frenetic world. The K-Fund also drives our community by extending financial support for Kehillah families, helping us grow while living up to our belief that everyone deserves equal access to great learning.

Your gift will have an immediate impact and will fuel dynamic, vibrant, and world-changing learning for our current students and generations of Kehillah students to come. Together, we can do this.

Thank you for your support.

Matthew and Daisy

DONATE TODAY



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ABOUT KEHILLAH

MISSION STATEMENT

Kehillah Jewish High School is distinguished by an exceptional academic program and a supportive environment that pairs rich traditions with the best of the Silicon Valley mindset. At Kehillah, students embark on a journey of self-discovery guided by a community of passionate educators. They graduate with the knowledge, values, and community that enables them to create extraordinary futures.

OUR FOUR COMMITMENTS

Everyone Counts: We affirm and empower student voice inside and outside the classroom.

- 2 Everyone Has Equal Access to Great Learning: In an equitable environment, we guide each student to co-create their learning and become confident learners for life.
- Biggin Beveryone's Unique Talents Are Valued Equally: We recognize variety in passions, talents, and skills, and affirm that we are the better for it.
 - We Take Responsibility For Ourselves, Our Learning, and Our Community: We ask each member to step up and take ownership of their learning, of their school, and of their community.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Prepare: We prepare our students for college and beyond.

Root: We are rooted in Jewish values.

Align: We align with adolescent development.

Voice: Student voice is centered in creating our democratic community.

Choice: By design, students choose their high school pathway.

Agency: With our students, we create meaningful and relevant learning.

This report is based on more than two dozen interviews with Kehillah students, staff, families, and alumni. Most of the photos in this report are courtesy of Karla Chouhan, Kehillah's Digital Media Teacher.

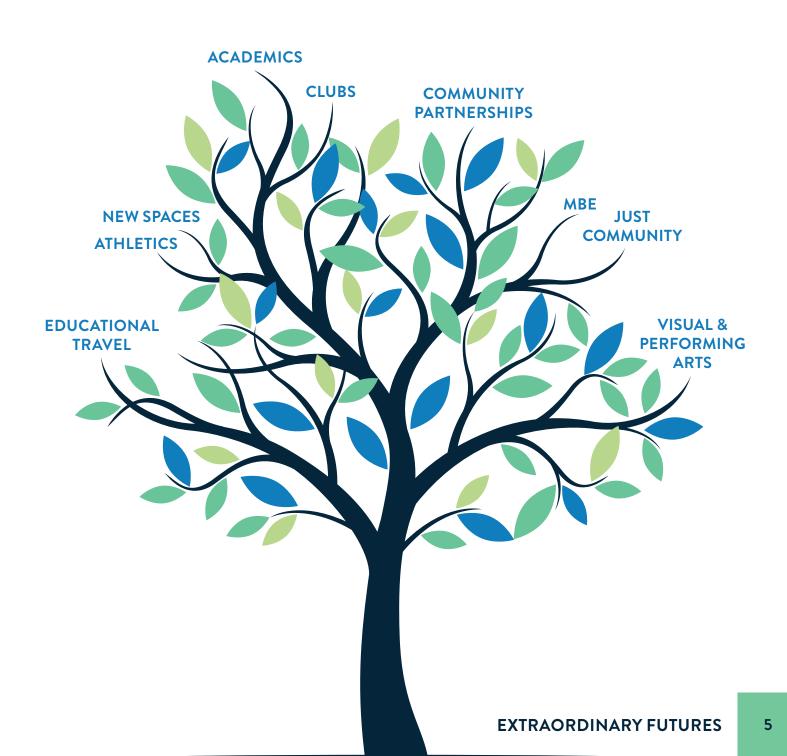


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THE KEHILLAH FUND

The Kehillah Fund helps us ensure that all current and future Kehillah students have access to a unique, robust, and dynamic learning experience.

GREAT ON PAPER, UNFORGETTABLE IN PRACTICE.



ACADEMICS

At Kehillah, our students learn from exceptional faculty, many of whom have advanced degrees in their fields. These educators design intellectually rigorous curricula across computer science, engineering, the humanities, mathematics, sciences, visual and performing arts, world languages, and Jewish studies. We foster critical thinking through courageous debate, dialogue, inquiry, and experimentation. Whether it's figuring out how to grow plants on Mars in a joint project with NASA, competing in a SailBot competition, or attending an annual Shakespeare festival, our students strive for academic excellence.

145	10	1:9	92%
COURSES	AVERAGE CLASS SIZE	TEACHER TO STUDENT RATIO	OF FACULTY HOLD ADVANCED DEGREES

Kehillah provides students with a broad range of academic offerings. This actual student schedule offers an example of the breadth of courses available to Kehillah students.

Mor	nday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
· · ·	C: Mechanics 211		Faculty Meeting		
	8:00-8:25	8:00-8:25		8:00-8:25	8:00-8:25
Rob	ootics	AP Psychology		Robotics	AP Psychology
Kusz	zmaul	Cashman Brown	Robotics	Kuszmaul	Cashman Brown
1	12 8:30-9:30	112 8:30-9:30	Kuszmaul 112	112 8:30-9:30	112 8:30-9:30
Advisory 9:35-9:55	Advisory 10:00-10:15	Seminar/ Town Hall	9:10-10:10 AP Physics C: Mechanics	Heart Work	КАВ ЅНАВ
Acoustic Guitar-	-Family Ensemble	AP Physics C: Mechanics	Grabowski	AP Psychology	AP Physics C: Mechanics
Ror	mero	Grabowski	116 10:15-11:15	Chasman-Brown	Grabowski
1	16 10:20-11:20	116 10:20-11:20	Ten Minute Break	105 10:20-11:20	116 10:20-11:20
Yiddish I	Literature	Yiddish Literature	Acoustic Guitar Family Ensamble	Yiddish Literature	Acoustic Guitar Family Ensamble
, °	dorf	Egdorf	Romeros	Egdorf	Romeros
10	08 11:25-12:25	108 11:25-12:25	116 11:25-12:25	108 11:25-12:25	116 11:25-12:25
12:25	5 - 1:10	12:25 - 1:10	12:25 - 1:10	12:25 - 1:10	12:25 - 1:10
Lu	inch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Bah	culus BC narav 22 1:10-2:10	1:10-2:10	Linear Algebra Grabowski 216 1:10-2:10	AP Calculus BC Baharav 222 1:10-2:10	1:10-2:10
Grab	Algebra powski 216 2:15-3:15	AP Calculus BC Baharav 222 2:15-3:15	2:15-3:15	Linear Algebra Grabowski 216 2:15-3:15	2:15-3:15

PARTNERING WITH NASA

Growing Beyond Earth® is a classroom-based citizen science project operated in partnership with NASA and Florida's Fairchild Garden. It includes a series of plant experiments conducted by students using equipment similar to the Vegetable Production System (Veggie) in the International Space Station.

In 2021, Kehillah's Astronomy class joined the project, building a growth chamber and planting three different varieties of radish seeds. The Biology Club continued the project in 2022.

During the first semester, the students followed the provided protocol, planting Brassica Campestris seeds under a 100% white-light setting. During the second semester, the students designed their own investigation titled "The Effect of Photoperiod on the Fresh Edible Mass Produced by Brassica Campestris Plants." For both semesters, data was collected over a 28-day period and was then analyzed using statistical methods like standard deviation, standard error, and a T-test to determine whether there was a significant difference between trial 1 (semester 1) and trial 2 (semester 2).

Then two students, Beck Orion and Enora Grignou, presented their project in a research virtual symposium alongside 64 other schools. They were commended by one of the judges for their statistical analysis and were among the 11 schools that obtained a score above 190, 200 being the highest score.

Some of the comments in the report included: "Great explanations of the methods. Great use of statistics and good for daring to say that you did



not find any difference. Awesome job at trying to find explanations in plant physiology linked to observations."

This project extended even further than expected when Tobey Miner, now a recent Kehillah graduate, reached out to astronomer Brian Day at NASA about volunteer opportunities. Tobey found one at NASA JPL working on creating lunar imaging. This opportunity then opened the door for Tobey to do his senior project at NASA Ames.

At Kehillah, academic inquiries go beyond STEM as students forge connections across all disciplines. Students take their learning outside our classroom walls and develop an understanding of how concepts and ideas actually impact their lives — and the world around them.

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WE ARE IMMENSELY **GRATEFUL FOR** OUR STUDENTS, WHOSE DEDICATION, ENTHUSIASM, **AND CREATIVITY** MAKE TEACHING A **MEANINGFUL AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE.**



- KATHLEEN EDWARDS, DEAN OF MATHEMATICS

Kehillah's commitment to everyone having equal access to great learning requires flexibility. With so many classes available and a finite number of periods each day, our team sometimes needs to get creative to meet students' academic interests and out-of-school pursuits.

Consider the example of Sophie Parenti, Class of 2024. Sophie is a gymnast who competes nationally, and for her first three years at Kehillah, she trained in the morning and the afternoon. We were able to schedule her core classes into the middle of the day so Sophie could balance her gymnastic training and her academic experiences.

Sophie is committed to compete next year at the University of Michigan.





Fortunately, Zev Meyers, Class of 2024, is ending his time at Kehillah much differently than he started it.

Due to COVID, Zev spent his first year completely on Zoom. During his sophomore year, Zev asked to create a robotics club and enrolled in an engineering class. At the time, Zev was the only student in the class.

A handful of students joined Zev in engineering during his junior year, and they started focusing on robotics. Kehillah's small but mighty team participated in a national competition in Massachusetts that involved building a robotic sailboat — a SailBot— that stayed afloat. Our squad came in 6th place nationally.*

Now, as a senior, Zev is helping to teach more than 25 other students as the co-founder of the Robotics Club, which operates out of our spectacular new Maker Space.

As Zev said, "It's cool that every week I can dive into something that I love, and I am grateful to Kehillah for making it happen. They'll meet the needs of each student, help fund a club, open a lab, and offer for students to help teach. The way they let you adapt classes and optimize your experience is amazing."

* there were only seven teams competing, but at least we beat Cornell!

During my sophomore year at Kehillah, my friends and I went up to Dr. Baharav, and we said we wanted to take an extra class that wasn't offered yet, one that focused on more complicated algorithms. It's essentially a college computer science class, but we were really interested in machine learning and wanted to learn more about it.

Now, I'm a junior at UCLA studying data science, and academically I have not had any problems. The classes have been less hard than I expected, and I think that has a lot to do with the preparation I received at Kehillah from teachers like Dr. Baharav.



In addition, I'm working part-time on the research

team at Stability AI. That's a rare opportunity for someone my age, and having access to extremely qualified teachers like Dr. Baharav helped make it possible.

- Daniel Mendelevitch, Class of 2021



After dedicating 25 years of my life to the ever-evolving tech world, I embarked on a new journey. In 1998, I joined HP fresh out of my Ph.D., and my career took me through various roles until I left my final position at Corning in 2013. Along the way, I had the privilege of securing over 30 patents in areas such as Touch Sensing, Electromagnetics, and Image Processing.

In 2015, I made a profound shift. I felt a calling to help the next generation of high school students navigate the complexities of their teenage years, fostering compassion and empathy in a world so different from the one I grew up in. Kehillah, nestled down the street from my home, became my haven from the first moment I walked through its hallways.

A year of self-discovery beckoned in 2022-23. I embarked on a global adventure and penned a book on competitive programming. The experience was transformative, yet it made me realize how much I missed Kehillah, its vibrant community, and the rewarding experience of being with my students. My return this year has been nothing short of heartwarming, and I am thrilled to be back, guiding and mentoring these young minds.

- Dr. Zachi Baharav, Computer Science and Mathematics Teacher





I recently visited Kehillah on a trip home. While chatting with former teachers, I realized how much the school paved the way for me to find my career path and make a

meaningful impact on the world. Spoiler alert, it isn't the path I thought it would be, but I am all the better for it!

Ms. Vicenty's panoRAMa touched on the way Kehillah connects students to their interests and passions in the outside world and I am living proof of that. During my four years at Kehillah, I took courses such as Biotechnology, Anatomy & Physiology, Intersection of Jewish Law, Ethics & Medicine, and Sex & Gender in Kaballah, all of which strengthened my interests in medicine and ethics. I learned practical biological lab techniques like pipetting, plating samples, and running genetic assays as well as ethical considerations in medicine and cultural aspects of sex and gender identity. In Biotechnology we actually built a



Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine that allowed us to analyze the sizes of genetic materials and make conclusions about the genetic content of various biological samples. The deep understanding that I gained from participating in the construction of such an elaborate machine has been extremely useful all throughout my studies (more on that later).

After graduating from Kehillah, I received my bachelor's degree in biology and bioethics from the University of Puget Sound. Until that point, I thought I was headed to medical school. However, in reflecting on my learning experiences at Kehillah, I realized that my passion for medicine centered on reproductive science. I pivoted to a Reproductive Science and Medicine Master's program at Northwestern, and to my ultimate career as an embryologist.

During my graduate program, I worked on several research projects which blended concepts that I learned at Kehillah both in ethics and science courses. My most recent research project involved elucidating the genetic cause for chemoresistance in ovarian cancers, which heavily utilized PCR assays and analysis of complex data–skillsets I had already been introduced to at Kehillah!

Now I spend my days in a lab, helping couples realize their dream of creating a family. We process eggs and sperm to generate embryos, as well as perform genetic testing and transfer embryos to achieve healthy pregnancies. I am beyond grateful for my experience at Kehillah and I carry those memories and skill sets with me every day, in my always-evolving career.

- Shani Zelenko, Class of 2018

12



I was having dinner recently with a close friend, and our conversation veered towards Kehillah and how it shaped my life after graduation. It got me thinking, what

if Kehillah hadn't been a part of those crucial early years? Would I be where I am today, flying these 300-seat planes all over the world? Well, probably not.

I'll admit, when I started at Kehillah I was not the top-of-the-class, high-achieving student my parents had hoped for; however, through the four years the teachers built me up brick-bybrick to be ready for the wild ride that awaited me after graduation.

After graduation, I moved nearly halfway across the country to attend the University of North Dakota. Through the brutal winters and -60-degree wind chills, I studied aviation management and learned how to fly small airplanes in their aviation program. Those four years were unquestionably the most challenging of my life, but the tools Kehillah instilled in me were by my side, helping me succeed.

In 2018, I walked away with a diploma, a commercial pilot's license, and the credentials to instruct others in flying. I returned to the Bay Area, spending two years teaching people how to fly in small, propeller-driven aircraft.

In March 2020, I was on the verge of living out my dream—becoming an airline pilot for

a regional carrier. But just three days before that dream was set to take off, the world hit the pause button. I then remembered some advice that Mr. Romero, my band teacher, gave me after I performed terribly at a recital. He said, with a wink, "Didn't work, try harder." This advice ran through my head during my 15 months of furlough, and I didn't give up. And good thing I didn't.

By June 2021, I found myself in the cockpit of a small regional jet, shuttling passengers from major international hubs to small towns all over North America. I gained experience as a first officer and, after I attained the required proficiency, I took the opportunity to become a captain. Although taking on the responsibility for 80 people in a metal tube going mach .84 at 34,000 feet was nerve-wracking, it was nothing compared to giving a presentation in front of my classmates' parents during AP English Language and Composition — so you can say I was well-prepared.

Today, I'm living the dream, flying the Boeing 787 to destinations all around the world for United Airlines. As I'm writing this during my scheduled rest break, lounging on a small bed in the belly of the airplane somewhere over the vast Pacific Ocean, I can't help but feel grateful. Grateful for the teachers who taught me more than just equations or that the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell; the teachers who instilled in me the resilience to persevere, the determination to keep going, and the belief that hard work pays off.

- Mark Kudryavtsev, Class of 2014

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WHEN I FIRST JOINED KEHILLAH, I JUST KNEW THAT THEY WERE MY PEOPLE. I FELT AT HOME. I COULD BE VULNERABLE. THEN LIFE HAPPENED, AND I ENDED UP MOVING AWAY, **ONLY TO COME BACK FOR THIS** SCHOOL YEAR. I'M SO GRATEFUL TO **RETURN TO KEHILLAH. THE STUDENTS'** HIGH LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT AND **GROWTH MINDSET ARE SO RARE AND** SO SPECIAL.

- KRISTY CHUN, SCIENCE TEACHER



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Learning beyond the classroom is a vital facet of a Kehillah education. Whether it is a class lunch to practice a new language, a visit to a San Francisco art installation, or travel around the world, we cherish opportunities to construct meaning and expand our horizons.

Experiential education invites personal growth, provides the opportunity to encounter diverse perspectives, and challenges us to think critically to solve real-world problems. Each year, our students engage in transformative experiences that spark lifelong curiosity and build lifelong friendships.

Kehillah students embrace experiential education as part of their learning journey and their growth as adults capable of navigating life's complexities, engaging in informed decision-making, and contributing meaningfully to society.

In response to the crisis in Israel, the decision was made to travel closer to home this year. Current planning is underway for our 11th and 12th-grade students. Under consideration is travel to the southern United States to study the civil rights movement, music, and culture, and an exploration of the flora and fauna of the National Parks including collaborative work with an indigenous group native to the Southwest.

Plans for future years include international travel to Israel, Colombia, and Thailand. Each international educational experience includes time for learning, for bonding, and for contributing in a meaningful way to an element of repairing the world. Whether it is learning about ocean ecology, human trafficking, or the plight of endangered animals, Kehillah students are being prepared for a world in which they can and will make a difference.

GRADE-LEVEL EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL 2022-2023

- Our 9th-grade students went to Los Angeles to immerse themselves in the intersection of art and social justice
- Our 10th-grade students visited Portland, Oregon to engage in community service projects
- Our 11th-grade students explored the richness and diversity of modern Israel
- Our 12th-grade students went to Argentina to learn about their diasporic community



GRADE-LEVEL EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL 2023-2024

- Our 9th-grade students will go to Los Angeles to immerse themselves in the intersection of art and social justice
- Our 10th-grade students will visit Portland, Oregon to engage in community service projects

CLUBS



Biology Club Book Club Business Creation Club Caring Adolescents Nurture New Ideas By Attending Lively Interactive Social Meetings Club (A.K.A. C.A.N.N.I.B.A.L.I.S.M Club) **Chess Club** Coding/USACO Club **Crochet Club** Debate Team Entrepreneurship Club Fibonacci Club Fun & Games Club Garden Club Green Club **GSA** Hebrew Club Interfaith Dialogue Club JLC+ Karaoke Club Kehillah Lifting Club Kehillah Literary Magazine The Kehillah Robotics Team

Kindness Club Magic: The Gathering Club Mish Mosh Moot Beit Din Muay Thai Club MultiCultural Club Newspaper Club Newspaper Club Psychology Club Puzzle Club Rambassadors Service Club Vamp Club Voice for Change Women in Science

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MY JOB IS HELPING KIDS FIND A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING IN A SAFE SPACE THROUGH A STRONG SUPPORT SYSTEM. KEHILLAH REALLY MAKES KIDS FEEL LIKE THEY CAN BE THEMSELVES MORE THAN ANY OTHER SCHOOL I'VE BEEN AT.



- MEG MIRAGLIA, DEAN OF STUDENTS



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AS SOON AS I HEARD ABOUT JUST COMMUNITY, I WAS VERY **INTRIGUED. IT FOSTERS A DIVERSITY OF OPINIONS, AND STUDENTS CAN REALLY PITCH THEIR OWN IDEAS AND WAYS TO IMPROVE THE** SCHOOL. WE ASK FOR STUDENTS' **OPINIONS, AND WE WANT THEM TO** SHARE WHAT THEY THINK.



- SHAAN KAPOOR, CLASS OF 2024

THE JUST COMMUNITY

The Just Community is a way to live out the democratic process, empowering students to meaningfully engage in shaping school policy and deliberate over issues of social and political concern both in the broader society (like climate change, homelessness, and the teen mental health crisis) and closer to home (like social identification, social pressure, and cyberbullying).

New for the 2023-24 school year, Kehillah is deliberately making time for the entire school to gather — with faculty and students interspersed with each other — to wrestle with meaty questions and debate in a cross-generational dialogue.

The Just Community centers on leadership, ethical growth, and agency. It helps students grow into the kind of leaders who can affect meaningful change.



ATHLETICS

In 2022-23, Kehillah supported 12 athletics teams across the fall, winter, and spring seasons.

The Fall Soccer team placed second in the Private School Athletic League (PSAL) with a 7-2-1 record, and played in the league championship game.

The Boys Varsity Basketball finished the season 11-3 in third place in the PSAL. Kehillah hosted the first-ever home Central Coast Section game against North Valley Baptist and won, becoming the first Rams team to make it into the second round.

Passion is the defining characteristic of Kehillah's athletics teams. Four recent alumni are still involved with coaching our teams, and in 2023-24 one of our student-athletes is so committed to his sport that he's participating as a student and as an assistant coach!



2022-23 TEAMS

- Girls Cross Country
- Boys Cross Country
- Fall Soccer (coed)
- Girls Volleyball
- Boys Varsity Basketball
- Girls Varsity Basketball
- Boys JV Basketball
- Tennis (coed)
- Baseball (coed)
- Boys Volleyball
- Girls Track
- Boys Track





SPOTLIGHT ON THEATRE



THEATRE EDUCATION NOT ONLY TEACHES US HOW TO ACT, BUT ALSO HOW TO INTERACT. IT'S A POWERFUL STAGE FOR SELF-DISCOVERY, EMPATHY, AND THE ART OF COLLABORATION.

- AMY COLE-FARRELL, DRAMA TEACHER



PARTNERSHIPS THAT FOSTER LEARNING AND SERVICE

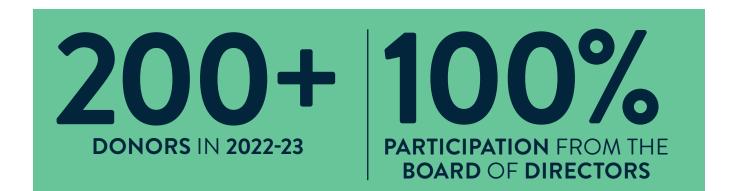
Kehillah has developed several site-based relationships with communities in need, where our students benefit from learning about the challenges of being unhoused, food insecure, or living with a disabling condition. These partnerships offer perspective and connection to the larger community we live in and encourage the practice of tzedek and tikkun olam — our responsibility to actively engage in justice and repair.

Local partnerships include JCFS, Second Harvest Food Bank, and My New Red Shoes.



WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOU

Thank you so much to everyone who provided financial support for Kehillah in 2022-23.



Agilent Apple Google The Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund Intel Matching Gifts Program Levine-Lent Family Foundation Renaissance Charitable Roblox



FUNDING OUR FUTURE

The K-Fund ensures stability for our academic and extracurricular activities, but we also have some big goals for Kehillah's continued growth that reaching beyond the K-Fund goal will help us achieve, including:

- Building out the Kikar (\$750,000) will provide our students with an outdoor campus space dedicated to recreation, quiet study, socialization, and outdoor sports.
- 2 Upgrading our Kitchen (\$350,000) will help us move toward bringing lunch back on campus.
- Providing Professional Development funding and Professional Growth & Contribution awards to outstanding faculty (\$200,000/yearly) will help us reward our faculty for continuing their education and going above and beyond for our community. *(see Teach With Africa, below)*
- 4 Continuing to align our teacher salaries with Peninsula schools will help us hire and retain the very best educators.
- 5 Completing fundraising for our Senior Legacy Educational Travel Fund (\$750,000 left to raise by 2027) will help us ensure all students have access to Kehillah's remarkable educational travel opportunities.
 - Bringing outstanding speakers and special guestsin-residence to Kehillah like Harlan Cohen, Rabbi Joe Black, Saul Kaye, Sarah Flotten, Jamil Zaki, Rabbi Ed Rosenthal, Julie Lythcott-Haims, Lynn Harper, Yvonne Cagel, and Brian Day, who infuse the student experience with real-world inspiration.



In 2023-24, Kehillah is again partnering with Teach With Africa. This partnership allows us to participate in a three-week education exchange, welcoming two South African educators who will join Kehillah teachers in February to build relationships, learn from one another, and share pedagogical philosophies and practices. In July, 2024, two Kehillah teachers will travel to the LEAP schools in South Africa to complete the exchange, working alongside their teachers to bring math and science education to many of the most under-resourced students in the world.

DONATE TO THE KEHILLAH.ORG/WAYS-TO-GIVE

This year, our goal for the Kehillah Fund is \$1.5 million, with 100% participation from our current families.



