



Tenafly Chabad
Academy
Elementary School





OUR STORY,

Lubavitch on the Palisades School was established in 1997 to provide exceptional education to every Jewish child. Grounded in the values of inclusivity, warmth, and an unshakable belief in the infinite potential of each student, our school quickly gained a reputation for excellence. Building on this success, we established Tenaflly Chabad Academy, our elementary school for grades 1-8, inspired by the Lubavitcher Rebbe's unconditional love and commitment to all. At TCA, we are dedicated to fostering pride in our rich Jewish heritage and Torah values, while we cultivate, embrace and celebrate the diversity of our student body. Our exciting yet robust program prepares students to succeed academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Our graduates have served as our ambassadors in some of the most competitive Jewish high schools in Bergen County and beyond. Today, we serve over 150 students, each of whom is celebrated, supported, and empowered to reach his/her incredible potential.

OUR MISSION,

Our mission is to empower and enrich the life of every student with a transformational and inspiring education that recognizes and embraces their unique personalities and abilities. We accomplish this by infusing our students with love and connections throughout our educational models. We foster personal growth and academic excellence in a supportive and nurturing environment that embodies Jewish values and demands our students personal best to shine.



Meet Our Administration



Rabbi Mordechai Shain
Executive Director

Rabbi Mordechai Shain was born in Jerusalem, Israel, and relocated to the United States in the early 1970s. He pursued his religious education at the Lubavitch Rabbinical College in Crown Heights and the Rabbinical College of New Haven, CT. He received his ordination as a Rabbi from the Lubavitch Headquarters Rabbinical College. As a representative of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, Rabbi Shain founded Lubavitch on the Palisades in 1993 and has since served as its Executive Director. Since 2005, he has been a member and educator of the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute. Rabbi Shain resides in Tenaflly, NJ, with his wife Malkie and their children.



Orite Rubenstein
Head of School

Since 2008, Mrs. Rubenstein has been the Director of Lubavitch on the Palisades Preschool and Tenaflly Chabad Academy. She has worked as a language specialist for individual students and implemented and directed language enriched activities in groups. Mrs. Rubenstein holds a B.A. in Communication and Language from Queens College and a Master's in Speech & Language Pathology from Lehman College. With a mission to inspire, motivate and educate young minds, Mrs. Rubenstein aims to provide a Torah-based curriculum guided with a progressive academic teaching style.



Meital Teitelman
Middle School Principal

Meital Teitelman is a passionate educational leader with a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities of the modern educational landscape. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Columbia University, a Law degree from Cardozo School of Law, and a comprehensive Certificate in School Management and Leadership from Harvard Business School and Harvard School of Education. At the core of her leadership philosophy is the belief that every child has the ability to succeed, and that all children deserve the opportunity to develop and celebrate their unique gifts. She works tirelessly to create a positive and inclusive learning environment where all students feel valued and supported, and collaborates with her team to customize the learning experience to meet each student's needs. Mrs. Teitelman is committed to promoting academic excellence and fostering a love of learning in all students, while also supporting their social and emotional development.



Lisa Breen
Reading and Writing Specialist and Curriculum Director (Grades 1-4)

Mrs. Breen, hailing from Richmond, Virginia, holds an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Stern College and a Master's degree in Special Education from Hunter College. With over three decades of experience in Westwood Regional and Bergenfield public school districts, she joins us as the Reading and Writing Specialist and Curriculum Director for grades 1-4, demonstrating unwavering commitment and passion for student success. Her expertise in teaching reading, integrating programs like PAF phonics and Guided Reading Levels, empowers students from kindergarten to eighth grade to excel as confident learners, aligning seamlessly with our school's values and mission.



Student Services



Lisa Donath

Director of Student Guidance & Support

Mrs. Donath attended Stern College, where she graduated with degrees in Sociology and Psychology. She received her MSW from New York University and has been practicing for over 15 years as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in both adolescent outpatient mental health settings, and as a school therapist. Lisa's clinical work has given her an in depth understanding of the developing mind, and a great deal of experience working with the struggles that so many families are battling on a daily basis. Her fundamental goal is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for individuals to explore their feelings and beliefs, assert themselves, and cope with stress. She prides herself on being a compassionate and resourceful clinician, who listens to what people are saying (and not saying), and anticipates their need for emotional support and guidance.



Mindy Niederman

Director of Academic Services

Mrs. Niederman is a dedicated and passionate individual with over 30 years of experience who has earned a reputation as a patient, empathetic, and student-focused educator. She holds a Master's degree in Special Education from Northeastern University, which has equipped her with the knowledge and skills to support students with diverse needs. One of her greatest strengths is her ability to connect with students and parents. She believes that building positive relationships with students and their families is key to helping them succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. She takes the time to get to know each student, and she is always willing to listen and provide support when needed.





Love of Torah, Eretz Yisrael and the Hebrew Language

At Tenaflly Chabad Academy, we are committed to providing an enriching Jewish education that inspires our students to cultivate a deep love for Torah, Eretz Yisrael, and the Hebrew language. Our curriculum is geared towards infusing and cultivating our students' connection and appreciation for our Torah, its values, and our mitzvot. Our approach is both authentic and relevant, allowing our students to connect with their Jewish identity in a meaningful way. We welcome students and families from all Jewish backgrounds and provide a highly differentiated Judaic and Hebrew language program that meets the unique needs of each learner. Our advanced classes for native Hebrew speakers and learning center classes for those new to the language ensure that every student is challenged and supported. Through embracing the richness of our tradition and the diversity of our community, we empower our students to discover and own the beauty and depth of Judaism.



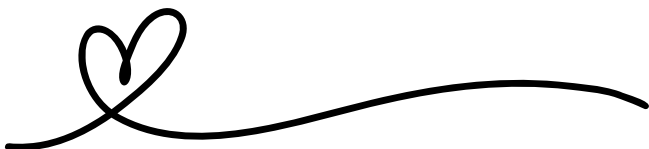


A Superior Education

At Tenaflly Chabad Academy, we are dedicated to providing a superior education that embraces and celebrates the uniqueness of each student. Our experienced and passionate team of educators is dedicated to discovering and nurturing the potential of each student, offering enrichment, remedial support, and ESL programs that are tailored to each student's learning style and goals. We prioritize fostering a strong sense of community and personal growth through our diverse curriculum, specialty opportunities, and academic tracks that aim to engage and challenge students at all levels. As part of our commitment to personalized support, we have developed innovative iWill! and iCan! Programs to provide maximum support for students facing academic gaps due to external circumstances. Students in these programs benefit from small group instruction that meets their individual needs while elevating their skills to grade-level learning. For our precocious learners, we customize our enrichment programs to deliver a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment as we further stretch and challenge their minds. We believe in empowering all our students to reach their greatest potential and thrive in all aspects of their lives through our innovative programs and unwavering dedication to excellence.

Lower School, Grades 1-4

At Tenaflly Chabad Academy, our lower school program for grades 1-4 is designed to provide a nurturing environment that prepares our students for a lifetime of learning and success. With the guidance of our dedicated faculty and administration, students learn to organize, prioritize, and manage their own learning, developing the core academic skills in Torah learning, literacy, numeracy, science, technology, and the arts that will serve as the foundation for advanced studies as they grow. Our literacy curriculum uses a multi-sensory, direct-instruction method to build solid reading and writing skills. Our writing curriculum follows a structured program that helps students develop effective written communication skills. We follow the New Jersey Standards for English, Math, Science and Social Studies in each grade, incorporating hands-on inquiry based learning to develop an appreciation and understanding of Earth Science, Physics, life science and chemistry. In addition to academic skills, we prioritize executive functioning skills and social-emotional development in our lower school program. Our teachers collaborate closely with our school social-worker to develop and implement lessons and activities and to cultivate an appreciation for kindness, empathy, resilience and teamwork. We nurture the hearts and minds of all our students.





Middle School, Grades 5-8

At Tenaflly Chabad Academy Middle School, we are dedicated to the academic and personal growth and excellence of every child. We provide our students with an exceptional well-rounded education that prepares them for high school and beyond. Our experienced and passionate faculty and staff foster a nurturing and supportive environment where every student can flourish academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Our comprehensive core curriculum and speciality classes are taught by professional and passionate educators who are experts in their fields of instruction. Whether the children sit in Language Arts, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Social Studies, Chumash, Navi, Halacha, Hebrew Language, Gemara, Coding, Robotics, Computer Science, Chess, Art, or Physical Education classes - they are pushed to stretch their minds and rise up to the challenge. Each lesson fosters critical thinking skills, collaboration, creativity, work ethic, and love for learning.

We place a strong emphasis on developing our students' emotional intelligence, confidence, empathy, and character through social-emotional activities and experiential learning opportunities such as Chesed activities, Bnei Mitzvah Club, pre-Shabbat onegs and celebrations of the chagim and Rosh Chodesh. Our goal is to empower our students to become kind, compassionate, and resilient individuals who are well-prepared to gracefully and confidently navigate the challenges of high school and life in general.



Above all, we celebrate the uniqueness of each student and strive to help them realize their full potential by providing personalized attention and support. By creating a warm and inclusive community, we foster a sense of belonging that helps our students feel valued and empowered to make meaningful contributions to the world around them. We are proud to be part of the TCA family, and we welcome you to join us on this journey of learning and personal growth.



iPrograms!

We are excited to offer two distinct academic support programs that cater to the diverse learning needs of our students. The iCan! Program is a comprehensive, personalized learning program that addresses fundamental skill gaps across various subjects. With fourteen support periods per week, iCan! students receive one-on-one instruction in ELA, math, and executive functioning skills such as organization and time-management. This intensive program replaces core subjects and ensures that students gain proficiency and readiness in the subjects they need most.

The iWill! Program is designed for Middle School students who require additional support to meet the demands of their coursework. Daily small-group sessions with a learning center specialist help reinforce ELA skills, including reading comprehension, writing, and language skills. Students also receive guidance in organization and study skills. Please note that enrollment in both programs is highly limited, and admission is on a first-come, first-served basis, given the personalized attention each student receives.



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)

STEM education is a vital part of our curriculum at Tenaflly Chabad Academy, providing our students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in an ever-evolving technological world. We believe that by integrating STEM into every classroom and providing dedicated STEM classes for every grade from 1st through 8th, we are preparing our students to be leaders in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.



In our Middle School, our students use their technological skills in every classroom in addition to our biweekly STEM and Computer science classes which provide a comprehensive approach to STEM education. Our students are given their own Chromebook for the year and learn physical computing using Arduino and robotics kits. They participate in Challenges in Engineering and explore coding languages such as block coding, JAVA Script and Python. They also learn about Digital Citizenship and Safety, develop advanced skills in Google programs, and delve into 3D modeling, graphic design, and multimedia production including Stop Motion and video creation.

In our Lower School, our students develop a strong foundation in STEM subjects, including proficiency in Google programs, keyboarding, coding, computational thinking, digital citizenship and safety, and robotics. These skills provide a solid foundation for their future academic and professional success.

Our STEM program is designed to complement and enhance our school's existing science program, ensuring that our students receive a well-rounded education in all STEM subjects. By offering a comprehensive STEM curriculum, we are preparing our students to be leaders in their future careers, equipped with the skills and knowledge to make a positive impact on the world.





After School Extracurricular Activities/ Chugim

At TCA, we strive to provide a comprehensive education that extends beyond the confines of traditional classroom setting. To that end, we are proud to offer a wide range of after-school extracurricular activities through our chugim program.

Our program offers a safe, welcoming environment where students can explore their passions, try new hobbies, and build lasting friendships that they can take with them into their future endeavors. Our diverse range of options caters to all interests and abilities, offering academic support, athletic opportunities, artistic endeavors, or STEM challenges. With our chugim program, TCA is dedicated to providing a well-rounded education that inspires, motivates, and prepares our students for lifelong success.

SPOTLIGHT ON CHESSED

Kindness and empathy are paramount values at TCA. We strive to create a culture of caring and compassion, both within our school community and beyond. Our students are encouraged to give back to their community through various acts of kindness and chessed, including intergenerational programs with the residents at the Family of Caring Senior Home, various food and toy drives, packing for Tomchei Shabbos, and other activities throughout the year. Through these experiences, our students develop empathy, leadership, and a sense of responsibility to make the world a better place.

We believe that by instilling these values in our students, we are not only creating caring individuals, but also future leaders who will make a positive impact on klal Yisrael.



SPOTLIGHT ON CHESS

Our weekly Chess classes enhance our students' critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. The program is designed to engage students in a fun and challenging way while also strengthening their mental capabilities. During each session the students are led by a highly skilled and experienced Chess Master. Through this program, students not only learn the fundamentals of the game, but also develop important life skills such as patience, focus, and perseverance. We are proud to offer this exceptional program as part of our commitment to educating the entire child. Our Chess program is just one of the many ways we support our students in their intellectual and personal growth, helping them to become well-rounded, thoughtful, and analytical individuals.



ART



Art class is enjoyed by all our students from 1st through 8th grade. Our Art teacher incorporates many different styles and elements into the children's projects. Our students study different artists and their styles and use them as inspiration for their own creations. Our students work with many different media including digital.

At Tenaflly Chabad Academy, we believe in bringing learning to life by complementing our rich curriculum with special events that coincide with the time of the year. From Shabbat Onegs to Rosh Chodesh and holiday programs, our students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in culturally enriching experiences that enhance their education and create lasting memories.



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