

## **ALMA: Inspiring Jewish Education for the Mind, Body and Soul**

*The world is sustained solely through the breath of the children when they are learning in school.  
-Talmud, Shabbat 119b*

Dear Families,

Welcome to ALMA!

ALMA is a fresh approach to Jewish education for youth and families. We pride ourselves on being a different kind of religious school. Our innovative program brings Jewish tradition to life through engaging each student's mind, body and soul. Our premise is that Judaism matters. We believe that Jewish life and tradition has the potential to add profound meaning and richness to our lives and be a force for positive change in our world. We believe that our students must genuinely enjoy themselves in order to learn and develop the love of Jewish life and tradition that we aspire to impart. We work hard to create a culture that is joyful, where our students feel respected, engaged and inspired.

We also believe that we cannot successfully meet our goals without engaging ALMA along with their children. Therefore, ALMA is a family program that offers lots of different opportunities for parent and family learning and celebration. We ask you to take advantage of these opportunities and hope that you will be an active part of the ALMA community.

Our classes combine grade levels. In our combined classes, we have a rotating 2-year curriculum so that our students are engaging new subject material each year. We also offer differentiated, small-group learning opportunities within classes that cater to different learning styles and skill levels.

We refer to our classes by Hebrew names below rather than by grades. On occasion we have students who, for different reasons, move through the ALMA classes at a different pace than the guidelines below.

Alma K'tana (small world) (pre-K, ages 3-5)

Nitzanim (buds) (K-1)

Amirim (small bundles of wheat) (2-3)

Ilanot (trees) (4-5)

Rimonim (pomegranates) (6-7)

### Overview of the Weekly Schedule for 2018/19

- Alma K'tana/ Saturdays 9:30-11:15
- Nitzanim/ Saturdays 9:30-12:00
- Amirim/ Saturdays 9:30-12:00 and Thursdays 3:30-5:30
- Ilanot/ Saturdays 9:30-12:00 and Thursdays 3:30-5:30

- Rimonim/ Saturdays 9:30-12:00 and Thursdays 3:30-5:30
- Parents and Family Members
  - Shabbat Shmooze (coffee and treats), Most Saturdays 9:30 AM-10:00 AM
  - Torah Study with Rabbi Jacob, Most Saturdays 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
  - Shabbat Family Programs, Many Saturdays, 11:15 AM-12:00 PM
  - Kiddush Lunch: Every Saturday at ~12:15pm.

Tuition information is on a separate enrollment form. In order to best serve you and plan for the coming year, we ask that you complete this form and return it as soon as possible. We are committed to making ALMA available to all who wish to participate and financial assistance is available if needed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am always happy to set up a time to meet. I look forward to learning and celebrating together in the year to come.

L'shalom (for peace),

Rabbi Jacob Fine  
Director of Jewish Life  
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413-584-3593 x 203

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Jacob Fine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.