

PROFILE OF A PARDeS GRADUATE

As a community of schools, we at PARDeS believe that common standards and benchmarks are essential in order to prepare our children for life as Reform Jews in the 21st century. While we understand that each community, each school, and each accrediting agency will differ in specific academic expectations for their students, PARDeS expects all students to meet or exceed appropriate state, provincial or national standards for core subject areas; in addition we expect that the graduates of Reform Jewish day schools will be:

1. Effective communicators who

- Receive information and construct meaning through reading in English and in Hebrew
- Write effectively in multiple genres
- Can convey complex ideas in English (and in Hebrew by grade 8) in both writing and in speech
- Demonstrate technological literacy for communication with the wider world
- Use appropriate data to give weight and substance to communication

2. Complex thinkers and competent problem solvers who

- Gather, organize and apply information from a variety of sources
- Gain experience by continuous and extensive engagement in problem solving practices
- Discover connections among and between diverse disciplines
- Propose and implement multiple solutions to issues with awareness of counter-arguments
- Apply tools and skills from one discipline to another, as well as to real-world context

3. Knowledgeable Jewish students who

- Turn to Torah and other Jewish texts as a source of knowledge, inspiration, guidance, and comfort
- Act according to the *middot* of Judaism: respect, courtesy, kindness, righteousness, honesty, compassion, *tzedakah*, social justice and *tikkun olam*
- Possess the skills necessary to participate actively in Jewish worship, holiday and life cycle celebrations, and Jewish study and integrate Jewish practice into their daily lives
- Seek to understand God and the godliness within each person within the context of Judaism
- Understand the historic chain of the Jewish People and their place in it
- Are learning to understand and respect the differences and similarities between different denominations of Judaism and other faiths
- Integrate the best of Jewish and other cultural heritages, are at home in Jewish and other environments, and work for the welfare of Jewish and other cultures
- Value their Jewish identity, the Hebrew language and their connection to the Land of Israel
- Use Reform Jewish identity and values as a basis from which to make educated, informed life choices
- Actively affiliate with the Jewish community beyond the school community (by grade 8)

4. Self-directed learners who

- Are well-organized, persistent, confident, and self-disciplined
- Possess a range of knowledge, tools and skills necessary for purposeful learning in the 21st century
- Know how they learn and apply appropriate learning strategies
- Read both voraciously and eclectically; and (by grade 8) are up-to-date with current affairs
- Demonstrate curiosity and a love of learning

5. Responsible leaders and citizens of the world who

- Respect themselves, their teachers, each other and the environment
- Take responsibility for their behavior, their decisions, and the consequences of both
- Celebrate differences and diversity
- Take on leadership roles within their classes, peer groups, the school community and beyond
- Act as their "brother's keepers" by assisting those in need of support
- Advocate on a national and international level (by grade 8)

6. Collaborative workers who

- Identify appropriate roles in the work process in relation to the skills of other participants in the group
- Listen actively to peers
- Learn from and resolve conflicts with others
- Accept differences in abilities and talents of their peers

7. Creative individuals immersed in Jewish and world culture who

- Nurture the ability to express the divine spark within themselves
- Grow their inner lives through self-expression and participation in art, literature, science and other forms of culture
- Make Jewish and world culture a part of their daily lives