

COURSE CATALOG



School Year
2021-2022 / 5782

Chumash

Mrs. Aliza Tanenbaum

A little about me...

- ★ I taught as an instructor in the University of Toronto's Occupational Therapy program
 - ★ I've been living in Seattle for five years
 - ★ Teaching your daughters is usually my favorite part of each day!
-

Class Goals

In Chumash this year we will be learning the first half of Sefer Shemos. Our focus will be on increasing fluency and accuracy in reading, translating, and explaining Pesukim and Meforshim; developing a deeper understanding of the content; and exploring foundational concepts in Torah and Jewish thought that come out from the text. My goal in this class is to demonstrate the depth and beauty of the Chumash, while providing the students the skills that they need to be lifelong, independent learners.

Contact Me

Via Email:

atanenbaum@derechemunah.com

Homework

In general, I expect students to spend on average 30 minutes per week on homework for my course. Homework typically consists of review of the pesukim and meforshim that we learned in class, and studying for tests.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I expect them to email by 8pm the night before the assignment is due to let me know why they were unable to complete it.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, assessment typically looks like open notes content quizzes approximately every two weeks, tests on each every 6-8 weeks, weekly oral reading and translating quizzes, vocab quizzes, and homework.

Overall semester grades are generally based on written tests (50%), open notes content quizzes (20%), written and oral translation quizzes (10%), a semester final (10%) and class participation (10%).

Chumash

Mrs. Perel Rubin

A little about me...

- ★ I graduated Concordia College with a dual masters in Education and Special Education, and have a NYS teacher certificate.
 - ★ I have experience and enjoy teaching all grade levels, from Kindergarten to 12th, but highschool is by far my favorite!
-

Class Goals

The goal of our Chumash curriculum this year is multifaceted. Fluency in reading, translation, comprehension, and grammatical skills are all inculcated on a daily basis. Learning the depth, beauty and foundational concepts that are brought out via the text is a large focus of our class. My goal is to give the girls a love of Torah and the skills to be lifelong learners.

Contact Me

On Campus:

Mon- Thurs- 9:00 - 1:00

Fri- 8:30- 11:30

Via Email:

prubin@derechemunah.com

Homework

In general, I expect students to spend 30 minutes per week on homework for our course. Homework typically consists of small assignments and daily review.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I expect them to stop work and reach out to me.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, assessment typically looks like open notes content quizzes, tests on each unit, and homework.

Overall semester grades are generally based on written tests (40%), open notes content quizzes (20%), written and oral translation quizzes (10%), a semester final (15%) and class participation (15%).

Halacha

Rabbi Michael Cohen

A little about me...

- ★ I was Rabbi of Young Israel of Oak Park, in Detroit, for ten years.
 - ★ I have three grandsons named after me!
 - ★ I enjoy biking.
-

Class Goals

In class, we will

1. Gain a new perspective of practical Judaism.
 2. Seek to acquire an understanding of what, how, and why of Jewish practices.
 3. Explore different Halachic works. And learn how to use them.
-

Contact Me

On-Campus: During school hours

Via Email:

rabbicohen@derechemunah.com

Homework

Homework typically consists of completing and reviewing notes and preparing for quizzes and assessments.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I recommend they speak with me.

Assessment and Grading

The style of the class is one of active learning. Students will often start their study of a subject by sharing what they already know. I quiz often (low-stakes quizzes) and give an assignment at the end of each unit.

Overall semester grades are based on classroom participation (30%), notes (40%), low stakes quizzes (10%), assessment at the end of each unit (20%).

Ivrit

Ms. Ronit Alexander

A little about me...

- ★ I spent the past summer learning Italian. This is the fourth language I formally learned (on top of Hebrew and English, which I spoke growing up).
- ★ My mom was born in NYC, and my dad in Kazablanka. I was born and raised in Israel, and moved to the US six years ago. I currently live in Chicago.
- ★ I graduated from Middlebury College with a Master's degree in teaching Hebrew as a foreign language. I am now a Doctoral candidate at Middlebury.

Class Goals

I view language as a journey, not just getting from point A to point B. We will have fun with Ivrit while gaining more confidence to interact and use the language in and outside the classroom.

My goal is for the girls to advance in all of their language skills, all while also learning more about Israel and the different cultures that exist in Israel.

Contact Me

Via Email:

ralexander@derechemunah.com

Homework

In general, I expect students to spend no more than 20-30 minutes a week on their homework. Usually, it will be assignments they can do independently, such as a review of work from class or completing open tasks. Since Hebrew is all taught online this year, many times students will need to use their tech to complete the assignments.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I expect them to let me know right away and we will figure out a way to modify the homework for them.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, formal assessment typically happens at the end of a unit - every 5 to 8 weeks. The girls will also have projects, and presentations to prepare for class.

Participation is a big part of the grade in this class. I expect the girls to try their best to answer and ask questions in Hebrew, be present and ready to learn.

Overall semester grades are generally based on tests, projects, homework, and participation.

Jewish History

Aliza Genauer

A little about me...

- ★ I was a speech therapist before discovering my love of teaching.
 - ★ I love learning about other cultures and unusual minhagim.
 - ★ I enjoy reading historical novels.
-

Class Goals

In *9-10 Jewish History*, our focus is approximately the time period of the Rishonim beginning with the Golden Age of Spain in the 10th Century and continuing until the Expulsion from Spain in 1492. We will cover both the Ashkenazic and Sephardic world and learn about daily life, Rabbis and their Torah contributions, and major events.

In *11-12 Jewish History*, our focus is on the time period beginning with Czarist Russia in the 18-20th Centuries and continuing through modern times. We will spend much of our time learning about the Holocaust through a Torah lens. Students will be taught to look for patterns and to understand underlying hashkafic ideas.

Contact Me

On Campus: Monday through Thursday
8:30 - 9:45

Via Email:

agenauer@derechemunah.com

Homework

In general, I expect students to spend an average of 30-60 minutes per week on homework and studying for our course. Homework typically consists of completing reading assignments that are assigned for each unit.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I expect them to inform me via e-mail as to why it could not be done.

Reading assignments are consistently written on the top of each unit outline.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, we have content assessments for each unit. Frequently they are written tests although at times students are given the opportunity to express their knowledge via oral and written assignments, infographics, and videos.

Overall semester grades are generally based on unit assessments.

Contemporary Jewish Issues

Rabbi Michael Cohen

A little about me...

- ★ Teaching is the highlight of my day.
 - ★ I taught in the Seattle Kollel from 1996 to 2002.
 - ★ I enjoy studying and teaching the writings and thoughts of Rabbi E.E. Dessler.
-

Class Goals

Students will gain an understanding of fundamental issues, including Emunah, Bitachon, and Hashgacha Pratis as they relate to Jewish History.

Contact Me

On-Campus: During the school hours

Via Email:

rabbicohen@derechemunah.com

Homework

Occasionally students will be asked to research a topic in advance.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I recommend that they contact me.

Assessment and Grading

Students are graded based on their participation in classroom discussions and their completion of short writing assignments or oral presentations.

This is a Pass/Fail course

Megillahs Esther

Mrs. Perel Rubin

A little about me...

- ★ My favorite part of Megillahs Esther is uncovering all the hidden messages that can fly beneath the radar when listening to it in shul!
 - ★ I have a fear of becoming fleishigs even later in the evenings... A fear often referred to as, 'Fleishaphobia'.
-

Class Goals

Our goal in this class is to uncover the many underlying life lessons the megillah has to offer. The class has a fusion of text based learning and outside commentaries. The girls are encouraged to think critically and ask questions about the well known text in order to gain a deeper understanding.

Contact Me

On Campus:

Mon- Thurs- 9:00 - 1:00

Fri- 8:30- 11:30

Via Email:

prubin@derechemunah.com

Homework

In general, this class has minimal homework with the exception of the occasional tests and quizzes. I expect students to study for 15 minutes for a quiz and up to 2 hours for a test. Homework typically consists of studying and basic review.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I expect them to stop work after the allotted time mentioned above and email me to check in.

Homework, upcoming dates, and grades are all posted online in Alma, for student and parent access. I typically update Alma weekly.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, assessments typically include occasional quizzes, 4 tests per semester, and classroom assignments and projects.

Overall semester grades are generally based on academic achievement as well as effort, behavior, and participation.

Navi Bekius

Mrs. Rachel Polsky

A little about me...

- ★ I have a BA in history with a minor in Biology.
 - ★ My little sister is younger than my oldest son!
 - ★ My favorite treat is a medium coke Slurpee.
-

Class Goals

In Bekius this year, our goals are:

- To translate the peshat of the pesukim in Sefer Melachim,
 - Understand the narrative of the Navi,
 - Recognize and apply the mussar lessons of the Navi to our everyday lives,
 - Increase knowledge of the geography of Eretz Yisrael.
-

Contact Me

On-Campus:

Monday through Thursday
8:30 am- 9:15 am

Via Email:

rpolsky@derechemunah.com

Homework

There is no daily homework. Students are expected to review their notes at home to make sure they understand the class material.

There will be a semester project and/or final exam assigned in the 2nd and 4th quarter.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, assessment typically is an open Navi review quiz given at the beginning of every class.

Overall semester grades are based on the average of all daily quizzes (with the lowest quiz score dropped every quarter) and project/final grades.

Parsha

Mrs. Perel Rubin

A little about me...

- ★ I come from a family of 10 children, 6 boys and 4 girls, myself included. Growing up, I was never bored!
 - ★ For a short period of time in my life I drove a Buick with a bench in the front seat.
-

Class Goals

We will cover each parsha with an overall summary and relatable dvar torah. The girls will come out of my class with a clear understanding of the parsha each week, and with the help of the weekly assignments, be comfortable with preparing material for a class in advance. With the oral presentations component, the girls will also develop their public speaking skills.

Contact Me

On Campus:

Mon- Thurs- 9:00 - 1:00

Fri- 8:30- 11:30

Via Email:

prubin@derechemunah.com

Homework

In general, I expect students to spend 20 minutes per week on homework for our course. Homework typically consists of weekly assignments on the parsha.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I expect them to stop work after 20 minutes and email me to check in.

Homework, upcoming dates, and grades are all posted online in Alma, for student and parent access. I typically update Alma weekly.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, assessments typically look like weekly assignments and how the girls deliver their dvar torah. Active involvement is also a vital part of our class.

45% of the final grade will be based on each girl's participation. 15% is the oral presentation and 40% of the grade will be based on weekly assignments.

Art

Mrs. Yulia Chubotin

A little about me...

- ★ I believe in nurture, not nature. Talent is overrated: I believe it is all about practice, experience, perseverance, and thoughtful guidance.
 - ★ I like long walks, bird watching, and stargazing.
 - ★ I was born and raised in Kiev, Ukraine, former Soviet Union.
-

Class Goals

- ★ The goal of this class is to allow students to experience self-expression through art-making and art appreciation working on drawing and painting projects.
 - ★ This school year we will start with Typographic Self-Portrait. After the completion of this project, I plan to create challenges in the Inktober manner for future assignments.
-

Contact Me

Via Email:
ychubotin@derechemunah.com

Homework

There is no homework for art class.

If a student wishes to continue her work at home, that would be more than welcome, however, it is not required.

Assessment and Grading

I expect that all students will succeed. Overall semester grades are based on classroom participation and effort.

The quality of the students' work directly correlates with their work, social and behavioral habits, and the effort is more important than the final result.

I expect students to use class time effectively, respond well to instructions and feedback, contribute positively to the learning environment, demonstrate appropriate self-regulation, work well independently and with others.

Biology

Mrs. Melinda Jackson

A little about me...

- ★ I have a dog and a cat. My cat likes my dog, but no others.
 - ★ I have strangely shaped thumbs that are from a genetic trait called Brachydactyly type D
-

Class Goals

We will be using an online textbook from CK-12.com that aligns with the NGSS standards. Biology is the study of living things. In this course, we will work to understand what constitutes a living organism, how organisms are arranged in order of complexity, understand the structures of cells and what their specific functions are, how genetic information is passed from one generation to the next, ecology and so much more! Students should hope to foster a deeper understanding of the world around them and how to apply scientific reasoning to asking questions and evaluating answers.

Contact Me

On Campus:

Monday 11:00 - 4:30

Tuesday 11:00 - 12:35

Wednesday 11:00 - 4:30

Thursday 11:00 - 12:35

Via Email:

mjackson@derechemunah.com

Homework

In general, I expect students to spend 20 minutes per day on homework for our course. Homework typically consists of practice questions, reading and responding to questions, studying for tests or quizzes, and completing a writing assignment.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I expect them to stop work after 20 minutes and email me to check in.

Homework, upcoming dates, and grades are all posted online in Alma, for student and parent access. I typically update Alma weekly on Fridays.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, assessment typically looks like quizzes and tests. Students will be expected to take quizzes weekly. The weekly quizzes will include material covered that week. Students may also be asked to take quizzes that are more cumulative to

maintain skills that are needed in future lessons. Students will take a summative assessment at the end of each unit. Students will be given notice of a minimum of 3 days prior to the unit test. Students will also be provided a list of topics that will be included on the unit test.

Progress reports are shared after Quarter 1 and Quarter 3, and are snapshots of student progress. Overall semester grades, which are reported on official transcripts and include narrative comments, are posted in January and June.

In this course, grades are calculated by total points. Students will receive participation points for the completion of homework assignments. Homework assignments have answers discussed in class (to be able to check the work for accuracy), so the points will be awarded for showing work to complete the assignment. Points are awarded for quizzes and tests. Quizzes will typically be 10-25 points and tests are 100 points.

Geometry

Mrs. Jackson

A little about me...

- ★ I enjoy the applications of math in the sciences.
 - ★ My favorite pie is lemon meringue.
-

Class Goals

Geometry is the study of two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects. Its characteristics and properties are the basic concepts of this subject. Skills such as visualization, reasoning, modeling and logic are enhanced through problem solving. At the same time, students comprehend the relationship of algebra skills and their corresponding geometrical representations or the geometrical skills are refined through their algebraic representations. Therefore, through geometry, mathematical concepts are integrated and interrelated.

Contact Me

On Campus:

Monday 11:00 - 4:30

Tuesday 11:00 - 12:35

Wednesday 11:00 - 4:30

Thursday 11:00 - 12:35

Via Email:

mjackson@derechemunah.com

Homework

In general, I expect students to spend 30 minutes per day on homework for our course. Homework typically consists of completing assigned practice problems and/or review for a quiz or test.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I expect them to stop work after 20 minutes and email me to check in.

Homework, upcoming dates, and grades are all posted online in Alma, for student and parent access. I typically update Alma weekly, typically Fridays.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, assessment typically looks like quizzes and tests. Students will be expected to take quizzes weekly. The weekly quizzes will include material covered that week. Students may also be asked to take quizzes that are more cumulative to maintain skills that are needed in future lessons. Students will take a summative assessment at the end of each unit. Students will be given

notice of a minimum of 3 days prior to the unit test. Students will also be provided a list of topics that will be included on the unit test.

Progress reports are shared after Quarter 1 and Quarter 3, and are snapshots of student progress. Overall semester grades, which are reported on official transcripts and include narrative comments, are posted in January and June.

In this course, grades are calculated by total points. Students will receive participation points for the completion of homework assignments. Homework assignments have answers provided (to be able to check the work for accuracy), so the points will be awarded for showing work to complete the assignment. Points are awarded for quizzes and tests. Quizzes will typically be 10-25 points and tests are 100 points.

Language Arts & U.S. Issues

Mrs. Joy Maimon

A little about me...

- ★ This is my seventh year teaching at Derech Emunah.
- ★ Teaching the writing process is my favorite part of language arts.
- ★ Teaching the note card method for research papers is fun!

Class Goals

Language Arts

This course reinforces reading, oral communication, composition, vocabulary, grammar, and research skills. The four major genres – short story, novel, poetry, and drama are taught with attention to the understanding of the main idea, supporting details, author’s purpose, and literary techniques. The composition program includes narrative and expository writing, reinforces usage and grammar skills, and focuses on literary analysis.

U.S. Issues

Contemporary U.S. Issues will study the political, economic and social issues facing the United States. Students will develop their critical thinking skills through analysis of the complex issues surrounding these relevant topics. In the second semester, students will complete an extensive research paper on a topic of their choice.

Contact Me

On Campus: M/W/Th

Via Email:

jmaimon@derechemunah.com

By Phone: 206-940-2629

Homework

Homework is given consistently. Assignments will include writing, reading, and vocabulary practice for weekly quizzes. Essay writing takes place both in school and at home. Students are encouraged to map out their writing schedule to ensure a balanced workload and meet deadlines.

Students should contact me via email or text when they need extra help. Class materials and homework are posted on our class Google Classroom page.

Assessment and Grading

Language Arts

Overall semester grades are based on written assignments, grammar tests, vocab quizzes, and class participation & behavior.

U.S. Issues

Semester grades are based on written assignments, class participation, and the second semester research unit & paper.

Pre-Calculus

Mrs. Melinda Jackson

A little about me...

- ★ I love to travel! I have travelled to 4 of the 7 continents.
 - ★ I enjoy being of service to others. After high school, I spent 6 months living in Brazil volunteering at a K-8 grade school that taught in English and Portuguese.
-

Class Goals

Pre-Calculus weaves together previous study of algebra, geometry, and mathematical functions into a preparatory course for calculus. The course focuses on mastery of critical skills and exposure to new skills necessary for success in subsequent math courses. Topics covered will include various types of functions, and Trigonometry topics such as angles and the unit circle. We will be using the openstax textbook of pre-calculus for this course.

Contact Me

On Campus:

Monday 11:00 - 4:30

Tuesday 11:00 - 12:35

Wednesday 11:00 - 4:30

Thursday 11:00 - 12:35

Via Email:

mjackson@derechemunah.com

Homework

In general, I expect students to spend 30 minutes per day on homework for our course. Homework typically consists of completing assigned practice problems and/or review for a quiz or test.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I expect them to stop work after 30 minutes and email me to check in.

Homework, upcoming dates, and grades are all posted online in Alma, for student and parent access. I typically update Alma weekly on Fridays.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, assessment typically looks like quizzes and tests. Students will be expected to take quizzes weekly. The weekly quizzes will include material covered that week. Students may also be asked to take quizzes that are more cumulative to maintain skills that are needed in future lessons. Students will take a summative assessment at the end of each unit. Students will be given notice of a minimum of 3 days prior to

the unit test. Students will also be provided a list of topics that will be included on the unit test.

Progress reports are shared after Quarter 1 and Quarter 3, and are snapshots of student progress. Overall semester grades, which are reported on official transcripts and include narrative comments, are posted in January and June.

In this course, grades are calculated by total points. Students will receive participation points for the completion of homework assignments. Homework assignments have answers provided (to be able to check the work for accuracy), so the points will be awarded for showing work to complete the assignment. Points are awarded for quizzes and tests. Quizzes will typically be 10-25 points and tests are 100 points.

Science Research

Mrs. Melinda Jackson

A little about me...

- ★ I have a master's degree in chemistry
 - ★ My favorite thing about science is the moment you discover something new, you are the only person in the world that knows it.
-

Class Goals

The goal of this course is to help students become familiar with the scientific research process including asking testable questions, proposing hypotheses after initial research, conducting experiments or collecting data from others who have conducted experiments, presenting the information in a scientific format and drawing conclusions based on the research. Students will be expected to complete several research based experiments and present the information to others.

Contact Me

On Campus:

Monday 11:00 - 4:30

Tuesday 11:00 - 12:35

Wednesday 11:00 - 4:30

Thursday 11:00 - 12:35

Via Email:

mjackson@derechemunah.com

Homework

In general, I expect students to spend 120 minutes per week on homework for our course. Homework typically consists of research using the internet or library sources, summarizing information, synthesizing the information into written word, and practicing experiments under appropriate supervision.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I expect them to stop work after 45 minutes and email me to check in.

Homework, upcoming dates, and grades are all posted online in Alma, for student and parent access. I typically update Alma weekly.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, assessment typically looks like points earned from the successful completion of assignments. Students will be asked to complete tasks and each task will be assigned points based on the complexity of the task. Students will earn points based on participation as well as content knowledge.

Progress reports are shared after Quarter 1 and Quarter 3, and are snapshots of student progress. Overall semester grades, which are reported on official transcripts and include narrative comments, are posted in January and June.

In this course, grades are calculated by total points. Points will be earned for the completion of different tasks such as proposing a testable research question, citation of articles that support their research question, writing summaries of the work others have completed related to their research question, conducting an experiment to illustrate or investigate their research question, etc.

World History

Mrs. Rachel Polsky

A little about me...

- ★ My favorite museum is the British Museum of Natural History
- ★ During Covid, my family got a black kitten named Snowball.

Class Goals

In World History this year, our goals are to:

- Acquire general knowledge of important events in World History
- Develop analytical skills and critical thinking
- Learn how to interpret historical records and artifacts
- Enhance writing and communication skills

Contact Me

Via Email:

rpolsky@derechemunah.com

Office Hours: Available upon request

Homework

In general, I expect students to spend one and a half hours a week on homework for our course.

Homework typically consists of reading a textbook chapter and answering comprehension questions.

If a student is struggling or otherwise unable to complete any portion of the homework, I expect them to email me and/or set up office hours.

Homework is consistently posted online on Google classroom.

Assessment and Grading

In our class, assessment typically looks like worksheets completed during class, comprehension questions completed at home and exams given at the conclusion of every unit.

Overall semester grades are generally based on unit exams, class assignments, and homework questions.