

# SCHOOLS

## CHS Students Give Thought to the Future

Ninth graders in Robin Landsman's Jewish Life Cycles class were asked to fast forward through a few developmental stages and think about becoming parents. The students wrote letters to their potential children, trying to help guide their offspring on the path of living a Jewish life in a mostly non-Jewish world. The following are examples of these letters:

Dear Small Person,

Hello! This is Captain Obvious and he's here to tell you ... (drum roll, please): You're Jewish!

Well, being Jewish has lots of

responsibility, but it is also so cool. Some of the cool things about being Jewish include the feeling of familiarity whenever you're in a temple and the songs and prayers are a comfort. The holidays are so much fun and so very special.

Unfortunately, with the "cool" things there are also some responsibilities like dealing with prejudice, and the strain of feeling different. But know that later, it will change from strain to fulfillment.

Dear Baby,

You are Jewish! With this comes a lot of responsibility and

pride. Here in Charlotte, being a Jew means being part of a minority. This is not necessarily a bad thing. You are unique. Being Jewish will not hold you back from fitting in, but in your own way, you can also stand out. Also, being part of a minority you must represent Judaism in the best way possible.

As a Jew in modern society, you can choose how observant you wish to be. However, there are many key life cycle events that are the basis of the Jewish religion. These include: brit milah, bar/bat mitzvah, marriage and, possibly, divorce or conversion, death, etc.

Be proud!

Samantha Freiberg

Dear Baby,

I am not the best to tell this to you, a new Jew, but you need to know that it is difficult to be a Jew. Show pride in the fact that you are Jewish. That you come from a long line of people who believe in one God and love is sacred.

Never spread hatred. It will hurt you more than you know. You can choose how religious you want to be, but there are certain things you should do like the life cycle events Jew always celebrate.

Rebecca Waldinger

Dear Baby,

In being a Jew you need to act like one. In order to do that you should be trustworthy to your religion, go to temple as much as you can, you need to believe in God and only one God; and you need to believe in all of what the Torah

says. That is what you should do when you are a Jew.

Adam Ackerman

Dear Child,

Please note the following:

\* Being in the minority can be strange but rewarding and fun

\* In Judaism everyone has his or her own vision of it, to a certain point

\* Keep true to your values

\* Don't do drugs

\* Have a bar or bat mitzvah - it is very rewarding

\* Try your hardest to learn about your religion

\* If you don't do BBYO, you are crazy!

\* Be proud you are Jewish

\* Represent Jews

\* You can be singled out - accept it and move on

Yaniv Barzilai ☆

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## Double Honorable Menschen at CHS

Each semester Hebrew High teachers are asked to nominate up to four students for the Honorable Menschen program. Nominees must have at least 75% attendance, and be active participants during class. The names of the nominated students are listed at the end of the CHS newsletter article for each class.

The following students are



David Lash shares with Amanda Rittenberg.

extra special: they were given Honorable Menschen in two classes.

Kevan Cohn, Sarah Kowitz, Sheina Taub, Lucy Stickler, Samantha Freiberg, Jason Gonzalez, Kevin Rosenberg, Amy Abramowitz

Mazel Tov and keep up the good work. ☆

## Teachers Benefit from JSkyway Classes

(Continued from page 13)

Learning

\* Models of Assessment

In addition, two new courses will be offered:

\* Teaching Israel Through Problem-Based Learning

\* Teaching Jewish Values

Using Babaganewz

Course descriptions and registration information is available at [www.jskyway.com](http://www.jskyway.com).

Courses, which are subsidized in part by a grant from The Avi Chai Foundation and private donations, are low cost. The fee for each class is \$100. Group discounts are available. For those who register by January 9, there is a 20% discount.

**Convenience a Major Factor**

Teachers nationally cite the convenience of being able to put in the requisite two to four hours a

week on their own schedule. "I love the incredible flexibility of being able to work and participate in discussions any time my schedule allows, whether during a break at school, at 11:00 PM or overseas in Israel," says Weisner.

The only requirement is a computer with an Internet connection. No technological expertise is needed.

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