

SCHOOLS

How CJDS Students Fare after 5th Grade Graduation

Parents of prospective Charlotte Jewish Day School students frequently express concern about where their children will go after fifth grade and how they will transition to other school systems, public or independent, both academically and socially.

Sometimes people have a negative impression about a small school that caters to students of one religion. They worry that the children will be sheltered from the "real world."

After interviewing many families whose children graduated from CJDS, the following information has been gathered:

Graduates of Charlotte Jewish Day School have continued on to every independent school in the area, to Jewish day schools in other states, and to public schools in a number of Charlotte/Mecklenburg school districts.

Every CJDS grad that applied to private middle or upper school was accepted and has excelled.

Most day school grads that went on to public school were placed in scholars programs for academically gifted students.

Transitions into large schools were not a problem. The children made new friends after a short time and arrived at their new schools with the confidence and self-esteem to be ready for a new experience.

Following is testimony from several parents of alumni:

Karen Ransenberg, about Jordan, who is now in eighth grade at Carmel Middle School: "Although I was a wreck on Jordan's first day at Carmel, Jordan came home and said that it

was great. It was a very smooth transition. He went straight into the scholars program, he plays on the football team, and he has done well."

Sandy Rosenberg, whose three children graduated from CJDS: Allison is now a freshman at Carolina; Courtney is a senior at Providence High; and Kevin is in eighth grade at South Charlotte Middle School. "There were no academic issues. Each child was very well prepared. The girls went to Marie G. Davis Middle School and did very well in the pre-IB program. The Judaica foundation

that all three children received has enabled them to stand up and be proud of their heritage when they mix with children from different backgrounds. They also had an edge in preparing for Bar and Bat

Mitzvah. They gained an insight into Judaism that serves students well in whatever synagogue they attend. Kevin's friends' parents love to have him visit, as they enjoy asking him questions about Judaism. The writing awards that my daughters received were a direct result of their CJDS education. Socially, their only fear was about learning to use a lock [on their school lockers]. I would do everything the same if I had to do it again. A CJDS education is the best thing you can give your child, especially in a city like Charlotte where Jews are such a small minority."

Donna Ehrlich, regarding Sam, a sixth grader at South Charlotte Middle School: "Sam transitioned beautifully. Academically he was way ahead of the game, well prepared in math, language arts, writing, and commitment to reading. He arrived at middle school with

the organizational skills necessary for success. Sam knew many neighborhood kids, so the social transition was smooth. Sam left CJDS with a sense of pride in who he is. He could have gone anywhere. He was less traumatized than his peers about changing classes at middle school, since all CJDS students change classes from secular to Judaica on a daily basis. He has also excelled in French. I think that this is due to his exposure to Hebrew at a young age. Charlotte Jewish Day School has made Sam a 'whole kid' who is very well prepared."

Hormoz Kerendian, father of Brooke, a junior at Myers Park, and Michael, a freshman at Myers Park: "Both of my children went on to public school with a strong sense of Jewish identity. This actually enabled them to transition with confidence to an environment where there were many differences. They had respect for others. Since all of the students were coming to middle school from different places, everyone adjusted together. It was a normal transition to a new period in their lives. The children already knew people of different religions and ethnic backgrounds from the neighborhood. Academically they were quite advanced. Socially they adjusted in the same way as the others. The parents' attitude carries over. Our confidence helped them feel secure. The experience of being in smaller classes at a small school helped develop leadership ability that carried over to middle school. We saw nothing but positives from the CJDS experience."

Principal Mariashi Groner

proud of the accomplishments and successes that she hears about.

For admissions information, call the CJDS office at 704-366-4558. ☆



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Levin Middle School Learns to Speak Spanish

Rojo, amarillo, verde, and blanco are words heard in the halls of the Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School these days. In addition to their already rigorous academic and Judaic schedule, the students are learning "un poco Espagnol." The goal is to have the students feel comfortable with the language and to prepare them for more serious study in high school. Students enjoy the interactive class structure and emphasis on Spanish culture as well as language.

Thanks to Senora Sharon Feldman, for making Spanish fun. Other enrichment classes being offered to the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders this fall include tennis and debate. The tennis players are learning the basics of the game and hopefully developing a life-long skill. With the able coaching of Tyler Smith from the JCC, all of our aspiring Serenas and

Andres are learning the basics of the game.

Debate class is a crash course in public speaking, research, and organizational skills. Students are learning to put their formidable arguing skills to good use. Recently the group was assigned an issue, and the students were randomly given a side of the topic to support. In many instances the students will have to give arguments with which they don't really agree. Many thanks to Nicki Ostrow, who is sharing her formidable courtroom skills with the students.

Days at the Middle School are always full of fun and learning. If you have any questions about our program or admission, please call Roz Cooper at 704-366-4558 or email at rcooper@shalomcharlotte.org. Don't let your child miss out on the BJLMS experience. ☆



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