



**Hillel Torah**  
בית ספר הלל תורה



# Director of Judaic Studies OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

# THE OPPORTUNITY

## *Director of Judaic Studies*

Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School, a co-educational Modern Orthodox Jewish day school on Chicago's North Shore, welcomes your application for Director of Judaic Studies. As a member of the senior educational leadership team and reporting to the principal, the Director of Judaic Studies oversees all aspects of the Judaic Studies program for grades 1 - 8. This includes teacher support and supervision, curriculum oversight, monitoring student learning and promoting the values of Torah, Tzionut, and Midot throughout the school community. This opening presents a rare opportunity to join a growing, dynamic Jewish day school community and have a lasting impact on hundreds of students, families and faculty.

Start date: July 1, 2021

## OUR MISSION

We are a **dynamic**, Modern Orthodox day school preparing the Jewish leaders of tomorrow. Our **progressive, child-centered** approach promotes academic excellence in Judaic and general studies. Rooted in **Torah learning and values**, we encourage children to develop a lifelong commitment to **Medinat Yisrael**, the **Jewish people** and the **global community**.



## ABOUT HILLEL TORAH

Founded in 1962, Hillel Torah continues to be a leader in progressive Modern Orthodox education, serving the greater Chicagoland Jewish community. We provide an excellent and equally rigorous general and Judaic education with a child-centered approach where children are engaged in learning, exploration, creativity, collaboration and critical thinking.

Our Judaic Studies program is anchored in our nationally recognized Ivrit b'Ivrit (Hebrew language immersion) program taught by our staff of Israeli morim shlichim and b'not sherut who bring an authentic taste of Torat Yisrael, Hebrew language and culture to our students and families.

# OUR IDEAL CANDIDATE

## BACKGROUND

The ideal candidate will have an advanced degree in education, educational leadership or related field, a minimum of 5 years classroom experience, and strong knowledge of Judaic texts and Hebrew language. Candidate should be well-versed in educational and related research, have experience with practical application, and have demonstrated success in building strong, mutually respectful relationships. Prior leadership and supervisory experience in an elementary or middle school preferred.

### PROACTIVE APPROACH

The Director will articulate a proactive vision for the next stage of development of the Judaic Studies department. This vision should be rooted in a deep understanding of child development, Jewish education, Hebrew language development, and inspiration for lifelong Jewish commitment. The Director will collaborate with an outstanding team of teachers to set department goals, evaluate progress, track student performance and identify growth areas to help each child reach his/her full potential in Judaic studies.

### EFFICIENT & ORGANIZED

The organizational skills of the Director are key to success in this administrative role. The Director will have a demonstrated ability to set clear goals, keep track of multiple initiatives simultaneously and follow up on plans and communication in a timely manner. The Director oversees 20 lead and assistant Judaic studies teachers in grades 1-8 in addition to a number of specials teachers.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The historic success and strong reputation of our current Judaic Studies program provides an ideal setting for a new Director to set an ambitious agenda for the continued advancement and growth of the department with the goal of helping students grow in their Torah learning, Hebrew language, spirituality and connection to Medinat Yisrael.

### COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

At Hillel Torah we pride ourselves on the collaborative work environment at the heart of our staff culture. The Director will have strong interpersonal skills and work in partnership with administrative colleagues, faculty, parents and students toward a shared vision of great teaching and learning. The Director will communicate with all stakeholders in a clear and effective manner with empathy, passion, and compassion.

### KNOWLEDGE OF BEST PRACTICES

The Director must have their own classroom experience in addition to strong knowledge of best practices in Judaic studies pedagogy across different schools and grades. Supporting a nationally renowned Ivrit program and benchmarking student progress in both Judaic studies and Ivrit are critical to the success of the department.



## OUR EDUCATIONAL APPROACH



**Student Centered:** Our rigorous curriculum is designed to engage the whole child by promoting collaboration, exploration, critical thinking, creativity, and real world application. Our student-centered approach provides innovative, challenging, stimulating, and diverse learning opportunities addressing the unique educational and social emotional needs of each student in a warm and nurturing environment.



**Social Emotional Learning:** Children can only learn and grow when they feel a sense of belonging as part of a secure community. Inspired by the Responsive Classroom philosophy, our dynamic and nurturing teachers create warm and respectful learning communities in their classrooms, responsive to each child's physical, emotional, social and intellectual needs. In addition, we incorporate mindfulness practices using the Calm Classroom curriculum to help students develop the skills needed to manage stress and develop self awareness, mental focus and inner calm. These programs have empowered our students to feel confident and focused in and out of the classroom.



**Chesed and Community Service:** We have a robust service learning program which provides many opportunities for our students to participate in chesed and community service projects. Whether packaging and delivering food to those in need, visiting the elderly, working with children with special needs or raising money for charities that they've vetted and found worthy, students throughout all grades are surrounded by the values of caring for others on a daily basis.

# OUR ENGAGING AND DYNAMIC JUDAIC STUDIES PROGRAM

Nurturing and teaching students the foundational Jewish and Hebrew language skills and knowledge necessary for a life-long love and commitment to Torah and mitzvot.



**Torah & Tefillah:** Our Limmudei Kodesh faculty educate our students to develop a connection to and fluency in tefilla and Torah learning. With the support of our strong Ivrit program, students learn Torah from original texts and commentaries, adding layer upon layer as they progress through the grades. Over the course of their experience at Hillel Torah students learn Parshat Hashavua, Chumash with Rashi and Meforshim, Neviim, Ketuvim, Mishna, Talmud, Halacha, Jewish Thought and Jewish History. The emphasis on living a Jewish life of middot, mitzvot and chesed is at the center of our entire Judaic studies program.



**Ivrit & Israel:** The Judaic Studies Department is rooted in our nationally recognized Ivrit B'Ivrit Hebrew language immersion program, taught by Israeli shlichim and native Hebrew speakers. Students cultivate and acquire fluency in Ivrit through the Tal Am (1-5 grade) and B'Shvil Ha'Ivrit (6-8 grade) curricula which incorporate multiple learning styles including music, art, games, visual, audio, technology and group projects. All learning takes place in the context of a strong connection with the history and culture of Medinat Yisrael. The love and pride Hillel Torah shares for Israel is palpable throughout our building every day. From the Hebrew and cultural immersion brought to us by our wonderful Israeli Shlichim and Bnot Sherut to our famous community-wide Yom Ha'atzmaut assembly, we live, love and learn about Israel every day.



**Chagim & Special Programming:** Throughout the year we enhance the formal classroom learning with engaging and fun informal learning experiences to foster creativity and encourage personal expression. Chagim are celebrated throughout the school with creative displays, special programming and school-wide assemblies. Students eagerly look forward to celebrating their learning milestones, such as Kabbalat Siddur, Kabbalat Chumash and Chagigat Rashi and the Middle School Maccabia is one of the highlights of the year for both students and staff.

## STAFF CULTURE



Hillel Torah views every teacher as a leader entrusted with preparing the Jewish leaders of tomorrow. The team-oriented and collaborative culture at Hillel Torah promotes positive morale among the teachers and staff. Our professional, growth-oriented educators are warm and nurturing team players eager to continuously improve. With a major emphasis on professional development and mentoring, we invest in our teachers' growth and success as professionals. We are privileged to have an outstanding, diverse group of educators, support staff, and administrators who continue to promote our school's mission and move our school forward.

*"Hillel Torah gave our kids a wonderful foundation in Hebrew language and Jewish studies which has helped them adjust to life in Israel, and we are so grateful for the education they received!"*

*- Miriam Katzman, Hillel Torah Parent*

## SCHOOL PROFILE

400

STUDENTS

80

STAFF  
MEMBERS

6:1

STUDENT TO  
FACULTY  
RATIO

2

CAMPUSES:  
PRESCHOOL  
AND K-8

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY

At Hillel Torah, education takes place in the context of a partnership with families. There is open communication between parents and teachers, and parents are encouraged to be an integral part of our school and their children's education. There are many opportunities for parents to get involved in the everyday happenings at Hillel Torah both in and out of the classroom. Parents often add their professional expertise and present to our students on a variety of topics and subjects. Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) also offers many volunteer opportunities for parents to assist and engage with students and faculty throughout the year.



Hillel Torah is not just a school; we exude a strong sense of community and a welcoming family atmosphere. Our Parent Ambassador Program welcomes new and prospective families to the school guiding them through the process of transitioning and navigating into a new school community. We take pride in the approximately one third of our students who are second generation and we are excited to welcome a new era of third generation students.

# WELCOME TO CHICAGO



Metropolitan Chicago is home to one of the largest and most active Jewish communities in North America. With over 50 Synagogues, 15 day schools and yeshivot, a wide range of kosher restaurants of all styles, multiple large kosher supermarkets, a vibrant JCC and more, the Chicagoland Jewish community has all of the resources of a large and diverse Jewish destination.

The Jewish communities of Skokie, West Rogers Park, and Lincolnwood among the other northern suburbs, are warm and welcoming with many opportunities for both children and adults to get involved. The community's close proximity to downtown Chicago makes museums, cultural arts, lakefront parks, trails, and institutions of higher education all easily accessible.

With its full array of Jewish community resources, wholesome Midwestern values, and proximity to a wide range of professional and cultural opportunities, Chicago is a great place to raise a Jewish family.

# HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates are encouraged to contact our search consultant, Dr. Scott Goldberg, at [search@scottgoldbergconsulting.com](mailto:search@scottgoldbergconsulting.com) to confidentially discuss the opportunity and the process.

Candidates who are ready to apply should submit the following materials as a PDF, via email:

- A cover letter indicating your particular interest in serving as Director of Judaic Studies at Hillel Torah
- A current resumé

For more details about the school, visit us online at <https://hilleltorah.org>

