

# THE 5 MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING AN

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





# 1. What Will My Child Learn?


During these formative years, it is more important than ever to establish strong foundations for future success. Find out as much as possible about the curriculum used, how much flexibility teachers have to creatively present content, and what specialty classes are available.

## Core Subject Areas at Pardes

 Language Arts

 Science

 Hebrew

 Mathematics

 Social Studies

 Jewish Studies

### Special Subjects

- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Makerspace Innovation Lab

Parents are their child's first and most important teachers. We encourage you to look for a school that will partner with you and reinforce the values taught in your home. In addition to providing foundations across the core subject areas, Pardes' desire is for students to develop and maintain a strong connection to Jewish heritage, culture, and tradition.



## 2. How Will My Child Learn?

A love for learning starts early, and the approach to education matters, perhaps more than ever, in elementary school. It's not enough to find out what is being taught; seek to discover how the content is being delivered, and how young minds are engaged throughout the day.

### Pardes emphasizes:

- 📌 Differentiated instruction in small classes
- 📌 Hands-on, project-based learning
- 📌 STEAM activities
- 📌 Technology integration
- 📌 21st century education



Any school should be able to expand upon the best practices and research-based methodologies used by their faculty. Be sure to ask how teachers support each child's learning style, build their confidence, and help them learn effectively.



### 3. Will My Child Be Safe?

Between kindergarten and grade four, your child will spend over 5,000 hours at school. Like all parents, you want to know that your child will be in a safe environment each day. Don't hesitate to ask specific questions around campus security. An elementary school should go to great lengths to protect their young learners.

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#### Consider asking about:

- 📌 Gated entryways and/or locking doors
- 📌 Drop-off and pick-up processes
- 📌 Police presence on campus
- 📌 Safety drills
- 📌 Surveillance technology



Beyond these things, ask what measures are in place to ensure each child's emotional safety. The learning community at Pardes is known for low student-to-teacher ratios, a family-like environment, and a zero-tolerance policy for bullying. Each of these ensure our elementary school students are able to learn with confidence in an atmosphere that feels comfortable and nurturing.



## 4. What Is Your Vision for Graduates?

Elementary school is a transformative period. It is wise to consider a program’s “end goals” for each child — the knowledge, skills, and characteristics students will possess upon graduation.

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**Through authentic character education and leadership development, the Pardes graduate becomes:**

- 📌 A critical thinker and communicator
- 📌 Deeply connected to his or her Judaism
- 📌 An individual who embraces a love of learning
- 📌 A mensch



After graduating from Pardes in 8th grade, students go on to top high schools and renowned colleges. When considering any school, find out where graduates continue their education and their acceptance rates. What is the level of academic success when they attend these new schools? You might even ask to speak with a parent of a graduate to find out about his/her experience.






# 5. Will the Value Exceed the Cost for our Family?

Education is a valuable, lifelong investment — perhaps your most important opportunity to invest in your child’s life. With any significant financial commitment, you want to know that the value will exceed the cost. Parents who choose Pardes do so because they are confident they will experience rewards today (assurance their child is known and loved at school) and tomorrow (confidence in the foundations being laid for middle school, high school, and college).

## Think You Can’t Afford A Private Jewish Day School Education? *Think Again!*

### Options for families concerned about affording a private education:

-  Needs-based awards from the Jewish Tuition Organization
-  Scholarships from a variety of STOs
-  Tuition payment plans
-  Arizona tax credit programs
-  Multiple child discounts



If a school feels like the right fit to your family, don’t assume you can’t afford tuition. You may be surprised to discover the extent of financial assistance available. Ask about the steps and timeline for applying for financial assistance to avoid missing any important deadlines.

# See it for yourself!

Schedule a tour at Pardes Jewish Day School!



**480-991-9141**

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