



ROOTED IN

*Jewish Values.*



**PREPARING  
TOMORROW'S  
LEADERS**



 **PARDDES**  
Jewish Day School

KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 8







Families know that the school environment they choose plays a key role in shaping their child's identity and future opportunities.

*Your child is going to spend thousands of hours outside of your home before they graduate. It's not a question of if the school environment will influence them, but rather how it will influence them.*

As a parent, you want your child to grow up with a clear understanding of their heritage, their unique place in the world, and a sense of belonging. Just as importantly, you want your child to have every opportunity to build confidence in their abilities as they prepare to step into their future.

At Pardes Jewish Day School, we believe that the strongest education is one that starts with alignment between the home and school. We want to come alongside families in partnership, so that you feel informed about the approaches and content we use to educate your child. Through this shared perspective, we reinforce the values you teach at home as we nurture your child's growth.

To learn more about how we do this, we invite you to read through this packet. When you're ready, we'd love to walk you through our application process so you can take the next step to becoming part of our *kehillah* (community)! We look forward to talking with your family soon.

Sincerely,

*The Pardes Jewish Day School Admissions Office*





# CONFIDENT. ENGAGED. EQUIPPED FOR THE FUTURE.

FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOOL CAN MAKE ALL OF THE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE.

Whether your child is entering their first classroom setting as a kindergartner, building foundational skills in lower school, or learning to set (and accomplish!) goals as a middle schooler, you want an educational partner who is going to support your aspirations for your child's future.



**BY THE TIME YOUR CHILD GRADUATES FROM PARDES, WE WANT THEM TO BELIEVE THESE THINGS ABOUT THEMSELVES:**

→ **I am an innovative problem solver.**

I can approach real world challenges using critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication.

→ **I am an effective communicator.**

I will invest in my learning through active engagement that empowers me to speak and write not only for myself but also on behalf of others.

→ **I am a reflective collaborator.**

I understand the unique skills I have to offer my community and celebrate opportunities to be creative with my peers.

→ **I am a resilient, lifelong learner.**

I know how to try new things, take risks, and embrace a growth mindset. I'm not afraid to fall down, get back up, and try again.

→ **I am an engaged Jewish community member.**

I have a strong sense of my Jewish identity and purpose. I know I am valued by a community, and I embrace my personal connection to Judaism.



*“My nine years at Pardes formed the foundation of who I am today. It helped build my Jewish identity, establish everlasting friendships, develop my self-confidence, and foster an understanding of who I am as a person.*”

*I believe the amazing teachers, experiences, and community at Pardes contributed to my successes with creating my own DJ business, obtaining leadership roles such as student body president at Chaparral High School, and achieving acceptance to USC’s Class of 2026. I’m forever grateful for my time at Pardes and proud to be a ‘lifer’!”*

**-Jacob Mandelbaum**

Pardes ‘18, Chaparral High School ‘22,  
University of Southern California ‘26





# *Playful learning.* **CREATIVE EXPRESSION.**

Each child learns at their own pace, and knowing when your child is ready to start kindergarten can be a challenging decision. How will they perform academically? Will they thrive socially? And what type of learning environment will best meet their needs?

At Pardes, our Responsive Classroom model gives preschoolers the continuity they need and support for children who are stepping into their first school experience.



**IN THIS ENGAGING ENVIRONMENT, LEARNER-CENTERED LESSONS AND STRUCTURED SPACE ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO GROW INTO NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, ACCURATELY EXPRESS EMOTIONS, AND PRACTICE KINDNESS AND RESPECT.**

### **As a kindergartner, your child will:**

- Be nurtured in a safe, social-emotional learning environment
- Explore their interests and creativity in Reading and Writing Workshop
- Engage in hands-on activities that build math and science skills
- Develop their natural curiosity by asking questions and seeking answers
- Learn a second language that promotes a strong connection to their heritage

*Scan this code for a video →*

**WATCH ONE OF OUR KINDERGARTNERS SHARE ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE!**





# YOUR CHILD WILL BE KNOWN AND THEIR GIFTS NURTURED.

At Pardes, we help kindergartners find success in a supportive space where they feel safe to take risks as they explore new concepts and skills.



As your child starts their academic journey, our supportive teachers will guide them to be a:



RISK-TAKER



CRITICAL THINKER



PROBLEM SOLVER



CREATIVE MAKER



COLLABORATIVE COMMUNICATOR

And because this is a partnership between the home and school, our dedicated faculty and staff, school counselor, full-time nurse, and administrative team are committed to open communication so you always know how your child is doing.

### Our faculty will:

- Have a deep understanding of your child's needs
- Celebrate your child's strengths
- Use common language that reinforces values and learned lessons
- Actively contribute to our strong and supportive school community





# Meaningful Learning.

## MINDFULNESS PRACTICE.

At Pardes, we want to provide your child with tools that lead to understanding and application of learning. Our teachers model lessons with intentionality and every class has space for students to reflect on their learning experience.



By using a common language that focuses on *chesed* (kindness) and *kavod* (respect), your lower school child will develop the skills to:

- Accurately identify and express their emotions
- Resolve peer conflict and show empathy towards one another
- Learn and practice independent problem-solving skills
- Have their needs met in a prosocial way



# MORE THAN STRONG ACADEMICS ...

As a lower school student at Pardes, your child will become a curious, forward-thinking learner who is confident, engaged, and equipped for the future. Our students are successful in middle school and beyond because we offer more than differentiated instruction.



## Project Based Learning

Students build curriculum-aligned skills while working together to solve complex, real world problems. Instead of passively listening to a teacher provide instructions and facts, **your child will be actively engaged in asking questions, seeking answers, and solving meaningful problems.**

## STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math)

- Students are engrossed in hands-on activities that develop scientific thinking and a love of scientific inquiry
- Our math program is grounded in contemporary research that teaches foundational skills in concert with a mathematical mindset
- A Makerspace provides an environment where even our youngest students have ample opportunities to engage in engineering and design challenges fostering creativity, risk-taking, and exploration
- Pardes values the importance of the arts, and elementary-aged students are engaged in visual and performing arts classes weekly

*Scan this code for a video →*

**MEET ONE OF OUR LOWER SCHOOL STUDENTS!**





# *Channeling passions.* **BUILDING CONFIDENCE.**

**During middle school, your child will be forming their identity as they learn to embrace their unique talents, and you want to offer them a learning experience that will cultivate their emerging gifts.** These are important years for your child to stay engaged as they prepare for what comes next.

Your middle schooler will focus on strengthening critical life skills needed for success in high school, college, and their career, including self-discipline, initiative, teamwork, and empathy. And as they progress through increasingly challenging coursework, we feel it is even more important that they are invested in their learning process.



**As a middle schooler in the Kaufman Valdes Middle School at Pardes, your child will:**

- Learn to take responsibility for their actions, develop self-control, and become an active problem solver through our Responsive Advisory program
- Channel their passions and opinions into tangible products, whether it be a working robot, a podcast, or a petition for change
- Continue to develop a sense of identity and purpose, with a strong connection to their heritage and our community



# CRITICAL THINKING. CREATIVITY. COMMUNICATION. COLLABORATION.

We want your child to reach their full potential as they grow in their knowledge and experience. Pardes students are encouraged and supported as they try new things, take risks, and embrace a growth mindset.

Each year, our alumni attend top private and public high schools, where they perform well in demanding honors and AP courses. Many graduate at the top of their class and are recognized for their leadership skills and academic achievements.



*Scan this code for a video →*  
**MEET ONE OF OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS!**



# *Creativity Fused* **WITH INNOVATION**

The collective resources we offer provide students of all grade levels with the opportunity to explore interests outside of their core academic strengths. Whether performing on stage or working behind the scenes during our fall and spring shows or Spring Musical, your child will engage the creative side of their brain while:

- Learning effective ways to give and receive constructive feedback
- Building confidence and public speaking skills
- Practicing teamwork, patience, communication, and cooperation
- Learning to improvise and creatively “think on their feet”

We will celebrate your child as they learn to access previously undiscovered talents for personal expression, effective problem solving, and leadership. These skills will help propel your child into a thriving high school experience and confident future.



# **ENGAGED** *and Active*

With athletics opportunities for fourth through eighth grade students, our student-athletes grow mentally, physically, and emotionally through team competition. We offer a variety of sports teams, including football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, and tennis.

As a Pardes athlete, your child will experience a challenging but fun-filled environment that builds a strong foundation of mechanics, game knowledge, and school spirit. We emphasize personal traits of:

- Commitment
- Integrity
- Team cooperation
- Leadership
- Sportsmanship



*“Having started in public school, we didn’t know what we were missing until we enrolled at Pardes. Switching my daughter to Pardes was the best decision I could have ever made. The application process was straightforward and it was a seamless transition to enroll, including navigating the financial assistance process.*

*While my daughter did well at public school, Raya never found joy or a love for learning. **At Pardes, Raya loves going to school each day and is thriving both academically and socially.** She is part of an incredible school community with dedicated teachers who know her as an individual and regularly communicate with me. **She feels safe taking risks, and of course, I love that she is also surrounded by Jewish values and community.** Pardes truly nurtures her growth — academically, Judaically, and social-emotionally.”*

**-DeDe Sandler**  
Parent of Raya '27





*Before your child can decide*  
**WHERE THEY'RE GOING, THEY NEED A  
STRONG SENSE OF WHERE THEY'RE FROM.**

Over the next few years, they will grow in awareness of their Jewish heritage as they learn about traditions, observances, and culture. The school you choose can foster this development in a powerful way when alignment exists between the home and classroom. *At Pardes, we honor each family and their level of observance.*

→ **WHEN YOU ENROLL AT PARDES, YOU ARE INVESTING IN MORE THAN AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM. YOU ARE JOINING A CARING, VIBRANT JEWISH COMMUNITY.**

#### What does this mean for your child?

- They will feel connected to their heritage as they build their identity and worldview
- They will feel safe to try new things as they build confidence in themselves
- They will feel prepared to confidently step into a larger high school and college experience

#### What does this mean for parents?

- You will be joining a community of shared values, where you can grow your network of friends
- You will feel that your aspirations for your child's future are supported by others
- You will know what your child is learning and how they are doing





*“At his young age, our son Bodhi is already developing a personal connection to his Judaism. He is excited to learn about our heritage and traditions, teaching us something new every day! Being in an interfaith marriage, we appreciate the diversity of the Jewish community on campus, making us feel very much part of the Pardes community regardless of our personal level of observance.”*

**- Sarah and Peter Krahenbuhl**  
Parents of Bodhi '29







*At Pardes Jewish Day School,*  
**WE'RE DEVELOPING CURIOUS, FORWARD-THINKING LEARNERS WHO  
ARE CONFIDENT, ENGAGED, AND EQUIPPED FOR THE FUTURE.**

- **We focus on the learning process** — not just outcomes — and develop academic skills, character qualities, and moral and ethical reasoning skills.
- **We like to reimagine learning spaces** and consider how the environment we create impacts students and teachers.
- **We promote inclusivity** by creating a structured environment that encourages autonomy and responsibility through student-centered lessons.
- **We foster a spirit of risk taking** in our faculty and staff as we equip and empower them to be creative teachers and lifelong learners.
- **We encourage personal expression** as students discover and grow their strengths through dynamic experiences, enrichment electives, activities, and more.

Ready to learn more about  
how you can join our  
learning community?

*Scan this code and*  
**LEARN ABOUT THE ADMISSIONS  
PROCESS AT PARDES**

