



PARDDES

Jewish Day School



Joy & Wonder

Kindergarten at Pardes Jewish Day School



A Year of Transformation

Children make huge leaps academically, socially, and emotionally in kindergarten. It's a year of exciting transformation and growth. Kindergarten teachers at Pardes Jewish Day School are dedicated to nurturing students in a way that:



builds confidence



*fosters kindness
(chesed)*



*models respect
(kavod)*



*promotes
independence*

Most importantly, Pardes is dedicated to building a culture of inquiry, discovery, and joy for our youngest students.

Children gain a sense of wonder as they are encouraged to ask questions, explore solutions, and know that failure is just as much a part of the learning process as success.



This e-book is designed to help you discover how the kindergarten curriculum and educational philosophy at Pardes will prepare your child for a lifetime of learning. We've also included tips you can use as a parent to get your student ready for a kindergarten year full of joy and wonder!



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MORNING MEETING

01

After arriving and completing the start-of-the-day routines, kindergartners gather on the rug for Morning Meeting, a part of the Responsive Classroom model incorporated at Pardes. The Morning Meeting builds a strong sense of community and helps children to succeed academically, socially and emotionally. Students have the opportunity to share information about important events in their lives, participate in a brief activity, and interact with a short message that creates a focus for the day.

Building Academic, Social, and Emotional Competencies

Pardes utilizes the **Responsive Classroom** model to help students build academic, social, and emotional competencies that are needed for success both in and out of school. These include:

- Perseverance
- Self-control
- Responsibility
- An academic mindset
- Cooperation
- Empathy
- Learning strategies
- Assertiveness
- Confidence



LITERACY

02

Children are engaged in Columbia University Teachers College Reading and Writing Workshop as well as the Teachers College Units of Study in Phonics, which creates a balanced literacy curriculum that helps grow avid and skilled readers, writers, and inquirers. It includes components such as phonics, shared reading, shared writing, interactive writing, read aloud with accountable talk, and small group work, in addition to mini lessons addressing foundational skills. Students explore both fiction and non-fiction units of study and are exposed to the writing process from drafting through publication.

Differentiated Learning

Each child is able to grow and reach their full potential in academic skills through differentiated instruction. All Pardes teachers are trained in differentiation methods and accelerate or remediate lessons to meet the needs of each student.





HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES

03

Songs, games, art, and other hands-on activities help students begin to practice listening and speaking in Hebrew. They also learn to recognize and write the letters of the aleph-bet and basic vocabulary. Common words and phrases are used throughout the day to reinforce what is taught in Hebrew class.

Throughout the week, kindergartners engage in Jewish life and studies - from learning about the Jewish calendar, celebrating the chagim (holidays), learning the brachot (blessings), and studying Parshat Bereshit (Genesis), to building a love and connection to Israel. Learning what it means to be a mensch and how the stories of the Torah help shape where we are today are all a part of life at Pardes.

Students join the rest of the lower school for Tefillah (prayer), Parshat Hashavua (weekly Torah study), and all-school Kabbalat Shabbat. Kindergartners enjoy sitting with their fourth grade buddies who guide them through the siddur (prayer book). Each Friday, the kindergarten community comes together to celebrate Shabbat.





SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

04

Children are natural scientists with the capacity to observe, explore, and discover the world around them. The kindergarten science curriculum follows NextGen Science Standards and utilizes a blend of hands-on experiments and technology to explore topics such as plants, animals, weather and force.



Students practice making predictions, comparisons, solving problems, and evaluating their discoveries.



Each student has a chance to be Scientist of the Week, demonstrating a science experiment to the class.



Eighth grade science buddies engage our kindergartners in the excitement of chemistry and physics labs.

Makerspace: A Place for Creativity

Students gain a deeper grasp of concepts in the Pardes Makerspace. Some of the kindergarten activities include:

- Introducing students to basic robotics through the use of KIBO robotics and BeeBots. KIBO robots are used in cross-curricular lesson plans with Jewish Studies to help teach and celebrate Jewish holidays.
- Engaging students in engineering design challenges with Lego, building blocks, and recycled materials.
- Utilizing project based learning to design and build a variety of inventions, machines, instruments, and buildings.



PROJECT BASED LEARNING

05

Pardes incorporates Project Based Learning throughout all subjects and grades as a valuable vehicle to help students acquire deep content knowledge and develop success skills, such as critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration. The project-based process of learning through asking questions and trying out different solutions creates a foundation of valuable skills that serve our youngest learners throughout their entire educational journey.

Musical Instrument Design Challenge



DRIVING QUESTION:
How do musical instruments make different sounds?

Kindergarten students explored this driving question through the unique opportunity to meet with several different professional musicians to learn about their instruments. The kindergartners then gathered materials composed mainly of recyclable items, created their blueprints and then built their creative instruments.

“

My favorite part of this project was making mistakes but learning from them.

- SYDNEY S.

”



MATH

06

After a lunch break, students use real-life examples to build foundational math skills. The Everyday Mathematics program used at Pardes was created by the University of Chicago, and it includes concepts such as counting, numeration, measurement, geometry, patterns, sorting, and data-collecting with opportunities for differentiation.

Hands-on, sensory experiences help students regularly practice computational skills and learn multiple methods for problem-solving strategies. Research has shown this type of experiential foundation results in more success in written and symbolic mathematics in later grades.



$$2+2$$

Based on current research and best practices, Pardes is shifting its math curriculum to integrate an open and creative mindset mathematics program from Stanford University. Even at the earliest grades, students are encouraged to have a growth mindset and develop their mathematical thinking skills such as number sense and visual mathematics.



PERFORMING & FINE ARTS

07

MUSICAL THEATER — This weekly class introduces students to a variety of musical styles, movement and public speaking. Additionally, there are opportunities for performances, including two grade level productions and an all-school Chanukah event.

ART — Kindergarten artists explore the elements of art: line, shape, color, value, form, texture, and space through immersive experiences. Artists take inspiration from books, famous works of art, and the world around them to begin developing their creative voice.





RECESS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

08

Kindergartners participate in physical education classes twice a week where they learn skills and enjoy playing games. A morning and lunch recess each day let kindergartners stretch, run, and play outdoors. In addition to play structures, they enjoy the basketball court and soccer field. During the lunch recess, our full-time school counselor leads board games and other activities for students who prefer a more structured time.



Social and Emotional Development

Pardes intentionally and explicitly teaches social and emotional regulation skills that are essential not just for school, but also life. These skills include social problem solving, empathy, self-awareness, personal boundaries, and independence. Social and emotional development is woven throughout the day, whether it is in recess or a formal activity with the school counselor in the kindergarten classroom.



CLOSING AND DISMISSAL

09

The school day ends with a Closing Circle, which is an approach to peacefully ending the day and sending students home with a feeling of accomplishment and belonging. Just as the Morning Meeting starts the day with a sense of calm, safety, and community, the Closing Circle routine enables students to reflect upon what is meaningful to them about their schoolwork, their classmates, and themselves. Students leave invigorated for the next school day.

Optional after-school enrichment activities are available for kindergarten students, as well as the opportunity to participate in Club J, which is held at the Jewish Community Center.



PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR Success in Kindergarten



Read to Them Every Day

Don't rely on computer programs to teach your child to read. Make reading interactive, and remember it's not just limited to bedtime. Read the newspaper, articles on your smartphone, recipes, and signs in the grocery store. These are all opportunities to read out loud to your child.



Play Often

Playtime builds physical stamina and fosters the fine and gross motor skills needed for kindergarten success.



Provide Social Opportunities

Set up playdates or sign your child up for group activities. This helps children learn how to share, take turns, communicate their own feelings, and consider the feelings of others.



Give Tasks

Giving children responsibilities and holding them accountable prepares them for the structure of school. Let your young one set the table and clean themselves up after eating, pick up toys each day, and help you with laundry.



Practice Counting, Comparing, and Sorting

You'll build valuable math skills in your child when you ask him or her to count stairs, books on the shelf, or apples in the grocery store. Discuss the similarities and differences in the objects at hand. Find things to sort by color, size, or type, such as socks, boxes in the pantry, or utensils.



Talk About Kindergarten

Visit the school your child will attend before the first day, talk about the routines and activities they can expect, and let them know what a positive experience it will be.



A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

Jewish values, rituals, language, and culture are integrated throughout the school experience. Pardes is an inclusive community that celebrates the diversity of the Jewish people in a welcoming and accepting atmosphere. Students are engaged in Parshat Hashavuah (the weekly Torah portion) with community rabbis and speakers; a bi-weekly Lower School Kabbalat Shabbat; special holiday celebrations; and year-long Tikkun Olam projects that get students involved in social action.

A Caring, Joyful, and Dynamic Learning Environment



By challenging children academically while also caring for individual differences and the progress of each student, Pardes helps students develop a growth mindset that encourages risk-taking, critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration. The Pardes culture also nurtures a spirit of joy in learning, helping others, and practicing the Jewish faith.

Beginning in kindergarten, our students develop a strong sense of identity that is informed by our heritage and Jewish values. We've reimaged the academic experience to offer a dynamic secular and Judaic education that recognizes the needs and realities today's learners will face in tomorrow's world. An innovative, 21st century approach to education paves the way for student success long after graduation. We look forward to welcoming you to our kehillah (community)!

How do we do this?



PERSPECTIVE



PEDAGOGY



PROGRAMMING



PROFESSIONALS



PLACES



**THINK YOU
CAN'T AFFORD
A PRIVATE
JEWISH DAY
SCHOOL?**

**THINK
AGAIN!**

We're all about making a world-class education affordable and accessible.



The key to this amazing opportunity is the **Jewish Tuition Organization (JTO)** which provides scholarships to students in local Jewish day schools. Pardes families can work to offset as much tuition as possible through JTO Programs. The Arizona Private School Tuition Tax Credits allow state taxpayers to redirect a portion of their Arizona income taxes to organizations like the JTO.

APPLY FOR A NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIP

Everyone should apply! Many applicants are surprised to learn that tuition assistance is available for a wide range of income levels.

APPLY FOR A TAXPAYER-RECOMMENDED SCHOLARSHIP

Whether or not you receive needs-based funds from the JTO, you can still use taxpayer-recommended funds to help offset your out-of-pocket tuition expense.

NOTICE: A school tuition organization cannot award, restrict or reserve scholarships solely on the basis of donor recommendation. A taxpayer may not claim a tax credit if the taxpayer agrees to swap donations with another taxpayer to benefit either taxpayer's own dependent. Consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice.



PARDDES

Jewish Day School

Rooted in Jewish Values. Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders.

Ready to Take a Tour

or

Learn More?

Please contact the Office of Admissions at

admissions@pardesschool.org or 480-991-9141 x103

pardesschool.org



12753 N. Scottsdale Road / Scottsdale, AZ 85254

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Pardes admits qualified students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, or sexual orientation to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Pardes does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.