

YOEC TIMES

VOL. XIII Classroom Currents



Dear Parents,

On behalf of the General Studies staff at YOEC, I am delighted to share school updates and goals we wish to achieve by the end of the year. At YOEC, we are committed to providing an environment where our students engage in meaningful instruction and challenge themselves and seek new and unique learning experiences to become ready for whatever goals they seek to achieve.



The midway point of the year can be a great time for reflecting back over the past year, as well as looking ahead to the new one. For years, the General Studies department did not offer an Advanced Placement program, but as an increasing number of students expressed an interest in one, a plan of action was put into place. Fortunately, and with considerable effort, chiefly led by Mr. Siegel, the History teacher, I am pleased to announce that this will be the first time the school will prepare students for the AP exams, in both U.S History and English. Needless to say, this is a milestone embarking for the school, and we look forward to the students' efforts. Moreover, the Title 1 program is back on track, providing daily support for students who require extra attention in math or English courses.



Our teachers continue to find creative ways to explain topics to students, in ways they can grasp. For instance, our science teacher, Mr. Minton, has been working with students on building circuitry; an enriching and rewarding hands on learning experience. Our First Aid and Health instructor Mr. Afriat, regularly brings in EMT apparatus to his Sunday classroom, which again, connects academic concepts with real world items. Out of the box approaches to learning are paramount in effectively engaging and collaborating with a class.



On a concluding note, I would like to encourage parents and students to discuss how school has been going, and provide any feedback to teachers and staff. Here at school, we will continue to keep parents updated by e-mail when a student has low grades or frequent absences, and we will be encouraging students to seek assistance from faculty as needed. Consistent communication between school and home can often help solve academic problems when they arise. By working together, hopefully everyone will have a successful second semester, both in and out of the classroom.

Bracha and Hatzlocha to everyone.

GENERAL STUDIES PRINCIPAL

RABBI CHAIM PERKOWSKI

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A Note from the Principal

January 3, 2023 - 10 Teves 5783

Dear YOEC Parents,

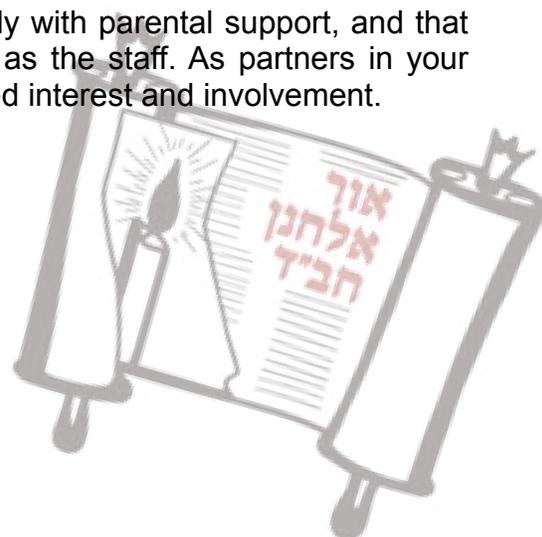
I am pleased to share our latest edition of the YOEC Times. Issue #13 aims to showcase the academic and pedagogic contributions of our hard-working staff. We hope that the details shared by our teachers serve to illustrate the high level of dynamism in each class. The packet includes class details and daily schedules. In addition to our staff, we are blessed to have personnel on campus provided through federal Title funds, provided through LAUSD and its contracted providers. Under Titles I & II, we have Drs. Levin and Jacobson providing professional development to the staff. Title IV provides direct services to students. Unlike Title I, all students are eligible for Title IV, regardless of test scores and home addresses. This year we have Mr. Hrebec providing supplemental math instruction and Rabbi Shmulik Schneersohn providing counseling services.

Coming back from the Chanukah break, we are returning to our studies with refreshed vigor and hope to carry that level of intensity through the end of the semester. At the same time, we will be working to help the students readjust to the daily schedule with regular attendance and on-time arrival to each class.

The Chanukah gelt you gave for the teachers was much appreciated. It was a sign of your recognition of the hard work they put in every day at the Yeshiva, and that recognition gave the staff a refreshed vigor as well!

As a rule, a school can succeed with its students only with parental support, and that support should be apparent to the students as well as the staff. As partners in your children's education, we look forward to your continued interest and involvement.

Rabbi Chaim Perkowski
Principal, General Studies
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PRE ALGEBRA, ALGEBRA I

MR. RYAN STEINER

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Algebra I:

We spent much of the fall introducing the basics of Algebra. The students learned common algebraic properties such as the Commutative, Associative, Identity, and Distributive Properties just to name a few. Following this, the students were introduced to the concept of how to write algebraic expressions, solving equations, and using formulas. All of this was just in the first chapter alone! We also learned all about Integers (the set of whole numbers and their opposites) and Rational Numbers (which is essentially any number expressed in fraction form).

Pre Algebra I:

The Pre-Algebra class has learned about Algebraic Expressions and Integers - which is the set of whole numbers and their opposites. Some of the key highlights include The Order of Operations which gives us a guide on the approach necessary to properly solve any problem. We also learned how to Add, Subtract, Multiply and Divide Integers. Currently we are wrapping up our learning of how to solve One-Step Equations and Inequalities (i.e. greater than, less than, greater than or equal to, etc.).

Ryan Steiner graduated from California State University, Northridge with a B.S. degree in Business Administration and also graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Certificate in Accounting. He decided to utilize his passion for working with numbers through teaching, and has 7 years of experience in various Yeshivas. He has spent the past 4 of those years teaching locally at Toras Emes Academy, and is excited to have the opportunity and the honor to do this concurrently at YOEC this year. In addition to teaching, he also has interests in Kosher cooking/grilling and hopes to establish himself in this industry in the near future.



ALGEBRA II, PHYSICS

MR. JEREMY NOAH

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Geometry (10th grade):

The students began their year in Geometry covering the basic geometric building blocks: points, angles, segments, lines and planes. We also covered methods of mathematical logic and deductive reasoning. We then began applying these foundational concepts to analyze parallel lines, triangles, and polygon congruence. This variety of topics has helped students strengthen their spatial understanding, deductive skills, and abstract thinking.

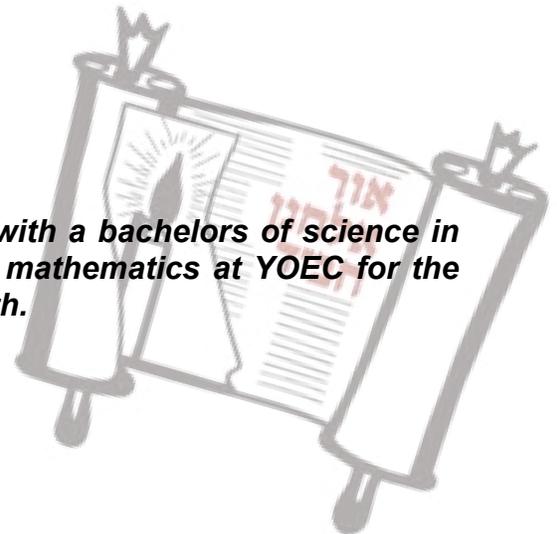
Algebra II (11th grade):

We began the year reviewing a host of concepts from Algebra 1, including evaluating algebraic expressions, solving algebraic equations and inequalities, and graphing linear functions. From there we have moved into more complex topics such as solving 2 or 3 variable systems, as well as an introduction to matrices. Through all this the students have strengthened their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

Physics (11th Grade):

We've covered a wide array of concepts in Physics this year, starting with the basics of kinematics and Newton's laws, which lay the foundation for how all physical objects move and interact with one another. We also explored these fundamental interactions through a study of momentum and energy. We then brought rotation into the mix, exploring torques, moments of inertia, and center of gravity. All this has helped the students develop a better understanding of the rules of the physical world.

Jeremy Noah graduated from Brown University with a bachelors of science in mechanical engineering. He has been teaching mathematics at YOEC for the past eight years and is excited to return for a ninth.



COMMUNICATION AND CURRENT EVENTS MR. RUBY ANTOLIN

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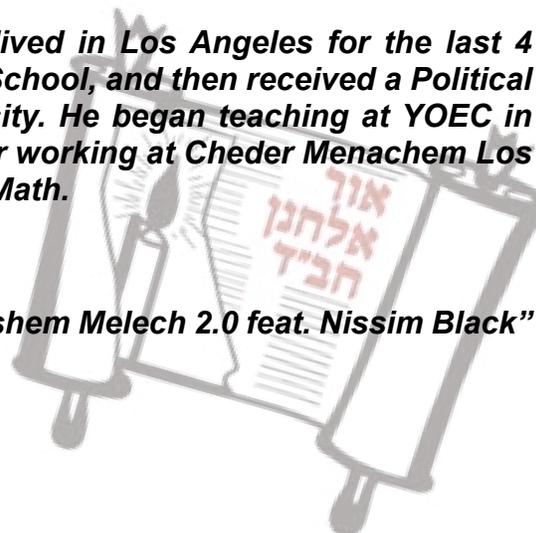
Communication & Journalism (9th Grade):

The 9th grade students have been keeping busy in our Sunday afternoon class. They have been building their vocabulary bank as well as flexing their brain muscles by working on rebus puzzles and building upon their communication skills. They have continued to learn about current events and have been following the midterm election cycle, the unrest in China, the alarming rise of antisemitism, and other pertinent topics. I'm impressed with how far these students have grown since the beginning of the year and have shown improvement in their debating/discussion skills by waiting for their peers to complete their thoughts before rebutting the counter arguments. Moreover, we are able to examine how current events directly impact them, and is not merely an abstract form of information. I look forward to seeing the students continued growth and progress in the coming semester!

Mr. Antolin is from Seattle, Washington and has lived in Los Angeles for the last 4 years. He graduated from Northwest Yeshiva High School, and then received a Political Science degree from Western Washington University. He began teaching at YOEC in December of 2018. He will be going into his 5th year working at Cheder Menachem Los Angeles where he will be teaching 5th & 8th grade Math.

Fun facts about Mr. Antolin

- ***Co-Produced the music for Gad Elbaz's song "Hashem Melech 2.0 feat. Nissim Black"***
- ***Lived in Tokyo, Japan from ages 1 to 9.***
- ***Is the second oldest of 8 children***



BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY

MR. MATTHEW MINTON

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Biology (9th grade):

We started with an introduction to the structure and property of elements and molecules. From there, we moved on to the most important/common biological molecules and their roles in biological systems. We went over some chemical reactions involving these biomolecules. And from there we went over the basics of electric fields, diffusion, adhesive/cohesive forces, and bond strength.

At this point I gave the kids a choice of 2 learning paths:

- 1) Either continue with a standard biology lesson plan
- 2) Intro to Arduino/ Physical Computing

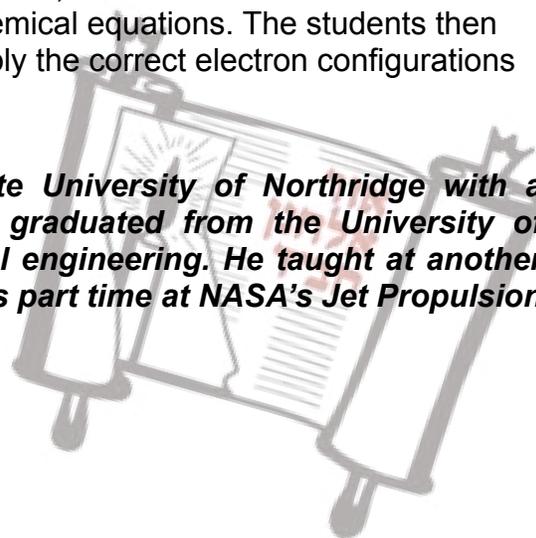
1) For the students who just want to learn basic biology, I continued their lessons with ecology, ecosystems, and biomes. Further lessons will include cell biology.

2) For the students who are learning Arduino, they have gone over the overall hardware components of the Arduino itself. We went over the basics physics of electricity (fields, voltages, current, and resistance). The students learned the difference between Analog vs Digital signals & Input vs Output pins. They also learned how to use the Voltmeter to diagnose problems with their circuit and measure voltage. They can now solder components (following strict safety guidelines). And lastly, the sensors/devices I currently have had them use are: LEDs, potentiometers, DC motors, Infrared Sensors, and Ultrasonic Sensors (while learning basic coding to control these devices).

Chemistry (10th grade):

Started with a review of algebra and dimensional analysis. From there we went over the structure and basic properties of an element. We continued with molecules and the two common types of bonding: ionic and covalent. Afterwards, we went over the law of conservation of mass and its application to balancing chemical equations. The students then learned how to properly read a periodic table and apply the correct electron configurations to dictate what elements/molecules can bond together.

Matthew Minton graduated from California State University of Northridge with a bachelors/masters in physics. Additionally, he graduated from the University of Southern California with a masters in biomedical engineering. He taught at another Yeshiva for a couple of years. Matthew also works part time at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab as an engineer.



ENGLISH I, III & IV

MR. CHRISTOPHER DIMOPOULOS

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English I (9th Grade)

The 9th graders began their first semester of high school with assessments in the areas of writing and reading comprehension so their current skills could be determined. The students then moved on to expressing themselves in two different essay formats. We were able to also spend some time on punctuation, prefixes and reading comprehension via short stories. In addition, the students were exposed to 250 new vocabulary words and demonstrated their understanding by creating original sentences using the new words and also incorporating them in their essays. Finally, we will be completing the semester with a short research essay based on what they have learned in their World History class this semester.

English III (10th Grade) & English IV (11th Grade):

The tenth and eleventh graders were still able to achieve a considerable amount in the first semester. Although the curriculum for the two grades may seem similar at a glance, the eleventh graders were required to write longer and more complex essays and were expected to complete all their work at a higher level. They completed three essays in three different styles, and also succeeded in adding new vocabulary words to their repertoire, reviewed correct punctuation use and improved their reading comprehension. They will be completing the semester with a short research essay based on American History, American Government, or Economics.

Chris Dimopoulos grew up in Chicago, Illinois and received his BA in communications from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He has taught at several Public and Private Schools throughout Los Angeles and has created curriculum for educational purposes in the private sector as well. In his free time he fulfills his responsibilities as president at the Co-Op where he lives and also enjoys gardening, live theater and films. He is looking forward to his fourth year of teaching at YOEC.

WORLD HISTORY, U.S. HISTORY, GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMICS

MR. TED SIEGEL

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9th grade World Civilization:

The class learned about the ancient civilizations of India, China, Greece, Rome, and the Islamic Empire. We discussed how some of these civilizations help shape our world today with their architecture, styles of government, economic systems, and laws. We will continue with the Middle Ages and Renaissance after the break. Students are learning to think critically instead of simply memorizing facts, and I am happy to see they enjoy the class.

10th Grade American History:

We learned about the expansion of the new nation with Manifest Destiny and saw how our country was divided with the Civil War. We are currently studying the Gilded Age, growth of cities, and mass immigration after the break. Bi-weekly essay tests require sharp analytical skills, and it is exciting to watch students' skills flourish.

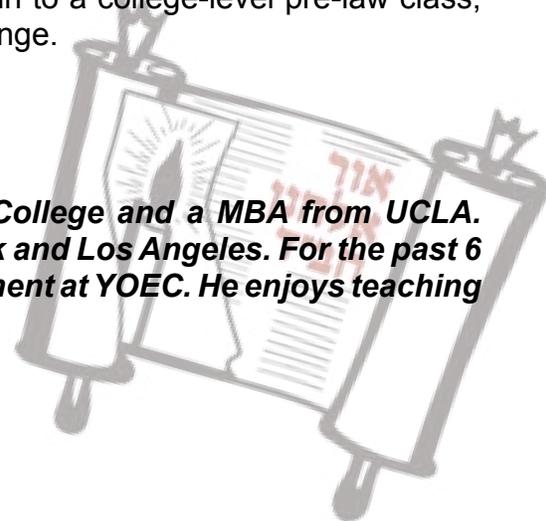
10th Grade Advanced Placement - US History :

Our AP students are pioneers. They are facing the challenge of learning a more in-depth version of US history, while learning the skills to write essays at a level above that of 12th graders. It has been a lot of work, but the students don't seem fazed by it; rather, they seem excited to see themselves improve.

Government and Civics: (11th Grade)

We learned in depth about the Articles of the Constitution, the separation of powers between the three branches of government, and the Constitution and the Amendments. We are currently learning about famous Supreme Court cases, including cases currently before the Court. This is a high-level class that is akin to a college-level pre-law class, and I am proud of the students for rising to the challenge.

Mr. Theodore Siegel has a BA from Dartmouth College and a MBA from UCLA. He worked for over 20 years in finance in New York and Los Angeles. For the past 6 years, he has taught in the general studies department at YOEC. He enjoys teaching how history affects our daily lives.



EARTH AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE

MR. ETAN G

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Advanced Physical Science (9th Grade):

The Sunday Science class is collaboration between teacher and student wherein the various areas of science are taught and learned over a period of weeks with the subject matter being discussed with the students. The first week we talked about what science is, the scientific method, and how to formulate hypotheses and its application throughout all avenues of science. The second week we discussed weather including hurricanes and tornadoes and we learned how and why these weather patterns occur. As we approached Succos, we explored agriculture, how things grow and, of course, where Lulavim and Esrogim come from. After the holidays we did a four part series on Combustion, Aerodynamics, Friction and all the applications of those scientific concepts involving cars, engines, racing, skateboarding, airplanes, skydiving, baseball, football and much more.

We just got into, and will continue with Geology, including the oceans and tides as well as rock formations, earthquakes, volcanoes, layers of Earth and gems including Diamonds, Rubies and Gold. Awesome!!

Going forward in the next weeks, and months, some topics to be discussed include: electric cars and motors, electricity, chain reactions, the structural integrity of various types of bridges, lasers, light, power and more. Later in the year we will get into sound, sound waves and all that encompasses including music. It should be a fun and exciting next few months. The goal is always for the students to see science all around them and understand that everything in their lives is in the world of science and that it is Hashem that gave us all the awesome systems and mechanics we see around us every minute. The deep appreciation of science is ultimately an incredible relationship with our Creator. It's going to be great!

A native of Baltimore Maryland, Etan G moved to Los Angeles in 1994 after graduating from Yeshiva University with a BA in Psychology. While pursuing a career in entertainment he received a Masters in Education from Loyola Marymount University in 1999. He taught in the classroom for several years but decided to focus on Jewish education through music with the world renowned Jewish music group Shlock Rock and has been educating audiences ever since. Etan is excited to continue teaching in the classroom again, and with his youthful energy, exuberance and exciting presentations he will be the perfect fit to teach our youth.

MATH TESTING AND REVIEW, MR. JORDAN SIMKOVIC

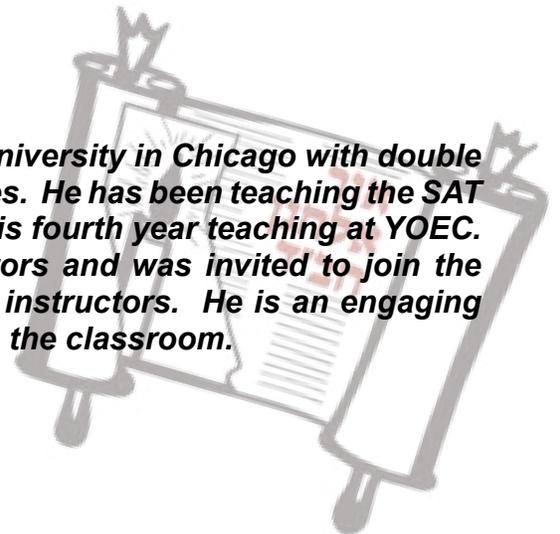
jsimkovic@yoec.edu



Math testing and Review (11th Grade):

The students have been very engaged in their weekly classes. We have been working to combine math skills into solving problems that require creativity and multiple formulas and strategies. Students are also learning various forms of punctuation and grammar skills, essential to written expression. As our class progresses, we will delve further into standardized testing strategies and math skills. I enjoy working with the 11th graders and look forward to their continued success.

Jordan Simkovic graduated from Northwestern University in Chicago with double majors in political science and international studies. He has been teaching the SAT for for over six years and he is excited to enter his fourth year teaching at YOEC. He is ranked among the top 1% of SAT instructors and was invited to join the prestigious Kaplan Academy to help train future instructors. He is an engaging teacher who brings robust energy and passion to the classroom.



ENGLISH II

MR. NOAH DORSEY

ndorsey@yoec.edu



English II (11th Grade):

The students have been putting a lot of effort into this year's English II class. So far we've tackled the genres of suspense and mystery, and we're currently in the early stages of the action/adventure unit. The 11th grade has participated in lectures and discussions of how characters must be designed to fit the narrative, focusing on how the dynamics of how the character acts will affect how the world of a story is constructed and how it can change the pacing. We have talked about how moments of tension can build on one another to create suspense, and how plot points in a story create mystery. The work they have produced so far is thoughtful, effective and enjoyable. The class and I will continue to explore different ways to enhance each individual student's voice in their writing, while learning more about how to effectively create a compelling - and intellectually stimulating - narrative.

Mr. Dorsey has been teaching for close to a decade in a variety of diverse and dynamic academic environments with students as young as first grade all the way to college. He has achieved a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Master of Creative Writing from Goddard College. He has been published in multiple scholastic journals while attending those schools, as well as some other local publications. With experiences teaching students still enduring adolescence in elementary schools, instructing students in the midst of achieving maturity in middle schools, and providing adults with an education in high schools and colleges, Mr. Dorsey is in his fourth year teaching at YOEC.

FIRST AID AND EMT

MR. ELISHA AFRIAT

efriat@yoec.edu

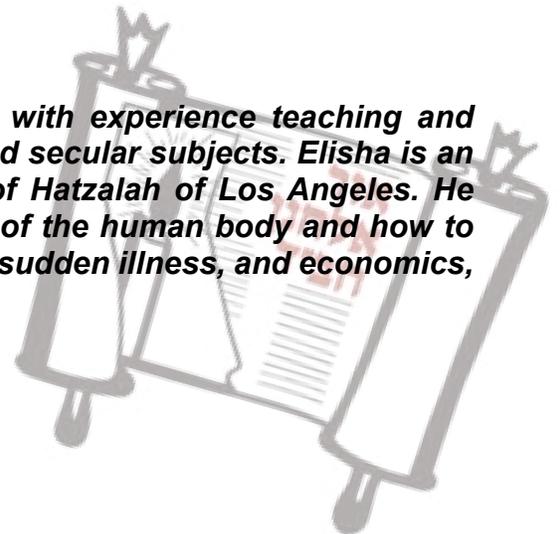


Health and First Aid:

The Health and First Aid class has been enjoying a great semester. We spent the first few weeks learning about responding to emergencies, performing CPR, situational awareness, and how to respond sensibly when an injury occurs. Over the last month we have studied in depth about a wide variety of health topics to enable students to make positive health decisions for themselves in the future based on the information that is presented to them. These include understanding proper nutritional intake, correct fitness habits, and mental health education.

In the months ahead, we will be exploring common health issues and diseases, including cardiovascular, brain and lung disease, and how to prevent them. I am always grateful to teach this class, and cannot wait to see what the future holds for these students as they learn these invaluable life skills.

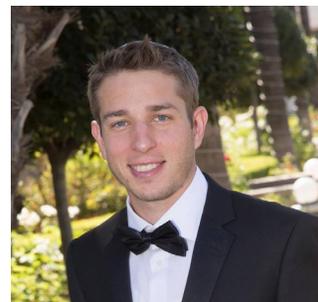
Elisha Afriat is a young and dynamic educator with experience teaching and tutoring many diverse topics including Judaic and secular subjects. Elisha is an Emergency Medical Technician and a member of Hatzalah of Los Angeles. He is excited to teach the students about functions of the human body and how to make appropriate decisions regarding injuries or sudden illness, and economics, and brings a robust teaching style to class.



MODERN HISTORY

MR. DAN SCHUTZMAN

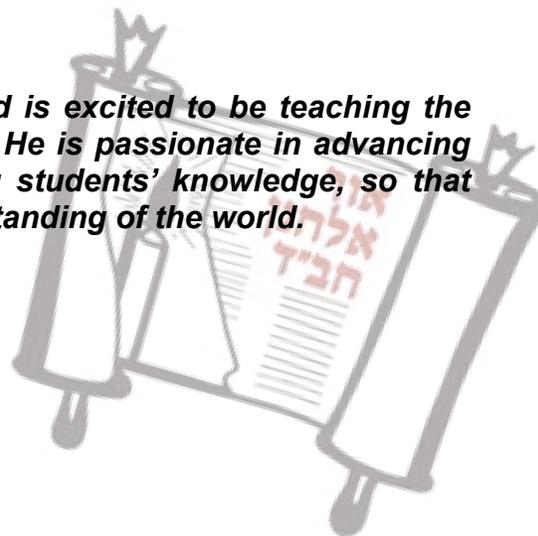
cschutzman@yoec.edu



Holocaust Studies ((10th Grade):

I am very pleased at the level of seriousness and genuine interest the students demonstrate in the weekly Holocaust Studies class. At our current juncture, we are covering the core aspects of the class, chiefly: The establishment of the Ghettos, The Wannsee Conference, systematic implementation of the 'Final Solution,' and the creation and function of the camps. Admittedly, these years (1942-44) are among the darkest times in Jewish history, but the broad narrative focuses largely on death and suffering. Yet, Jews found ways to live--for themselves and others. We learn of heroic efforts of Jews performing the most basic acts of life and religion, i.e lighting a makeshift Menorah, keeping a diary, sabotaging the Nazi war machine, etc. Recently, we had a lesson on lessons in psychology and how ordinary humans can be manipulated to commit horrific atrocities. Each class, I field numerous questions, a handful of which necessitate further research. What stands out in certain classes are the robust discussions students have among themselves about a topic we covered. It's enriching to see the students delve deep into sharing their opinions regarding human action (and inaction) and where responsibility lies. As we move to the latter part of the course, we will cover the liberation of the Jews of Europe, renewal of life, and global reaction and punishment to those held accountable.

Mr. Dan Schutzman is an avid fan of history and is excited to be teaching the Documentary and Review class for his 6th year. He is passionate in advancing education about modern history and deepening students' knowledge, so that they will think critically and broaden their understanding of the world.



FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pre-Algebra, Algebra I

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Geometry, Algebra II, Physics

Mr. Jeremy Noah
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Biology, Chemistry

Mr. Matthew Minton
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Communications and Current Events

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English II,

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First Aid & Emt

Mr. Elisha Afriat
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**Holocaust Studies, Documentary Data
and Analysis**

Mr. Dan Schutzman
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Math Testing and Review,

Mr. Jordan Simkovic
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**World History, U.S. History, Government
and Economics**

Mr. Ted Siegel
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CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

YOEC is an Accredited High School of the Western Association of Schools & Colleges. Transcripts are recognized by Colleges & Universities as completion of the University of California A-G requirements. Graduation prerequisites per the University of California and the BJE requirements for a CA High School Diploma:

English (I, II, III, IV)
American History, World History
American Government, Economics
Mathematics (3 years)
Science w/ Lab (3 years)
Physical Education (3 years)
Foreign Language (3 years)

This years classes:

Ninth Grade

Pre-Algebra/Algebra I
Biology (with lab)
Communications and
Current Events
English I
Hebrew I
PE
Earth and Physical Science
World History

10th Grade

Chemistry (with Lab)
English III
Geometry
Hebrew II
US History
Holocaust Studies
PE
Document Data & Analysis
First Aid and EMT
Personal Finance
Music

11th Grade

Algebra II
Government
Economics
English II,
English IV,
Hebrew III
Math Testing & Review
PE
Physics (with lab)

The minimum number of semester units required by the state of California for graduation is 230.



	9A	9B	10A	10B	11A	11B
Period 1 2:20-2:57	World History Mr. Siegel Room: 203A		Geometry Mr. Noah Room: 204	English III Mr. Dimopolous Room: 205	P.E.	
Period 2 3:20-4:00	P.E.		English III Mr. Dimopolous Room: 205	Chemistry Mr. Minton Room: 203B	Government & Economics Mr. Siegel Room: 203A	Algebra II Mr. Noah Room: 204
Period 3 4:05-4:45	English I Mr. Dimopolous Room: 205	Biology Mr. Minton Room: 203B	P.E.		Algebra II Mr. Noah Room: 204	Government & Economics Mr. Siegel Room: 203A
Period 4 5:00-5:40	Pre-Algebra Mr. Steiner Room: 206	English I Mr. Dimopolous Room: 205	Chemistry Mr. Minton Room: 203B	U.S. History Mr. Siegel Room: 203A	Physics Mr. Noah Room: 204	
Period 5 5:45-6:25	Biology Mr. Minton Room: 203B	Algebra I Mr. Steiner Room: 206	U.S. History Mr. Siegel Room: 203A	Geometry Mr. Noah Room: 204	English IV Mr. Dimopolous Room: 205	

	9A	9B	10A	10B	11A	11B
Period 1 3:15-4:40	Advanced Physical Science Mr. Etan G. Room 204	Communications and Current Events Mr. Antolin Room 203B	First Aid and EMT Mr. Afriat Room 203A	Holocaust Studies Mr. Schutzman Room 206	Math Testing and Review Mr. Simkovic Room 104	English II Mr. Dorsey Room 205
Period 2 5:00-6:25	Communications and Current Events Mr. Antolin Room 203B	Advanced Physical Science Mr. Etan G. Room 204	Holocaust Studies Mr. Schutzman Room 206	First Aid and EMT Mr. Afriat Room 203A	English II Mr. Dorsey Room 205	Math Testing and Review Mr. Simkovic Room 104

