

New England Jewish Academy

School Profile 2020–2021



300 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, Connecticut 06117
www.neja.org

Phone: 860-231-0317
Fax: 860-236-7623
CEEB Code: 070889



The New England Jewish Academy is a co-educational Nursery-12 Orthodox Jewish Day School serving Connecticut and Western Massachusetts.

The Community and School:

New England Jewish Academy is a community of young men and women from across the Jewish denominational spectrum, working together to develop knowledge, values, and leadership skills. As one of the few Modern Orthodox co-educational Jewish Day Schools between New York and Boston, we nurture a love of learning and respect for God and humanity. NEJA is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). As those who are a part of our family know, we are more than a school; we empower our students to be the next generation of Jewish leaders.

NEJA was formed in July 2019 when the Hebrew Academy of Greater Hartford (HAGH) and the Hebrew High School of New England (HHNE) joined as a single school under a new name. The two schools have a long and storied legacy in Central New England. HAGH was founded in 1940. Its legacy has impacted many generations of families and has become an integral and proud part of the Jewish community in the area. HHNE was created in 1996 to fill the need for an Orthodox high school in this region. Since then, it has become a standard of academic excellence in Judaic and General studies.

The Faculty:

NEJA's dedicated faculty serve as teachers, class advisers, coaches, and mentors. Many have also taught at the university level. Student support services include a social worker, a college adviser, and a learning specialist.

Student Activities and Community Service:

NEJA offers basketball, soccer and Ultimate Frisbee, as well as opportunities to pursue individual interests in the performing arts (student-directed drama club); leadership (student government and student ambassadors); writing and visual arts (art classes and yearbook); and health (fitness club).

NEJA also strongly emphasizes service to the community, love of Israel and global citizenship. Students are required to perform a minimum of 60 hours of community service in order to graduate; however, as evidence of this core value in the student body, several students exceed the requirement. NEJA also has a community service club in which students volunteer on a regular basis. Students also participate in political action activities concerning Israel advocacy, domestic, and international issues.

Quick Facts:

Grades Served: pre-K-12 Enrollment: 100 students
 Average Class Size: 7 Class Rank: NEJA does not rank
 Honor Roll: All grades must be above 80 with the exception of one grade of 75 or better, and the average of all grades must be equal to or exceed 90.
 High Honor Roll: All grades must be 90 or better with the exception of one grade in an AP course of 80 or better.
 Grading Policy: Grades are weighted by credit. Grades from courses taken offsite are listed on the transcript but are not included in the GPA calculation.

Disciplinary Disclosure Policy:

It is NEJA's policy not to report disciplinary action to colleges or universities in transcripts or letters of recommendation. However, NEJA reserves the right to report any infractions by students, even if a college or university has not requested this information directly, especially if the administration deems the infraction or infractions to be egregious and/or criminal and/or dangerous in nature.

Our Graduation Requirements:

English	4 credits
Math	3 credits
Science	3 credits
	(including 2 lab sciences)
Social Studies.....	3 credits
World Language	3 credits
Secular Electives	2 credits
Talmud	4 credits
Jewish Studies	4 credits
Bible/Chumash	4 credits
Community Service	60 hours

AP and Dual Enrollment Classes:

- AP Biology
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Comparative Government
- AP European History
- AP Language and Composition
- AP Literature
- AP Physics
- AP Statistics
- AP US Government and Politics
- AP US History
- UConn 1502: US History Since 1877
- UConn Human Rights
- UConn POLS 1202: Intro to Comp POL/AP

The Dual Curriculum:

NEJA offers a rigorous dual curriculum of college-preparatory studies and Judaic learning. The school year is divided into two semesters, and our courses are unweighted. All courses on the transcript are included in the cumulative grade point average, with the exception of Tefillah (Prayer) attendance and classes taken pass/fail. NEJA does not rank its students.

NEJA transitioned to online learning in March 2020, due to the spread of COVID-19. Our students maintained their full course schedule and attended classes every day. The faculty were able to teach the majority of their planned curricula and continued assessing the students with the school's standard grading system. Students returned to school on a full-time basis in September 2020.

The secular studies curriculum is a college-preparatory program designed to foster the study of the liberal arts and also to develop the critical-thinking skills to allow students to be community participants and productive citizens of the world. Students write, speak, debate, analyze and synthesize across the curriculum, as they become independent learners and self-advocates. NEJA offers academic (college-preparatory), honors, Advanced-Placement levels, and dual-enrollment classes with the University of Connecticut, to meet students at their levels and challenge them to excel. The only exceptions are Algebra I, Business and Consumer Math, Entrepreneurial Innovation, Genetics, Integrated Math, and World History.

Our school community welcomes students from all Jewish backgrounds. We are proud of our Judaic Studies program that allows students to access, analyze, and debate Jewish texts and ideas. This curriculum enables those who wish to take the next steps on their journey to pursue a variety of gap-year learning or volunteer programs in Israel.

Judaic Studies Course Descriptions:

Chumash (Torah)

Students study all five Books of Moses (Chumash) over a four-year cycle. We aim to teach translation and analytical skills that allow students to understand the text and apply the ethical lessons of the Torah to their daily lives.

Talmud (Rabbinic Literature)

Talmud strives to inculcate our students with a recognition of how the Talmud's lessons shape every aspect of Jewish thought, Jewish ethics and Jewish law. The Talmud sets the foundation for building successful Jewish communities and instills caring and respect for God's laws and all of humanity. We encourage students to engage in debate and analysis in order to arrive at a deeper understanding of the text and of their peers' perspectives.

General Judaic Studies

NEJA also offers a range of general Judaic studies:

- Jewish Ethics
- Jewish Philosophy
- Jewish Law
- Haggadah
- Nach
- Tefillah (Prayer)
- Jewish History

Mechina (Preparatory Judaics Program)

Our Mechina program introduces students with limited Jewish knowledge to the beauty of Torah and Jewish tradition by studying Hebrew, Chumash (Bible), Tefillah (Prayer), and Jewish law and thought, with a focus on developing textual skills such as translation, understanding, and interpretation.

Students study Parshat HaShavua (weekly Torah portion) in order to understand the role of Torah in Jewish life and become familiar with the text, teasing apart verses, translating and understanding their context. Students begin to delve into how important commentators such as Rashi and Ramban explain the text.

Tefillah (Prayer) is a central component of what it means to practice Judaism. Students focus on navigating the Siddur (prayer book), the prayer service with its history and ritual, and developing a connection with God.

2018-2019 Junior Year SAT Scores

(Due to COVID-19, few of NEJA's students were able to take the SAT in 2019-2020)

Score Band	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW)	Math (M)
700-800	2	3
600-690	3	1
500-590	2	3
400-490	1	3
300-390	0	0

NEJA has had six National Merit Scholarship finalists, nine semifinalists, and 28 letters of commendation.

Post-Graduate Plans:

Our students have been accepted to a wide range of undergraduate academic and religious institutions:

Colleges and Universities

Adelphi University
American University
Art Institute of Boston
Bar-Ilan University
Bard College
Barnard College
Bay Path University
Bentley University
Binghamton University (SUNY)
Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brooklyn College (CUNY)
Bucknell University
University of California, Los Angeles
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Central Connecticut State University
University of Central Florida
College of Charleston
Chatham University
University of Chicago
Clark University
Clemson University
University of Colorado, Boulder
Columbia University
University of Connecticut
The Cooper Union
Cornell University
CUNY/Brooklyn College
CUNY/City College of New York
CUNY/Hunter College
CUNY/Queens College
Curry College
University of Delaware
Dickinson College
Drew University
Drexel University
Eckerd College
Emerson College
Emory University
Eugene Lang University (The New School)
Fashion Institute of Technology
Farleigh Dickinson University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Southern College
University of Florida
Franklin & Marshall College
Franklin Pierce University
George Washington University
Goucher College
Guilford College
Hofstra University
University of Hartford/The Hartt School

Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
University of Kansas
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lasell College
Lesley University
Lynn University
University of Maryland, College Park
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Massachusetts/Amherst
McGill University
University of Miami
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Mitchell College
Muhlenberg College
New College
University of New England
University of New Hampshire
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York University
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island College
Rhodes College
Rochester Institute of Technology
University of Rochester
Rollins College
Rutgers University
University of Saint Joseph
Sara Lawrence College
Simmons College
Skidmore College
Smith College
Southern Connecticut State University
University of Southern Maine
St. John's University
SUNY Albany
SUNY Buffalo
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Plattsburg
SUNY Purchase
SUNY Stony Brook
Suffolk University
University of Tampa
Temple University
Touro College (The Landers Colleges)
Towson University
Trinity College
Tulane University

Union College
Vassar College
University of Vermont
Wellesley College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wesleyan University
Western Connecticut State University
Westfield State University
Wheaton College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University
Yeshiva University/Stern College

Gap Year Programs:

Aardvark Israel
Afikei Torah
Bar Ilan University/Israel Experience
Be'er Miriam
Bnot Torah Institute
Derech Institute
Emunah V'Omanut
Eretz HaTzvi
Hartman Institute
Leadership Yeshiva Academy
Lev Aryeh
Lev HaTorah
Machon Maayan
Mechinat Nokdim
Michelet Esther
Michlala
Midreshet Harova
Midreshet Lindenbaum
Midreshet Mevaseret Yerushalaim
Midreshet Moriah
Nativ
Netiv Aryeh
Nishmat
Ohr Yerushalayim
Orayta
Shaarei Yerushalayim
Teret Chesed
Tiferet Center
Tochnit Shalem
Tomer Devorah
Yeshivat HaKibbutz HaDati
Yeshivat Har Etzion/Gush
Young Judaea Year Course