Mazel Day School
Academy of the Arts and Sciences
MISSION  Our mission is to empower our students with the tools they will need as they embark on their Life Journeys. Enriched by Judaism’s values and wisdom, we cultivate within our students the ability to be good students, good friends, and good people. We provide a secure foundation which prepares children to thrive in a complex and changing world.

Mazel Day School is comprehensively enriched by our partnership with F.R.E.E. (Friends of Refugees of Eastern Europe). Independently governed, we are a NYS Dept. of Education registered non-public school, affiliated with the Board of Jewish Education of New York.
OUR VISION  We have created a school out of what we believe. We believe that every child is a seed waiting to be nurtured. We believe in attending to the whole child: mind, heart and spirit. We believe that if children are to grow and to thrive, they need the love and warmth of caring adults. They need the sense of belonging that comes from being among friends. They need to be challenged academically and shown how to succeed as students. They need to be given models for kindness, thoughtfulness and self-discipline. They need the time and space to be children, to discover, to reflect and to think critically about their world. Because we believe these things, we have created an intimate environment of laughter and applause, engagement and accomplishment, where children are welcomed into the joy of learning, the security of community, and the deep, sustaining values and traditions of Judaism.
A Private Jewish Day School

OUR SCHOOL Founded in 2002, Mazel Day School is a coeducational private Jewish Day School that provides children with a unique educational opportunity that prepares them to thrive in a complex and changing multi-cultural world. By integrating challenging academics within the framework of Jewish heritage and values, we cultivate academic excellence, social skills, personal responsibility, character and Jewish commitment.

CURRICULUM Our school’s approach to education is governed by profound respect for our students. In an academic setting that values open, engaged inquiry, our rich and rigorous curriculum interweaves the best of both Jewish and general knowledge throughout the day. We nurture students’ curiosity, cultivate their imagination, encourage creative expression, value their initiative, and engender critical thinking skills. At Mazel Day School, the learning process itself is valued and as a result, children develop a true love for learning and the pursuit of knowledge. Teachers use a variety of methods to bring subject matter alive, including: regular field trips, projects, discussions, interactive activities and explorations. Learning experiences are designed to be joyful, meaningful and real. From science and social studies, to math and literacy, our curriculum is not only aligned with national standards, but individual strengths and interests are emphasized as well, empowering students to reach their full potential. Opportunities for collaborative teamwork, training for social competencies, and character development are integrated into the daily curriculum. These provide children with invaluable life skills. Study of Hebrew language, Jewish and Israeli history and heritage give students a sense of belonging to the Jewish people. Study of Russian language and literature broaden our students’ horizons and opportunities. American citizenship is cultivated through knowledge and appreciation of our history, culture and democratic process. Our rich and unique tapestry of learning provides an education that sets our school curriculum apart.

FACULTY Our teachers are the heart of our school. We carefully select enthusiastic and dedicated educators, many of whom hold advanced degrees, with a firm grasp of students’ educational and developmental needs. Warm and attentive, they enjoy getting to know each of their students individually, cultivating close mentor relationships. In classes with low teacher-student ratios, they are able to subtly modify their teaching to each child’s learning style and specific needs, so that every child is challenged to his or her potential. Our teachers do not merely teach skills; they convey to students directly and constantly their enduring commitment and passion for learning, personal growth and moral character. They work to create a strong classroom community that serves as a blueprint for a just and ethical society where members treat one another with kindness, respect, sensitivity and an appreciation for the contributions of each individual. To benefit the children’s growth, our teachers actively pursue professional development opportunities to stay current and attuned to the best methodologies of the educational field.

THE DAY SCHOOL STUDENT Our students distinguish themselves as refined, compassionate, open-minded, and well-rounded young adults with an expanded view of the world. Mazel Day School sees the creation of a community with families from a wide range of Jewish backgrounds, practices, and beliefs as essential to our school culture. Jews of all denominations and levels of observance are equally welcomed. Our students learn to appreciate and value the diversity of the Jewish people. With character development placed on the forefront of our school program, alongside high academic expectations, our children learn to be both good students, as well as good friends. By participating in numerous community service projects, they develop a sense of responsibility for our world, both Jewish and beyond. They emerge globally conscious, optimistic, and confident of themselves as citizens in the larger community.
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE  Aware of the growing demands that the 21st Century will place on our students, we set and achieve high standards across our rich and engaging curriculum in both general and Judaic studies. Every part of the school day is planned to offer each student a challenging, yet well-supported and nurturing, learning experience. Teachers use both traditional and progressive methodologies to facilitate the development of students’ understanding of concepts and skills. They systematically assess children’s progress and set learning goals for each student based on performance and capability. Once they’ve experienced the taste of success, the drive to excel is immutable, as, with the teacher’s guidance, each milestone achieved quickly becomes the stepping stone to the next one. In our classrooms, teachers guide learning, rather than become the focus of it. Our goal is for children to learn how to learn and to take joy in the process, enhancing their confidence and motivation to tackle new material. Thus, the child is the center of the learning experience. This encourages independent thinking skills and a will to achieve that opens the door to a child’s academic future. At each grade level, careful attention is given to ensure that students master the critical skills involved in reading, writing, and mathematics, as these will form the basis of all further learning. Children find meaning in their study as learning is always linked to real-life. From reading meaningful texts for pleasure or for information, to writing about their own lives and ideas in order to share and publish, from discovering the relationship between numbers and their everyday lives, to observing, wondering about and discovering the natural world… learning is a real and dynamic experience. Our qualified and enthusiastic faculty brings the curriculum to life through analysis of text, thoughtful discussion, projects, hands-on experiences and field trips. We encourage students to ask questions, to entertain viewpoints different from their own, to develop their powers of observation and analysis, and to think for themselves. In this way, our students create a dynamic, interactive community of enthusiastic learners. Communication, collaboration, innovation and listening skills are highly valued in our classrooms so that our students emerge as confident individuals, ready to meet the challenges of the future.
JUDAIC STUDIES  More than a set of “rules and rituals”, Judaism gives our students’ the grounding and perspective to deal with any and every situation that life will present. It brings them joy, wonder and mindfulness. It gives them the sense that they have a purpose in life, one that only they can achieve. It cultivates self-assurance in Jewish identity that will later become the stalwart of their adult lives. This is the greatest gift we can provide our children. The goal of our Judaic Studies curriculum is to transmit a comprehensive knowledge of Judaism, along with a profound commitment to Israel and the Jewish people. Children experience Jewish traditions as cherished and beloved by celebrating the joy of Jewish living, Shabbat and holidays. At the same time, teachers cultivate an understanding that “different families observe Judaism differently”, and create opportunities for each child to share how he or she celebrates Jewish identity in their home. Beyond learning about Judaism, our students learn how to be thoughtful, caring Jews. Traditional Torah texts and the history of the Jewish people are studied as living, fundamental resources for developing ideas, beliefs, behaviors, and values to shape and inspire the lives of children growing up in modern times. Children acquire the skills to independently understand the meaning of Torah texts in their original language. We transmit Jewish values to the children by modeling behaviors in what we do. Activities such as bikkur cholim (visiting the sick), chesed (acts of kindness), hachnassat orchim (welcoming a guest), and derech eretz (respectful behavior) are integral parts of our school life. Our unique integration of Judaic studies, Jewish values and general curriculum prepares students for a multi-cultural world with a strong, sustaining sense of their Jewish identity.

ISRAEL  Our school is dedicated to engaging our students in a relationship with the language, culture, land, and people of Israel. As an integral part of Jewish identity and peoplehood, we bring a far-away land to the hearts and minds of young children by focusing on connections in their personal families, the holidays and Jewish history. Through learning Hebrew songs, tasting the foods of Israel, and taking exploratory “trips” to Israel, we bring vibrant aspects of Israeli life into our classrooms.
LANGUAGE IMMERSION  Our students learn to read, write and speak in three languages: English, Hebrew and Russian. Studying multiple languages benefits children’s linguistic thinking and ability to learn new languages later on in life. English is used as the main language of instruction at all grade levels. In early childhood classes, Hebrew is introduced as the language of the Jewish people in Tefilah (prayer), music, and holiday study. Children begin to learn Hebrew alphabet and vocabulary. In kindergarten, as they begin to learn to read in Hebrew, the children study Hebrew language through weekly immersion classes using the “Tal Am” program, which is especially designed to teach Hebrew fluency to children living in the Diaspora (outside of Israel). We use songs, books and games to introduce the language in a playful and joyous manner. By Grade 3, students are ready to learn Judaic subjects “Ivrit b’Ivrit” (full Hebrew immersion). By the end of Grade 5, students acquire the skills to fully comprehend text and express themselves orally and in writing. Russian as a spoken language is part of the social interactions at school from the children’s earliest years. Formal instruction in Russian reading, writing and vocabulary begins in Kindergarten. Our Russian Language and Literature program exposes students to classical and contemporary Russian poems, songs and literature. Students improve fluency and sophistication in language through the study of grammar. By the second grade, students are fluent Russian readers; by the end of third they are able to compose written essays in Russian.

SPECIAL AREAS  Because exploring, singing, creating and playing are so important to children, we have a full program of arts, music and physical education. In visual arts classes, students study works by major artists and work with a variety of materials and techniques. Teachers emphasize the importance of process, planning, and revision, all the while helping the children to create artwork that is distinctly their own. Music, formally and informally, is a part of our students’ experience from their first days here. Students are introduced to various composers, musical styles, and musical theories. Our physical education program focuses on developmental skills and involves each child in exercise and sports activities.
CHESED PROJECTS While children are young and their hearts are open, we introduce the fundamental Jewish value of performing mitzvot (kind deeds) by integrating a variety of chesed (kindness) projects into every aspect of the curriculum. Students are encouraged to give tzedakah (charity) daily and play an active role in deciding how to distribute the funds. Students visit senior centers, collect food and clothing for poor families. At Mazel Day School, our children begin a lifelong commitment to caring for others.

SPECIAL EVENTS Throughout our school year, we are alive with activities and programs that stimulate our children intellectually and creatively and foster a deeper sense of community among children, teachers and families. Each Friday’s schedule includes special activities celebrating the coming Shabbat, from braiding Challah to Shabbat party. The new Hebrew months are marked with a school assembly for all grades. The Jewish holidays are a focal point of our school life, with unique celebrations for each. Literacy Month is a highlight that brings our annual book fair, “Meet-the-Author” Day and parent visits for book read-alouds to each class. Our annual recitals at Chanukah time and at Graduation gives children the opportunity to share their joy and learning with family and friends.

PARENT COMMUNITY Our school values our parents as vital members of the school community. Our active Parents Association coordinates opportunities for parents to socialize as well as to become actively involved in their children’s school experiences. Coming from a range of professions and fields, as well as personal backgrounds and Jewish affiliations, our parents form a distinctive community of families seeking to provide their children with a unique school experience: high-quality education, within a warm and nurturing environment, that will plant the strong roots of Jewish identity and values for their future.
WELCOME  Our admissions process includes submission of an application packet, a visit tour by prospective students and parents, as well as an interview and assessment of applying students by our Educational Director. We look forward to meeting you when you visit the school to experience the culture and philosophy that are the hallmarks of a Mazel Day School education. To make an appointment or to request an application, please call 718-368-4490 or email admissions@mazeldayschool.com.

OPTIONS  Beyond the regular school day hours, Mazel Day School offers extended day programs for working parents. Free transportation busing is available for children living in the South Brooklyn area beginning in Kindergarten. Throughout the year, we have a range of after school enrichment clubs.

FINANCIAL AID  Tuition assistance is available to qualifying families of students in Kindergarten through Middle School.
Mazel Day School

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