

**Jewish For Life: Dual Roads to A Life of Torah Learning**

Submitted by:

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Atlanta Jewish Academy (AJA) students are in Year Two of the new Judaic Studies dual track for high school. The initial goal of this program was to better serve a new, diverse student body that accompanied the merger of Greenfield Hebrew Academy (pre-K through 8th grade) and Yeshiva Atlanta (9th-12th grade).

The two programs, *Moreshet Torani* (Torah Heritage) and *Moreshet Yisrael* (Jewish Heritage), were created by Rabbi Reuven Travis. Rabbi Travis used his educational expertise and a Judaic scholarship to create a curriculum that approaches the study of Torah from different perspectives.

Additionally, because of the vision and outreach by Rabbi Travis, AJA can boast several remarkable collaborative partnerships including the following:

1) AJA is the pilot school for Dr. Kenneth Stein’s Center for Israel Education (Emory University) and the approach to the instruction of Modern Israel in high school settings (4 annual seminars - 15 to 25 hours each taught over the course of a single week - instead of a year long course on Modern Israel). Dr. Stein plans to take this model and offer to other schools based on the success of our pilot program.

<https://sites.google.com/a/atljewishacademy.org/aja-chumash/home/modern-israel>

2) Participant in Avi Chai's Heart and Mind project (one of nine schools nationally) – Link with information on the initiative are included in the submission materials. AJA’s outcome can be view at the following link: <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/83992884/Israel%20Advocacy%20Seminar/Israel%20Advocacy%20Seminar%20Curriculm.pdf>

3) Pilot school for Chabad's Jewish Learning Initiative - JLI is an adult education program. Chabad was interested in know if and how these materials could be made to work at the high school level. AJA is the only high school in the country allowed to use these materials. Here's what we are doing with them.

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/83992884/Rabbinics/Rabbinic%20Ethics%20Units%20-%20JLI.pdf>

4) According to Dr. Ken Stein and the staff at Yad Vashem, AJA is the only Jewish high school in America that they know of prepared to devote a half year to the study of Zionism and of the Shoah. Both institutions have therefore been very forthcoming in helping us identity appropriate resources to teach both topics. Rabbi Travis created the course outline and curriculum.

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/83992884/Shoah/ZIONISM%20AND%20THE%20SHOAH.pdf>

5) Rabbi Travis, after visiting Terezin, was inspired to create new and innovative ways to make Israeli and Jewish programming more exciting and relevant. Consider his Yom Hashoah program as a prime example.

<https://sites.google.com/a/atljewishacademy.org/aja-chumash/home/children-of-terezin-project>

**We invite you to explore the extraordinary breadth and depth of this program by viewing the entire curriculum, for each course in each track, that Rabbi Travis has posted online here:** [**https://sites.google.com/a/atljewishacademy.org/aja-chumash/home**](https://sites.google.com/a/atljewishacademy.org/aja-chumash/home)**.**

We have also included several examples of student work through PowerPoint, Prezi and Written Reflections. They are:

* Alsberg Reflection on Torah and Science
* Freitag Reflection on Torah and Science
* Cohen Reflection on Torah and Science
* Cain and Abel and Their Story
* Kayin and Hevel

For more information on our Judaic Program, please contact Rabbi Reuven Travis, [rtravis@atljewishacademy.org](mailto:rtravis@atljewishacademy.org) or 770-451-5299.