



HEILICHER '20

YEAR-THREE PROGRESS REPORT

SPRING 2019

Heilicher '20 is the Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School's operational guide based on the comprehensive Strategic Plan adopted in May 2016. We are pleased to provide this report on our progress in the 2018-2019 school year. This is the third in a series of annual updates to the community about our strategic advancement.

By 2020:

Heilicher empowers students to become creative and fearless problem solvers who celebrate diversity of people and ideas, and who confidently bring Jewish values and ethical decision making into their lives, their work, and the broader community. The school is a desirable and affordable option for more Jewish families through the development of endowed scholarship funds.



Highlights: Look How Far We've Come

The Classroom Experience

We opened the Makerspace engineering lab in September with a dedicated educator to implement cross-disciplinary STEAM/inquiry-based projects. All students were able to experiment, retry, problem solve, and create exciting projects utilizing themes from science, technology, Judaic Studies, language arts, history and more. We implemented a new Columbia Teachers College writing curriculum in all grades to strengthen student mastery of a variety of written forms. Students realized gains in math mastery in year two of the Math in Focus curriculum (K-5), and we rolled out Math in Focus to grade 6 this year.

The Jewish Experience

With new infrastructure in place, we were able to make transformative improvements in Judaic Studies and Hebrew. We fully implemented adapted Mechon Hadar standards for best practices in *tefillah*/prayer, Rabbinics, and *Tanakh*/bible text study curricula across all grades. This included a new grades 7-8 Rabbinics curriculum: Pursuing Justice Text Intensive, including a collaborative Change Initiative project with Language Arts. We welcomed Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz, who worked with our fifth graders on creating a collaborative *haggadah*. Many STEAM and Judaic Studies integration projects took place in the Makerspace this year, including olive oil pressing, reenacting Biblical battles, and creation of 10 plagues for the modern era.

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YEAR-THREE PROGRESS

AS OF SPRING 2019

Strategic Plan Comprehensive Review

Below are year-three achievements in each of the five pillars of the Strategic Plan. Review our complete list of strategic goals in the About section of hjmids.org.



GENERAL STUDIES

- Introduced Math in Focus curriculum in grade 6, and continued into the second year in K-5, to provide deeper mastery of mathematical concepts
- Fully integrated STEAM/inquiry-based pedagogy, featuring cross-disciplinary teacher collaboration and hands-on work in the new Makerspace
- Successfully launched Columbia Teachers College writing curriculum in K-8 to improve student composition skills in all writing modalities
- Expanded Lower School math enrichment to include two new cohorts for grades 1-2 and 3-4



JEWISH LIFE & LEARNING

- Worked on articulating the ideal portrait of a graduate in both K-8 Judaic Studies and Hebrew and definition of grade-level benchmarks
- Implemented adapted Mezon Hadar Standards for Fluency in Jewish Text & Practice to enhance Judaic Studies curricula across grades
- Welcomed, with co-sponsors, visiting artist Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz to teach art and Judaism in fifth grade focused on *haggadah* and the Pesah story
- Began work on pluralism with faculty workshop and community engagement
- Lead Judaic Studies and Hebrew position was renamed the Harold and Mickey Smith Jewish Life and Hebrew Director as part of a \$1 million gift from Rabbi Mitch Smith



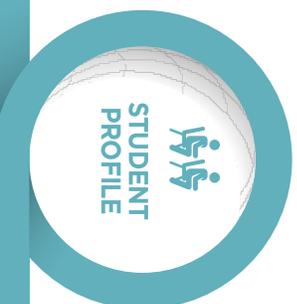
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

- Opened Makerspace with dedicated educator to collaborate with all teachers and all subjects for student programming and outreach events.
- Conducted K-6 teacher training on Math in Focus curriculum
- Implemented second year of strategic changes to teacher evaluation, feedback, and goal-setting process
- Sent several teachers to national conferences on *Tefillah* and Judaic Studies
- Sent four language arts teachers to Columbia Teachers College writing curriculum training in New York
- Provided ongoing professional coaching and peer collaboration on writing for all teachers



ENDOWMENT & FINANCIAL ACCESSIBILITY

- Completed endowment feasibility study and launched \$8.5 million endowment campaign, *As They Planned for Me: An Endowment Campaign for Heilicher*
- Received two seven-figure endowment campaign gifts in soft launch of campaign, in addition to \$1 million endowment matching grant from the Lyme & Andrew Redleaf Foundation
- Continued to engage in the It's Your Legacy Program, a program of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, Jewish Reformation of Greater St. Paul, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation
- Implemented tools to enhance clarity and transparency of financial accessibility on school website
- Rolled out new, streamlined tuition model wrapping various fees into one tuition amount



STUDENT PROFILE

- Welcomed new school counselor who has deepened faculty education on social, emotional, and behavioral management
- Implemented proactive, rather than reactive, methods and systems to support students in achieving social, emotional, and academic success
- Streamlined data collection on student needs and interventions to better assess and improve student services
- Completed year two of Second Step social-emotional skills curriculum in K-5
- Hosted student, faculty, and parent workshops with guest presenter and clinical social worker Lynn Lyons focused on managing anxiety at home and school

Summary

In 2018-2019, Heilicher saw the positive results of several years of transformative work. As we look to the 2019-2020 school year and the culmination of the 2016 strategic plan, we would like to thank the dedicated professionals and volunteers who are making this progress possible. With the community's continued support, the Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School will continue to strengthen the Jewish world for many more years into the future.

For more information, contact Head of School Yoni Binus at ybinus@hjmids.org.

www.hjmids.org

School Culture

We continued to develop a “growth mindset” culture among students, faculty, and staff that celebrates lifelong learning and personal/professional development. Lower grades continued to work with Second Step, a social-emotional skills curriculum. We hosted guest presenter and clinical social worker Lynn Lyons for several workshops focused on managing anxiety at home and school. Nearly 300 community members attended a parent and educator workshop on May 13, sponsored in part by the Jacob Garber Endowment Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation.



Financial Accessibility and Stability

Heilicher formally launched an endowment campaign in May, entitled *As They Planted For Me: An Endowment Campaign for Heilicher*, with a goal to grow the endowment (currently at \$2 million) to \$8.5 million within five years. The campaign is off to a great start with two seven-figure gifts and a \$1 million matching grant from the Lynne & Andrew Redleaf Foundation. The school also implemented a new tuition model to ensure sustainability, affordability, and transparency regarding tuition and financial assistance.

HEILICHER '20 LEADERSHIP

Implementation Leads

Yoni Binus, *Head of School*

Maia Poling, *General Studies Director*

Etan Weiss, *Harold and Mickey Smith
Jewish Life and Hebrew Director*

Rebecca Skelton, *Institutional Advancement Director*

Strategic Plan Oversight Committee

Ron Krebs, *Chair*

Esther Goldberg-Davis

Neil Moses-Zirkes

Cindy Reich

Michael Zis

Enduring Values • Extraordinary Education

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