



HEILICHER '20

YEAR-TWO PROGRESS REPORT

SPRING 2018

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 2017-2018 school year. This is the second in a series of annual updates to the community about our strategic advancement.



Highlights: What's new at Heilicher?

The Classroom Experience

We have implemented the first stages of the STEAM/ inquiry-based learning method throughout the school, including both General and Judaic Studies. This educational method uses students' natural creativity and curiosity as the starting point for learning and offers opportunities for cross-disciplinary project work. Teachers will continue to have extensive training and mentorship on this methodology, as well as time to collaborate with colleagues across disciplines to continue developing the curriculum.

A new K-5 Makerspace (engineering lab) with dedicated staff will open next school year to deepen hands-on learning.

The Jewish Experience

This year, we developed the infrastructure for exciting new developments in Judaic Studies and Hebrew. Partnering with Mechon Hadar, which has developed a cutting-edge set of standards for fluency in Jewish text and practice designed for pluralistic Jewish schools, we are enhancing

tefillah/prayer, Rabbinics, *hagim*/holidays, and *Tanakh*/ Bible text study curricula across all grades. Several recent projects integrated Jewish learning with art, social studies, language arts, math, and science. The Tzedakah Box project, in which each grade designed and built tzedakah boxes from scratch using the inquiry-based learning method, is one example of such integration.

More to come next year in the realm of social justice and experiential learning opportunities for all students.

School Culture

We worked on developing a "growth mindset" culture among students, faculty, and staff that celebrates lifelong learning and personal/professional development. We encouraged all students to try new things, reframe a "failed" attempt as a learning opportunity, and use creative problem solving when faced with challenges inside and outside the classroom. Lower grades adopted Second Step, a social-emotional skills curriculum. The Resource Department aligned its structure and staffing to better meet the needs of the student body.

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YEAR-TWO PROGRESS AS OF SPRING 2018

Strategic Plan Comprehensive Review

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



GENERAL STUDIES

- Implemented new K-5 math curriculum, Math in Focus, to provide deeper mastery of mathematical concepts including number sense, problem solving, and the “why” behind operations
- Holistically integrated STEAM/inquiry-based pedagogy featuring new science lessons in all grades, school-wide Tzedakah Box project, every teacher trying new methods in the classroom with support from STEAM consultant
- Revamped report card format to better communicate student growth, achievements, and learning goals



JEWISH LIFE & LEARNING

- Began work re-visioning K-8 Judaic Studies program, including articulation of ideal portrait of a graduate in both Judaic Studies and Hebrew and definition of grade-level benchmarks
- Used Hadar Standards for Fluency in Jewish Text & Practice to adopt new Tefillah curriculum for K-3 and new Rabbinitics curriculum for grades 7-8
- Completed foundation-sponsored art and Judaics integration project in fifth grade focused on ritual objects and the Pesah story
- Board began work on pluralism project in advance of community-wide engagement on this topic
- Continued outreach to synagogues and Jewish organizations throughout the Twin Cities



FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

- STEAM/Maker's Movement faculty training throughout the school year
- K-5 teacher training on new Math in Focus curriculum throughout the year
- Made strategic changes to teacher evaluation, feedback, and goal setting process
- Revised schedule for next year to allow more time for teacher collaboration, training, and curriculum development
- Several teachers took part in Mechon Hadar training on Tefillah and Rabbinitics
- Posted position for Makerspace lead educator
- Secured funding for four language arts teachers to attend Columbia Teachers College writing curriculum training in New York



ENDOWMENT & FINANCIAL ACCESSIBILITY

- Engaged a consultant to guide Phase I of an endowment campaign and engaged professional endowment director (Rebecca Skelton) to lead campaign
- Launched endowment feasibility study
- Continued engagement in the It's Your Legacy Program, a program of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, Jewish Federation of Greater St. Paul, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation
- Developed better tools for financial accessibility process
- Continued investigation of tuition models for transparency and sustainability



STUDENT PROFILE

- Established new procedures for assessing needs of incoming students and retooled lateral entry process
- Created guidelines for student behavior and process for supporting students to achieve behavioral expectations
- Aligned Resource Department to better meet needs of current student body
- Adopted Second Step social-emotional skills curriculum in K-5

Summary

2017-2018 was a year of positive momentum toward the school's strategic goals. As we continue on the path to Heilicher '20, we would like to thank the dedicated professionals and volunteers who are making this transformation possible. With the community's continued support, the Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School will continue to educate Jewish leaders of tomorrow for generations to come.

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

Financial Accessibility and Stability

In August 2017, Heilicher received a \$9 million grant over 10 years from the Lynne & Andrew Redleaf Foundation, the largest single gift in the school's history. The Redleaf Affordability & Endowment Building Challenge Grant supports tuition relief, including the establishment of a tuition reduction grant for children of professionals working at Jewish nonprofit organizations in the Twin Cities.

A portion of the gift is designated as a "matching grant" to help launch an endowment campaign. This spring, Heilicher

retained a consultant to guide the school in the timing, structure, goal-setting, and implementation of the campaign, and a feasibility study was launched in May 2018. We anticipate bringing a recommendation on an endowment goal, structure, and timing to the Board in September 2018.

The school developed better tools to administer scholarships and began investigating new tuition models to ensure sustainability and affordability.



HEILICHER 20 LEADERSHIP

Implementation Leads

Yoni Binus, *Head of School*

Maia Poling, *General Studies Director*

Etan Weiss, *Jewish Life and Hebrew Director*

Rebecca Skelton, *Institutional Advancement Director*

Strategic Plan Oversight Committee

Ron Krebs, *Chair*

Esther Goldberg-Davis

Neil Moses-Zirkes

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