



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT Hebrew Department Suggested Teacher Talking Points

Getting Ready

- Write the class level, your name, and your contact information on the board.
- Take pictures of the students engaging in various activities in class during the first couple of weeks of the school year.
- Bring: Class textbooks, sample students' work (if not already on walls).
- Play Israeli music in the background as parents walk in.

Power Point Presentation

Slide 1) You and Your Class

- Share your "Hebrew story". Make it personal for the parents.
- Add a slide with some pictures from the specific class engaged in learning.

Slide 2) Overview

- Goals for Learning Hebrew
- Benefits of Second Language Learning
- Our Instructional Approach
- Our Hebrew Curriculum/Program: Topics, Expected Outcomes in the 4 Skills by the end of the school year, & Key Projects
- Hebrew class website, Grading, Homework policy and procedures & Communication

Slide 3) Hebrew Department Goals

- Share you school's Hebrew Mission & Vision (if applicable)
- You can share orally that:
 - Research shows that language is the key vehicle to collective identity formation. As such, we believe that the Hebrew language is an important vehicle to your child's Jewish Identity, to instill Jewish values and cultivate a life-long connection to Israel and the Jewish people. At XXX we also seek to develop our students' *active* linguistic ability; it is important to us that your child's will be able to speak Hebrew as a modern language, feel at home with the Hebrew language.

Slide 4) Additional Key Benefit for Learning a Second Language

Brain research and research related to language acquisition clearly shows that there are great academic and social benefits to studying another language. Learning a second language promotes cognitive development, which supports academic achievement.

Learning a second language:

- Enhances students' critical thinking skills, listening skills and memory.
- Increases verbal scores of students on the SAT with each additional year of foreign-language study.
- Promotes greater understanding of their own language
- Develops positive attitudes toward nations and groups perceived as "other," become comfortable to communicate in the global world

If you have some written reflections of their students about Why Hebrew? Share those with the parents instead.

Slide 5) Instructional Approaches

- At XXX we follow up-to-date approaches to language teaching: the communicative approach and critical pedagogy. We focus on the development of all 4 language skills (+viewing). Comprehension/input and production/output increase in both length and complexity from the beginning of the year to the end and from year to year.
- Stress the fact that we speak in class only in Hebrew.

Slide 6) Our Hebrew Curriculum/Program

Over the summer, we worked on creating a Scope and Sequence (if applicable to your school).

- Show the key communicative goals for the specific class.

To achieve these goals, we will use the ZZZ program that is centered on themes of interest to children/teenagers. OR we have created in-house units with the help of Hebrew at the Center.

Our class is in the YYY level. That means that your child will learn new words and new grammar and be able to communicate about [list the unit topics/themes].

- As you speak show some relevant pictures or sample recordings from last year's students in the 4 skills.
- Talk and show the growth in length and complexity of language use and sentence structure, depth of thinking and expression from reading, listening, writing, speaking samples from unit 1 and from the final expected outcomes at the end of the year.
- Tell parents that they can follow their child's progress if they ask them to show the recordings and writings. Periodically you will ask students to share their work and get the parents feedback in writing.

Slide 7) Hebrew class website, Grading, Homework Policy and Procedures

Slide 8) Communication

- Share with parents how you will be communicating with them: live gradebook, emails, etc.
- Let them know what the best way is to get in touch with you. Provide and point to your contact information.

בהצלחה!