

**The World in Our Jewish Day Schools:  
How the Social, Cultural, and Political Climate  
in Which We Live Impacts Our Work**

The Quest for Teaching Excellence

Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

7:45 am – 3:45 pm

## **Workshop Session 1:**

### **We Noticed, We Observed, We're Curious, Now What?**

EC – 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Rena Allen**

This workshop will discuss best practices when identifying an area of challenge for a child in your class or school. We'll cover effective observation tactics, effective ways to intervene in order to collect more information, and effective communication strategies with parents. We will look at case studies, and answer all of your questions while tapping into the knowledge in the room.

### **Choice that Boosts Intrinsic Motivation**

**ALL Teachers and Administrators**

**Mike Anderson**

Don't we all want students who come to school fired up for a day of great learning? And yet so often, students can appear apathetic and unmotivated. So how do we help flip the switch? One powerful and practical strategy is to offer students meaningful choices about what and how they learn. In this session, you'll learn practical strategies for implementing student choice effectively--how to create good choices, how to structure choice experiences, how to help kids make appropriate choices, and more. You'll also gain access to a robust set of resources to help you implement choice when you head back to your classroom.

### **"Over-Parenting" and "Under-Parenting": How Educators Can Help Families Work as a Team**

**MS/US**

**Sara Mendez Emma**

This workshop will address the 'crises' in schools regarding the over/under parents of today by sharing examples of healthy engagement techniques, conversation starters, and approaches that encourage parents to allow their child to struggle (or even fail) and then get back up again and succeed. It will provide research and strategies to help educators and counselors work collaboratively with families to ensure successful yet independent student achievements.

## **Intrinsic Motivation in the Judaic Studies Classroom**

**JS LS – 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Rabbi Shmuel Feld**

Imagine a classroom where students participate in learning without the burdens of reward or punishment. Discover an instructional method leveraging intrinsic motivation that helps students develop the skill of cultivating interest and engagement. Explore an approach for gathering data about students' intrinsic tendencies and designing a plan to coach these skills in individuals. Students should engage in the pursuit of mastery without extrinsic motivators so they can develop a passion for Jewish learning that extends beyond our classroom and assignments.

## **Bring Your Classroom to Life Through Emergent Curriculum**

**EC-2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Emily Fox**

Emergent curriculum brings learning to life for young children by fostering their interests, questions, and ideas. It allows children to serve as partners in their education, and requires teachers to carefully observe, reflect, and co-create authentic learning experiences with each other and students. This session will offer an introduction to building an emergent curriculum in your classroom, including simple techniques and strategies to help you get started. Examining articles and examples, we will explore the role of provocations, observations, documentation, and reflection, and realistic ways to employ each in your classroom. Together, we'll practice these methods through role-play, and brainstorm together how to bring it back to your classroom.

## **Innovation in the Classroom**

**US**

**Jason Frasca and Iain Kerr**

Recently many innovation & entrepreneurship methodologies have been developed: Design Thinking, ICorps, Lean, Disciplined Entrepreneurship, BMC, etc. but none fully encompasses all of innovation from disruptive to developmental. It is time to look holistically at the totality of innovation. We wish to introduce just such a new meta-methodology: Innovation Design, which pragmatically encompasses & contextualizes existing methodologies while offering additional new tools for disruptive innovation. The workshop includes a hands-on innovation experience that can be used in 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms across all disciplines.

**The Online Mentch: Being a Jewish Global Digital Citizen**  
**JS 4<sup>th</sup> and Up**  
**Smadar Goldstein, JETS**

The meteoric development of digital communication in the last decade has left many parents and educators feeling powerless in confronting the resulting social challenges that students face. The JETS Online Mentch program, with components for teachers, parents, and students, applies Jewish values to 21st century communication to help educators provide a structure for parents and students that fosters a culture of mutual respect in the students' digital interactions. The goal of the workshop is to guide participants in designing an Online Mentch campaign, based on the digital course, that incorporates Jewish values to address challenges in online communication. Walk away with a meaningful list of Jewish resources with which to address cyberbullying, evaluating and writing ratings and reviews, self-evaluation of phone use and communication, and more.

**T'fillah as a Launching Pad**  
**MS/US Admin and Teachers**  
**Oren Kaunfer**

What would it take for our students to see t'fillah as a launching pad for their day? What would motivate them to be intentional about how they show up in the world they inhabit? How can we help students lift their heads off the page, turn to one another and the world around them and exclaim, "Holy! The world is filled with amazingness that is bigger than myself!"? In this workshop, we will think collaboratively about creative ways to foster students' connection to t'fillah. We will begin with the recognition that t'fillah/prayer does not simply reside in a siddur/prayer book and then see where else we can find, feel, and be inspired by "t'fillah" moments. Be ready to think creatively as we see t'fillah through the eyes of your students.

**You Are Not Stressed (Ok, Maybe You Are)!**  
**ALL**  
**Dr. Marc Kramer**

The expectations placed on educators in day schools have grown exponentially over the years, adding to the pressure and resulting stress teachers already feel. In this workshop, we will name and address a wide range of stressful issues for day school professionals, identifying and practicing self-care strategies that will help personally and professionally.

**Creating a Supportive Learning Environment in Your Classroom**  
**ALL**  
**Dr. Erica Lander Miller**

Students across the country are currently endorsing higher levels of stress than in the past due

to a multitude of factors. The learning environment has become particularly important to address the social emotional needs of our children. We will discuss how to improve peer relations in the school and in your classroom with a focus on making the environment a positive place for students to learn and grow.

### **The Basics of Better Conversations**

**ALL**

**Eliza O'Neil**

In this first workshop, participants will dive into the basics of dialogue both in and out of the classroom. They will explore what it means to shift from “teacher” to “facilitator,” and learn activities that strengthen listening and questioning. The workshop will break down several tried-and-true facilitative techniques through applied practice in order to equip participants with skills to face conversations rooted in conflict and uncertainty with courage and curiosity rather than fear and avoidance. **Note: Participants can attend one or both of Eliza O'Neil's sessions; however, those choosing to participate in session 2 must have attended session 1.**

### **Design Thinking: A Tool for Bettering Our World**

**Administrators and Non-teaching Professionals**

**Rabbi Dr. Gil Perl**

Design Thinking is a collaborative problem-solving protocol aimed at surfacing innovative, people-centered solutions to complex challenges. Developed in Stanford's D-School and popularized by Tim Brown and his consulting firm Ideo, Design Thinking has been used to solve problems as big as turning around massive urban public school systems and as small as figuring out how best to ensure the classroom gerbil is properly cared for during an upcoming school vacation. In this workshop we'll learn the basic steps of Design Thinking and then we'll put it into practice as we try to solve a problem germane to our world as educators and administrators. Participants will leave with the tools necessary to apply the protocol to problem-solving scenarios in their classrooms, faculty-meetings, or just about anywhere else.

### **Hey Kids, Get ON Social Media!: Encouraging Positive Use of Social Media for Advocacy and Engagement**

**MS/US**

**Mandi Perlmutter**

Many of us are concerned about the negative impact of social media on children and teens. This workshop will explore the use of social media to help students become effective advocates for their beliefs on social issues and contributors of positive community engagement. Note: this workshop will include a Twitter tutorial. Please come prepared with a Twitter account downloaded on a smart device.

**Exploring Our World Through Collaborative Art**  
**MS/US**  
**Shirah Rubin**

Explore the process of machloket (disagreement) through collaborative art. We will explore street art of Tel Aviv, Jewish muralists, and ancient synagogue mosaics. The goal of this session is to engage in text study which leads to the process of creating art. We will then discuss how to use the lessons learned from that activity to develop a plan for implementing a similar interdisciplinary project where current news events are translated into art in your school. This session will focus on Jewish values-based learning that will be appropriate for early childhood and lower elementary school audiences. Diverse faculty from the same school are highly encouraged to participate together!

**Holiday Engagement with a Contemporary Twist**  
**EC-2nd**  
**Justin Sakofs**

The holidays create the rhythm for our school cycle: Hagei Tishrei, Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Passover and Israeli "Yoms", and create a cultural bridge between the home and school, but their effect is even deeper. The holidays both secular and Jewish as well as events such as the Super Bowl all create powerful social moments for families. As educators, how can we create a Jewish beat to the school rhythm by crafting an engaging environment, empowering the students and connecting them to tradition both contemporary and past? Together, we'll find ways to collaborate across our disciplines for impactful opportunities.

**"Torah Lishma" Text-Study Session: Debunking Ancient Cultural Notions in Early Biblical Narratives**  
**ALL**  
**Rabbi Allen Schwartz**

The cultural milieu of the Ancient Near East allowed and encouraged behaviors that were not humanly sustainable. No one understood this besides some ancient heroes, such as Noah and Abraham whose morality was passed onto their descendants who were charged with changing the ancient world's cultural patterns. We will show how the Torah works through this mission in narrative as well as in law.

**Using Lessons from the Past to Teach Lessons of Today: Holocaust Education and Anti-Semitism**  
**MS/US**  
**Ilyse Shainbrown**

This workshop will focus on utilizing lessons from the Holocaust in order to open discussion on modern day anti-Semitism and activism. The workshop will be centered on enabling students

to learn from the past in order to prepare for today's world. By using personal narratives from the Holocaust, we will explore ways in which lessons can be taught that enhance the understanding that Jewish teens have today about the past of anti-Semitism and how to ensure the lessons of "Never Forget."

### **Using Text Study to Increase Spirituality**

**JS US**

**Michal Smart, Ayeka**

Rav Kook teaches that the purpose of education is spiritual unity. In order to be effective, teachers must address not only their students' intellects, but also their emotions, actions and imagination. In this active workshop, participants will explore a short text by Rav Kook which lies at the core of Ayeka's pedagogy and expand their own capacity to be effective in each of these dimensions. This approach will help Judaic Studies address students' real lives and bring the benefit of Jewish wisdom into their relationships and engagement with the world.

### **Hugging and Wrestling with Israel**

**MS/US**

**Amit Stern**

How do we teach about complexity in Israel education? When we talk about Israel, we often use the word "complexity" as a euphemism for "uncomfortable" and avoid the complex aspects of Israel education. In the workshop, we will discuss ways to address complexity in the classroom through a test case of current events in Israel. While doing so, we will experience what it is like to genuinely embrace the vibrant energy that honest engagement with Israel's complexity can bring.

### **Creating a Culture of Israel Education: A Relational Approach**

**ALL**

**Dan Tatar, iCenter**

What is Israel education? What are the principles of Israel education in 2019? Twenty-first century Jewish life requires a new paradigm for Israel education that remains loyal to the past but speaks to the present and future. With the Aleph Bet of Israel Education as our foundation of excellence, we will explore strategies for transforming Israel from "a subject that is studied" to a meaningful learning experience that shapes a culture. **Note: Participants are encouraged, but not required, to attend both iCenter sessions to fully appreciate their approach as both a theory and a practice.**

### **Communication and Collaboration with The Second City**

**ALL**

**Andrew Thorp**

Workshop participants will utilize Second City Training Center exercises and concepts to gain skills in communicating and collaborating with co-workers and students. Participants will experience progressive hands-on games to help develop active listening skills, explore methods to embrace diverse and/or conflicting ideas and overcome challenges with creative problem-solving.

### **Executive Function and Tools for School Success**

**EC/LS**

**Rebecca Wanatik**

Executive functions enable us to function productively every day. They guide how we behave toward our future goals and what cognitive abilities we need to accomplish them. This workshop will discuss typical executive function, characteristics of Executive Function Disorder and strategies to assist students and teachers in the classroom.

### **The ABCs of Securing Federal Funds for Non-Public Schools– PART I**

**Finance, Administrators, and by Invitation**

**Yocheved Ziskind**

Local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to provide equitable services- comparable to those available in public schools- to eligible students and teachers in non-public schools. Learn what benefits are available and how to secure them effectively. Learn key elements of a successful consultation with your district representatives. This session will also cover accessing and allocating Title I funding for improving the academic achievement of disadvantaged students. A brief history of ESSA will provide context. **Note: Participation in both of Yocheved Ziskind's workshops is encouraged but not necessary.**

## **Workshop Session 2:**

### **We Noticed, We Observed, We're Curious, Now What?**

**EC – 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Rena Allen**

This workshop will discuss best practices when identifying an area of challenge for a child in your class or school. We'll cover effective observation tactics, effective ways to intervene in order to collect more information, and effective communication strategies with parents. We will look at case studies, and answer all of your questions while tapping into the knowledge in the room.

### **Language that Boosts Engagement**

**ALL Teachers and Administrators**

**Mike Anderson**

Have you ever said to a student, "I love the way you're working so hard!"? How about, "Here are the three things I'll be looking for in this next piece of work,"? Or perhaps you've said, "If you all work really hard for the next 30 minutes, we'll do something fun at the end of class!" You probably have—we all have. Even though these statements (among many others) are used with the best of intentions, they might actually lead students to disengage and learn less! In this workshop, you'll learn about several common language habits and patterns that many educators find themselves in and have a chance to explore better alternatives. You'll also learn about a process for changing language habits so that your language better aligns with your best intentions and positive goals for students.

### **"Over-Parenting" and "Under-Parenting": How Educators Can Help Families Work as a Team** **EC/LS**

**Sara Mendez Emma**

This workshop will address the 'crises' in schools regarding the over/under parents of today by sharing examples of healthy engagement techniques, conversation starters, and approaches that encourage parents to allow their child to struggle (or even fail) and then get back up again and succeed. It will provide research and strategies to help educators and counselors work collaboratively with families to ensure successful yet independent student achievements.

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**Rabbi Shmuel Feld**

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students develop the skill of cultivating interest and engagement. Explore an approach for gathering data about students' intrinsic tendencies and designing a plan to coach these skills in individuals. Students should engage in the pursuit of mastery without extrinsic motivators so they can develop a passion for Jewish learning that extends beyond our classroom and assignments.

### **Bring Your Classroom to Life Through Emergent Curriculum**

**EC-2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Emily Fox**

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### **Innovation in the Classroom**

**K-8<sup>th</sup>**

**Jason Frasca and Iain Kerr**

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### **The Online Mentch: Being a Jewish Global Digital Citizen**

**GS and JS 4<sup>th</sup> and Up**

**Smadar Goldstein, JETS**

The meteoric development of digital communication in the last decade has left many parents and educators feeling powerless in confronting the resulting social challenges that students face. The JETS Online Mentch program, with components for teachers, parents, and students, applies Jewish values to 21st century communication to help educators provide a structure for parents and students that fosters a culture of mutual respect in the students' digital interactions. The goal of the workshop is to guide participants in designing an Online Mentch campaign, based on the digital course, that incorporates Jewish values to address challenges in

online communication. Walk away with a meaningful list of Jewish resources with which to address cyberbullying, evaluating and writing ratings and reviews, self-evaluation of phone use and communication, and more.

### **Using Music to Build a Singing Community at Day Schools**

**K-8 Admin and Teachers, Music Teachers**

**Oren Kaunfer**

Sometimes we need to be reminded that singing is a true spiritual endeavor that deeply connects us to one another and to our Jewish tradition. Come learn how to weave music into the entire fabric of the day school community. Explore ways to experience music outwardly and inwardly with children, balancing raucous joy and quiet stillness. There will be lots of space for questions and answers, and maybe even a song.

### **You Are Not Stressed (Ok, Maybe You Are)!**

**ALL**

**Dr. Marc Kramer**

The expectations placed on educators in day schools have grown exponentially over the years, adding to the pressure and resulting stress teachers already feel. In this workshop, we will name and address a wide range of stressful issues for day school professionals, identifying and practicing self-care strategies that will help personally and professionally.

### **Integrating Shlichim and Rishonim into Our Schools**

**Shiri Mass**

**EC/LS/MS**

How do encounters with native Israelis help students experience Israel with their mind, heart, and body? We will discuss how to use an Israeli in the classroom to explore Israel with the students in ways that are both inspiring and relevant. We will brainstorm different platforms in school in which we can have the Israelis involved in an impactful way and share examples for best practices of shlichim and Rishonim in day schools.

### **Managing Anxiety in Your Classroom**

**ALL**

**Dr. Erica Lander Miller**

This presentation will focus on helping educators differentiate typical anxiety from unhealthy anxiety in their students. We will discuss how to support students who struggle with anxiety while at the same time encouraging continued growth.

### **Application and Practice of Dialogue**

**ALL**

## **Eliza O'Neil**

In the second session of this workshop, participants will have an opportunity to experience being in a true dialogue with fellow participants. This experience will deepen their understanding of what it feels and sounds like to be in dialogue with peers, while also demonstrating to them how they themselves might implement such a practice in their classrooms, meetings with colleagues, and personal lives. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of the role dialogue can play in their classrooms, alongside tools they can apply immediately with their students and colleagues. **Note: Participants can attend one or both of Eliza O'Neil's sessions; however, those choosing to participate in session 2 must have attended session 1.**

## **Design Thinking: A Tool for Bettering Our World**

**ALL Teachers**

**Rabbi Dr. Gil Perl**

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## **How to Promote Your School (and Maybe Yourself!) Using Social Media and Community Engagement Strategies**

**Marketing Professionals; Teachers/Administrators who would like to share their work more broadly**

**Mandi Perlmutter**

This workshop has two goals: (1) to explore the use of social media and engagement strategies to strengthen your school's local relationships and connections to community leaders; and (2) to provide suggestions for "branding" your work as a Jewish educator. Note: this workshop will include a Twitter tutorial. Please come prepared with a Twitter account downloaded on a smart device.

## **Exploring Our World Through Collaborative Art**

**EC/LS**

**Shirah Rubin**

Explore the process of machloket (disagreement) through collaborative art. We will explore

street art of Tel Aviv, Jewish muralists, and ancient synagogue mosaics. The goal of this session is to engage in text study which leads to the process of creating art. We will then discuss how to use the lessons learned from that activity to develop a plan for implementing a similar interdisciplinary project where current news events are translated into art in your school. This session will focus on Jewish values-based learning that will be appropriate for early childhood and lower elementary school audiences. Diverse faculty from the same school are highly encouraged to participate together!

### **Holiday Engagement with a Contemporary Twist**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - MS**

**Justin Sakofs**

The holidays create the rhythm for our school cycle: Hagei Tishrei, Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Passover and Israeli "Yoms", and create a cultural bridge between the home and school, but their effect is even deeper. The holidays, both secular and Jewish, as well as events such as the Super Bowl, all create powerful social moments for families. As educators, how can we create a Jewish beat to the school rhythm by crafting an engaging environment, empowering the students and connecting them to tradition both contemporary and past? Together, we'll find ways to collaborate across our disciplines for impactful opportunities.

### **"Torah Lishma" Text-Study Session: Universalism and Particularism in Biblical Narrative and Law**

**ALL**

**Rabbi Allen Schwartz**

We will discuss how a chosen people, called "Am Segula," can project a universal message of love, charity and justice to the entire world. We will do this through Biblical Narrative and Law as well as through Biblical Prophecies of the latter prophets, such as Yona Isaiah and Amos.

### **Using Lessons from the Past to Teach Lessons of Today: Jewish History in the Civil Rights Movement**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Ilyse Shainbrown**

Although it is often times overlooked, several Jewish leaders and individuals played a prominent role during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. This workshop will focus on using local history from that era to open discussion about social action in today's world. These lessons are an excellent springboard for bringing modern-day activism into our classrooms.

### **Using Text Study to Increase Spirituality**

**JS 4<sup>th</sup> - MS**

**Michal Smart**

Rav Kook teaches that the purpose of education is spiritual unity. In order to be effective, teachers must address not only their students' intellects, but also their emotions, actions and imagination. In this active workshop, participants will explore a short text by Rav Kook which lies at the core of Ayeka's pedagogy and expand their own capacity to be effective in each of these dimensions. This approach will help Judaic Studies address students' real lives and bring the benefit of Jewish wisdom into their relationships and engagement with the world.

### **The Power of Narratives in Israel Education**

**ALL**

**Dan Tatar, iCenter**

Stories are our strongest tools for connecting to others, developing relationships, and conveying a particular message. We look at the world through stories, and personal stories are essential to building a resonating and enduring relationship with Israel. We will explore ways to develop and articulate our own personal stories and learn how to help story bearers connect their lives, their own culture, and their own history, to that of the Jewish state and society. Continuing with concepts from the first workshop, this session will offer practical applications and resources for educators' work in the field. **Note: Participants are encouraged, but not required, to attend both iCenter sessions to fully appreciate their approach as both a theory and a practice.**

### **Communication and Collaboration with The Second City**

**ALL**

**Andrew Thorp**

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### **The ABCs of Securing Federal Funds for Non-Public Schools– PART II**

**Finance, Administrators, and by Invitation**

**Yocheved Ziskind**

Are your students receiving all the equitable services they are entitled to under federal programs such as Title I, Title IIA and Title IV? Jewish day schools may be leaving money on the table if they shy away from working with districts to assert student needs. Learn how to access federal funding for professional development, technology, school safety and advantageous educational opportunities like STEM programs, college and career counseling, and reading and math supplemental services. **Note: Participation in both of Yocheved Ziskind's workshops is encouraged but not necessary.**