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Jewish Community Federation  
OF RICHMOND

  
Up Close



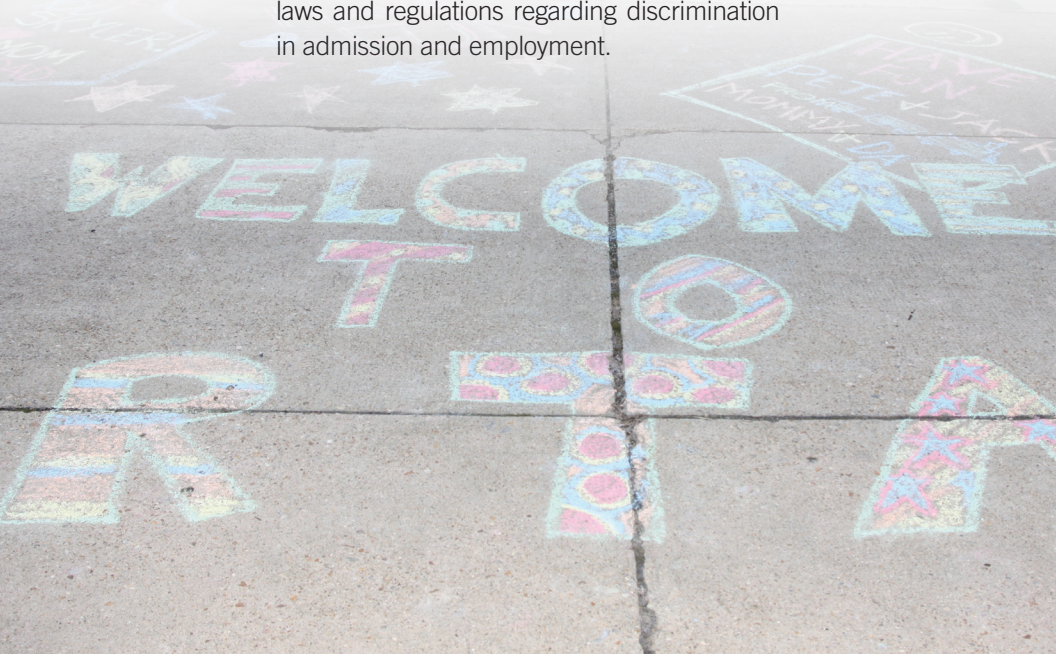
*Stellar Education for Every Jewish Child*



### VAIS ACCREDITED

VAIS (Virginia Association of Independent Schools) is a service organization that promotes educational, ethical and professional excellence. Through its school evaluation/accreditation program, attention to professional development and insistence on integrity, the Association safeguards the interests of its member schools.

VAIS is a non-profit, voluntary membership association of schools that share compatible philosophies and goals. VAIS is an affiliate of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and a member of the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE) and the NAIS Commission on Accreditation. The VAIS and its member schools comply with all applicable laws and regulations regarding discrimination in admission and employment.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the Rudlin Torah Academy, a place where children learn to love learning, explore the beauty of our heritage, and strive for greatness in an environment that is open, warm, and nurturing.

In RTA we teach the whole child, inspiring a thirst for knowledge and wisdom that is intellectual, ethical, and spiritual. We are a diverse family, welcoming students and families from all Jewish backgrounds into an environment that is inclusive and accepting.

Nearing a half-century of service in the Richmond Jewish community, RTA has enriched the lives of over 1,500 alumni with an outstanding dual program. Our graduates are superbly prepared to meet the challenges of the modern world as evidenced by their acceptance and success in the best private and public school programs in Richmond. Their Jewish knowledge and self-confidence radiates into every facet of their lives. RTA students have a well-deserved reputation in our community as independent thinkers, creative problem-solvers, and leaders of their peers.

### THE RECIPE FOR OUR TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS:

- Our talented teachers are the best in the field. In addition to being innovative, brilliant educators, they are also exceptional human beings, who truly love and value every single child who is entrusted into their care.
- Our parent body is loyal, supportive, and passionate about our school. Their countless hours of volunteer efforts help us to be a home and a family where there is always something exciting happening!
- And our students – our *raison d'être* – make us incredibly proud every single day, with their abilities to shine in and out of the classroom, radiating a joyful success in all their endeavors.

Accredited by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools, RTA is also a proud member of the National Association of Hebrew Schools.

We invite you to come visit the school and see our classes in action anytime. We are confident that when you do, you will see just what we mean by “that RTA magic!”

Rabbi Yosef Bart, Principal  
Rudlin Torah Academy

## WHY A SECOND LANGUAGE

### LINGUISTIC BENEFITS

Starting early is better.

- Young brains are inherently flexible, and hard-wired to acquire language.
- Younger learners have more “flexible” ears and speech muscles that can still hear and reproduce the sounds of a second language.
- Younger learners more easily attain fluency.
- An early start facilitates learning of additional Languages.
- Benefits are optimized by an earlier start and long, continuous exposure.

### COGNITIVE BENEFITS

Foreign language learning is a cognitive problem solving activity.

- Children who study a second language show higher cognitive performance in all overall basic skills in elementary school.
- Second language learners have better verbal and problem-solving skills, enhanced spatial relations, and heightened creativity.
- Students who are learning a foreign language out-score their non-foreign language learning peers in the verbal and the math sections of standardized tests.

### GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP BENEFITS

Knowing other languages is a 21st century skill.

- Children who identify as part of a world community experience more openness and acceptance of linguistic and cultural diversity.
- A robust curriculum prepares students to live and work in a global society.

## WHY JUDAIC STUDIES

### CRITICAL THINKING

The language of the Torah is poetic, and sometimes cryptic, the words and verses are subject to infinite levels of understanding.

- This means students learn, at an early age, that seemingly simple premises or statements can yield multiple interpretations and outcomes. Learning that several interpretations may arise from the same text is mind opening – it enriches the students’ ability to understand complexity and consequences, an intellectual lesson which applies both to their studies and their lives.
- Torah study dwells among the highest domains of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. This is a result not just of the fact that we study or even what we study, but the manner in which we study – the Jewish approach to how we study is itself the means by which our intellect grows.

### ETHICAL VALUES

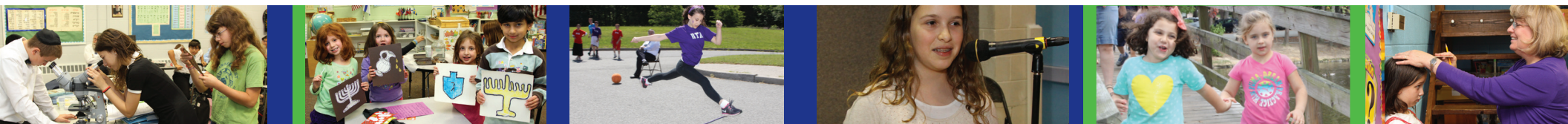
“The study of Torah leads to good deeds” - Talmud

- Students are meant to live what they learn.
- Students are exposed to an ethical standard by which to judge what is right or wrong.
- The study of Torah promotes ethical living, directing us toward community service and social justice.

### CULTURAL LITERACY

Judaic studies gives students a deep understanding of Jewish identity, history and culture.

- Students feel connected to and responsible for the Jewish Community locally and around in the world.
- Torah study also gives student facility with the single greatest source of cultural references in Western philosophy and literature.



# DUAL CURRICULUM

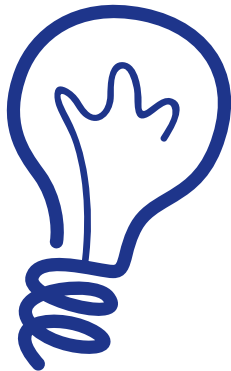
## WHO CHOOSES RTA?

We are proud of our diversity. Our families come from all over the Metropolitan area; some are long-term Richmond residents, many have recently moved to the area and a good number hail from other countries. As an independent school not affiliated with any synagogue, RTA has a half century history of attracting families who represent every level of Jewish observance. We have families from every synagogue, as well as unaffiliated and interfaith families.

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At RTA, we create an educational environment that puts academic excellence within each student's reach. We believe learning is more than lectures and testing, repetition and response. In the early grades, Montessori methods such as center-based and small group learning help young minds and small hands grasp, comprehend and apply new knowledge.

Later grades emphasize critical thinking and analysis using Socratic dialogue. In an age where information is at everyone's fingertips, we believe it is crucial to develop the ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate this information. The results support our methods. In the last ten years our test scores have averaged 15 percentile points above local counties, and 95% of our graduates who apply to specialty programs and Governor's Schools gain admission.



## GENERAL STUDIES

### GRADES 1–4:

English Language Arts  
Social Studies  
Mathematics  
Science  
Physical Education  
Art  
Music Appreciation  
Virginia History (4th grade)

### GRADES 5–8:

English Language Arts  
Emphasis on creative writing,  
literature and independent critical  
thinking

### HISTORY:

U.S. History (5th grade)  
World History (6th grade)  
Civics (Honors-7th grade)  
Economics (Honors-8th grade)

### SCIENCE:

Foundations of Life, Earth & Physical  
Science I (5th grade)  
Foundations of Life, Earth & Physical  
Science II (6th grade)  
Life Science (7th grade)  
Physical Science (8th grade)

### MATHEMATICS:

Mathematics 5  
Mathematics 6  
Pre-Algebra (Honors-7th grade)  
Algebra (Honors -8th grade)

Physical Education  
Art  
Music Appreciation

## JUDAIC STUDIES

### GRADES 1–4:

Hebrew Reading and Writing  
Jewish Law and Customs (Halacha)  
Modern Hebrew Language  
Chumash  
Analysis and debate through study  
of Biblical texts and commentaries  
(begins in 2nd grade)  
Mishna  
Critical thinking, public speaking and  
application of ideas through study of  
Talmudic case law (begins in  
4th grade)

### GRADES 5–8:

5TH & 6TH GRADE:  
Talmudic Case Law (Mishna)  
Critical thinking, public speaking and  
application of ideas through study of  
case law  
Jewish Law and Customs (Halacha)  
Chumash Advanced  
High level analysis and debate  
through study and interpretation of  
text and commentaries  
Modern Hebrew Language

### GRADES 7–8:

Talmud  
Advanced Jewish Law & Literature  
Jewish Legal Codes (Halacha)  
Advanced Text Analysis  
Modern Hebrew Language  
Navi (Jewish Philosophy, Prophets)  
Text and Commentary