

Name _____

Class: _____



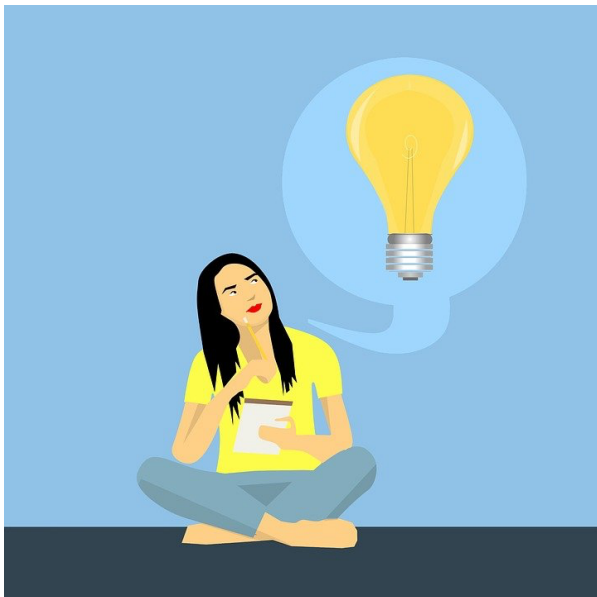
Part 1: What is a Mission Statement?

According to www.edglossary.org:

A mission statement, or simply a mission, is a public declaration that schools or other educational organizations use to describe their founding **purpose** and major organizational commitments—i.e., what they do and why they do it.

What would you put in our school mission statement?

If you could be Mr. Freedman, what would be the key ingredient, or most important phrase, to put in our school's mission statement? Brainstorm words or phrases that you think best describes our school's purpose, or mission, below.



Part 2: What is our School Mission? How does it Compare?

Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County is a warm, inclusive Jewish day school that educates children from Early Childhood through Eighth Grade with a vigorous dual curriculum in general and Judaic studies. We inspire our students to be engaged, independent learners who embrace Jewish values and practices and strive with confidence and compassion to better the world.

Activity 1: find any words in our school mission that match phrases that you brainstormed. Underline those phrases or words in the mission above.

Activity 2: Read the IB Mission statement below. Circle any words in the IB mission statement below that seem to match our school's mission statement.

IB Mission Statement:

The IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Activity 3: Discuss as a group...

1. Why do you think it's important to have a mission statement?
2. Were you surprised by any parts that were the same or by any parts that were different? Why?
3. Why do you think our school chose to become an IB World School?
4. Knowing our mission and the IB Mission, why do you think our middle school chose to read *New Kid* by Jerry Craft? How does it relate to the larger world?
5. Our school has declared more than a mission. We have also declared our Core Values. (see next page) How do our core values relate to why we chose to read *New Kid* as a kehillah?
6. Why do you think Jordan's parents made him switch to Riverdale Academy?

SSDS CORE VALUES

M'tzuyanut Academit (Academic Excellence)

We provide our students with a first-rate education, allowing each to realize their full academic potential through independent, critical inquiry and authentic self-expression.

Kehillah Kedosha (Sacred Community)

We create a sacred community of students, families, and educators based on a shared commitment to each other and to Jewish life and learning. We promote positive, healthy relationships in an environment of mutual respect.

Klal Yisrael (Unity of the Jewish People)

We embrace diverse Jewish beliefs, practices, and backgrounds, guided by our dual commitment to *Halakha* and egalitarianism. We are united by our shared values and strengthened by our differences.

Talmud Torah (Inspired Jewish Learning)

We instill a deep love of Judaism, while helping students sanctify their lives and elevate the everyday. We guide our students to work collaboratively and creatively in their serious study of Jewish texts.

Tikkun Olam (Improving the World)

We inspire our students to pursue peace, compassion, freedom, and equality. We empower our students to make a difference by doing acts of *Tzedek* (justice) and *Gemilut Hasadim* (loving kindness).