

# Our Mission

As a Jewish day school, we strive to ensure an academically rich environment which honors the whole child. Portland Jewish Academy nurtures and inspires Jewish engagement, *kavod*/respect, and responsibility for the world in which we live.



Think for yourself. Work for the world.

# Our Middot



## לימוד Limmud – Study

*“Delve into it and continue to delve into it, for everything is in it.” (Pirkei Avot 5:26)*

PJA believes in education for the whole child and supports multiple approaches to learning. Love of life, Judaism, and learning are integrated into all aspects of our school community.

## כבוד Kavod – Respect

*“Who is worthy of honor? One who honors all of creation.” (Avot 4:01)*

As a community we learn to treat ourselves, others and the world with dignity and respect.

## אחריות Akhrayut – Responsibility

*“The day is short, the work is great. You are not expected to finish the work, but you are not free to desist.” (Pirkei Avot 2:20-21)*

At PJA, we are guided and inspired to take responsibility for the world in which we live. Through acts of Chesed - kindness, and Tikkun Olam - repairing the world, we see ourselves as agents of change who can achieve social justice and pursue peace.

# Our Middot



## קהילה Kehillah – Community

*“Bless all of us as one in Your light.”  
(Amidah prayer)*

Jewish learning and engagement enhances our participation in a variety of communities, and encourages a sense of belonging and connectedness.

## הודיה Hodayah – Appreciation

*“We gratefully thank you, God, for You have returned our souls within us with compassion.”*

*(Modeh Ani prayer)*

Our PJA community nurtures a sense of appreciation and gratitude for the world around us, inspired by Jewish thought and learning.

## זהות Zehut – Identity

*“Beloved is the person created in God’s image.” (Avot 3:14)*

Our middot serve as a foundation to form and build identity, both as a school and as individuals. We seize the opportunity to explore who we are, what we stand for and what we believe.

# PJA Diversity Statement

*"Every person is created from the stamp of the first person, yet no two people are exactly alike."*

*Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5*

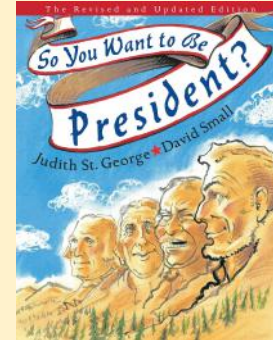
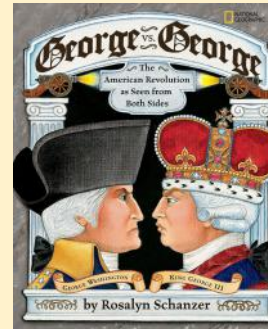
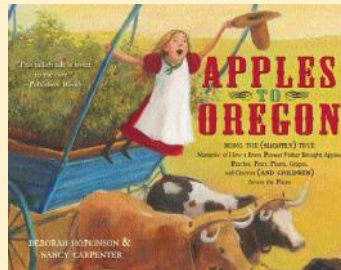
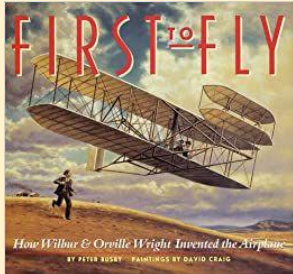
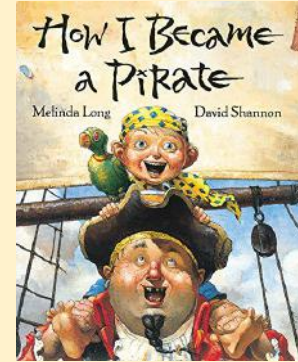
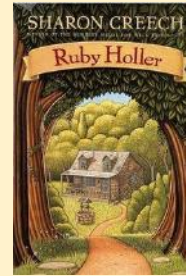
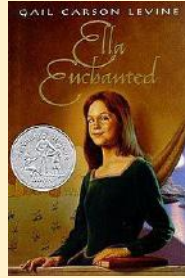
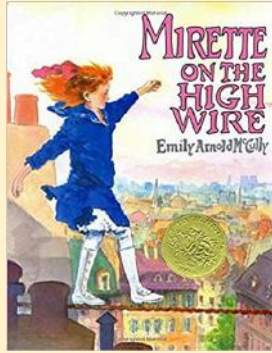
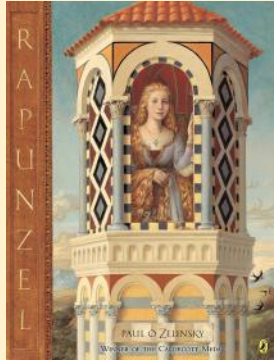
At PJA our mission and *middot* (core values) guide our community in viewing the world through a Jewish lens. We recognize, respect, and teach the importance of the vast expansiveness of human diversity.

Members of our school community represent a multitude of backgrounds, identities and religious observances and are committed to the values of *limmud* (study), *kavod* (respect), *akhrayut* (responsibility), *kehillah* (community), *hodayah* (appreciation), and *zehut* (identity).

# Diversity Statement

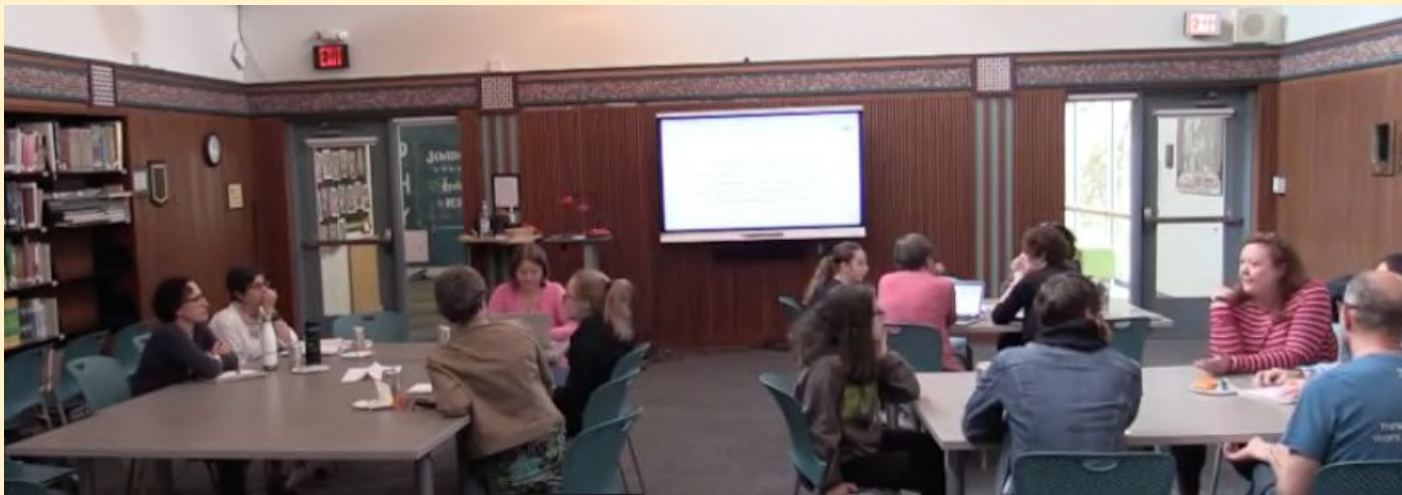
We are committed to creating and sustaining a safe, supportive, welcoming and compassionate environment for all. We recognize and respond to individual and institutional prejudices, both overt and subtle. We demonstrate our commitment to diversity in our program, policies and Jewish culture.

# Circa early 2000's



# PJA Diversity PLC--A “Brave Space” for Processing Difficult Topics

- Serve an increasingly diverse group of learners
- Seek to include diverse voices and experiences in their classroom curriculum
- Feel empowered to respond to moments of implicit bias/racism
- Embark upon our own journey exploring how race and privilege impacts our lives



# Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and the Danger of the Single Story





Dr. Pauletta Brown Bracy of North Carolina Central University and winner of the 2019 Virginia Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award



*Every book on your shelves  
should be a recommendation.*

# The Library of Congress



# Library Journal's Course on Fostering an Anti-Racist Library

A screenshot of a video player interface. The top-left corner shows 'Speakers (1)' and a small video window of a woman wearing a headset, identified as 'Angel Tucker'. The main video area displays a painting of four young Black boys sitting in front of an American flag. The year '1968' is visible on the flag. The bottom of the player shows a play button, a progress bar at 30:07, and a Creative Commons license icon. On the right side of the player, there is a sidebar with the 'LJ & SLJ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT' logo, a 'Support and Q & A' section, and an 'Agenda' section. The agenda lists the following items:

- Equity in Action: Fostering an Antiracist Library Culture**  
Tue., October 13, 2020, 2-4:15 pm ET  
[libraryjournalandmaker.co](http://libraryjournalandmaker.co)
- Session 1 | 2:00-2:30 pm ET**
- Using Local History to Combat Racism**  
Speaker:  
Angel Jewel Tucker, Youth Services Manager, Johnson County Library, Overland Park, KS
- Session 2 | 2:30-3:15 pm ET**
- Reassessing Our Core Values**  
Speaker: Andrea Blackman, Division Manager, Special Collections

# Current Work

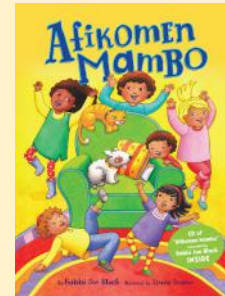
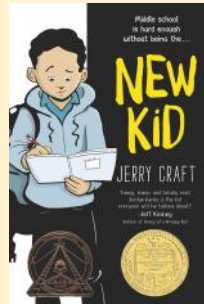
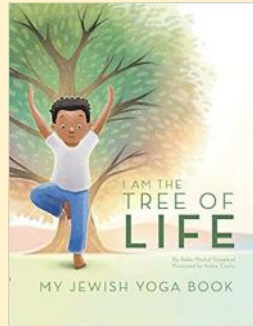
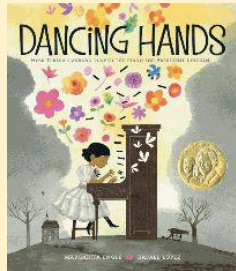
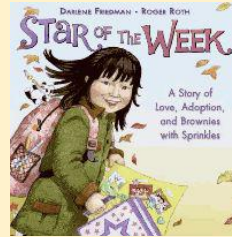
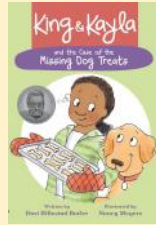
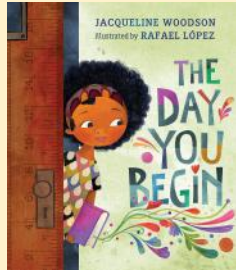
- Book and materials selection
- Collaboration
- Diversity Audit
- Family Survey
- Inkling of an idea. . .

*The books in our library should be  
both windows and mirrors. . .*



Rudine Sims Bishop

If you walked into the PJA Library today. . .



# Works Cited

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