



## High School General Studies Principal

### Barkai Yeshivah Mission

Barkai Yeshivah cultivates the unique potential of each ben and bat Torah, based on the belief that all elements of our world should be recognized through the framework of Torah. We provide a warm, child-centered environment in which students develop into lifelong learners and pursuers of knowledge who become the leaders of the next generation. Our general studies program develops high-level skills and a depth of knowledge that empowers our students to engage in the world as informed, proficient, and discerning citizens. Barkai's Hebrew immersion program creates students who have mastered the Hebrew language and have a deep love for the people, land, and state of Israel. We produce students who are ambassadors of our honored Sephardic heritage, traditions, and culture, ensuring the continuity and development of our community. We inculcate our students with a love of Hashem, a strong sense of personal identity and refined character. They are well-versed in Torah, committed to Mitzvot and prepared to live a Jewish life in the contemporary world.

### About The Position

Barkai Yeshivah is in a unique place in its history as an institution. Our elementary school just celebrated its 20-year anniversary. With the coming year, our enrollment will be near 450 students, which is by design, as we are child centered and very thoughtful in our educational model and execution. Beginning September 2023, Barkai will be opening a much needed and anticipated high school division. All of the high schools who currently receive Barkai elementary school graduates have commented on how socially aware, empathetic and refined our students are. They also find them to be problem solvers, adept at using texts, both in general and Judaic studies and broad scope thinkers who make connections between disciplines. Our school is at a point where we now have the ability to continue educating our students at the high school level, building on their solid Barkai foundation.

We have a nuanced approach with regards to the interaction between boys and girls. At Barkai High School, our male and female students will share the same facilities and will overlap at many points over the day, including lunch time, clubs and activities and special programs. However, boys and girls will be separate for their academic studies, with the exception, in 9th and 10th grade, of a

special leadership course. The goal of that class, in addition to teaching leadership skills, will be to teach young men and women how to interact in a respectful, wholesome, and dignified fashion. Our approach seeks to create an environment where men and women can flourish, feel confident and express themselves comfortably, at the same time, preparing them for the college environment and the world beyond Yeshivah day school.

Our Judaic Studies curriculum will be planned in a Bet Midrash style approach. Students will be learning more in smaller groups and through guided questions and sources by which they can engage more with each other and the texts, as opposed to being passive receivers of knowledge in a lecture style classroom.

Our general studies program will be one that focuses on cross disciplinary interaction, including Judaic Studies, so that students see the bigger picture, make references and connections, and appreciate the world in a way that is holistic and not compartmentalized. We plan to strike a healthy balance between traditional learning, whereby students gather information, and project-based learning, through which students implement their knowledge, experiment, explore, discover, problem solve and create ideas of their own. We also plan to offer a robust selection of AP and elective courses, preparing our students for admission to top colleges.

We will begin our high school with a 9th grade and add a grade each year over the next four years, as we build out a full program. Our target enrollment is 80-100 students per grade. We feel this is the perfect size to allow for a family atmosphere, which is a hallmark of Barkai, at the same time, maximizing opportunities in terms of social interactions, sports, and extracurricular activities.

In our new venture, which presents the opportunity to start with a clean slate, we are looking for a general studies principal to oversee the development and implementation of our general studies program.

## **Responsibilities**

- Oversees the creation, development, and implementation of the general studies curriculum
- Manages, supervises, and evaluates general studies faculty
- Works with the larger administrative team on recruiting and hiring general studies teachers
- Works with the larger administrative team on earning and maintaining accreditation for the school
- Works with the larger administrative team on planning and implementing professional development programs for staff
- Aids teachers in creating a conducive learning environment in their classrooms
- Networks with other schools and the greater educational world on new methodologies, opportunities, and educational ideas
- Facilitates and encourages student participation in competitions and other out of school engagements

- Participates in school-wide programs, including but not limited to, school events, strategic planning, recruitment of students, and policy setting
- Oversees parent education, including parent teacher conferences
- Oversees general studies assessments, ensuring a healthy balance between traditional assessments and alternative forms of assessment, as well as a healthy academic calendar
- Oversees school wide exams, including midterms and finals
- Oversees credit recovery program for students who may be falling behind

## Qualifications

- Proven success of leadership in an educational setting
- At least 3 years of experience in administration with a focus on general studies
- At least 5 years of experience teaching in a classroom setting
- An advanced degree in education, administration or a related field
- Ability to engage, at times, in difficult conversations with parents, students and faculty
- A good understanding of contemporary educational methodologies including Project Based Learning and STEM
- A willingness to begin something from the ground up and to learn new things
- Excellent organizational and communication skills
- Tech savvy (Google Suite, Microsoft Office, varied LMS programs)
- Willing to and proficient in both giving and receiving feedback
- Loves working with and engaging with teenagers
- Collaborative and team oriented with a focus on what is best for the student body

## About the Area

Barkai Yeshivah High School will be located in the Flatbush area of Brooklyn, serving the Sephardic-Syrian Jewish community. It is a vibrant community with several schools, synagogues, Jewish establishments and kosher restaurants in the immediate vicinity. The area is accessible by car and public transit, both bus and train. The community, as a whole, is incredibly excited about the opening of Barkai Yeshivah High School and anticipatory of an institution that will bring a new approach to learning and engaging their children. Our student body will be relatively homogeneous, with students coming from Barkai.

Elementary school, as well as other Sephardic day schools in the area. Our parent body will be committed to education and expecting the best educational experience for their children.

## To Apply

If you would like to be considered for this role, please send a resume and cover letter to our search consultant, Traci Reisberg, Director of Catalyzing Resources at Prizmah Center for Jewish Day Schools, [tracir@prizmah.org](mailto:tracir@prizmah.org). All correspondence will be treated confidentially.