



COLUMBUS JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

Head of School

About the School

CJDS was founded in 1998 by a group of lay leaders who saw in Columbus an unmet need for progressive, pluralistic Jewish education. Our founding families and educators turned to the Abraham Joshua Heschel School's model of integrated secular and Jewish education and sought to replicate it in Columbus. After 11 years of being housed in temporary locations beginning in the fall of 1998, CJDS partnered with the Jewish Community Center's preschool in 2009 and moved into a beautiful new building. CJDS still resides at that beautiful seven-acre location replete with trails, wetlands, and a pond. A large part of our educational model relies upon a commitment to outdoor, experiential education which utilizes our beautiful surroundings. This model helped us to remain open for the entirety of the 20-21 and 21-22 school years along with the help of a dedicated team of lay leaders, medical professional volunteers, and staff.

Today, CJDS serves approximately 60 students in grades K-5, from all over central Ohio and representing multiple denominations. Our integrated Jewish and secular studies curriculum, with particular attention to social justice and tikkun olam, is guided by the teachings of Abraham Joshua Heschel. It is also centered on STEM, environmental stewardship, service learning and the arts. With strong recruitment and Columbus' current record pace of growth, we anticipate a return to previously higher enrollment numbers.

CJDS is fully accredited through the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). Our outstanding faculty are guided by three core principles; intellectual sophistication, social responsibility, and personal authenticity. Our educators care deeply about each child and work as a team to equip students with the tools and courage to ask probing and honest questions of themselves, and of the world around them. And we do it by nurturing their curiosity, providing the safety needed to take necessary risks to grow, and by fostering the joyful zest for the adventure that is forming one's self.

We believe that young Jews growing up today need adult role models they trust and respect to help guide and model the identity-building work necessary to contribute thoughtfully and productively to the Jewish and global community. CJDS embraces a pluralistic approach to Jewish identity-building, helps prepare students to navigate both Jewish and secular life with confidence, with sensitivity to cultural differences, and with the passion to engage productively in the world around them. Our conscious, intentional, and thoughtful integration is evident in both everyday learning and regularly scheduled projects throughout the year. General studies, Judaic Studies, and related arts teachers meet several times a year to create meaningful projects for each grade which touch on every discipline and showcase multiple intelligences. Students leave CJDS understanding that the intersection of disciplines is not only more engaging, but more realistic.

Central to CJDS' curriculum are events such as school-wide Shabbat and holiday programming, including assemblies led by each grade, second and third grade Hagigat Ha-Siddur and Hagigat Ha-Sefer ceremonies, and other opportunities to learn and celebrate together as a school-wide community. These include our 1st grade animal research presentations and the second grade State research fair, where the students present their work to the community. Other highlights of our school include a thriving garden and trips to the local food pantry to deliver the produce we grow, Special Friends Day where we welcome grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other members of our "Village" to experience CJDS with their students, and an annual butterfly release where we remember loved ones who are no longer with us.

Interwoven through all these activities, our tremendous faculty members guide students through answering each grade's essential questions, integrating both secular and Jewish education but also social and emotional development with our foundational Jewish values. We teach our students to work on, think about, and explore these complex questions in all of their academic and non-academic subjects of study in school and at home.

Our outdoor classrooms present unique opportunities for experiential education, including a perennial favorite; fishing in the pond and learning about our local ecosystem. Students have grown and sold vegetables and herbs and initiated other environmental initiatives such as terracycling and composting.

CJDS alumni live, study and work all over the world. They attend top-tier colleges and universities, work in a wide array of industries, and continue to be influenced every day by the values of social responsibility and caring for their communities.

About the Position

The Head of School serves as the chief executive professional for the school community and the leader responsible for the supervision and guidance of our faculty, professional staff, and administration. They will be expected to oversee planning, program development and evaluation, advancement, finance, and marketing while also serving as the public face of the institution and engaging in community relations. Recruitment is expected to be a top priority for the next 3-5 years. The Head of School will oversee and collaborate with our senior leadership team, which includes our Dean of General Studies, Dean of Institutional Advancement, and our Director of Jewish Life and Learning. The Head of School will lead our outstanding faculty and oversee professional development.

CJDS' faculty is uniquely dedicated to our mission. We have faculty who have served the school since its inception as well as profoundly talented early career professionals who will benefit from the Head of School's educational experience and dedication to their professional development.

Part of this position's responsibilities is preserving the deep-seated connection and relationships amongst the faculty while supporting their continuing education and growth, in close partnership with the senior leadership team.

The Responsibilities of the Role

Governance/Board Relations

- Report to the Board of Trustees, work closely with them to create and implement the strategic plan.
- Serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee.
- Work with the Board of Trustees and its committees to carry out school policies; attend meetings and keep trustees informed on aspects of the school's operations.
- Academic Leadership
- Assess and evaluate the current leadership structure.
- Steer and oversee the creation, implementation, and assessment of all educational programs, including general education, Judaic studies, physical education, related arts, and extracurricular programs.
- Enrich, maintain, and articulate the school's mission, vision and values to the entire community.
- Empower faculty to ensure and support the success of all students with differentiated methods of instruction.

Relationship Building

- Listen empathically to and manage parent concerns.
- High degree of emotional intelligence and the ability to relate to and communicate with a variety of stakeholders.
- Build upon existing relationships and work to foster new relationships with donors.

Management

- Recruit, hire, supervise, create mentorship and professional development opportunities for the faculty, staff and administration.
- Assist faculty and staff in interpreting the educational philosophy of the school and developing goals and objectives accordingly.
- Lead a team of professionals responsible for development, marketing, admissions and administration.
- Work closely with the Board of Trustees and the Dean of Institutional Advancement to generate sufficient revenue.
- Oversee budget process in close partnership with lay leadership.

Community relations

- Serve as a skilled spokesperson and advocate, who is able to articulate the inspiring educational and visionary mission that CJDS offers the Jewish community and community at-large.
- Foster a presence in the Columbus Jewish community through engagement with other agencies.
- Enhance all school relationships, including those with current and prospective parents, volunteers, the Jewish community, and our secular educational partners i.e. host public school districts.
- Work with the Dean of Institutional Advancement and relevant committees to recruit new families and to retain those currently enrolled.
- Develop and manage a portfolio of major donors and lead campaign efforts including events, appeals, individual donor cultivation and solicitation and planned giving in support of the operating budget.
- Represent the school at state and federal agencies, educational organizations, and accrediting agencies.
- Maintain and advance a pluralistic, tolerant, and Jewish environment within the school, promoting the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion at all levels.

Qualifications for the Position

Our next Head of School will:

- Have a proven track record as an organizational leader and/or educational administrator, with school administrator and/or prior Head of School experience preferred.
- Demonstrate familiarity and understanding the intricacies of both Judaic and General Studies.
- Be prepared to quickly and build strong, collaboration-focused relationships with the senior leadership team (Dean of Academics, Dean of Institutional Advancement, and Director of Jewish Life and Learning), as well as fostering a positive supervisory relationship with the faculty and staff.
- Have a demonstrated commitment to pluralistic Jewish education, social justice, and community stewardship.
- Have proven experience with management skills in the educational and/or nonprofit sector, with a record of achievement in advancement, recruitment/enrollment, and administration.
- Have educational experience in the classroom at the elementary school level.
- Be an organized, effective time manager, skilled in written and oral communications, with an inherent talent for relationship building with a variety of internal and external constituents.
- Have a willingness and eagerness to advocate for CJDS with partner Jewish agencies and explore positive working relationships, including but not limited to joint programming.
- Have an openness to working with adults and children in a variety of academic, social, and professional settings, and an ability to adapt and modify your approach accordingly.
- Will possess excellent interpersonal, political, and diplomatic leadership skills, and you embrace a collaborative and team-centered management approach.
- Have an excitement for learning and genuinely enjoy spending time with young children.
- You are motivated by their educational, social and emotional development. You model this passion and inspire those around you, and you enjoy being a familiar presence in and out of the classroom.

About the Community

Columbus is the largest city in Ohio and the 14th largest in the United States with a population of more than 860,000 and located within a fast-growing metropolitan area containing just over 2 million people. The proximity of Columbus to major markets makes it one of the best locations in the country. Columbus is gaining nationwide recognition for its historic neighborhoods, a top-notch food scene, booming downtown arts and sporting districts, open

attitude, and a noticeably affordable quality of life. It also serves as Ohio's capital and the region is home to a number of Fortune 500 companies, high-quality colleges and universities, including The Ohio State University, and nationally ranked medical facilities. Intel's recent investment in a new manufacturing facility in New Albany is anticipated to bring even more growth to the city. The city is perfect for active lifestyles, having invested \$20 million to develop a growing system of bike and fitness trails that connect the suburbs and river trails to downtown's \$44 million riverfront park system restoration. Museums, festivals, parks, live music, and theater are just some of the reasons Columbus is one of the best places in the nation to live, work and raise a family. The city has been ranked at the top of the charts in many categories:

- America's Best Place to Raise Kids (Business Week)
- Most Affordable Place to Retire (Forbes Magazine)
- #1 Zoo and Aquarium (USA Tourist.com & USA Travel Guide)
- Best Super Specialty Museum in the Nation for Children COSI (Child Magazine)
- Top Arena in the Country for Stadium Experience-Nationwide Arena (ESPN magazine)
- #1 Library-Columbus Metropolitan Library (Library Journal)
- Top Ten Most Livable City (CNN/Money Magazine)
- Among America's Economically Strongest Metro Areas (Bloomberg Businessweek)
- #1 Up & Coming High-Tech city (Forbes Magazine)
- All-American City (National Civic League)

The Jewish community in Columbus is growing too. The number of Jews living in central Ohio has increased from 22,000 living in 11,900 Jewish households a decade ago to 25,500 in 14,200 households now. Our community partners provide an active and vibrant Jewish life: two Jewish Day Schools, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Columbus, Wexner Heritage Village, Jewish Family Services, OSU Hillel and nine synagogues (3 Orthodox, 2 Conservative, 3 Reform, 1 Reconstructionist). The entire Jewish community has benefited from world class Jewish leaders and philanthropic families. In many ways, Columbus continues to be a significant seat of adult Jewish learning and Jewish leadership development throughout the entire Jewish world.

Apply

To apply to become our next head of school please send a cover letter and resume to Amy Wasser, Senior Director, Prizmah School Services, Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools, at amyw@prizmah.org.