

BIALIK HIGH SCHOOL



WELCOME TO BIALIK

Pride in our past,
confidence in our **future.**



Bialik High School

JEWISH EDUCATION FOR LIFE



OUR MISSION

JPPS-Bialik is a Jewish school, founded and based on a pluralistic vision of Jewish continuity. JPPS-Bialik is committed to academic excellence. Our school aims to create a model learning environment where individuals can gain confidence to become productive people within the Quebec, Canadian, and global communities.

Our students develop a strong Jewish identity by studying Yiddish, Hebrew, and Jewish history, and by experiencing Jewish culture and traditions. The creation of the State of Israel is one of the seminal events in Jewish history. Recognizing the significance of the State and its national institutions, we seek to instill in our students an attachment to the State of Israel and its people, as well as a sense of responsibility for their welfare.

Our school's goal is to graduate committed Jewish young adults who are prepared to meet the challenges and responsibilities of their future endeavours.

“ Those who provide their children with a complete Jewish education, it is as if they educate their children’s children and, in turn, their children for all generations.”

Talmud Kiddushin 30a



ABOUT CHAIM NACHMAN BIALIK 1873-1934



Considered the greatest Hebrew poet of modern times, Bialik helped his contemporaries translate their Jewish loyalties from a religious content into a modern, philosophically oriented humanist rationale for Jewish existence. He embodied the cultural revolution of his time, carving out of the traditions of the past, a foundation on which Jews might build with dignity in the future.

A RICH HISTORY

Welcome to Bialik High School. Proud to be known as a school that cares for the individual child, Bialik has a rich tradition of academic excellence and a commitment to a pluralistic Jewish tradition, one that embraces all streams of Judaism. We have an unwavering commitment to our core values of tolerance, respect for others, and *Tikkun Olam*, or repairing the world.

We are committed to the development of well-rounded, community-minded, responsible young people who reach their potential according to their individual needs, interests, and aptitudes.

TIKKUN OLAM REPAIRING THE WORLD

In keeping with the fundamental Jewish value of *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), Bialik High School consciously strives to connect intellectual creativity and responsible action throughout its educational process. Our students are required to participate in community service activities during the school year. They can volunteer at food banks, nursing homes, soup kitchens, animal shelters, synagogues, community organizations and elementary schools, among many others.



ACADEMICS INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Bialik offers academic programs that foster inquiry, creativity and inspiration in a student-centered learning environment.

Our enriched Judaic Studies curriculum focuses on language instruction, values education, Bible studies, Jewish History and the study of Jewish culture and traditions.

A variety of elective courses, including chemistry, physics media studies, visual arts, political science and Spanish address the interests of our diverse student population.

A wide range of co-curricular programs, field trips, retreats and speakers enrich and complement both the Judaic and General Studies programs.

State-of-the-art technology is seamlessly integrated into the students' learning in all disciplines.

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

Marian Wright Edelman



ACADEMICS CARING & COMMITTED FACULTY



“Let the honor of your students be as dear to you as your own.”

Talmud (4:15)

Our exceptional, highly qualified faculty is committed to each student's success. In addition to their creative and innovative work with their students in class, teachers often provide individualized help to students before or after school hours.

ACADEMIC STREAMING

Streaming in five subjects – math, Hebrew, French, Yiddish and Tanach – enables students to work at their own academic level and to successfully complete course requirements.

Streaming allows for remediation, where needed, as well as acceleration, so that some students exceed high school requirements in such disciplines as math, French, and science.



ACADEMICS VALUES & TRADITIONS



Bialik students graduate with a mature understanding and appreciation of their heritage. They learn to participate in Jewish customs, to celebrate holidays in the tradition of their ancestors, to relate to coreligionists of all denominations and cultures and to appreciate Israel's importance to Jews around the world.

They have a strong sense of community and understand the need to support that community with volunteer work, charity and advocacy.

Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) opportunities include Jewish Life Committee, March of the Living, Relief Trip and Leadership Education Development Action (LEDA).

“Torah study is worthy
with *Derech Eretz*.”

(2:2)





ACADEMICS CURRICULAR & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

“The highest form of wisdom
is kindness.”
Talmud

EXPANDED OFFERINGS

Bialik students have choices. Whether it is with Public Speaking, Choir, Mathematics Competitions, the *Chidon haTanach* and choir, students participate in a variety of informal educational learning situations.

Expanded offerings include Student Council, Fashion Show, Bialik Theatre, Radio Bialik, Bands on the Run, Bible Contest, Sports Council, Debating Club, Spirit Committee, Green Committee, Social Committee, School Newspaper, Graduation Committee, Healthy Living Committee and Physics Tournament Team.



ATHLETICS PASSION FOR PHYSICAL HEALTH



PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

The Physical Education program aims to have students develop an understanding of lifestyle choices that promote healthy living. The program focuses on both physical activity and an understanding of the role of nutrition in health and well-being. Students develop and enhance their motor skills through an ever-broadening range of team sports, such as basketball, and other physical activity programs, all of which are always attentive to the needs and interests of both boys and girls.

EXTRACURRICULAR SPORTS

It is the passion and determination shown by all the athletes during practices and games that makes our Athletics program successful.

Basketball is Bialik's core sport, thanks to student athletes, great facilities and high performance coaches.

In addition to basketball our broad array of sports teams includes: Soccer, Baseball, Touch Football, Ice Hockey, Curling, Floor Hockey, Wrestling, Tennis, Golf, Swimming and Track and Field.



FACILITIES EXPANDED OFFERINGS



LEARNING EXPERIENCES

We are constantly looking at ways to improve and ways to add to the full student experience. Updates are made with a keen eye on keeping the school as the frontrunner of modern, pluralistic Jewish education in Montreal. Bialik facilities are clearly second-to-none.

An avant-garde fourth floor includes cutting edge classrooms, a bright, spacious Art Studio and a furnished Student Lounge. As well, the school has an enlarged and renovated Cafeteria, five Science Labs, one with state-of-the-art design and equipment and a large, second gymnasium with cutting-edge stage facilities.



MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION

“Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.”

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

MULTILINGUALISM

The unifying goals of the study of languages is to develop students' understanding of the world around them, and to enhance their ability to communicate effectively in four languages - an invaluable asset in today's global society.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The English Language Arts program is designed to develop readers' and writers' abilities to understand the ideas of others and to synthesize those philosophies with their own to create rich, thoughtful writing. Students at all levels read a diverse selection of short stories, poems, novels and essays to widen their knowledge of literary themes and styles. Media literacy is also an area of focus, as is the development of oral skills. The curriculum is adapted to suit the reading and writing levels of individual students.

FRENCH LANGUAGE

The French Second Language program aims to have students become functionally bilingual and at ease within the francophone milieu. Students at all levels focus on the four areas of the language: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Consistent with Bialik's focus on individual needs, students have the opportunity for both acceleration and enrichment, with many completing MELS requirements at the end of Secondary IV and then studying Français, langue maternelle, in Secondary V. The “Diplôme d'études en langue française” (DELF) is an opportunity offered by the Ministry of Education of France to all students who wish to receive official certification of their proficiency in French, recognized around the world.

HEBREW

Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people and the primary vehicle for the understanding of Jewish heritage and the study of classical and modern Jewish sources. This is the *raison d'être* of the study of Hebrew language and literature at all grade levels. In keeping with the focus on individual needs, the study of the Hebrew language is streamed throughout the Secondary I to V program. The Hebraica Track provides students with the opportunity to study *ivrit b'ivrit*.

YIDDISH

The study of Yiddish language, culture, and literature is firmly rooted in our history and our philosophy. Emphasis is on both language acquisition and the development of an appreciation of Yiddish culture. Students learn to speak with sufficient fluency to participate comfortably in general conversation and to read texts. The study of the great classics of modern Yiddish literature enhances their understanding of Jewish History and in particular, the immigrant experiences of American, Canadian, and South American Jewish communities.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY

Bialik aims to benefit from the latest innovations in technology in education. With the goal of enhancing our students' learning experience, technology is integrated into the curriculum across all grade levels and disciplines.

Our one-to-one laptop program has been running for over seven years. All students in Cycle 2 have their own laptops, ensuring equal access to technology any time and anywhere for all students. This gives students access to the richest resources and the best tools in the classroom. The laptop program contributes to a student-centred environment that encourages responsibility for their learning, enables collaboration and takes advantage of their different learning styles. There is a strong focus on information literacy, the writing process, the Scientific Method and effective communication.

In Cycle 1, a fleet of three classroom sets of wireless laptop computers provides mobility and flexibility in the use of technology. As well, there are desktop computers in the library and in numerous classrooms. All computers have high-speed Internet access. Many classrooms are equipped with digital projectors and interactive whiteboards. A variety of peripherals are used for photography, video production and desktop publishing. Students use technology as a learning tool in the classroom, independently or collaboratively, for writing, research, data collection, experiment simulations, mathematical analysis, local and global communication and multimedia presentations.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

The goal of the program is to develop students' understanding of social issues in the world around them, and to have them develop the critical thinking and communication skills they need to be active and productive participants and leaders in a global society.

CYCLE 1

The curriculum consists of both geography and history, studied in French. Through the study of geography, students develop an understanding of the development of societies from a spatial point of view. The study of history enables students to begin to explore social phenomena from a historical perspective, using the historical method.

CYCLE 2

Students continue with a more complex study of History and Citizenship in order to understand the process of social change. Elective courses at the Secondary V level allow for more depth and breadth of exploration of societal and global issues.



JUDAIC IDENTITY

JEWISH STUDIES

All Bialik students study four subjects in Jewish studies: Hebrew, Tanach, Yiddish and Jewish History. The NETA Hebrew program has been adopted into the curriculum.

HEBREW

The goal of Hebrew at Bialik is to develop in the students effective real proficiency in using the Hebrew language, as opposed to decontextualized or theoretical grammatical knowledge. In choosing NETA, Bialik joins some of the top Jewish high schools in North America in using a professionally-developed and produced curriculum designed to be part of the students' progress toward fluency. Hebrew classes are fully streamed across the grades to allow the best possible fit for the students' Hebrew language level.

TANACH - BIBLE STUDIES

Tanach study at Bialik seeks to develop students' connections to the history and moral values of the Jewish people as embodied in the Tanach. Students in Secondary HV will have the same Tanach teacher that they have for Hebrew in order to maximize class-teacher relationships, and to allow the teachers to use Hebrew as much as possible, as they know their students' Hebrew language capabilities. The main goal continues to be the ability to read the biblical texts.

YIDDISH

Yiddish is a key part of the history of Montreal's Jewish community and of the JPPS-Bialik school system. With the exception of students with documented learning difficulties, all students at Bialik study Yiddish. The goals include the development of facility in the language and the familiarization of students with Yiddish literature and culture. Yiddish is taught by provincially-certified teachers, and students receive credits on their official transcripts for its study.

JEWISH HISTORY

The goal of the study of Jewish History at Bialik is the familiarization of students with the experiences of Jewish communities in various places and times of the Diaspora, from the Babylonian Exile in the 6th century BCE up to the reestablishment of Jewish independence in Israel. Processes of historical thought are taught, and the Jewish experiences of being minority cultures, of religious integration, and of tolerant and intolerant interaction with other communities seeks to build in students an awareness of the need for tolerance when living within an increasingly diverse society.



“Sit down before fact as a little child,
be prepared to give up every conceived notion,
follow humbly wherever and whatever
abysses nature leads, or you will learn nothing.”

Thomas Huxley

ACADEMIC & SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

A STRUCTURE THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

CYCLE 1

This “school within a school” is designed to meet the particular academic and social needs of our Cycle 1 students. It is led by the Assistant Principal, working with a team of classroom teachers and other faculty members, including a transition teacher who supports students’ academic and social transition from elementary to high school. The team focuses on students’ academic progress along with co-curricular and extracurricular activities and programs of particular interest to Cycle 1 students.

CYCLE 2

The Senior High School addresses the academic and social needs of our senior students. Academic progress, an eye on post-secondary educational options, and opportunities of student leadership programs, along with co-curricular and extracurricular activities, are among the areas of focus for the team of educators led by the Principal and the Assistant Principal.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

Academic support is available for remediation, enrichment, and acceleration beyond what is provided by the regular classroom teachers. Once identified, students, working in small learning groups are provided with appropriate support for specific disciplines. The goal is to ensure that students achieve their potential by providing them with the strategies and skills tailored to their learning profile.

The Academic Support Program is a customized curriculum supporting students with specific learning challenges in order to facilitate their success. This program enables these students to receive individual and group support in many aspects of our general curricula. These students are integrated in all areas of the Bialik social community and participate in all areas of Judaic Studies and General Studies, as well as cocurricular activities.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Adolescent social and emotional development issues, as well as family issues, are supported through individual counselling as well as a variety of age-appropriate programs planned and implemented by our guidance counsellors. A comprehensive career counselling program is also in place for our Secondary V students.

SECTION FRANÇAISE

La section française de Bialik est en tous points comparable aux grandes écoles privées francophones. Les élèves suivent le programme d’études françaises du MELS dans un milieu scolaire juif privé. Elle est ouverte à tous les élèves avec ou sans éligibilité, ayant un niveau de français leur permettant de suivre un programme enrichi. Des enseignants hautement qualifiés et dévoués à leur mission éducative enseignent et assistent les étudiants tout en stimulant leur créativité.

Les élèves sont intégrés dans les classes régulières pour l’enseignement des études juives, des sciences sociales, les arts plastiques ainsi que les cours d’éducation physique. Les élèves de la section française de Bialik reçoivent une formation académique ayant le même niveau d’excellence que celle qui est prodiguée aux autres élèves de l’école. Comme dans toutes les autres écoles secondaires de la province, les étudiants passent leurs examens en français.

ARTS EDUCATION

“Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes.
Art is knowing which ones to keep.”

Scott Adams

DRAMA AND VISUAL ARTS

Arts Education, compulsory in all grades in both Cycle 1 and 2, fosters creativity, expression and communication in the areas of visual art, drama, dance and music. Students develop specific skills that enable them to use symbolic language to express their understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Elective courses in Secondary IV and V allow for specialized and individualized explorations in a variety of media.





MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The fundamental goals of these disciplines are the students' development of critical thinking, problem-solving and reasoning skills in contextualized learning situations. Cutting-edge educational technology is seamlessly integrated into both Mathematics and Science.

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics program has students using a problem-solving approach to understand and apply abstract mathematical concepts. Streaming, acceleration and remediation ensure that students work at their optimal pace. Each year, students explore increasingly more complex concepts in arithmetic and algebra, geometry, statistics and probability. Each year, a group of students completes MELS requirements before the end of Secondary V, enabling them to also study Calculus.

“The most incomprehensible thing about our universe is that it can be comprehended.”

Albert Einstein

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Science and Technology program has students developing an understanding of scientific knowledge, its processes and widespread application. The focus at all levels is student-centred inquiry and problem solving, with a significant laboratory component which emphasizes the Scientific Method of collecting and analyzing experimental data. Students study elements of biology, chemistry and physics, as well as Earth and Space, in an integrated approach in Cycle 1, and a more specialized but increasingly integrated approach in the senior years. Specialized elective courses in biology, chemistry and physics are also offered.

FIRSTCLASS

Students, teachers and parents make extensive use of our online community, “FirstClass@Bialikmtl.ca”

This communication and conferencing system allows students to work collaboratively in and out of the classroom, with each other and with their teachers. In addition, it provides easy and safe e-mail communication among all members of the school community.



ALUMNI

Our alumni are regularly seen back at the school helping out in a myriad of ways. Whether tutoring current students in the after-school homework program, coaching our many sports teams or working backstage on plays, the Bialik experience lasts a lifetime.

A growing number of JPPS-Bialik teachers and graduates send their own children to Bialik. In fact, a growing number of Bialik teachers are graduates themselves.

How do Bialik graduates fare in the real world? According to a recent survey, 60% of our 1981 graduates have post-graduate degrees!



BIALIK ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Ken Scott
Principal

Avi Satov
Assistant Principal

Rabbi Shimon Felix
Head of Judaic Studies



JPPS-BIALIK EXECUTIVE TEAM

Kevin Lukian
Chief Administrative Officer

Laurence Fhima
Director of Admissions
and Operations

Elizabeth H. Kennell
Director of Advancement

Betina Shadowitz
Director of Finance

Recognized by the



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