



A TRI-STATE AREA DAY SCHOOL
FOR STUDENTS GRADES 6-12

JACK M. BARRACK HEBREW ACADEMY

272 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Info: Beverly C. Rosen
Director of Marketing & PR
610-922-2324
bevrosen@jbha.org

Barrack Hebrew Academy's Head of School Announces New Initiatives *A Trimester Schedule to Provide Many Advantages This Fall*

March 10, 2009 (Bryn Mawr, PA) – Dr. Steven M. Brown, Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy's Head of School, announced that the school will adopt a trimester schedule in the fall of 2009.

"This new schedule, under consideration since 2007, will best suit the academic needs of our students and faculty, providing a 21st century approach to education and furthering the mission of our school," explains Dr. Brown.

The advantages of the trimester schedule include:

- More teaching days in the school year
- A concentration in the arts and emerging technologies
- More student electives in all grades
- The introduction of a modern language in 8th grade
- Increased continuity of instruction in all academic areas
- The possibility for more students to participate in the school's semester of study in Israel
- Dedicated time for a pluralistic, spiritual observance during the school day

Our Board of Directors requested a further review of our school's scheduling practices when Dr. Brown came aboard in June of 2008," states Jay A. Dorsch, Board President. "We appreciated his vision of creating a flagship day school in North America and recognized the opportunity to make significant changes once our school moved to a modern new campus and facilities."

The decision to adopt the trimester schedule was based on an in-depth analysis of recent research; extensive conversations with local independent schools, other Jewish day schools, educational experts, and Barrack heads of departments and faculty; recommendations by the faculty Scheduling Committee; and the results of an Institutional Assessment conducted by a nationally recognized consulting group.

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One of the major highlights of the 2009-2010 calendar year includes the school's 11th grade semester of study in Israel. Participating students will leave in August and return to the States in November. This shortens the program by one month, thereby reducing the costs involved and eliminating the need for students to take physics during the summer.

“We believe that this new schedule is more cost-effective and academically-efficient, allowing more students to study in Israel, as well as complete their physics requirement in the second and third trimesters.

The first trimester of the 2009-2010 school year will begin on September 10 and end on December 3. The second trimester will begin on December 7 and end on March 11, followed by the third trimester on March 15 and ending on June 16.

School vacations and winter break will not change. Neither will the days that the school is closed for national and Jewish holidays.

“While our new schedule and directions introduce many beneficial changes and exciting additions, what remains the same,” shares Dr. Brown, “is our school’s commitment to furthering academic excellence, celebrating Jewish pluralism, and inspiring our students to practice *tikkun olam*, “repairing the world.”

Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy, a coeducational, pluralistic day school, provides a dynamic dual curriculum of college preparatory and Jewish studies to students in grades 6-12. Barrack welcomes students from every spectrum of Jewish observance and life. For information, contact Vivian Young, Director of Recruitment and Admissions: 610-922-2324 or vyoung@jbha.org, The school’s website is www.jbha.org.

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Photo Caption:

Meeting with Students: Dr. Steven M. Brown, Barrack Hebrew Academy Head of School, discusses course work and new directions for the school with students Derek Benedict and Ariel Shore.