

A Five Part Year of Study

[Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust & Human Behavior](#)

Facing History believes that the lifeblood of democracy is the ability of every rising generation to be active, responsible decision-makers. Facing History helps students make the essential connection between history and the moral choices they confront in their own lives. Through discussion, character exploration, primary source material, and group exercises, students see the tragic events from every perspective.

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In the process, they come to understand that history is the collective result of every individual's thoughts and actions. They learned not only history, but also the critical thinking skills required to make good choices. Through rigorous investigation of the events that led to the Holocaust and other recent examples of genocide and mass violence, students in a Facing History class learn to choose knowledge over misinformation, compassion over prejudice or bullying, and participation over indifference or resignation. It's active—rather than passive—learning. In this course, students move from thought to judgment to participation as they confront the moral questions inherent in a study of violence, racism, antisemitism and bigotry. The readings and activities explore the consequences of discrimination, racism, and antisemitism by holding up "the tarnished mirror of history" to one of the most violent times

in world history -- the 1930s and 1940s. As students read and reflect, they investigate the forces that undermined democracy in Germany, betrayed a generation of young people, and ultimately led to the Holocaust. In doing so, students discover that many of those forces threaten our own society today. Through readings, films, discussion, and activities, the class helps students discover how their decisions can make a positive difference in their community, nation and the world.

[Out of the Ashes: The Birth of a Nation](#)

Students will love Israel from the first "SHALOM. Lead by our Rishon, our youth emissary who spends the year teaching and working with our teens, the program seeks to instill love and partnership between our youth and our homeland. Rising from the ashes of WWII, the Zionist dream and the establishment of a modern Israel, the course will look at the connection of our people to the land, to the covenant of Abraham, and to the promise of a people. Geography, history, culture and modern Hebrew will be integrated components in this class. The class does not shy away from some of the more difficult contemporary complexities of Israel, but rather asks the students to consider our role in the protection of, but also the reflection on a very complex country. Taught in an informal, yet meaningful way, the class combines fun with learning!

2

[Tefillah](#): Students participate in an interactive weekly prayer services designed to give them the opportunity practice the skills needed to lead the congregation.

3

[Preparation for the Bar and Bat Mitzvah](#)

At the request of the parents, students in the thick of preparing for the Bar and Bat Mitzvah will have the opportunity to learn with one of our trained teachers. The staff will offer help on prayers necessary for a successful B'nai Mitzvah experience. This is not required, but students will be placed based upon parent request.

4

[Electives](#): Students join in everything from Torah Yoga, Jewish cooking, Modern Hebrew, Jewish comic book heroes and other activities designed to explore Jewish culture, history and the arts.

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