



# Brauser Maimonides Academy

Academic Excellence • Religious Commitment  
Character Development

**Early Childhood**

**Curriculum Guide**

**Brauser Maimonides Academy**  
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The Leon and Leona Brauser Maimonides Academy (BMA) is a Modern Orthodox Jewish Day School committed to academic excellence in both Judaic and General Studies, while maintaining a warm, nurturing, learning environment in which our students thrive intellectually, socially and spiritually.

BMA strives to empower our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed to their full potential. The school seeks to instill within each child a lifelong love of Torah with adherence to Halacha; love and respect for Klal Yisrael and Medinat Yisrael; commitment to mitzvot; development of positive middot, and proficiency in modern Hebrew.

The uniqueness of a BMA education is its child-centered approach, which focuses on each student's individual character and personality. The cultivation of responsibility, discipline, self-esteem, confidence and genuine love and respect for all people is the hallmark of our education.

Through growth in character, spirituality and Torah knowledge, BMA strives to produce graduates that are uplifted by their education and motivated to become contributing members of the Jewish community and the world at large.

Our care for the whole child is built upon three core values:

### **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

We encourage our students to excel academically in an atmosphere that encourages curiosity, creativity, critical thinking and integrity.

### **RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT**

We strive to provide our students with a firm foundation in Torah and Jewish law, a desire for a meaningful relationship with God, and a love for Jewish learning and practice. We cultivate an enduring love for the people of Israel, and the State of Israel.

### **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

We emphasize the highest standard of *derech eretz* (**personal conduct**) and seek to instill in our students sensitivity towards others in all of their words and actions.

We promote a deep sense of **אחריות (responsibility)** for ourselves, for each other, for the Jewish community, for Israel, America and for people around the world.



The BMA Graduate Profile is an aspirational representation of what we strive to instill and imbue in each student as they graduate from our school. As on any great journey, we start with the destination in mind and work our way backwards to design each aspect of the path. Hence, the Graduate Profile is the destination, and in the pages that follow, you will discover each step of the students' journey, by grade level and discipline, that all lead up to the ideal BMA graduate.

## **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

- Exemplifies understanding, compassion, empathy and acceptance of self and others.
- Embraces diversity and individual differences while respectfully sharing his/her own personal opinions, beliefs and values.
- Engages in self-reflection, takes responsibility for actions and decisions, and proactively creates opportunities for self-growth.
- Takes an active interest and responsibility in social, communal and global issues.
- Exhibits modesty and humility in speech, demeanor and appearance.
- Takes personal responsibility to give back to society through tzedaka and community service.
- Understands and applies appropriate middot and *derech erez* in everyday interactions and situations.

## **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

- Takes the initiative to learn and think independently.
- Exercises critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Comprehends and analyzes texts in both English and Hebrew.
- Demonstrates proper writing skills in a variety of formats.
- Synthesizes different forms of texts, literature and media.
- Applies learned information to his/her understanding of the world.
- Takes academic risks to test his or her own hypotheses, opinions and beliefs.
- Appreciates and values the arts as a critical form of personal and communal culture and expression.
- Consistently tackles challenging intellectual tasks.
- Embraces, celebrates, and learns from, mistakes.
- Creates and utilizes effective self-organization systems.

## **RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT**

- Demonstrates a knowledge and understanding of mitzvot and a commitment to observance of the mitzvot.
- Develops a personal relationship with Hashem through meaningful Tefilla and ongoing service of Hashem.
- Upholds him/herself and others as a "*tzelem elokim*".
- Demonstrates a love of learning Torah.
- Understands, synthesizes, and analyzes Tanach, Talmud and other Judaic texts.
- Gleans life lessons from Tanach, Talmud and other Judaic texts.
- Understands, appreciates and observes Jewish holidays and life cycle events, along with their halachot and minhagim.
- Understands Jewish history and its impact on one's Jewish future.
- Understands and appreciates the centrality of Israel to our lives.
- Embraces and masters Hebrew as the language of the Jewish people.
- Displays Jewish identity with pride.



## Toddlers and Nursery 2

### Character Development (Social-Emotional)

- Seek out special object or person for comfort
- Develop trust
- Accept redirection from adults
- Express feelings
- Seek adult help to resolve social problems
- Begin to take turns

### Academic Excellence (Cognitive Development)

#### Cognitive

- Sustain interest in working on a task, especially when adults offer suggestions, questions, and comments
- Practice an activity many times until successful
- Observe and imitate how others solve problem; ask for a solution and use it
- Explore and investigate ways to make something happen
- Use creativity and imagination during play and routine tasks

- Recall 1-2 items removed from view
- Remember the sequence of personal routines and experiences with teacher support

#### Language

- Follow simple requests
- Use 3-4 word sentences
- Tell simple stories
- Use appropriate eye contact, pauses, and simple verbal prompts when communicating

#### Literacy

- Sing songs and recite rhymes with repeating sounds
- Recognize and name a few letters in own name
- Orient book correctly
- Recognize familiar books by their cover
- Contribute particular language from the book at the appropriate time
- Pretend to read a familiar book, name and describe what is on each page
- Retell some events from a familiar story with adult prompting

#### Math

- Follow simple directions related to proximity (beside, between, next to)
- Make simple comparisons between 2 objects
- Recognize and name a few numerals

### Religious Commitment (Jewish Life)

- Learn about symbols connected to Jewish Holidays and Shabbat
- Celebrate Jewish Holidays and Shabbat
- Recite *Modeh Ani*, *Torah Tzivah*, *Sh'ma*
- Develop love of Jewish life cycle events
- Learn appropriate Torah stories from *Bresheet* and *Sh'mot*
- Sing songs in Hebrew
- Understand simple phrases in Hebrew related to classroom experiences and transitions



## Nursery 3

### Character Development (Social-Emotional)

- Able to delay gratification
- Manage rules, routines, transitions with occasional reminders
- Manage separation without distress
- Demonstrate concern about the feelings of others
- Take turns
- Participate in group activities

### Academic Excellence (Cognitive Development)

#### Cognitive

- Solve problems without having to try every possibility
- Show eagerness to learn a variety of topics
- Sustain work on age-appropriate interesting tasks
- Can ignore most distractions and interruptions
- Tell about experiences in order with details and evaluate experience
- Recall 3-4 items removed from view
- Classify by placing objects in 2 or more groups based on differences in a characteristic

#### Language

- Respond appropriately to specific questions
- Describe familiar items
- Speak clearly, using complete 4-6 word sentences

- Tell stories that have a logical order and include major details
- Engage in conversation of at least 3 exchanges
- Use acceptable language and social rules when communicating with few reminders

#### Literacy

- Tell whether 2 words rhyme
- Draw, constructs, acts out familiar or imaginary scenarios
- Show awareness that words are broken into syllables and some words begin the same way
- Recognize at least 10 letters, including those in own name
- Identify sounds of some letters
- Know some features of a book – title, author, illustrator
- Ask and answer questions about the text
- Pretend to read
- Retell familiar stories, using pictures or props
- Begin to write name

#### Math

- Verbally count to 10 and attempt to count higher
- Identify numerals to 5 by name and connects each to counted objects instantly
- Create varied sets of 5, combining and separating the parts
- Identify basic shapes
- Follow directions related to proximity (beside, between, next to)

- Compare and order objects according to size, length, weight, area, or volume
- Copy simple repeating patterns

### Religious Commitment (Jewish Life)

- Develop a sense of pride in being Jewish
- Establish the beginning of a Jewish Identity
- Begin to understand and love *tfillah*.
- Learn about the Jewish Holidays and Shabbat
- Celebrate Jewish Holidays and Shabbat
- Recite *brachot* for *tzitzit*, *sheasani kirtzono*, *oseh shalom*
- Learn and recite brachot before eating
- Learn the first paragraph of *birkat hamazon*
- Light candles, say Kiddush, cut challah, and sing Shabbat songs.
- Learn parsha stories from Bresheet through the beginning of *Sh'mot*
- Learn middot associated with avot and eemahot in the Torah
- Learn Hebrew names
- Understand Hebrew spoken in classroom
- Use repetitive patterns in Hebrew language throughout the day
- Know songs, vocabulary and dances in Hebrew that are connected to the curriculum



# Pre-Kindergarten

## Character Development (Social-Emotional)

- Take responsibility for own well-being
- Control strong emotions in an appropriate manner
- Initiate, join in, and sustain positive interactions with others
- Establish a special friendship with one other child
- Identify basic emotional reactions of others and their causes
- Initiate sharing of materials

## Academic Excellence (Cognitive Development)

### Cognitive

- Sustain attention to tasks over time; can return to activities after interruptions (days)
- Plan and pursue a variety of appropriately challenging tasks
- Begin to think problems through, considering several possibilities and analyzing results
- Begin to use a variety of resources to find answers to questions
- Begin to think through possible long term solutions and take on more abstract challenges
- Begin to use a few deliberate strategies to remember information
- Begin to generate a rule or strategy from one learning experience and apply it in a new context
- Group objects by more than 1 characteristic, regroup them using a different characteristic and can indicate reason
- Plan and use drawings, constructions and dramatizations to represent ideas
- Sustains play scenario for at least 10 minutes

### Language

- Respond appropriately to complex questions, statements, vocabulary
- Follow detailed multi-step instructional directions
- Pronounce multisyllabic or unusual words correctly
- Use long complex sentences that follow most grammatical rules
- Tell elaborate stories that refer to other times and places
- Engage in complex, lengthy exchanges (5 or more exchanges)
- Use acceptable language and social rules when communicating

### Literacy

- Decide whether 2 words rhyme
- Match beginning sounds of words
- Hear separate syllables in words
- Begin to verbally separate onset and rime (parts of a word)
- Identify and name upper and lower case letters when presented in random order
- Use various types of books for their intended purposes
- Show awareness of features of print: letters, spaces, words, punctuation
- Identify story related problems, events and resolutions in an adult driven discussion
- Retell the plot in sequence
- Retell a familiar story in sequence including major events and characters
- Write name accurately
- Write to convey meaning using early inventive spelling

### Math

- Verbally counts to 30
- Count 10-20 objects accurately
- Knows the last number states how many in all
- Tell what number comes next in order by counting
- Make sets of 6-10 objects
- Identify more, less, equal

- Count on or counts all to find out how many
- Identifies numbers 1-10 by name and connects each to counted objects
- Describes basic 2-3 dimensional shapes
- Recognizes basic shapes when presented in new orientation

## Religious Commitment (Jewish Life)

- Show pride in being Jewish.
- Gain a love of Israel.
- Connect learning about the Jewish holidays and Shabbat to family experiences
- Learn about taking out the Torah on Monday and Thursday
- Recite first paragraph of *Sh'ma, Adon Olam, Resheet Chachmah*
- Recite first paragraph of Birkat Hamazon
- Gain an understanding and love of tfillah.
- Learn about different *minhagim* (Jewish customs) and embrace family *minhagim*.
- Learn the Hebrew months and the concept of the Jewish calendar.
- Learn and recite *Brachot* before eating.
- Wash hands before eating bread.
- Light candles, say Kiddush, cut challah, and sing Shabbat songs
- Learn parsha stories from Breishit through Sh'mot.
- Learn middot associated with avot and eemahot and other Torah personalities in the Torah
- Learn to write Hebrew names
- Understand Hebrew spoken in classroom
- Use repetitive patterns in Hebrew language throughout the day
- Know songs, vocabulary and dances in Hebrew that are connected to the curriculum