

JEAN & JERRY FRIEDMAN

# Shalhevet

שלהבת High School



School Profile 2020 - 2021

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**Rabbi Ari Segal** *Head of School*  
**Rabbi David Block** *Associate Head of School*  
**Daniel Weslow** *Principal*  
**Eli Shavalian** *Interim Director of College Counseling*

## ABOUT SHALHEVET

Shalhevet High School is a coeducational, Modern Orthodox Jewish high school offering a rigorous dual program of college-preparatory and Judaic studies. Shalhevet was founded in 1992 on the belief that school should be a vehicle for moral growth and development. Unique to Shalhevet is the palpable energy generated by empowered students enjoying thoughtful discourse with teachers and classmates. We are not just guiding critical thinkers, but community contributors.

### Size of Student Body

Seniors (2021)	48
Juniors (2022)	67
Sophomores (2023)	62
Freshman (2024)	67
<b>TOTAL STUDENTS</b>	<b>244</b>

## AWARD-WINNING JUDAIC STUDIES

We're changing how Jewish high school students relate to their heritage. Shalhevet's approach to Judaic Studies focuses on the richness and relevance of tradition and encourages students to ask big questions about philosophical and theological issues of our day. The curriculum was developed from the ground up, implemented at all grade levels, digitized and awarded prestigious national grants totaling more than \$400,000. The goal is to spread Shalhevet's curriculum to other Jewish high schools across the country and around the world, and schools from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, Australia and Israel have already adopted our innovative approach.

## DUAL CURRICULUM

Shalhevet High School provides a dual educational program of General Studies and Judaic Studies that is intense and challenging for every student. Shalhevet is committed to fostering a collaborative learning environment where students of all intellectual levels are expected to participate and learn from each other. Students work individually with our Academic Guidance department to choose a course load that is both challenging and appropriate while taking into consideration academic rigor, as well as work/life balance. Students are enrolled in eight or nine academic courses each semester and attend prayer services twice daily. **The school day begins at 8:00am and concludes at 4:35pm.** Most students participate in demanding co-curricular activities, which further extend the length of their day. Requirements meet the California Common Core Standards and accreditation from Western Association of Schools and Colleges and Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Los Angeles.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

General Studies		Judaic Studies	
SUBJECT	YEARS	SUBJECT	YEARS
English	4	Jewish Law (Gemarah/Talmud)	4
Math	4	Bible Studies (Tanach)	4
Science	3	Hebrew Language	3
Social Sciences	3	Jewish History	3
Additional Science or Social Science	1	Jewish Philosophy	1
Physical Education	2		
Fine Arts	2		
Electives*	2		

\*Selected from English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Arts

## SHALHEVET ADVANCED STUDIES (SAS) AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Shalhevet's independently designed, advanced courses focus on critical thinking, conceptual understanding, and student engagement with the material. These innovative courses allow Shalhevet to offer a more diverse and interdisciplinary portfolio of rigorous courses, while allowing students and teachers to explore subject matter in great depth. We have successfully transitioned from an AP curriculum to our own SAS curriculum and have added courses over the past six years based on student and faculty interests. **Our most talented students typically take a total of seven SAS and/or AP courses, three courses junior year and four courses senior year.**

## AUTHORITATIVE EDUCATION

Our faculty strives to challenge students to think clearly and creatively, and to act with integrity and compassion. This approach gives a powerful voice to students, enabling them to participate in their own education. While teachers and administrators retain authority to set classroom and school policies, students are asked to discuss policies in terms of both fairness and effectiveness. This heightens student respect for their learning environment and enhances their motivation to succeed.

### ADVANCED COURSE OFFERINGS FOR CLASS OF 2021

SHALHEVET ADVANCED STUDIES		HONORS	ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES
SAS Biochemistry	SAS Civil War & Reconstruction	Honors Algebra 2	Advanced Talmud Theory
SAS Biology	SAS Civics	Honors Geometry	Bible Studies 1-4 Advanced (Tanach)
SAS Computer Science	SAS Economics	Honors Pre-Calculus	Jewish Philosophy Advanced
SAS Directed Study in Computer Science	SAS Eurasia Connected	Honors Literature, Film & Comp	Talmud 1-4 Advanced (Gemarah)
SAS Physics	SAS Psychology	Honors Hebrew 110	
	SAS Topics in US History	Honors Hebrew 111	
SAS Hebrew Film & Literature	SAS Music Theory	Honors Hebrew Literature	
SAS History, Culture, and Politics of Israel	SAS Studio Art	Honors Intensive Talmud	
SAS Jewish Literature			

## GRADING POLICY

Courses in both General Studies and Judaic Studies are graded with the same rigorous assessment. The grading scale goes from A to F with standard plus (+) and minus (-) designations. G.P.A. is a combination of General and Judaic Studies courses weighted on a 4.0 scale. AP, SAS, and Honors courses are weighted on a 5.0 scale. We do not rank students.

Quintile Distribution of 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade GPAs	
1st	4.18 - 4.32
2nd	4.05 - 4.15
3rd	3.82 - 4.02
4th	3.46 - 3.76
5th	0.00 - 3.44

## Standardized Testing

Though a majority of our students have not had the opportunity to sit for a standardized test, we hope this historical data will provide some assistance in contextualizing any students that is able to submit scores.

Historical Standardized Testing Data		
Graduating Class	Average SAT	Average ACT
2020	1300	27
2019	1335	29
2018	1310	27

## COVID-19 ADDENDUM

(Published September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020)

As our school continues to support our students through the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have pivoted to a fully online model with minimal interruptions to student instruction.

### Curriculum

Beginning March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, our school transitioned to full online instruction and programming. Though we hope to move to a hybrid model during the 2020-2021 school year, as of the date of publication, that has yet to occur. During online instruction, classes are forty minutes (instead of our usual fifty-five) and assessments have been adjusted to ensure student understanding of material and educational growth.

### Transcripts ~ Pass/Fail

During our transition to online learning, we have continued to use our traditional grading scale and weighting of Honors and SAS courses. In conversation with our Educational Support office, a select number of students for whom we believe the transition to online instruction was particularly difficult, have been provided the option to use a "Pass/Fail" grading scale. If a student receives a "D" or higher in these courses, they will be listed as a "pass" on their transcript, but decisions to utilize the "Pass/Fail" option occur before the student is aware of their final grade.

### Co-Curricular Activities

Traditional co-curricular activities were halted through the end of our 19-20 school year. As we embark on our 20-21 school year, our various student groups are working closely with our school and Medical Task Force to provide creative and safe opportunities for our students on our roof in a distanced way.

If you would like further information, please email [e.shavalian@shalhevet.org](mailto:e.shavalian@shalhevet.org)

## CO-CURRICULARS AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Beyond guiding our students in the pursuit of academic success, the faculty and staff at Shalhevet work to cultivate our students' social, emotional and religious development. Through student programming and activities, students are immersed in opportunities for learning well beyond the traditional classroom education. The unique nature of these programs is enhanced by the students' integral role in the planning and implementation process.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES				
CLUBS		JUST COMMUNITY	MALE SPORTS	FEMALE SPORTS
AIPAC	Hope 4 Humanity	Agenda Committee	Baseball	Basketball
ASL Club	Immigration Assistance Club	Fairness Committee	Basketball	Flag Football
Choirhawks	Latin Club	Student Activities Comm.	JV Basketball	Golf
Cooking & Culture Club	Literary Arts Journal	<b>INTRAMURAL SPORTS</b>	Flag Football	Soccer
Fashion Club	Mock Trial		Golf	Softball
Film Club	Model Congress	Cross Country	Soccer	Volleyball
Finance and Business Club	Model United Nations	Swim	Volleyball	
Firehawks for Israel	Philosophy Club	Tennis		
Fishing Club	Spanish Club			
French Club	The Boiling Point			
Girls Learn International	The Chesed Society			
Graphic Design Club	YAF			

*\*Students are encouraged to create clubs based on their interests, so more may have been added after publishing.*

## JUST COMMUNITY

Developed by Harvard Professor Lawrence Kohlberg as a way of teaching moral character traits such as respect, fairness, kindness, honesty and democratic values, the Just Community works through all aspects of Shalhevet's formal and informal education to create responsible and involved citizens ready to contribute to a democratic society. The Just Community of Shalhevet is a means through which students are empowered to be active participants in their own education and school environment. It serves as an educational vehicle to teach students how to live and work in a democratic society.

## TOWN HALL MEETING

Students learn to voice opinions, respect other points of view, balance needs of all constituents and develop social sensitivity in this hallmark of Shalhevet. The weekly Town Hall Meeting brings together students, teachers and administrators to discuss school policies, propose new measures, and debate ethical concerns within the school and the larger community. This is one of the most powerful ways Shalhevet has been able to develop strong foundations of moral and ethical character.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students are required to perform 100 hours of community service by graduation and most students exceed this requirement. Students are encouraged to choose volunteer work that is personally meaningful to them, and often contribute to the following organizations:

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS	
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	Jewish Big Brothers and Sisters
Better Together	Jewish Family Service
Chai Lifeline	Jewish National Fund
Emunah	Project Chicken Soup
Etta Israel	Red Cross
Friendship Circle	S.O.V.A. (food collection)
Habitat for Humanity	Special Olympics
Heal the Bay	Tomchei Shabbat (food distribution)
Koreh LA (literacy program)	Yachad

## COLLEGE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Please contact our office with any questions about Shalhevet High School

**Eli Shavalian**

*Interim Director of College Counseling*

(323) 315-5873

e.shavalian@shalhevet.org

### HIGHER ED ENROLLMENT ~ CLASSES OF 2016 - 2020

American University	Johns Hopkins University	University of California (Berkeley)
Bar-Ilan University	Los Angeles Valley College	University of California (Davis)
Barnard College	Loyola Marymount University	University of California (Irvine)
Boston University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of California (Los Angeles)
Brandeis University	Muhlenberg College	University of California (San Diego)
Brown University	New York University	University of California (Santa Barbara)
Cal Poly (SLO)	Pepperdine University	University of California (Santa Cruz)
CSU – Long Beach	Princeton University	University of Chicago
CSU - Northridge	Purdue University	University of Delaware
Case Western Reserve University	Rutgers University	University of Maryland
Chapman University	Santa Monica College	University of Miami
Columbia College (Chicago)	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	University of Michigan
CUNY - Baruch College	St John's College (Annapolis)	University of Pennsylvania
Drexel University	Stanford University	University of Southern California
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	SUNY at Binghamton	University of Toronto
Emory University	Syracuse University	University of Washington
Fashion Institute of Technology	The New School	Vanderbilt University
Franklin & Marshall College	The Ohio State University	Washington University in St Louis
George Washington University	The Peabody Institute	West Los Angeles College
Harvard University	Tulane University of Louisiana	Yale University
Indiana University (Bloomington)	University of Arizona	Yeshiva University
Jewish Theological Seminary	University of British Columbia	

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