



A LOOK INSIDE

OUR VISION
Community אחדות
Individuality יחודיות
Excellence הצטיינות



 **OHRCHADASH**
ישיבת אור חדש ACADEMY

THE MOUNTAIN CLIMBER HANGING IN OCA'S ENTRANCE EXPRESSES OUR VISION

Community – Individuality – Excellence

We prepare our students to make it to the top. The **individuality** of each student and teacher is prized. Students aim high, solo and as part of a powerful learning **community** that shares a deep connection with the greater Jewish world. The best methodologies and pedagogical ideas make sure that **excellence** is a natural aspiration at OCA.



Achdut in Action

One of the youngest representatives shared her big idea at a student government meeting. Noticing that sometimes students have no one to play with on the playground, she and her peers felt that no one at OCA should feel left out during recess and lunch time.

Student government representatives of all ages decided to create a “buddy bench” where any student can sit and wait to be invited to join a game. The whole school adopted the concept. With teachers’ help, the new bench was built, decorated, and put into everyday use.

In our caring community, **achdut** comes to life.

Methodologies for Success

OCA investigates and adapts the best research-based strategies, from educational philosophies of Israel, Finland, the Ron Clark Academy, Rabbi Lau, Reggio Emilia, or our sister city of Ashkelon. We incorporate the concept of mindfulness. Students are challenged to grow in the classroom, the STEM lab, and the art room. Through the seamless integration of classic texts with modern scholarship and technology, students gain skills and confidence in all subjects that they can apply in every minute of their busy, harmonious day.

Excellence is always in action at OCA.





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In this booklet you will find an overview of our philosophy and links to our policies so you can get a true picture of what OCA is creating here in Baltimore. We feel sure that our core beliefs will resonate with your values.



THE OHR CHADASH HASHKAFA

Our *hashkafa* is the fusion of *Torah* education with general education.

We emphasize the inherent *kedusha* of all learning, and our highly motivating, *Torah*-driven curriculum is designed to produce ethically sensitive and productive individuals with a lifelong love of learning. Each student's core Jewish personality is developed and enhanced.

Torah, talmud, mitzvot, midot, as well as general studies, are taught using the most up-to-date methodologies and differentiated learning modalities to ensure success for individual learning styles. Our students are prepared for whatever tract they wish to pursue into adulthood together with a deeper understanding of what it means to be a *Torah* observant Jew in the contemporary world.

Balancing *yirat Hashem* and *ahavat Hashem*, refined *midot* are warmly trained and become a natural reflection of our emphasis on the caring individual as a building block of community.

We imbue our students with love for *Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, and Medinat Yisrael* corresponding to our appreciation of the religious significance of Modern Israel.

Ohr Chadash Academy strives for *achdut* and bases its practices on inclusion within the bounds of *halacha*. The school leadership relies on regular counsel from our Rabbinic Advisor, Rabbi Binyamin Marwick.

OHR CHADASH VALUES

Adherence to Halacha

Staying true to the Torah is a carefully preserved value at OCA. Every day, OCA students learn what it means to integrate a Torah lifestyle with being a contributing and thriving member of the world at large. The school leadership relies on regular counsel from our Rabbinic Advisor.

High Academic Standards

College. Kollel. Yeshiva. Seminary. The airforce. The workforce. Wherever our graduates find themselves, we are confident their strong academic foundation will serve them well.

Respecting Individuality

Introverted or extroverted. Artsy or cerebral. Artsy AND cerebral. Adventurous or cautious. Every child brings with them a unique combination of interests, talents, traits, and potential that is consistently met with the adage: "Wherever you are, you are with us."

Progressive Learning

OCA students prepare for adulthood by engaging in authentic 21st century learning. Project-Based Learning (learning through active exploration of real-world problems and challenges) and use of technology are the norm in the Elementary and Middle School classrooms. In the ECC, we use a variety of multi-sensory teaching tools in an environment that encourages open-ended exploration.



**"I LIKE MY SCHOOL BECAUSE
TEACHER HELPS ME
LEARN A LOT OF NEW THINGS"**

- First Grade Student



**CAUSE IT'S FUN AND MY
PS ME LEARN A
W THINGS."**

de Student

Celebrating Inclusion

A pillar of OCA's vision is achdut – a true Torah value. As an Orthodox school, our practices are based on inclusion within the bounds of halacha.

A Love for Israel...the People, Land, and Language

Our Ivrit program allows students to answer the question, "Do you speak Hebrew?" in fluent, Sephardic pronunciation. More than a track, Hebrew and its accompanying appreciation for Israel is integrated throughout other school experiences, including celebrating Israeli holidays and participating in a school twinning program in Ashkelon.

Warmth and Belonging for Every Student

At OCA, everyone knows your name. Students feel accepted for who they are and cared for as part of the whole school fabric. In their "home away from home" they have the space to be themselves and to actualize their best selves. They can share their families' minhagim, shuls, and communities with their friends. They have the warmth and guidance to get to know themselves and to become thoughtful, confident, and productive adults.

Doing What's Best for our Children

Policies are essential (ours can be found in our handbook). But kids need a school that is about much more than policies to thrive. OCA is designed as a school where parameters are set, yet decisions are made in the interest of the academic, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being of our students.

And that is precisely what we love about our school!



A GLIMPSE AT OCA GUIDELINES

What are some of the principles and practices that shape OCA's character in the middle school?

The goal of OCA's guidelines is to put *Torah* values into action - to create a vibrant *Torah* environment that engages positively with the fullness of the student's contemporary world. Our policies are designed to train each student to be a "*mensch*," a person who is caring, considerate, and aware of the responsibility each of us has to the other.

To this end, respectful, appropriate interactions between boys and girls are taught and expected at all times. We model and teach students what it means to behave in a *tzanuah* manner and why this is so important.

To make *davening* a life-long commitment, we want boys and girls to have the greater learning and participating opportunities they get by davening separately. For special *davening* times such as *Rosh Chodesh*, *Chanukah* and *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, there is joint *tefilah*.



FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

In 5th grade and above, all classes are separated by gender. At assemblies and other school-wide events, students are seated by class, which maintains the division naturally. Field trips are generally class trips; grade-wide trips could be together with proper supervision.

OCA provides support and developmentally appropriate guidance on gender issues if requested and does not prescribe how students and families interact outside of school.

**FOR A COMPLETE LISTING AND EXPLANATION OF ALL POLICIES, PLEASE VISIT:
ohrchadashbaltimore.org/handbook**



Multi-Modality Teaching:

Utilizing a variety of approaches, tools, and materials to reach and engage different types of learners.



A LIFELONG LOVE OF LEARNING STARTS HERE



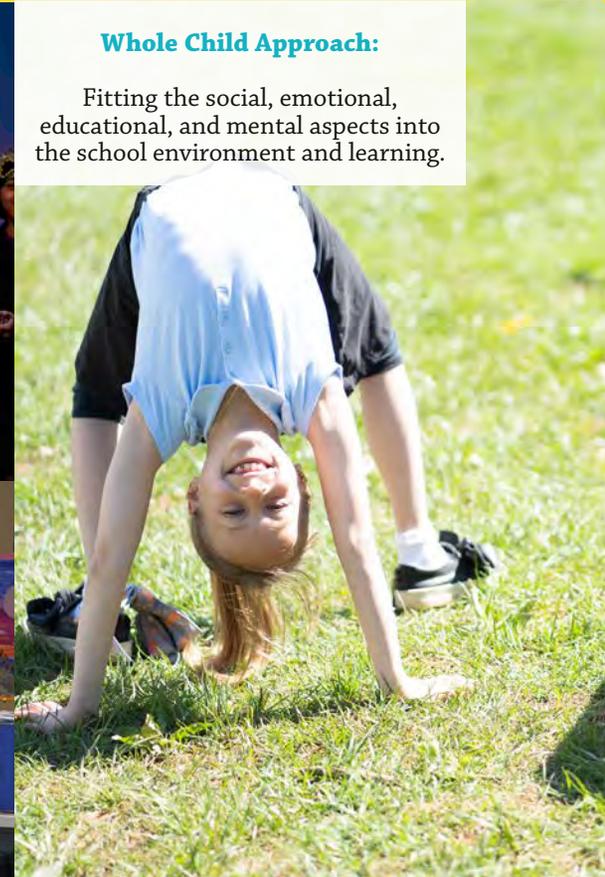
Appreciation of the Arts:

Full art program for all grades with an art show, theatrical society, and music electives.



Whole Child Approach:

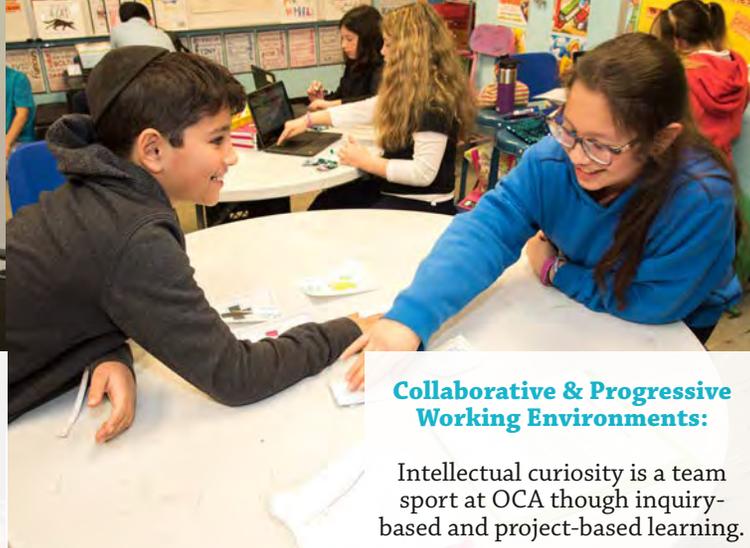
Fitting the social, emotional, educational, and mental aspects into the school environment and learning.





Technology Embraced:

Technology integrated in K-8 classrooms as an educational tool. Students in middle school use Google Chromebooks regularly.



Collaborative & Progressive Working Environments:

Intellectual curiosity is a team sport at OCA though inquiry-based and project-based learning.



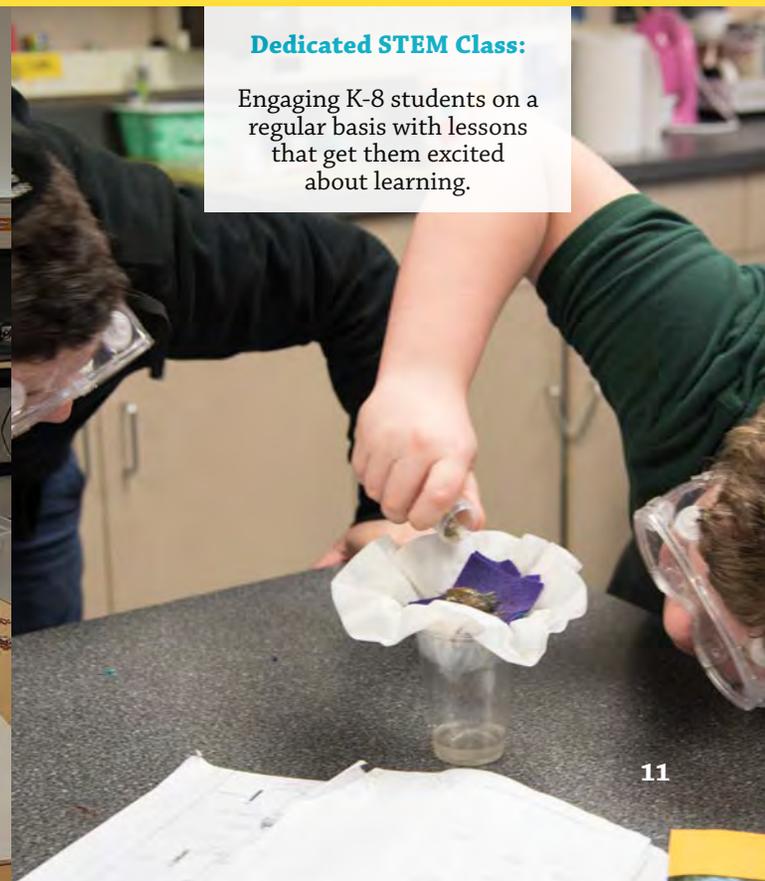
A Culture of Support:

Support in learning is provided to students whenever, wherever, and however they need it.



Student-Centered Electives:

Freedom to select meaningful and relevant activities during choice time that are woven into the learning experience.



Dedicated STEM Class:

Engaging K-8 students on a regular basis with lessons that get them excited about learning.

“OCA IS LIKE A HOME - EVERYONE IS WARM AND WELCOMING AND CARES ABOUT OUR WELL-BEING.”

“OCA HELPS ME LEARN THE WAY I LEARN BEST.”

OUR VISION

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