



*PARENT GUIDE:*

# 5 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

*to Ask Before  
You Choose an*

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

What do you imagine the world will look like when your child is living and working as an independent, young adult?

There will be technology, careers, and industries that don't exist today. How will your child's education prepare them for the future?

**FAMILIES KNOW THAT THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT THEY CHOOSE PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN SHAPING THEIR CHILD'S IDENTITY AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES. THEY WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO GROW UP WITH A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR HERITAGE, THEIR UNIQUE PLACE IN THE WORLD, AND A SENSE OF BELONGING. MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE — FINDING THE RIGHT SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT — CAN FEEL OVERWHELMING. HOW DO YOU KNOW WHICH SCHOOL IS THE RIGHT SCHOOL?**

We just asked some big questions, but at Pardes Jewish Day School, we love questions! As educators, we understand the power of asking questions. Questions help parents like you make sense of how a school will impact your child's learning.

That's why we've put together this guide — to help you ask some important questions as you consider elementary programs. Inside, you'll also find information about how we integrate curriculum, Judaics, and innovative thinking into every aspect of the learning experience at Pardes.

As you read, jot down your own questions! Then, schedule a private tour with our admissions team. Our tours are a great place for us to hear your questions and have a relaxed conversation about all that we can offer your family at Pardes.

*We look forward to meeting your family soon.*

  
**Lauren Kreisberger**  
Director of Admissions and Enrollment Management







*You* WANT TO KNOW...

**How does this elementary school's culture align with what is important to my family?**

**OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, YOUR CHILD WILL GROW IN AWARENESS OF THEIR JEWISH IDENTITY AS THEY LEARN ABOUT TRADITIONS, OBSERVANCES, AND CULTURE. THE SCHOOL YOU CHOOSE SHOULD ENHANCE YOUR CHILD'S UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR IDENTITY AND SUPPORT THE VALUES YOU INSTILL AT HOME.**

**These are a few of the priorities valued by our Pardes community:**

- A safe, social-emotional learning environment built on a healthy school culture
- Strong communication between home and school, so you know what's going on in the classroom
- The integration of Jewish studies and shared values
- A low student-to-teacher ratio to ensure their child is known and encouraged in their learning
- Leadership opportunities, such as our lower school student council, our buddy program, and mitzvah projects, that foster relationships between grade levels as well as the greater community



*We* WANT YOU TO KNOW...

**At Pardes, we are a community of shared values. We create an uplifting environment that supports your aspirations for your child's future.**



*You* WANT TO KNOW...

How will my child engage in opportunities that foster 21st century skills?

**SCREEN TIME. CLASSROOM ENGAGEMENT. SOCIAL AWARENESS.**

THE WORLD IS CHANGING AROUND US AND WITH IT, THE WAY KIDS ARE LEARNING AND ENGAGING. WE RECOGNIZE THAT INNOVATION IS NOT ONLY A KEY FOR READINESS AND KEEPING PACE ... IT'S AN APPROACH THAT IMPACTS OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE.



→ Through the Pardes Innovation Initiative, we are developing students who are ...

**Confident and well-rounded**

Your child will be encouraged to explore, take risks, and “fail forward.” Students are supported as they try new things, fall down, get back up, and try again.

**Rooted in Jewish values**

Your child will develop a sense of identity and purpose as they grow, with a strong connection to their heritage and our community.

**Equipped for their future**

Your child will gain transferable skills, such as foundational literacies, competencies, character qualities, and moral, ethical reasoning.

*We* WANT YOU TO KNOW...

At Pardes we are committed to offering a dynamic secular and Judaic education that recognizes the needs and realities today's learner will face in tomorrow's world.





*You* WANT TO KNOW...

## Will this elementary school prepare my child with the academic skills they need to find success in middle school?

**YOUR CHILD CAN LEARN TO READ AND WRITE AT ANY SCHOOL — BUT WILL THEY LEARN TO UNDERSTAND AND AFFECT THE WORLD AROUND THEM THROUGH READING AND WRITING? PARDES STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND BEYOND BECAUSE WE OFFER MORE THAN DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION.**

### **STEAM**

(SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATH)

- Students are engrossed in hands-on activities that develop scientific thinking and a love of scientific inquiry.
- Our math program is grounded in contemporary research that teaches foundational skills and a mathematical mindset.
- In our Makerspace, students join in engineering and design challenges that foster creativity and exploration.
- Pardes values the importance of the arts. Students engage in visual and performing arts classes weekly.

### **Project Based Learning**

Students build curriculum-aligned skills while working together to solve a complex real world problem in *Project Based Learning*. Instead of passively listening to a teacher provide instructions and facts, students actively ask questions, seek answers, and solve meaningful problems. ***Why it matters: Your child will be motivated to learn, build understanding, and gain success skills.***

### **Reading and Writing Workshop**

In our literacy workshops, children apply what they learn, rather than memorize material for a test. ***Why it matters: In a traditional classroom setting, your child may lack an opportunity to choose what they read and write about. At Pardes, students are encouraged to explore their interests and write because they have something to say.***

*We* WANT YOU TO KNOW...

At Pardes, we provide your child with tools that lead to understanding and application of learning. Our teachers model lessons with intentionality and every class has space for students to reflect on the learning experience.





*You* WANT TO KNOW...

## How will my child's social-emotional competencies be nurtured?

**MEANINGFUL LEARNING. MINDFULNESS PRACTICE. YOUR CHILD SPENDS A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THEIR DAY AT SCHOOL. AS A PARENT, YOU WANT THEM IN A PLACE WHERE THEY ARE SUPPORTED AND CARED FOR.**



### Responsive Classroom

There are three foundational components of a Responsive Classroom: learner-centered lessons, an inclusive environment, and a structured space that promotes autonomy and responsibility. Where other schools may see behavioral issues with students, Responsive Classroom creates supportive communities through morning meetings, a common language and a focus on chesed (kindness) and kavod (respect).

#### Your child will develop skills to:

- Accurately identify and express their emotions
- Resolve peer conflict and show empathy towards one another
- Learn and practice independent problem-solving skills
- Have their needs met in a prosocial way

#### Our faculty will:

- Have a deep understanding of your child's needs
- Use common language that reinforces values and learned lessons
- Actively contribute to our strong and supportive school community

*We* WANT YOU TO KNOW...

*Your child will be known and their gifts nurtured.*

**Our dedicated faculty and staff, school counselor, full-time nurse and administrative team are committed to open communication between home and school.**





*You* WANT TO KNOW...

## Can our family afford the investment in private education?



MOST OF WHAT WE'VE BEEN DESCRIBING SO FAR GIVES YOU AN IDEA OF THE SUBSTANTIAL, THOUGHTFUL INVESTMENT PARDES HAS MADE TO TRULY EXCEPTIONAL FACILITIES, CURRICULUM, SCHOOL CULTURE, AND THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT CHILDREN NEED TO THRIVE. BUT HOW DOES OUR INVESTMENT IMPACT THE INVESTMENT YOU ARE ABOUT TO MAKE IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL AND YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE?

*It means your child will be prepared to face the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. It means they will be agile, resilient leaders who are confident in their abilities.*

When you enroll at Pardes, you are investing in more than an academic program. You are joining a caring, vibrant Jewish community. Our students feel connected to their heritage as they build their identity and worldview. The foundational learning your child will receive in lower school will prepare them for a successful, cohesive middle school experience.

*We* WANT YOU TO KNOW...

We work with families to make this quality education an attainable reality. We offer a variety of financial assistance options, which we're happy to discuss with you in more detail. To learn more about the financial assistance resources available, [contact our admissions team](#) or [visit our website](#).

# *We* CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU.

When it comes to choosing a school for your child, nothing compares to experiencing the learning environment firsthand! Join us on campus and discover what makes Pardes Jewish Day School so special.

## *What* TO EXPECT ON YOUR CAMPUS TOUR

### During your visit, we are eager to show you:

- The role technology plays in our classrooms, as a tool to enhance, not replace, learning methodology
- Our outdoor learning and play facilities, where your child will spend time each day
- Some of the ways our commitment to Jewish values strengthens our community
- How STEAM fits into the Pardes classroom
- Our faculty, staff, and students who each have a reason why they love Pardes

## — QUESTIONS? —

*Please* CONTACT OUR ADMISSIONS TEAM AT:

[ADMISSIONS@PARDESSCHOOL.ORG](mailto:ADMISSIONS@PARDESSCHOOL.ORG)

