



Sylvia F. Lodish Religious School Statement of Inclusion

We believe that providing a Jewish education to students of diverse needs is a *mitzvah* (a sacred responsibility). We welcome all Jewish children into our school, and work with families to try to meet the needs of children with a wide range of cognitive, behavioral, social and physical challenges. We can begin working with you to make a meaningful Jewish education possible.

Our religious school hires outstanding teachers who have the experience, knowledge, and skills to connect with our children and help them grow into active members of our Jewish Community. We also provide additional training for our teachers on a regular basis. School enrichment includes school-wide celebrations, Shabbat services, family education programs, music, Israeli dancing, trope lessons, *chuggim* (electives), and much more.



Coordinator for Student Success Audrey Perlman

We developed this position to ensure that each of our children has the tools to succeed. The coordinator uses our resources to achieve our statement of inclusion.

In the fall of 2016, Audrey Perlman was hired to be our first Coordinator for Student Success. She works with students who have identified differences as well as children who may simply be having a tough day. She also assists our faculty in determining the best strategies to help all of our children reach their full potential.

Tikvah Classroom

Our Tikvah program is designed for children whose needs are best met with a higher level of tailored attention in a separate classroom. The teacher to student ratio in this class is 1:2. Our Tikvah class joins with other classes for music, dance and prayer. The curriculum is designed to be engaging and interactive, and the space is warm and inviting. We currently serve students in grades K – 2 and look forward to expanding as enrollment increases.

Integrated Classrooms/ Differentiated Education

With a little extra support many students are able to succeed in our classrooms. In addition to Audrey Perlman and our teachers, we hire several teen *madrichim* (aides) who are trained through the Jewish Learning Venture's TAP program. This program prepares teens to be aides for children with disabilities.

All of our students are taught Hebrew reading in differentiated levels, allowing each child to progress at his/her own rate. While most work is done in small groups, we also provide one-on-one assistance, when appropriate.

