

Phoenix Hebrew Academy

2011-2012 Faculty

Mrs. Chani Adler - First Grade Judaic Studies

Mrs. Adler is a veteran teacher of ten years. She holds a Bachelors degree in psychology and a Masters Degree in Special Education from the College of Staten Island, and she is well sought after for teaching fundamental, life-long reading skills.

Rabbi Yisroel Weiner - Third & Fifth Grade Judaic Studies, Gemara Rebbe.

Rabbi Yisrael Weiner is a veteran teacher at the Rambam School in Baltimore, Maryland. A native of Providence, Rhode Island, He is a student of Yeshivas Ner Israel and holds Semicha (ordination) from Rabbi Ephraim Greenblatt, Shlita. He holds a Teaching Certification from the Ner Israel Teacher's Machon, and he holds a Masters Degree from Loyola University in Education. Additionally, he is a graduate of the Jewish Educational Leaders Institute. Above all, Rabbi Weiner is a beloved Rebbe, who is "present" at all times for his students. We look forward to having him, together with his wife Sarah, a native of Memphis, Tennessee and an Occupational Therapist, and their three children join our community.

Mrs. Devorah Josephson – Second & Third Grade, Judaic Studies

Mrs. Josephson is a graduate of Beth Jacob Teacher's Seminary in Brooklyn, New York. She has taught primary grades at the Yeshiva of North Jersey, in River Edge, New Jersey, and is a beloved former Head Counselor of Camp Nageela.

Mrs. Melanie Starkey, Middle School Science & Sixth Grade

Mrs. Melanie Starkey is a veteran teacher with over a decade of experience in Middle School Science and Math. Prior to her Middle School teaching, Mrs. Starkey taught elementary grades, including serving as a reading specialist and as a Mentor Teacher to new faculty members. Mrs. Starkey's classroom was featured in the most recent edition of Harry Wong's *The First Days of School*, one of the seminal texts on positive and effective classroom management. She holds her Bachelors Degree in Education, as well as extensive post-graduate coursework at George Mason University.

Mrs. Diana Nashban - Second & Fourth Grade General Studies

Mrs. Nashban has taught in the Hebrew Academy for over 20 years, and she serves as the Student Council Advisor. Mrs. Nashban holds two Masters Degrees, both in General Education and in Special Education.

Rabbi Avichai Pepper - Judaic Studies Middle School and Fourth Grade

Rabbi Pepper is a graduate of the New England Rabbinical College, where he received his Teaching Degree. Rabbi Pepper is a veteran of the Seattle Hebrew Academy, where

he taught and served as the school's Student Activities Coordinator. He also served as the Director of Synagogue Youth Programs for one of Seattle's largest congregations, Bikur Cholim Congregation. In his spare time, Rabbi Pepper held the position of Assistant Director of Camp Dora Golding, a summer camp that serves over 1,000 campers each year.

Mrs. Katrina Dugan, Middle School Math

Mrs. Dugan has 16 years of experience in the suburbs of Dayton, Ohio, teaching 7th and 8th Grade math at all levels. Mrs. Dugan brings a love for teaching Middle School and a passion for mathematics. She holds both a Bachelors Degree in Education as well as a Masters Degree, with a concentration in Teacher Leadership, from Wright State University.

Mrs. Alanna Pepper, Kindergarten, Judaic Studies

Mrs. Pepper is a veteran Kindergarten Morah, having taught in Houston, Texas and Seattle, Washington. Mrs. Pepper holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Teacher's Certificate from Moreshet Teacher's Seminary in Jerusalem, Israel.

Mrs. Ruth Meyer, First Grade & Third Grade

Mrs. Meyer is a veteran teacher, formerly from King David/Jess Schwartz, where she was a most beloved teacher for the past 20 years. Prior to moving to Arizona, she taught at the Soille Hebrew Day School in San Diego. She holds both Undergraduate and Graduate degrees in Education as well as numerous national and local awards for her outstanding teaching.

Mrs. Angela Berg, Middle School Social Studies and Fifth Grade

Ms. Berg arrives with seven years of experience in the Kansas City Public School system. She holds her Bachelors Degree from the University of Kansas. Ms. Berg led her grade level team to receive Kansas' Challenge Award for outstanding student achievement and she was elected as "Star Teacher" of the year by her colleagues and honored by the Kansas City Public School District for her teaching.

Mrs. Norma Walker, Kindergarten and Third Grade, General Studies

Mrs. Walker is a veteran teacher of the Mesa, Arizona public school system, where she taught in the primary grades. Ms. Walker is known for her creativity and love of teaching. She holds her Degree in Education from Minot State University, as well as her Arizona teacher's certificate.

Mrs. Sheila Shaffer, Middle School Language Arts

Mrs. Sheila Shaffer is a veteran Language Arts teacher from the Washington School District. She comes to PHA with over two decades of experience as a teacher and administrator. Mrs. Shaffer brings a passion for literature and writing to the classroom. She holds her Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Arizona State University.