

URJ Heller High School in Israel at a Glance

With over 3,500 alumni since its founding in 1961, URJ Heller High (formerly NFTY-EIE) is the most experienced and most trusted high school program in Israel for meaningful Jewish learning, spiritual experiences, personal growth, and academic success.

Academics

- Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools for over twenty years
- SAT, PSAT, ACT, and AP testing site. SAT and ACT prep courses, and Regents prep offered
- A wide array of courses offered including Regular, Honors, and AP; Heller High is capable of teaching most any course requested.
- College counseling by highly qualified staff with proven results
- Heller High staff works closely with home schools to plan a special curriculum that suits each participant's academic schedule of required courses
- Teachers remain on campus in the evenings to tutor and help students
- Seminars on writing, note taking, study skills, and time management are offered
- Up to 15 college credits concurrently from Gratz College in Israel for Israel Land, People, and Culture and Hebrew
- 2 semesters of high school language credits for Hebrew Honors
- 3 semesters of high school social studies or elective credits for Israel Land, People, and Culture Honors
- All of Israel becomes the classroom on 20 academic field trips providing a hands-on learning experience
- 2 semesters of PE (Physical Education) credit
- Unique to Heller High – 100 academic hours of Hebrew bring students to conversational level and 30 field hours
- 30 Hours of community service credit

Field Trips

- Travel to Eilat, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Golan Heights, & places in between including Masada, Ein Gedi, the Dead Sea, and the Northern Adventure to the Golan Heights. Jerusalem is in our backyard!
- Visit an Arab village and engage in a dialogue with an Imam
- Sea to Sea hike from the Kinneret to the Mediterranean includes orienteering, mountain biking, rappelling
- Northern Adventure includes kayaking, visiting Druze village for a cultural and culinary experience
- Eilat trip includes Bedouin experience, camel riding, snorkeling, and dessert hiking
- Poland Pilgrimage includes Warsaw, Krakow, Lublin, Maidanek, Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps
- Gadna – a simulated army experience for teens

Campus Life Style

- Students live on a kibbutz, located right outside Jerusalem, in an organic Israeli environment
- Excellent accommodations in the kibbutz hotel. Each suite is air-conditioned and has a private balcony
- 100% kosher, high quality food with varied menus and sensitivity to students with special diets
- Full-time MSW overseeing student life and social integration
- 10 weekends during the semester open for visiting friends and family

Travel and Recreation

- Parents' Pilgrimage – Parents stay in the same kibbutz hotel as their children
- Swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts available in season on the kibbutz
- Special arrangements can be made for students to have private instruction in music, art, soccer, tennis, and even ice skating! Ask us, and we will do our best to help you progress in your sport or art.

Spiritual

- Study Judaism: history, philosophy, traditions, Tanach and Talmud, and ideology of Reform Judaism
- Jewish holidays and festivals are examined and celebrated from a liberal perspective
- Meet with prominent Reform rabbis and community leaders
- Liberal Jewish values
- Celebrate Shabbat, holidays and special events in the Jewish calendar in a Reform liberal setting
- Enjoy home hospitality with an Israeli family and celebrate major holidays
- Tzedaka, social justice: Community service volunteer projects throughout the semester where students learn about the special Jewish approach to giving of themselves