

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 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
- PSAT, SAT, AP testing site; ACT given in nearby Jerusalem
- A wide array of courses offered including Regular, Honors, and AP; Heller High is capable of teaching almost any course requested.
- College counseling by highly qualified staff with proven results
- Heller High staff work closely with home schools to plan a curriculum that suits each participant's academic schedule of required courses
- Extra help / tutoring is available
- Seminars on writing, note taking, study skills, and time management are offered
- 2 semesters (1.0 credits) of high school language credits for Hebrew Honors
 - Unique to Heller High – 100 academic hours and 30 field hours of Hebrew brings students to conversational level and 30 field hours
- 3 semesters (1.5 credits) of high school social studies or elective credits for Israel Land, People, and Culture Honors (Jewish History)
 - All of Israel becomes the classroom on 25 academic field trips providing a hands-on learning experience
- 2 semesters (1.0 credits) of Physical Education credit
- Students perform and receive 30 hours of community service credit
- Earn up to 15 college credits concurrently from Gratz College in Israel for Israel Land, People, and Culture and Hebrew

Field Trips

- Poland Pilgrimage includes Warsaw, Krakow, Lublin, Maidanek, Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps
- Sea to Sea hike from the Kinneret to the Mediterranean includes orienteering and mountain biking
- 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!
- Eilat trip includes Bedouin experience, camel riding, snorkeling, and desert hiking
- Visit an Arab village and engage in a dialogue with an Imam
- Northern Adventure includes visiting a Druze village for a cultural and culinary experience
- Gadna – a simulated army experience for teens

Campus Life Style

- Students live on Kibbutz Tzuba located right outside Jerusalem, in an organic Israeli environment
- Excellent accommodations in the kibbutz hotel. Each two-room suite is air-conditioned and has a private balcony, small refrigerator, and microwave
- 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 – Participants (parents, grandparents, siblings, friends) stay in the same kibbutz hotel as the students, visit classes and sites
- Swimming pool, basketball, tennis courts and outdoor workout area available in season on the kibbutz
- Special arrangements can be made for students to have private instruction in music, art, soccer, tennis! 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.