

MILKEN

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

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UPPER SCHOOL PROFILE 2009 – 2010

OUR MISSION

On the foundation of the highest academic standards and Jewish ethical and spiritual values, Milken Community High School develops students with sharp minds, generous hearts and kind souls. We value each member of our pluralistic community while we foster a deep connection to Israel, a lifelong dedication to the Jewish people and a passionate commitment to the service of humanity and the perfection of God's world.

OUR LOCATION AND FACILITIES

Milken is situated on ten scenic acres on Mulholland Drive in the Santa Monica Mountains. In support of our ongoing commitment to the transforming power of educational technology, our state-of-the-art facilities include a high-speed wireless network, science laboratories, a broadcast studio, art studios, a multimedia center, a sports pavilion, and a performing arts center.

OUR COMMUNITY

Milken admits qualified students across a range of diversity within the Jewish community. Most students come from residential areas in the San Fernando Valley and Westside Los Angeles. Milken currently enrolls approximately 600 students in the upper school. **There are 135 students in the senior class of 2010.** Our faculty is drawn from various religious and cultural backgrounds. Approximately 70% hold advanced degrees.

OUR UNIQUE PROGRAMS

Extracurricular Activities: Offerings include 18 sports teams, concert choir, musical and drama productions, academic mentoring organizations, community service groups, Arts Appreciation Club, Gay Straight Alliance, Junior Statesmen of America, Mock Trial, Model United Nations, Writes of Passage creative writing forum, Young Entrepreneurs, and clubs ranging in interest from classic movies to backgammon. Student government, social action, and politics are important aspects of life at Milken.

Hesed (Service Learning): A guiding principle of our school is service to humanity and our *hesed* program is built upon the Biblical concept of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Students apply the Jewish values taught in the classroom to the lives they lead outside of school by participating in service projects directly with people in need or for agencies whose mission is to improve social, economic, environmental, or educational conditions. Under the supervision of our director of service learning, all students engage in service throughout the L.A. metropolitan area.

L.A. Youth Orchestra: An academic conservatory dedicated to inspiring passion and inquiry toward the study of music, the youth orchestra serves our students and the wider Los Angeles community. A complete program of study in instrumental and vocal performance, music theory, composition, listening skills, and history is available. Special projects and events attract students from our campus and the greater Los Angeles area. Youth orchestra students have opportunities to attend professional orchestra rehearsals and participate in musical tours and events.

ACCREDITATION AND AFFILIATIONS

Milken is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE). Milken is a member in good standing of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and abides by the policies of the *Statement of Principles of Good Practice*. Milken is also a member of the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS).

ACADEMIC RIGOR AT MILKEN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

The curriculum at Milken Community High School is designed to provide a rigorous liberal arts grounding integrated with the highest ideals of Judaism, fostering a sense of intellectual curiosity and spiritual growth. Students pursue a challenging and varied course of study based on their abilities and developing interests. Typically, students carry no fewer than six academic subjects during each semester in grades nine through 11, and no fewer than five in grade 12. Milken operates on a modified block schedule. The school year includes two semesters of approximately 21 weeks each. All required academic classes meet five times over a two-week period.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English—4 years	Social Science—4 years
Hebrew—4 years (or until curriculum is exhausted)	Visual/Performing Arts—1 year
Jewish Studies—4 years	Electives—6 one-semester courses
Mathematics—3 years (by end of grade 11) *	Community Service—90 hours
Physical Education—2 years	Senior Sermon—preparation and oral delivery
Science—3 years (by end of grade 11) *	Technology—one semester with demonstrated fluency

* Students are required to take either a science or a math course in twelfth grade; most students opt to take both.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM

Milken administered AP examinations in 24 subject areas during the 2008-2009 academic year. Students enroll in AP courses upon recommendation from faculty and approval of the dean and department head. A student enrolled in an AP course is required to take the AP examination for that course. **In 2009, 441 AP exams were administered to 192 students. 80% scored '3' or higher; 56% scored '4' or higher.** AP exam scores are not recorded on the transcript.

Art History	French Language	Psychology
Biology	Government and Politics—U.S.	Spanish Language
Calculus AB	Latin—Vergil	Statistics
Calculus BC	Macroeconomics	Studio Art—Drawing
Chemistry	Microeconomics	Studio Art—3D Design
English Language and Composition	Music Theory	U.S. History
English Literature and Composition	Physics B	World History
Environmental Science	Physics C—Electricity & Magnetism	
	Physics C—Mechanics	

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Advanced Jewish Studies Center (AJSC): For students who desire a deeper Jewish immersion, the AJSC offers an intensive fellowship program of textual learning and spiritual practice providing an added dimension of depth and breadth to their studies that includes leadership, action, and service. Students are offered the opportunity for advanced study of *Talmud* and other Rabbinic sources under our faculty as well as professors from American Jewish University and Hebrew Union College.

Mitchell Science & Technology Academy (MAST): Through a \$1 million grant from the Mitchell Foundations, a select group of students participates in hands-on project-based scientific research. Students work with world-renowned scientists and assist graduate students at major universities in various scientific fields. In addition, students are offered the opportunity to operate state-of-the-art scientific equipment, submit the results of their research to the *Journal of Student Research Abstracts*, and/or compete for national science awards.

Study-abroad in Mexico: Under the direction of our Spanish language department, Milken students have the opportunity to participate in a cross-cultural immersion program with Colegio Israelita de Mexico in Mexico City.

Tiferet Israel Fellowship: Tenth-grade students are selected to participate in a partnership with Alexander Muss High School in Hod HaSharon, Israel, for one semester. Tiferet Fellows engage in learning inside and outside of the classroom through a full college preparatory program of general and Jewish studies and travel experiences. Fellows utilize Israel as a learning laboratory by visiting historical sites, meeting with government leaders, and participating in events and ceremonies of national and international significance.

GRADING SCALE

<i>Academic Grade</i>	<i>Numerical Equivalent</i>	<i>GPA Calculation</i>
A	92.5 – 100	4.00
A-	89.5 – 92	3.70
B+	86.5 – 89	3.30
B	82.5 – 86	3.00
B-	79.5 – 82	2.70
C+	76.5 – 79	2.30
C	72.5 – 76	2.00
C-	69.5 – 72	1.70
D+	66.5 – 69	1.30
D	62.5 – 66	1.00
D-	59.5 – 62	0.70
F	0 – 59	0.00

ACADEMIC GRADE POINT AVERAGE DISTRIBUTION

Class of 2010 (through 6/2009)

GPA Range*	# of Students	Mean GPA
4.501 – 5.000	0	0.000
4.001 – 4.500	30	4.181
3.501 – 4.000	58	3.751
3.001 – 3.500	39	3.274
2.501 – 3.000	7	2.848
2.001 – 2.500	1	2.460
1.000 – 2.000	0	0.000
Totals	135	3.650

* GPAs are calculated using a base 4.00 scale. Grades in honors classes are weighted with one-half point; grades in AP classes are weighted with one point.

MEAN STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES (SAT Reasoning Test)

Class of 2010 (through 6/2009)

Critical Reading	Math	Writing
588	603	619

MEAN STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES (SAT Subject Tests)

Class of 2010 (through 6/2009)

Subject	Mean	# of Students	Subject	Mean	# of Students
Biology (E and M)	572	21	Modern Hebrew	636	11
Chemistry	731	10	Physics	631	17
French (Reading)	600	1	Spanish (Reading)	673	6
Literature	556	44	United States History	635	50
Math Level 2	648	52	World History	746	5

JEWISH STUDIES AT MILKEN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Milken offers a dual curriculum in which each student is required to take college preparatory courses and courses focusing on the history, culture, philosophy, and literature of the Jewish diaspora. The Jewish Studies curriculum requires the same level of reason and analysis expected in all other disciplines. **This coursework is considered academic in nature and is incorporated when calculating the academic GPA.**

Grade 9 (Full Year) *Foundations of Jewish Law: Ethics and Practice I*

This course serves as an introduction to *halachah* (law) and *aggadah* (lore) and includes a conceptual and historical overview of the Jewish legal process. The course traces the development of subject matter from its biblical roots to the present and includes topics such as business ethics, the ethics of speech, parent/child relationships, and environmental responsibility.

Grade 10 (Full Year) *Chumash with Commentaries: The Moral and Spiritual Quest of the Jew*

This course is devoted to the textual study of the books of *Genesis* and *Exodus*. Primary themes include reactions to moral dilemma, constitutionality, and human responsibility. Emphasis is placed on traditional and modern commentaries. Differing perspectives from Rabbinic, medieval, and modern thought are used.

Grade 11 (Full Year) *Foundations of Jewish Law: Ethics and Practice II*

This course aims to develop a conceptual understanding of how Jewish law works, how different movements approach Jewish law, and how *halachah* (law) and *aggadah* (lore) are related. Subject matter is traced from biblical to contemporary Rabbinic responses. Topics include *tochechah* (criticism), abortion, sexuality, justice, death and dying, and a re-examination of the Sabbath.

Grade 12 (Full Year) *Introduction to Jewish Thought*

This course focuses on issues and dilemmas in Jewish thought such as the existence of God, *t'shuvah* (turning or growth), human nature, the concept of 'evil,' and responses to suffering. Topics are explored through classical and modern sources and comparisons are made to existentialism and Christianity. The modern thinkers are examined, and students integrate textual analysis with contemporary application.

HEBREW LANGUAGE STUDIES AT MILKEN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Milken is one of several Jewish day schools in the U.S., Canada, and Australia selected to participate in the Bureau of Jewish Education's *No'ar L'Tovat Haivrit* (Youth for Hebrew) language program, Project NETA. Administered with the cooperation of a team of faculty from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Project NETA's aim is to "renew the level of Hebrew language proficiency...in the Jewish community." The curriculum allows for continuous progress toward holistic fluency. Texts include classical and modern sources. A thematic component is incorporated to broaden the student's knowledge of culture and to expedite the student's practical mastery. Students are placed in courses that most appropriately match their skill levels. The curriculum consists of numerically-titled courses aimed at four levels of progression:

- **Basic** provides an introductory level for beginners
- **Basic Seminar** is for students who have been exposed to Hebrew, but would benefit from additional basic instruction
- **Intermediate** is our at-level course of study
- **Honors** is for students who possess advanced Hebrew language skills

Upon approval by the Hebrew department, students may move from one level to another as their language skills develop and progress. All students are required to complete four years of Hebrew language study unless they exhaust the curriculum. (Hebrew Literature is the highest level course in the NETA program.)

JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEAR OPPORTUNITIES AT MILKEN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

American Studies Integrated Honors Seminar in Literature, Jewish Studies, and United States History

Juniors have the opportunity to embark on a yearlong exploration of the origins and evolution of American identity from both secular and Jewish perspectives. The integration of three individual classes (American Literature, Jewish Law and Ethics, and U.S. History) incorporates guiding themes such as Law and Authority, Nature versus Civilization, Social Change and Progress, the Nature of Evil, and the Individual and the Community. Through integrated oral presentations, writing and reading assessments, and group study experiences, students and teachers bring these three classes together under one umbrella of intellectual and spiritual engagement. **There is no AP course offered in English, nor do we offer alternative honors options in U.S. history and Jewish studies, in the junior year. However, juniors are encouraged to take the AP Language and Composition examination.**

High Honors Jewish Thought / Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

This interdisciplinary course is team taught by faculty in both the Jewish studies and English departments. Students engage in a high level of critical analysis of selected passages integrated with the material from the AP English Literature and Composition curriculum. Students also engage in an independent study of a major work of Jewish thought related to the theme of Jewish renewal. In addition to preparing and sitting for the AP examination, students receive credit from American Jewish University upon successful completion.

Senior Seminar on Israel

Taught in large group presentations conducted by worldwide experts and in small faculty-led discussion groups, the Senior Seminar aims to expose students to a variety of opinions on the history, culture, and politics of Israel. Over the course of a semester, students will interact with scholars in the field and debrief these experiences with teachers. In doing so, each senior will reflect on his or her own connection to Israel and understanding of the current political situation.

Spotlight Artist Series

Students in eleventh and twelfth grades have the opportunity to submit five pieces of original art to the art department for selection into the Spotlight Artist exhibition series. To become a Spotlight Artist, a student must meet prescribed the criteria, which includes artistic potential, a high degree of craftsmanship, and/or developed talent in a particular medium. Upon selection, the artist prepares for a solo gallery exhibition. The student is responsible for all aspects of his/her exhibition, from the selection, mounting, and framing of pieces, to display logistics and publicity. The exhibition opens with a formal reception and viewing for the entire school community at which the artist remarks on his/her work and fields questions about the creative process from those in attendance. The artist's work remains on exhibition for six weeks.

Wise Individualized Senior Experience (WISE)

Seniors may choose to enrich their traditional academic experience by participating in a project that reflects a career and/or personal interest. Projects may take the form of an internship, hands-on research, artistic expression, or performance-based activity. Past projects have included: internships with lobbying organizations, hospitals, newspapers and radio stations, Habitat for Humanity, the Israeli consulate, and entertainment companies; a teaching assistantship with a local elementary school; a fashion show featuring original student designs; and a student-produced film. Students meet weekly with a faculty mentor and a community collaborator and keep a journal of their experiences. The WISE experience culminates in a formal presentation before an evaluation committee composed of faculty, peers, and parents.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Approximately 97% of our graduates attend four-year institutions. Below is a sampling of the wide range of colleges and universities into which Milken graduates have earned admission. (**Bold type** indicates institutions at which students have matriculated.)

Adelphi U (NY)
Allegheny Coll (PA)
American Jewish U (CA)
American U (DC)
Amherst Coll (MA)
Antioch Coll (OH)
Arizona State U
Auburn U (AL)
Babson Coll (MA)
Bard Coll (NY)
Barnard Coll (NY)
Bates Coll (ME)
Beloit Coll (WI)
Bennington Coll (VT)
Bentley Coll (MA)
Berklee Coll of Music (MA)
Binghamton U (NY)
Boston U (MA)
Bowdoin Coll (ME)
Bradley U (IL)
Brandeis U (MA)
Brown U (RI)
Bryn Mawr Coll (PA)
Bucknell U (PA)
California Inst of the Arts
California Inst of Tech
California State U
 Channel Islands
 Chico
 Fullerton
 Long Beach
 Los Angeles
 Monterey Bay
 Northridge
 Sacramento
 Stanislaus
Cal Poly State U-San Luis Obispo
Carleton Coll (MN)
Carnegie Mellon U (PA)
Case Western Reserve U (OH)
Chapman U (CA)
Claremont McKenna Coll (CA)
Clark U (MA)
Colgate U (NY)
Coll of William & Mary (VA)
Coll of Wooster (OH)
Colorado Coll
Columbia Coll-Hollywood (CA)
Columbia U (NY)
Connecticut Coll
Cornell U (NY)
Culinary Inst of America (NY)
Curry Coll (MA)
Dartmouth Coll (NH)
Denison U (OH)
DePaul U (IL)
Dickinson Coll (PA)
Drake U (IA)
Drew U (NJ)
Drexel U (PA)
Duke U (NC)
Eckerd Coll (FL)
Emerson Coll (MA)
Emory U (GA)
Eugene Lang Coll (NY)
Evergreen State Coll (WA)
Fashion Inst of Design & Merchandising (CA)
Fordham U (NY)
Franklin & Marshall Coll (PA)
Georgetown U (DC)
George Washington U (DC)
Goucher Coll (MD)
Grinnell Coll (IA)
Guilford Coll (NC)
Hamilton Coll (NY)
Hampshire Coll (MA)
Hartwick Coll (NY)
Harvard U (MA)
Harvey Mudd Coll (CA)
Haverford Coll (PA)
Hofstra U (NY)
Humboldt State U (CA)
IDC-Herzliya (Israel)
Illinois State U
Indiana U
Ithaca Coll (NY)
Jewish Theological Seminary (NY)
Johns Hopkins U (MD)
Kent State U (OH)
Kenyon Coll (OH)
Lake Forest Coll (IL)
Lehigh U (PA)
Lewis & Clark Coll (OR)
Loyola Marymount U (CA)
Loyola U Chicago (IL)
Lynn U (FL)
Macalester Coll (MN)
Manhattanville Coll (NY)
Massachusetts Coll of Art
Massachusetts Coll of Pharmacy
Massachusetts Inst of Tech
McDaniel Coll (MD)
McGill U (Canada)
Miami U of Ohio
Michigan State U
Middlebury Coll (VT)
Mount Holyoke Coll (MA)
Muhlenberg Coll (PA)
New England Coll (NH)
New York U
Northeastern U (MA)
Northwestern U (IL)
Oberlin Coll (OH)
Occidental Coll (CA)
Ohio St U
Ohio U
Ohio Wesleyan U
Olin Coll of Engineering (MA)
Oregon State U
Otis Coll of Art & Design (CA)
Pace U (NY)
Parsons School of Design (NY)
Pennsylvania State U
Pepperdine U (CA)
Pitzer Coll (CA)
Pomona Coll (CA)
Pratt Inst (NY)
Prescott Coll (AZ)
Princeton U (NJ)
Purdue U (IN)
Raphael Recanati Intl Sch (Israel)
Reed Coll (OR)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst (NY)
Rhode Island School of Design
Rice U (TX)
Rollins Coll (FL)
Rutgers U (NJ)
San Diego State U (CA)
San Francisco State U (CA)
San Jose State U (CA)
Sarah Lawrence Coll (NY)
Sch of the Mus of Fine Arts, Boston
Sch of Visual Arts (NY)
Scripps Coll (CA)
Skidmore Coll (NY)
Smith Coll (MA)
Southern Methodist U (TX)
Sonoma State U (CA)
Springfield Coll (MA)
Stanford U (CA)
Swarthmore Coll (PA)
Syracuse U (NY)
Tel Aviv U (Israel)
Temple U (PA)
Texas A & M U
Trinity Coll (CT)
Tufts U (MA)
Tulane U (LA)
U of Arizona
U of British Columbia (Canada)
U of California
 Berkeley
 Davis
 Irvine
 Los Angeles
 Merced
 Riverside
 San Diego
 Santa Barbara
 Santa Cruz
U of Cambridge (UK)
U of Chicago (IL)
U of Colorado-Boulder
U of Connecticut
U of Delaware
U of Denver (CO)
U of Hartford (CT)
U of Illinois
U of Kansas
U of Maryland
U of Massachusetts
U of Miami (FL)
U of Michigan
U of Mississippi
U of Nevada-Las Vegas
U of New Mexico
U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
U of Oregon
U of the Pacific (CA)
U of Pennsylvania
U of Puget Sound (WA)
U of Queensland (Australia)
U of Redlands (CA)
U of Rhode Island
U of Rochester (NY)
U of San Diego (CA)
U of San Francisco (CA)
U of Southern California
U of Texas-Austin
U of Virginia
U of Washington
U of Wisconsin-Madison
Union Coll (NY)
U.S. Naval Academy (MD)
Vanderbilt U (TN)
Vassar Coll (NY)
Wagner Coll (NY)
Wake Forest U (NC)
Washington State U
Washington U in St. Louis (MO)
Webster U (MO)
Wellesley Coll (MA)
Wesleyan U (CT)
Wheaton Coll (MA)
Whitman Coll (WA)
Willamette U (OR)
Williams Coll (MA)
Woodbury U (CA)
Worcester Polytechnic Inst (MA)
Yale U (CT)
Yeshiva U (NY)