



at North Shore Hebrew Academy

What Parents are Saying

How has Meorot helped your child's Hebrew reading and comprehension ability?

"Since starting at Meorot, we have seen amazing developments in our son's knowledge and love for the Hebrew language and for Judaism. In terms of his Hebrew skills, he has learned all the Hebrew letters and their corresponding sounds, all the Hebrew vowels and their corresponding sounds, and has learned how to blend the letters and vowels. He is learning how to read, understand, and use Hebrew words that are relevant to the curriculum or to upcoming holidays. He learns a lot of the songs and tunes that his siblings are learning in yeshiva day school."

"My daughter hardly knew her letters or any Hebrew since we hardly taught her because she was speech delayed. She picked the Hebrew language like a sponge and we are so proud of her."

How has Meorot enhanced your child's Jewish identity?

"Our son has developed such a love for Judaic studies. He gets so excited to tell us all he has learned about the upcoming Jewish holiday and is very proud of the projects made."

"My daughter has a much better understanding that she is Jewish and has different customs, foods and rituals than her friends at public school. She really embraces her heritage and loves learning about the chaggim. She talks about Hashem a lot now and tries to incorporate Hebrew into her day."

"Our son loves coming to Meorot every week, and always comes out of the building with a smile on his face. Meorot has been invaluable in providing him with a place to socialize with peers from similar hashkafic backgrounds within a warm and loving environment."

"Meorot affected our celebrations in so many delightful ways. She was excited to see her father shake the lulav and smell the Etrog because Meorot prepared her for it. The Chanukah and Purim parties were enjoyed so much by her. She was always very proud to show us the art she made, such as her own seder plate, pictures of the Purim characters, menorahs and the trees (for Tu B'shvat). After a holiday ended, she always asked, "What's the next holiday? What will Meorot teach me about it?" "

"Besides these skills, our son has come a long way in his ability to follow along with the davening in a siddur. Even when he is home, he opens up his siddur and sings the words to the best of his ability. I truly believe that in these moments Hashem opens up the heavens to listen to him. Our son used to shy away from the thought of going to shul on Shabbat, and the singing and crowded atmosphere of shul made him anxious. But since starting at Meorot, he not only wants to go to shul with his father every Shabbat, but independently asks to go. He usually brings his siddur with him. Whereas our son never used to like having a kippah on his head, he started wearing one to shul. Even more recently, he started wearing one every day to school as well. Overall, the development we've seen in our son's Jewish identity over the past year has been incredible."

How have you benefitted from being part of the Meorot community (e.g. Lecture Series, consultation with professionals...)?

"In terms of the "after-school" events offered by Meorot, we cannot say enough wonderful things about the various outlets and resources Meorot has provided to our family. The Chanukah party and the Purim party that Meorot hosted for the current students and their families, prospective students, and families of board members have been so wonderful. Rabbi Dr. Hercman, Dr. Gutkind, and Morah Marie went above and beyond in planning and executing beautifully rich, warm and meaningful nights filled with live music and instruments for the kids to play along, dancing, crafts, games, and delicious foods and treats. Families felt comfortable mingling with one another and getting to know the staff and board members. The series of Meorot lectures given by impressive speakers on a myriad of topics relevant to parenting and special education have always been informative and interesting and serve as a great resource for the community."

"The staff at Meorot has been truly remarkable. They have gone way out of their way to accommodate us for our child to get all that he needs in all aspects including secular studies."

What would you tell a parent that is considering sending their child to Meorot?

"Do not hesitate, because you will discover fairly quickly what sets Meorot apart from other Talmud Torah programs. The small student-teacher ratio, the curriculum which is specifically tailored to each child's individual needs, the teaching of concepts through all the senses and through creative channels, are tools that are utilized to make the learning fun, to bring it to life, and to make it more easily absorbed."

"Meorot offers a nurturing and loving environment while instilling Jewish lessons. My daughter never complained about going to another school after her school ended. In fact, Mondays and Thursdays are her favorite days!"

"We are so lucky to have Meorot a part of our lives and in the great neck community. Meorot is the answer to a need that has been affecting the community for some time for Jewish children to receive all the services and benefits of public school while not missing out on the yeshiva advantages."

"Overall, we believe that what Meorot is providing to the Great Neck and surrounding communities not only fills a distinct and vital need, but does so with professionalism, diligence, warmth, and love. Whether you are part of the organization as the parent of a student, as a staff member, as a board member, or as a benefactor, you should wholeheartedly know that you are doing Hashem's work. As its name suggests, Meorot illuminates and brings light to the world by giving yiddishkeit to precious Jewish children who may not have another effective outlet through which to attain it. We are sincerely grateful that such a program started when we really needed it. To know Meorot is to love Meorot."

For more information or to join the group of proud Meorot parents, visit our website [www.meorotgn.org](http://www.meorotgn.org) and contact our Director:

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