Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit delivers an outstanding general and Jewish education to Jewish children from early childhood through eighth grade.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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DEAR FRIENDS OF HILLEL DAY SCHOOL

There are many reasons to support Hillel and a Jewish day school education. Hillel has not only emerged as an anchor of the Detroit Jewish community, school leaders from around the country come and visit our school to learn from our educational journey. Hillel is a leader in incorporating this-century skills in a distinctly Jewish environment that cultivates empathy, respect, and joy in helping others. Our students question, analyze, problem solve, create, collaborate, and think critically in two languages surrounded by teachers who nurture, role-model, mentor and cheer their students on, even after graduation. Equally important, Jewish day school graduates are disproportionately engaged in all things Jewish as adults, from synagogue life to philanthropy to agency support in whatever community in which they reside. Hillel prepares our children for a future that matters beyond themselves.

This is all made possible by the philanthropic support that the school receives to fulfill its mission. Thank you to our generous families, Board of Trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, grandparents, alumni parents and friends. We are pleased to report that the school raised $780,170 for the annual campaign, an increase over last year’s total of $641,751. In addition, Hillel secured $73,200 in sponsorships, which was also an increase over last year’s total of $50,900. And finally, we are pleased to announce that we raised $52,000 from our 60th anniversary Mezuzah campaign, and the campaign is still ongoing.

Your significant commitment and support provide tuition assistance to nearly 54% of families who may not otherwise be able to give a Jewish day school education to their children, and your contributions allow the school to provide an amazing educational experience.

Our donors do make a difference, enabling Hillel to instill goodness, and inspire greatness, and we are deeply grateful to all who give generously at every level.

Ellen Folbe
President, Board of Trustees

Steve Freedman
Head of School
7 Cs IN ACTION

At Hillel, 7 Cs drive learning - critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, character, community, and core Jewish values. These skills shine through in the work of our students, as when eighth graders examine primary sources to create a mock case to present before the International Tribunal in Nuremberg; seventh graders pursue law and order in "Spartagania," a society of their own making; fourth graders engineer Michigan landmarks from lighthouses to stadiums; and fifth graders write their own Mishnayot. Through deep dives into these and countless other areas, students develop the essential “C” skills that serve them well in school – and in life.

YEAR AT A GLANCE
HILLEL CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

More than 500 past students, teachers, and families representing Hillel’s six decades came together last November to celebrate our 60th anniversary at a reunion brunch. Alumni and past teachers beamed as they poured over old yearbooks and photographs, met one another’s children, and reminisced over shared memories. The reunion was part of a yearlong celebration of Hillel’s milestone that included the commission of a unique painting created by artist Daniel Cascardo that is hanging in the lobby, and the 60th Anniversary Gala that honored six veteran teachers who have each devoted more than 25 years of service to Hillel: Clara Gaba, Adina Levin, Malka Littman, Ayala Perlstein, Rivka Schuchman, and Pam Smith, as well as Dream Maker Award honoree Brian Hermelin. The Gala also featured a special performance by Israeli singer/songwriter Michael HarPaz (class of 1987).
Dozens of creative projects were completed over the last year, as project-based learning becomes increasingly central to our curriculum. Through sustained work solving real-world problems over a period of time, PBLs lend themselves to the cultivation of several skills at once, including collaboration, critical thinking, and communication. Some highlights from last year include the seventh grade creation of a utopian society complete with laws and a criminal justice system; eighth grade Hebrew students writing children’s books in Hebrew, to share with younger students, to grow our library; and third graders creating food care packages for Yad Ezra, assembly-line style, as part of their learning on Detroit’s industrial history.

**PILLAR HIGHLIGHTS**

**3RD GRADE**
Integrated science and writing skills when creating the Class of 2023 Chemistry Cookbook.

**7TH GRADE**
Learned the art of debate. The powerful experience of debating hot-button issues involved extensive research, writing, and public speaking skills.

**8TH GRADE**
Proved the Pythagorean Theorem using stop-motion videos, wheels, and other materials and technology available to them in the makerspace, moving students from theory to practice, helping them to truly understand and apply their learning to real-life situations.

**FESTIVALE MILIM**
Hillel celebrated learning vocabulary in two languages at our first Word Festival by selecting a Hebrew or English word and creating a costume for that word: What a creative, enriching way to expand their vocabulary!

**HILLEL AT A GLANCE**

- **585** students in 2017-2018
- **92%** of those who toured applied for admission
- **82** new students enrolled
- **240** scholarships offered to students
- **3%** annual growth in enrollment
- **23** student ambassadors
- **10,000+** art pieces created
- **50** afterschool activities and clubs offered
- **200** mezuzot made
- **585** students in 2017-2018
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Hillel teachers participated in a 30-hour online mathematics course through Stanford University. Here teachers explored new research on mathematics and growth mindsets that can transform students’ experiences with math. These interactive sessions included various thinking tasks to promote students’ active engagement in learning.

100s
hours committed to professional development in areas including Judaic Studies, Classroom Technology, Project-Based Learning, Mathematics, and Character Education.

12+
professional development opportunities took our teachers across the country and across the ocean to Israel to learn best practices in Jewish mindfulness, blended learning, balancing technology in the classroom, early childhood education, project-based learning, teaching about Israel, and writing.

FACULTY AND LEADERSHIP

In education, research has shown that teaching quality and school leadership are the most important factors in raising student achievement. We, at Hillel, believe that for teachers and school leaders to be as effective as possible, they must continually expand their own knowledge and skills to implement the best educational practices. Our teachers aim to help every student learn at the highest levels.

Two outstanding educators joined Hillel’s leadership team last year. Barbara Applebaum, a seasoned middle school teacher who is highly attuned to the social-emotional needs of students, is our Assistant Principal. She is tasked with strengthening the sense of wellbeing our students feel, positioning them to succeed in and out of the classroom.

Rabbi David Fain, our Rav Beit Hasefer, inculcates a love of Judaism in the heart of his students, and is responsible for the school’s Jewish life. His experience making Judaism engaging and accessible to Jews of diverse backgrounds attracted him to Hillel. “At Hillel, we are committed to halachah in all its dynamism, committed to Jewish growth that works for each family, and we realize the critical importance of the journey happening at both school and at home,” he said. “I am passionate about opportunities to learn Torah with children and adults, and to see how powerful the connections are when intergenerational learning around prayer and the holidays ensues.”

I am passionate about opportunities to learn Torah with children and adults, and to see how powerful the connections are when intergenerational learning around prayer and the holidays ensues.

- Rabbi David Fain
STUDENTS STEP INTO STEAM

At Hillel, activities in science, technology, engineering, art, and math weave seamlessly into our learning, enhancing the curriculum, and teaching perseverance as students gain exposure to digital tools and platforms that open their worlds to new possibilities.

2ND GRADERS
CREATED WOODEN DOLLS AND CLOTHING FOR ESTHER AND MORDECHAI JUST IN TIME FOR PURIM.

EVERY STUDENT
PARTICIPATED IN THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY MEZUZAH CAMPAIGN, HANDCRAFTING MEZUZOT OUT A VARIETY OF MATERIALS THAT ARE NOW AFFIXED TO DOORPOSTS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL.

USE DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS TO CAPTURE THEIR WORK OVER TIME

4TH GRADERS
CREATED SOUND BOOTHES AS PART OF THEIR RESEARCH ON SOUND WAVES AND VIBRATION.

ALL STUDENTS
LEARN CODING, GRAPHIC DESIGN, AND LASER-CUTTING.

STEAM activities take place in the learning communities and in the MakerSpace.

K-5 STUDENTS
USE DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS TO CAPTURE THEIR WORK OVER TIME

5-8TH GRADE
DISCOVER AND/OR PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS WHILE LEARNING AND REINFORCING SKILLS IN THE ARTS THROUGH DEDICATED ROTATIONS THAT INCLUDE 3-D PRINTING, JEWELRY MAKING, PAINTING, JOURNALISM, THEATER, GARDENING, AND STOP-MOTION ANIMATION.

EXPERIENCES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

The exploration of concepts outside the classroom rounds out the richness of a Hillel education. Field trips to farms, museums, and our Jewish and greater Detroit community organizations offer close encounters with learning, and give students the opportunity to understand the people, places, and events that shape our world.

Two longtime Hillel traditions also continued, taking our students into the community: sixth graders, as part of Dor L’Dor, interacted with Jewish seniors over the course of the year, learning the Jewish value of caring for the elderly, and addressing the needs of these valued members of our Jewish community; and seventh graders developed friendships with developmentally disabled adults through JARC, learning to fully include them in the life of our community.

As a class, our fifth through eighth graders spend Shabbat together as a community on annual Shabbaton, held at school or at Tamarack Camps, wherein they take ownership of programs, menus, activities and davening, and solidify friendships based on mutual respect.

Wherever they go, our students are commended for their curiosity, knowledge, and mensch behavior, demonstrating Derech Eretz in all interactions.

5TH GRADERS
Volunteered Downtown During Their Campaign for a Cause Unit.

8TH GRADERS
Went on a trip to Israel to soak in every nook and cranny of our Jewish homeland, which they have loved through all their years of study at Hillel.

All Students
Spent time in a log cabin as they learned about pioneers.

8TH GRADERS
Created indelible memories when they camped off a year of American history study with a trip to Washington, D.C., where they truly internalized the sacrifices made for liberty.

7TH GRADERS
Saw dramatic performances of the literature they studied.

4TH GRADERS
Visited a local courthouse to experience government in action.

7TH GRADERS
Created wooden dolls and clothing for Esther and Mordechai just in time for Purim.

5TH GRADERS
Participated in the 60th anniversary mezuzah campaign, handcrafting mezuzot out a variety of materials that are now affixed to doorposts throughout the school.

ALL STUDENTS
Learn coding, graphic design, and laser-cutting.

2ND GRADERS
Created wooden dolls and clothing for Esther and Mordechai just in time for Purim.

EVERY STUDENT
Participated in the 60th anniversary mezuzah campaign, handcrafting mezuzot out a variety of materials that are now affixed to doorposts throughout the school.

K-5 STUDENTS
Use digital portfolios to capture their work over time.

4TH GRADERS
Created sound booths as part of their research on sound waves and vibration.

5-8TH GRADE
Discover and/or pursue their passions while learning and reinforcing skills in the arts through dedicated rotations that include 3-D printing, jewelry making, painting, journalism, theater, gardening, and stop-motion animation.

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7TH GRADERS
Saw dramatic performances of the literature they studied.
Hillel exists because it is a Jewish day school. We recently completed an extensive reexamination of our “Portrait of a Jewish Graduate,” an aspirational description of graduates as they leave Hillel. This document will inform our systematic evaluation of every aspect of our Judaic Studies program, both formal and informal, with the commitment to growing the program, and enhancing it so that it is more authentic, engaging and meaningful. This includes minyan, Hebrew language, and other aspects of the Judaic Studies curriculum. At Hillel graduates will:

- Attain a level of Hebrew fluency and Jewish literacy to participate actively in Jewish life
- Develop a deep connection to, and the ability to advocate for, the State of Israel, in all its complexity
- Emerge with a resilient identity that is confidently American and deeply Jewish
- Engage in ongoing acts of kindness and community service to improve the world
- Honor, respect, and look out for one another, their community, and world
- Respect diversity in thought, belief, and practice, and aspire to embrace communal unity and authentic Jewish self-expression
- Think critically, collaborate, create, and communicate, empowering themselves as lifelong learners

The last time you saw me I was about as tall as ... well, all of the other students roaming around those hallways! Now I’ve graduated from Stanford University, am living in California, and am thinking fondly to my Hillel days, how grateful I am to have received such an education and how it equipped me with the character and skills to arrive at where I am now. I’m writing today because since graduating I’ve begun a charitable project where I distribute storybooks authored by children during storytelling workshops in developing communities around the world. The goal is to amplify these young voices, and, by sharing the storybooks, simultaneously spark cross-cultural understanding.

- Sawyer Altman, HDS ’09
SCHOOL PRIDE: ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS REFLECT CORE JEWISH VALUES

You can always tell Hillel alumni apart from their peers. From their mensch qualities, the way they advocate for Israel and lead their congregations, to the purposeful paths they choose after graduation, Hillel alumni make great contributions in a diverse array of fields. This past year was no exception. And our young alumni in high school and college are class presidents, honors students, entrepreneurs, and editors. They earn abundant leadership awards and letters of distinction, and they volunteer for organizations that make a difference for others.

We are proud of all our graduates, who truly look out for their community and the world. For a glimpse of more alumni accomplishments, please visit the Alumni News page on our website.

ELLiot Darvick (’98)
Michigan and Ohio general manager for Lyft. His mission is very simple: to improve people’s lives with the world’s best transportation.

Sanford Nelson (’03)
was named a Crain’s Detroit Business “40 Under 40” for his work revitalizing Detroit.

Mitch Adler (’04)
Co-founded SkyRyse, an air mobility company that seeks, in part, to accelerate first responder effectiveness through vertical take-off transportation.

Michael Brodsky (’04)
a VP at Countable, he holds a degree from the London School of Economics, and is a whiz on the intersection of technology and politics and how democracy can be improved through civic technology.

Elliot Darvick (’98)
Co-founded SkyRyse, an air mobility company that seeks, in part, to accelerate first responder effectiveness through vertical take-off transportation.

Conner Tukel (’11)
recently finished an internship studying the effect of genes on disease development at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

Emma Jacobson (’14)
served as president of the board of UMatter, a Friendship Circle program that addresses the needs of struggling teens.

Jonah Erlich (’12)
co-founded UpRound VC at the University of Michigan. The group works with national and local firms to accelerate the entrepreneurial ecosystem of the region.

Jeremy Rosenberg (’13)
an Israel21c Ambassador, he creatively promotes his passion for Israel on the campus of Wayne State University and worldwide.

Connor Tukel (’11)

Emma Jacobson (’14)
THANK YOU TO OUR PTO

- Welcome Back Breakfast for Staff
- Spirit Wear Sales
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Apples and Honey for Rosh Hashanah
- Sufganiyot for Chanukah
- ECC End of the Year Picnic
- First Grade Siddur Party
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Donations for School Library
- Supplies and Tools for the Makerspace
- Welcome Bags for New Families
- Lulavim and Etrogim for Sukkot
Thank you to those who have joined us in fulfilling the important and meaningful mitzvah of dedicating a mezuzah for the school. We invite you to look at all the doorways throughout the school to view the beautiful mezuzot created by our wonderful students and meaningful mitzvah of dedicating a mezuzah for the school. Thank you to those who have joined us in fulfilling the important and meaningful mitzvah of dedicating a mezuzah for the school. 

MEZUZAH DEDICATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Dedication Message</th>
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<td>Jennifer and Jordan Glass</td>
<td>Social Worker Office</td>
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<td>Gaba Family</td>
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<td>Joan and Steve Freedman</td>
<td>Early Childhood Director Office</td>
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<td>John and Rob Gottlieb</td>
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<td>Jeremy Michaelson and Melissa Michaelson</td>
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$52,000 RAISED IN 2017-2018 FROM THE MEZUZAH CAMPAIGN
COMMUNITY EVENTS

MOVIES AND MUNCHIES
300+ ATTENDEES

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY AND KOSHER RIB BURNOFF
500+ ATTENDEES

SHABBAT DINNER
100+ ATTENDEES

ANNUAL GALA AUCTION
605 ATTENDEES

350+ ATTENDEES

$18,338 RAISED

DONATED AUCTION ITEMS
156

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017-2018 SPONSORS

Pogoda Companies
Self Storage Specialists

THANK YOU TO OUR
2017-2018 SPONSORS

ALRIG USA
CHEMICAL BANK
SANDY AND BM DANTO
Fischman
Insurance Group

Mira and Leopoldo Eisenberg

FISHER INDEPENDENT AND FINANCIAL GROUP LLC
Sarabia and Brian Kasman

Level One Bank

Gerych's

plum market

Telemus

VITALITY EVENTS
The Fiscal Year 2017-2018 financial results were in line with expectations and budgets. Hillel's continued financial success results from the generosity of our donors and the support of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, the Shiffman Family Fund, our anonymous donor, and the Davidson Foundation. In addition, the success of the Endowment Campaign will help us secure the future of our school.

**LEADERSHIP RECEPTION**

The annual Leadership Circle Reception thanking donors of $1,800 or more to the Annual Fund is always a fun evening of food and friendship. Attendees celebrate the success of the previous year's Annual Fund campaign, and look ahead to a new year of fundraising efforts, which culminate with the Annual Gala. This year’s event took place again at the home of past parents Nanci and David Farber. Over 80 percent of our Annual Fund dollars were raised from this group of 135 Leadership Circle donors.

**TOTAL ANNUAL FUND GIVING**

- $780,180
- 592 DONORS
- $73,200 IN SPONSORSHIPS
- 15 SPONSORS
- $546,842 DAVIDSON MATCH
- 72% CLASS OF 2019 WITH THE HIGHEST PARENT PARTICIPATION

**SAVE THE DATE**

GIVING TUESDAY 11.27.18
OUR ENDOWMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE ...

- 20 students now able to participate in sports teams
- 53 eighth graders traveled to Israel
- 13 new LEGO MINDSTORM EV3 robots purchased for robotics curriculum
- 14 acoustic guitars purchased
- 585 students planted in the greenhouse
- 25 iPad Airs purchased
- 700+ new books purchased for the library
- 24 Google ChromeBooks purchased
- 100% of faculty pursued professional development training
- 18 teachers participated in Stanford University’s Math course to transform students’ experience and promote active engagement in learning
- 200+ students sang with Simone Vitale band at Stephen Gottlieb City Jam
- 54% of students supported by tuition assistance
- 585
- 53
- 13
- 14
- 585
- 25
- 700+
- 24
- 100%

Endowments create a perpetual source of funding to support our school and students, our programs and our facilities. A strong endowment gives us the ability to plan and make strategic long-term decisions with financial security. Hillel Day School’s overall endowment grew 2.8% last year, and has experienced a 3.9% average annual rate of change over the last five years.
Hillel received grants and gifts to further our mission of delivering an outstanding education, and we are grateful for the support of foundations that strategically prioritize education. Notable grants last year include funds from the Avi Chai Foundation to support professional development; the Meemic Foundation for the Future of Education to enrich our ECC classrooms with sensory play items that bring the natural world indoors; and the Legacy Heritage Fund - Better Together Program, which supported our Dor L'Dor partnership with Jewish Senior Life.

In-kind gifts included the purchase of a littleBits system of electronic building blocks that snap together to turn ideas into inventions, by current parents Elanah and Rick Hunger. Elanah and Rick “feel strongly about supporting the alternative learning opportunities created by the MakerSpace, and supporting learning through art and hands-on experiences.”

PATH TO IMPROVEMENT: HILLEL RECEIVES HAZON GRANT TO SUSTAIN SCHOOL WETLANDS

As part of Hillel’s engagement with Hazon’s Seal of Sustainability project, the organization, dedicated to a healthy and sustainable world, awarded Hillel $2,000 towards the beautification of the back of our property, which includes forest trails and wetlands. We used those funds to hire a contractor to remove buckthorn, an invasive species, and then install a bioswale to filter water that leads from our driveway to the drain to remove impurities before it enters our wetlands. Next, through our relationship with Hazon, we beautified the trails using mulch. Students will create projects as part of their STEAM classes to install alongside these trails. Projects will include hiking trail signs, treehouses, and animal-proof waste bins.

“It all comes back to the kids.”
- Amy Martin-Piesz, science teacher

ECC EXPANSION/BRICK CAMPAIGN

Hillel’s Early Childhood Center (ECC) is an integral part of our school, allowing our youngest learners the opportunity to be actively engaged in their environment as they develop. Hillel’s ECC opened in 2010, and shortly thereafter achieved NAEYC (The National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation and 4-stars from Great Start to Quality from the State of Michigan (the only local Jewish preschool to meet these high standards and best practices for early childhood education on both the state and national level).

As a result of our outstanding program, our ECC has had exciting growth since its opening. In fact, the ECC has carried a waiting list for the last four years. To avoid turning away future ECC students, Hillel is excited to announce an ECC expansion! Hillel will begin construction on the 6,000 square foot addition in late fall 2018, and it will be ready to greet students in the fall of 2019.

As a community, we are fundraising to grow our ECC. To help fund the expansion, Hillel families, graduates, faculty, and supporters now have the opportunity to leave a permanent mark through our Brick Campaign. These specially engraved, decorative bricks will lay a path to the school so that, in the years to come, you will be able to bring your children and grandchildren to the school to see their names as a permanent part of Hillel’s legacy.

More information about how you can honor a student, graduate, family member, and/or favorite teacher or coach by imprinting a brick will be forthcoming. To learn more, please contact Amy Schlussel at 248-539-1484.
100% OF YOUR SUPPORT DIRECTLY BENEFITS HILLEL STUDENTS

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