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Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore

Dear Middle School Teachers and Principals:

We are pleased to confirm the participation of your student in our exciting educational program, IsraelNow Baltimore, taking place March 20-29, 2023. This program is run through the JCC of Greater Baltimore and is sponsored by the Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore. This program is a week-long, hands-on Jewish educational experience designed specifically for eighth graders.

Students who attend this program make a serious commitment of their time and focus. The intense trip itinerary includes visits to sites of biblical, medieval, and modern Israeli history. Students will also learn about Israel's absorption of immigrants from many different parts of the world, as well as its technological and agricultural innovations. They will be exposed to a new language and to Israel's diverse culture and will meet with Israeli peers who will share details on daily life in the Middle East.

Many parents have reported how pleased they are that the trip has had such a profound and transformative effect on their children. We are confident that this years' experience will be just as impactful.

We hope you will view your student's participation in IsraelNow Baltimore as a legitimate school absence. Please note that due to the intense daily schedule, students will have extremely limited time for assignments during the trip. You may want to encourage projects such as reports, presentations, scrapbooks, or picture albums to be shared with fellow students. In addition to their first-hand experiences, we can provide supplemental educational materials to support such projects.

If you have any questions, please contact us at Jesse Cerrotti at <u>jcerrotti@jcc.org</u>. You can also find additional information on IsraelNowTrip.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration

Thank you,

Jesse Cerrotti, Senior Director of J Camps Evan Taub, Middle School and Teen Program Coordinator

