

Dear Middle School Faculty & Administration,

Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ is pleased to confirm the participation of your student in our educational program, IsraelNow, taking place **February 15-24, 2026**. This program is a week-long, immersive Jewish educational experience in Israel designed specifically for eighth graders.

Students who attend this program make a serious commitment of their time and resources to the growth of their character and leadership. The robust trip itinerary includes visits to sites of historical and modern relevance. Students will 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 Israel's diverse culture, language, and arts as well as meet with Israeli peers who will share personal accounts of living in the Middle East.

IsraelNow has been running this program out of Chicago for over twenty years. Parents have reported how pleased they are with the profound and transformative impact on their children. We are confident that this year's experience will be just as impactful for your students.

We hope that you will view your student's participation in IsraelNow as a valuable addition to the school's mission in providing opportunities for youth to grow in leadership, democratic, and cultural knowledge. We ask that you excuse their absences for the trip's duration. 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 upon their return. In addition to their firsthand experiences, we will supply supplemental educational material to support such projects.

If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Meyler at smeyler@jfedgmw.org. You can also find additional information on the trip website at IsraelNowTrip.org.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Samantha Meyler

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We support and **#StandWithIsrael** as we continue to build a strong Jewish community here in NJ.