



Dear Teachers and Principals,

We are pleased to confirm the participation of \_\_\_\_\_ in our exciting educational program, IsraelNow Rochester, taking place February 15 – 24, 2026.

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 year's experience will be just as impactful.

We hope you will view your student's participation in IsraelNow Rochester 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 supply supplemental educational material to support such projects.

If you have any questions, please contact me, [epetel@jewishrochester.org](mailto:epetel@jewishrochester.org) or 585.241.3002. You can also find additional information on the trip [website](#).

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Efrat Petel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Efrat Petel  
Director, Israel and Global Jewry  
Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester