

IsraelNow Chicago School Letter

Dear Middle School Teachers and Principals:

We are pleased to confirm the participation of your student in our exciting educational program, IsraelNow Chicago, taking place February 15th -24th, 2026. This program is a 7-day, 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 volunteering, identity building, and creating a community of Jewish peers in these unsettled times. Students will also learn about Israeli society and the contributions it makes around the world. They will be exposed to a new language and to diverse culture and will meet with Jewish peers from across the country.

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 Chicago 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 us at Israelnowchicago@juf.org. You can also find additional information on our website at <https://www.israelnowtrip.org/chicago/>.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniella Elyashar (she, her)

Director, IsraelNow Chicago

[Jewish United Fund](#)

30 S. Wells St., Suite 4140, Chicago, IL 60606

312-357-4541

