



Framework
for the Future

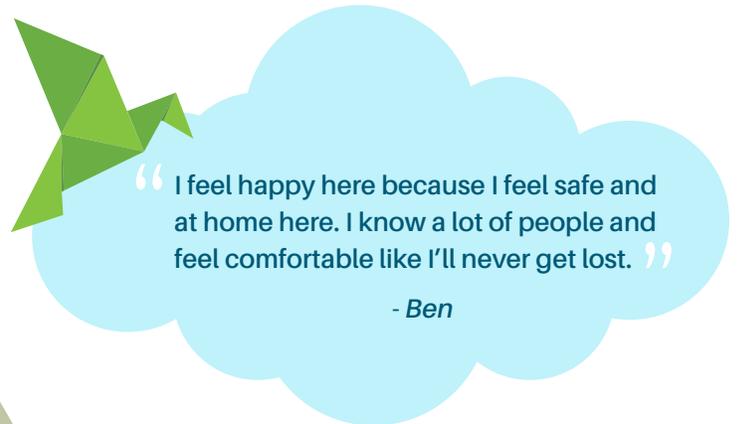


INNOVATIVE SCHOOL
TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

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VISION, MISSION, VALUES



VISION

The Innovative School of Temple Beth Shalom is a Reggio Inspired Reform Jewish Community Dedicated to Joyful Learning



VALUES

Our Kehilla Approach™ (Hebrew for “community”) is our value system that defines how we live and learn within our Innovative School learning community. For us, Kehilla stands for kindness, empathy, honesty, integrity, lifelong learning, and acceptance.



MISSION

The Innovative School of Temple Beth Shalom is a welcoming and collaborative environment where listening is key, thinking is visible, communication authentic, and our practice is reflective. Our Jewish roots ground us and influence how we live, supporting our decision making and approaches. Our practice is guided by our belief that children are competent. We are dedicated to strengthening our deep understanding of child development and children’s rights to learn and grow in an environment that nourishes their spiritual, cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. We are committed to the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam, making the world a better place. The importance of relationships is recognized as a thread that weaves the fabric of our community, creating strong partnerships amongst staff, families and children.

“ I love that this school is constantly evolving and includes people from all over the world. ”

- Leo



“ I have a good relationship with everyone, and consider everyone like family. I think of the administration like parents to me. ”

- Jacob

COMMUNITY LETTER



Dear Families,

Our Elementary Level was started because many of our Foundation Level families were looking for educational venues that addressed the needs of the whole child well into elementary school age. They were looking for educational environments that motivated learners to grow and develop in an endless pursuit of wonder, meaning making and knowledge. Our experience with Reggio-inspired practice was so powerful that parents advocated to have that philosophy as the basis for further education. They wanted an academically rigorous approach to education that also cultivated the cognitive, emotional, and interpersonal skills needed to succeed in an ever-changing 21st Century.

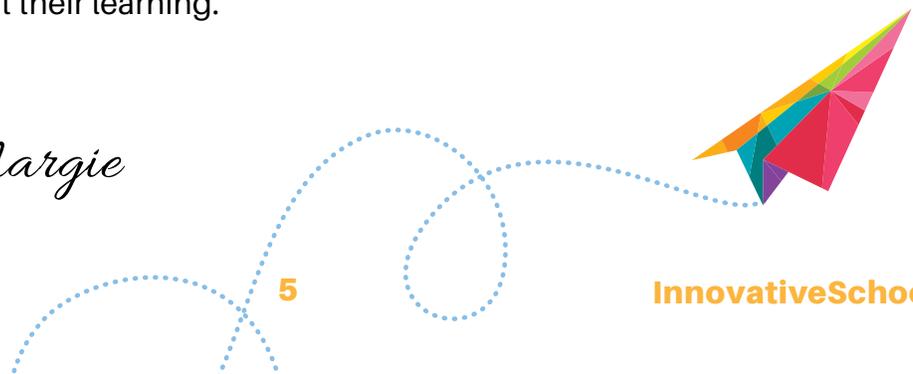
We are privileged to watch our Elementary Level grow from a single Kindergarten class to a thriving K-5 grade educational venue of excellence which focuses on high level teaching and learning with joy. Together with our families, we have co-constructed the vision, mission and guiding principles that create the conditions to put our learners at the center of their education. Our learners know who they are, thrive in community and actively engage in the world as their best selves.

The Innovative School of Temple Beth Sholom is inspired by the Reggio Approach which is a relationship-centered environment that cultivates engagement, which we know leads to both stronger retention of information, and a more joyful environment. Learners acquire 21st century skills through “real world” experience. These skills include agency, creativity, empathy, collaboration, executive functioning, leadership, and sustained focus.

Our intimate size means that children are known, and teachers develop strong relationships with learners and personalize learning. Learners thrive at their own pace and teachers can maximize learners’ strengths. The teacher to student ratio allows teachers to provide challenge and support based on each learner’s profile, as well as create robust social-emotional guidance which is key in the elementary years. Learners know themselves, their strengths and interests and are able to make informed choices about their learning.

Professionally,

Stacy and Margie



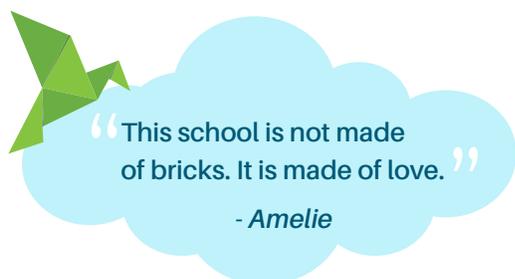
GUIDING PRINCIPLES



The Innovative School is inspired by the Reggio Emilia Approach. This is an educational philosophy based on the image of the child, and of human beings, as being competent and possessing strong potential for development and who learns and grows in the relationships with others.

WE BELIEVE:

- School should be a place for learning how to live and be a productive member of a community.
- Our approaches bridge the gap between academic content with meaningful applications that make the pursuit of knowledge relevant in the real world.
- Our learners become co-constructors of their learning, and this is a disposition that will be nurtured in our learners for a lifetime.
- Classroom community is developed and strengthened through meetings and discussions where learners authentically witness, firsthand, the value of multiple perspectives.
- Families are essential partners along their children’s educational journey.
- Process is viewed as essential to co-constructing knowledge and intentional time is given for this process.
- With a child-directed approach always at the forefront, teaching and learning are authentic, and we intentionally design our learning experiences to foster inquiry, communication, and creative expression.
- Our curriculum is anchored in meaningful experiences, providing learning opportunities that promote collaboration, critical thinking, and inquiry.



“This school is not made of bricks. It is made of love.”

- Amelie

OUR PROCESS



Creating a learner-centered framework involves a thoughtful and collaborative process. In the Spring of 2023, Innovative School partnered with Learner-Centered Collaborative to better understand the current needs and desires of the school community. This involved surveys, stakeholder forums and a review of existing program information. This process allowed us to identify the current strengths and opportunities of the existing educational system.

Next we established a Guiding Coalition, a diverse group of stakeholders, including educators, administrators, and parents:

This coalition was responsible for guiding the development of the learner-centered framework, which includes:

- A Learner Profile to describe the learner knowledge, skills and dispositions
- A Learning Model which defines the types of experiences needed to produce the whole-child outcomes of the Profile
- A Strategic Plan that describes the priorities of the school over the next 3-5 years

This collaborative process spanned 12 months, ensuring that the learner-centered framework remained responsive to the evolving needs of the educational community.

Deep gratitude and appreciation for the members of our Guiding Coalition:

Adam Trautenberg, *Marketing*

Alan Philips, *Parent*

Matt Levinson, *Parent*

Doris Galindo, *Parent*

Julie Basner, *Board Member of Temple Beth Sholom*

Leora Kalikow, *Admissions Director*

Margie Zeskind, *Head of School*

Rachel Unger, *Teacher and Grade Level Lead*

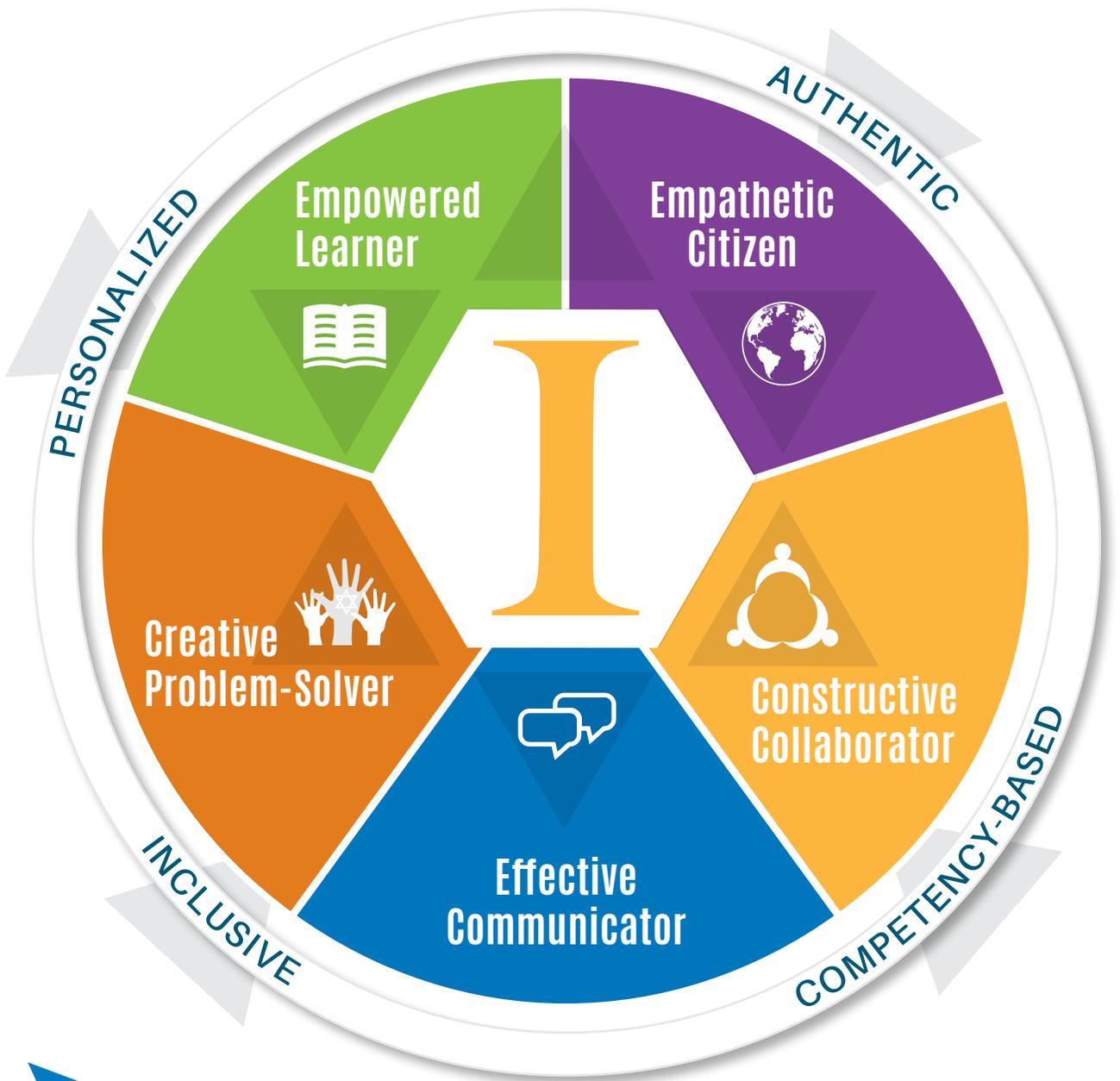
Shannon Koonin, *Academic Advancement Coordinator*

Stacy Penson, *Elementary Level Director*

Vanessa Ressler, *Parent and President of Temple Beth Sholom 2022-2024*

Catina Hancock, *Partner (LCC)*

IMAGE OF THE CHILD (Learner Portrait)



“ I feel like I could be myself here,
I feel like I could be the real me. ”
- Sophia PB

LEARNING MODEL

(Educator Competencies)



The role of the Educator is to observe children, listen to their questions and their stories, find what interests them and then provide them with opportunities to explore these interests further. Educators and children co-construct knowledge. Projects often emerge based on the child's interests. There is an emphasis on carefully documenting children's thoughts and thinking, designed to show the child's learning process.

PERSONALIZED

Learning is co-constructed based on each learner's unique strengths, skills, interests, and needs.

- Personalize the learning experience
- Develop learner agency
- Amplify learner voice

AUTHENTIC

Meaningful, authentic learning grounded in real-world challenges and applications for authentic audiences.

- Design real-world learning experiences
- Spark collaboration
- Promote authentic learning

COMPETENCY-BASED

Learning is driven by evidence-based instruction, assessment, and feedback cycles based on progress toward desired knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

- Plan with a competency-based approach
- Use assessment as a tool for learning
- Design performance-based assessments

INCLUSIVE

Learning communities are collaborative and culturally responsive, where every learner feels they belong and can tap into their full academic and social potential, contributing to the collective success of their community.

- Nurture a meaningful and engaging learning community
- Cultivate a sense of belonging
- Partner with learners to reach their full potential

JOURNEY TO SUCCESS



Every year, the Innovative School will work on strategies that address positive gains and advances in the following priority areas:

- **Learning Excellence:** Our children have the right to constructively learn and grow in an environment that nourishes their spiritual, cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development
- **Educator Excellence:** We have a culture of high expectations and support that includes professional learning that allow educators to self-assess, set goals, and engage in learning in addition to inclusive and equitable recruiting, hiring, and retaining practices
- **Family and Community Engagement:** We make the world a better place by recognizing the importance of relationships that create strong partnerships amongst staff, families and children.
- **Communications and Marketing:** Our community and family partnerships support our ability to reach more families to enroll.



“ Learning and teaching should not stand on opposite banks and just watch the river flow by; instead, they should embark together on a journey down the water. ”

- Loris Malaguzzi



“ I have a good relationship with everyone, it is a community, it is a family and we all treat each other equally. ”

- Shana



“ I am the parent of two boys, each with unique personalities. By prioritizing their emotional well-being and joyful learning, the Innovative school has not only nurtured their academic growth but also helped them thrive. Aligning perfectly with my goal of fostering their overall success for life. ”

- Doris Galindo





INNOVATIVE SCHOOL
TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

InnovativeSchool.org

 4144 Chase Ave.
Miami Beach, FL 33140



Designed in collaboration with:

