

Torah Day School
of Seattle
425-985-9132
TDSofSeattle@GMail.com

May 26, 2006

Dear member of the Seattle Jewish Community:

We are very pleased to announce the opening of The Torah Day School of Seattle (TDS), a new Orthodox institution emphasizing traditional Torah learning, values and observance. TDS will open its doors, B"H, in Seward Park this fall for pre-school through fifth grader.

The new school was officially established on May 24 as its ad hoc organizing committee, bolstered by successful initial fund raising efforts and strong demand for Torah centered education, established a board of directors, elected officers, and hired its first headmaster, Rabbi Sheftel Skaist. Rabbi Skaist is a former faculty member of the Seattle Hebrew Academy and is currently on staff with the Margolin Hebrew Academy in Memphis, TN.

TDS's newly formed board also authorized the acquisition of a school facility -- by purchase or lease -- to be furnished and operational in time for classes this fall. Several potential sites are being investigated in the Seward Park area.

In addition to its core K-5 program, TDS will absorb the Seward Park Jewish Community Pre-School, an existing neighborhood pre-school cooperative. It is estimated 40-60 pre-school through fifth grade students will enroll during the school's first year. TDS will add one grade per year through the eighth grade.

Those seeking TDS enrollment information should call Enrollment Chair Lynda Wegodsky at 206-760-8440. Other inquiries may be directed to Arthur Levin at 425-985-9132.

With encouragement and support from Torah Umesorah, TDS intends to be an exemplary educational institution that provides an exceptional Judaic curriculum to Jewish children from all levels of family observance and a rigorous and progressive general studies curriculum. Teachers and staff will strive to provide each of our students with a positive Jewish identity, a lifelong passion for learning, and a love of and commitment to Torah and the Jewish people. Emphasis will be placed on fostering moral and ethical behavior, encouraging individual achievement and respect for individual differences in a traditional environment.

The board and officers of TDS believe this new school will help Seattle's increasingly diverse Orthodox community to grow substantially in coming years. Because of this school, we hope to retain families who otherwise would leave our

city due to the absence of the kind of Torah-focused education we plan to provide. In coming years, our new school will act as a magnet to draw many others to our city who desire precisely this type of Torah-focused education for their children.

Rabbi Sheftel Skaist, TDS's new headmaster, said in an interview from Memphis, that TDS will place great emphasis on creating an environment where students are "instilled with a love of Torah, learning and other Jews."

"As a Torah-centered school, we will stress commitment to Halachic observance (practice based upon Jewish law), and traditional Hebrew learning skills," Rabbi Skaist said. "We intend to foster these ideas in an atmosphere characterized by a combination of creativity, inspiration and excitement."

Rabbi Skaist said that in addition to meeting fundamental Judaic and general studies educational needs, TDS intends to "nurture and develop good middos (character traits) in our students."

"It's not enough to be educated," he said. "We intend to guide each of our students in how to become a '*mensch*'."


Rabbi Skaist learned at several distinguished yeshivas, including Beis Medrash Govoha of America and the Mir in Jerusalem. He also holds a M.Ed. degree from Loyola University in Chicago with emphasis on education administration and supervision. He is currently an administrator at Margolin Hebrew Academy in Memphis. He heads a unique program that provides weaker students with skills needed to succeed in class, while motivating stronger students to reach their potential.

Newly elected TDS officers, in addition to myself, are Shelly Russak, first vice president; Evelyn Prizont, second vice president; Judy Posner, treasurer; and Judith Pieprz, secretary.

As well as adding board members, TDS is expanding a number of committees, including: education, facilities, finance, marketing and enrollment.

I encourage those interested in volunteering to assist in the establishment of this important new school to call me, Arthur Levin, at 425-985-9132.

Sincerely,


Arthur Levin
TDS President of the Board