

Our Coaches: A Sample



Rabbi Yaakov
Shafferman

Rabbi Yakov Shafferman is the Principal of the Hebrew department at Jesode Hatora School in Antwerp, Belgium. And was principal of the Jewish School of Basel the same school where he had studied in his childhood. Yaakov has facilitated training for hundreds of Jewish educators online and in person in 5 countries, in 3 languages.



Meirav Kravetz

Meirav Kravetz is an experienced Hebrew teacher and World Language Coordinator at Miami Hebrew Academy. She facilitates expert webinars for The Center for Educational Technology in Israel, BetterLesson, and others. . She holds a Master degree in Education from Nova Southeastern University.



Rabbi Dr. David Saltzman

Rabbi Dr. Saltzman has taught and led Jewish Day Schools for over 25 years. He is currently the Director of Teaching and Learning and Assistant Principal at Yeshiva of Flatbush in Brooklyn, NY. David holds a Masters in Jewish Education and an Ed.D in Jewish Administration.



Craig Lubner

Craig is an Assistant Principal in the Jewish private school sector in New York. Craig is a trained Molecular Biologist, is a graduate of Educational leadership programs from Harvard University, Bar Ilan University and the William Davidson Graduate School of Education. Craig holds a B.Sc (Hons) in Molecular Biology from the University of Cape Town and is a doctoral candidate at the Azrieli Graduate School of Education.

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Shir Twerski

Shir is a graduate of the honors "Revivim Program for Outstanding Jewish Educators of the 21st century" and winner of the 2018 "Jewish National Fund Award for Excellent Educators of Philosophy". Shir holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and is a Phd student in the Jewish Thought department at the Hebrew University.



Joan Vander Walde

Joan has served as an outstanding leader and educator in Jewish day schools for over 4 decades at CESJDS, at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, at the Shevet Achim School Twinning Program in MD. Joan holds a BA degree from Brandeis University and a MA in Ed. degree from George Washington University.



Leah Herzog

Leah has taught and led Jewish identity and day school experiences for over Jewish Day Schools and Congregational Communities for over 35 years. She holds a M.Ed. in Educational Psychology as well as an M.Ed. in Educational Administration. She is a certified guide for the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem. She plays 4 instruments and speaks 3 languages.



Tamar Krieger

Tamar has worked as a teacher, assistant principal, curriculum designer, technology specialist, and teacher/leadership trainer with experience in formal educational settings, informal community building, and corporate team management. She has also developed a mindfulness wearable for children and was Chief of Staff for a company that created sensory tools for children. She has extensive experience working in Jewish Day Schools and Congregational Communities. Tamar holds a MA from University of Pennsylvania.

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Dr. Penny Joel

Dr. Penny Joel is a BetterLesson Instructional Coach and an experiential Jewish educator. She has taught classes in Halakha, Tanakh, Jewish History and Jewish Philosophy and has been involved in a vast array of innovative education initiatives in schools, summer camps and other experiential education programs. She received her Doctorate in Jewish Education at the Azrieli School of Jewish Education at Yeshiva University, an MS Ed in Early Adolescent Education from the Bank Street College of Education.



Odelia Schlisser

A BetterLesson Instructional Coach, and a skilled and talented educational professional, with over 22 years of experience in the field of teaching, educational administration and consulting. She has a Master's in Education from Touro College and a Master's in Clinical Sociology from University of North Texas. Odelia has been a Principal at several educational facilities including Yeshiva of Central Queens, Yeshiva Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch and The Clifton Cheder.



Shelley Kniaz

Shelley Kniaz is an instructional coach for BetterLesson. Shelley is passionate about student-centered, project-based and collaborative methods that stress student choice to motivate and personalize. She served as a: teacher for pre-K - adult, curriculum writer, trainer, school leader, and consultant in strategic assessment, re-envisioning and enacting positive change in schools.

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Ketty Granite

Ketty is the developer and writer of the Granite Ivrit Hebrew curriculum that is currently taught in dozens of schools throughout the world. She is an educator, mentor and trainer to teachers and administrators, facilitating professional development on Hebrew as a second language and pedagogy. Ketty is a Doctor of Modern Languages (DML) candidate at Middlebury College. Ketty also has a Master's Degree in Educational Management from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a second Master's degree in Teaching Hebrew as a Second Language and Israeli Culture from Middlebury College.



Sarah Golubtchik

Sarah Golubtchik is a passionate educator who is dedicated to creatively engaging students of all ages in ways that allow each individual to thrive. Sarah has worked as a classroom teacher and administrator, and currently supports teachers through the development of curricular materials. She holds a M.S. Ed. from Yeshiva University, a B.A. from Barnard College, and is a graduate of the Morot L'Halacha program at Matan HaSharon. Her written work has been published in Jewish Educational Leadership, the Lehrhaus, and TraditionOnline.



Seema Gersten

Seema Gersten is an award winning educator and a highly acclaimed speaker. Seema mentors with passion, helping educators to effectively strengthen and elevate their teaching to new heights. Seema is an Orton Gillingham trained Literacy Intervention Specialist, fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all learners. When not speaking, training or teaching, Seema can be found playing Mahjong with her friends, reading, working on her new book or snuggling with her two beautiful grandchildren. Seema holds a Master's in Education and is a Literacy Intervention Specialist.

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Mihal Bat-Or

Mihal has dedicated 40 years to cutting-edge Jewish and Hebrew teaching in Jewish day schools working in grades 1-5. She is trained in special education, Responsive Classroom, Ivriyon (JTS), Wired for Reading, Teacher Institute for the Arts (David Moss).



Benzion Brand

Benzion Brand is a dedicated educator with a wealth of experience teaching students from diverse age groups, ranging from 5 to 95 years old. Rabbi Brand teaches first grade in Cincinnati and also supports students as a remedial specialist. His commitment to fostering a love for learning and providing essential guidance has made him a valued member of his educational community.



Nathan Fein

Nathan (Nate) Fein believes in a student-centered approach to any classroom, trying to find ways to reach every student, identifying specific areas of growth, and making the classroom engaging and relevant to everyone. Nathan has supported students in two different states over 10 years in Elementary and Middle School grades teaching Chumash, Navi, Mishna, Gemara, Woodworking, and Gardening. Nathan is an Eagle Scout and an ordained Rabbi from Yeshiva University; he holds an MS in Education from the Azrieli School of Education, and a BA in History from the University of Maryland.

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Rebecca Coen

Rebecca is passionate about getting others as excited as she is about achieving shared goals and academic improvement. With over 12 years as a school administrator, leadership coach and consultant, as well as over 18 years as a classroom teacher, Rebecca brings a history of successful educational leadership in diverse educational settings and communities.

Rebecca has a variety of experiences, excellent training, and a zest for learning. And every summer, for the past 12 years, Rebecca facilitates in the Programs in Professional Education (PPE) at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.



Liora Wittlin

Liora Wittlin is a seasoned Jewish educator and curriculum designer with expertise in differentiated instruction, student-centered learning, and blended learning. She has taught numerous Judaic courses in nearly all grade levels from K-12, and regularly presents classes for Jewish adults in a variety of subjects. Liora holds a B.A. from Yeshiva University in Psychology and Judaic Studies, and a Te'udat Morah LaGolah from the Israeli Ministry of Education.



Dr. Sarah Robinson Levy

Dr. Sarah Robinson Levy has an undergraduate degree in business and sociology and holds a Master of Jewish Education degree from Hebrew College, a doctorate in education from Northeastern University, and certificates in Advanced Jewish Studies, Day School Education, and Jewish Educational Leadership. Her areas of focus include progressive/student-centered education, integration of artificial intelligence into education, and teacher professional development and support. She is a proud Colorado native and resident.

How do we ensure the best coach match possible?



Participant matching criteria

Grade level

Subject area

Role

Focus Area

Preferred meeting time



Coach matching criteria

Experience

Experience

Licensure

Certification

Availability

