



PLANTING THE SEEDS

"My ancestors planted for me.
Likewise, I am planting for my children."
—Talmud Ta'anit, 23a



Message From Emily Greenberg, Head of School

We are excited to share our five-year strategic plan, "Planting the Seeds," with our community. This plan is guided by the priorities and vision of our stakeholders: to educate, inspire and guarantee Vancouver's Jewish future. This **four pillar plan**, emphasizing *The Student Experience, Jewish Life & Learning, Community, and Stewardship*, will guide us to build on our 100-year legacy and embolden our students to be thought leaders, *mensch*es and innovators.

"Planting the Seeds" is ambitious and focuses on moving the school forward to meet the needs of our learners and community. From these seeds will grow strong, curious and courageous leaders, thinkers and contributors who will engage the world through a Jewish lens and live meaningful and purposeful lives.

Grow with us and join in our efforts.

Todah Rabah,



MISSION, VISION, VALUES

OUR MISSION

Vancouver Talmud Torah is an inclusive Jewish community day school committed to academic excellence and nurturing lifelong learners who engage the world through Jewish traditions and values.

OUR VALUES

- 🌱 Academic Excellence
- 🌱 Community
- 🌱 Inclusivity
- 🌱 Jewish Peoplehood
- 🌱 Israel
- 🌱 Social Responsibility

OUR VISION

Families in Greater Vancouver will recognize VTT as the premier Jewish day school for students from a broad spectrum of Jewish practice and belief.

The Jewish community in Vancouver will recognize VTT as a partner in educating Jewish students and an integral part of the fabric of Jewish life in the community.

The Greater Vancouver community will recognize the active role VTT plays as a contributor to social justice in the community, across Canada, and around the world.

THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

35 Focus groups and conceptualization meetings

26 Formal committee meetings

95% Response rate to VTT Parent Satisfaction & Feedback Survey

450 Hours devoted to thorough Judaics review by outside consultant



THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Inspiring Innovation,
Academic Excellence and
Embracing Diversity

Our Goals:

- Enhance transformative learning experiences and programs for our students.
- Strengthen our culture of well-being and equip every student with a strong sense of belonging.
- Support each student in reaching their personal best on their learning journey at VTT.
- Inspire our students to embrace a lifelong commitment to service, learning, and leadership.



"As a parent I am noticing happy teachers, who are pushing themselves and their students to excellence. I see fun events, focused-interest extended learning (such as robotics), and a hugely successful inclusive fundraiser. I see transparent communication - all while managing in a global pandemic."
-Rotem Regev, VTT parent



Sowing the Seeds of Learning: ISTEAM & Outdoor Education at VTT

VTT's signature ISTEAM (Israel Innovation, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) program prepares students for a rapidly changing world, placing them in control of their learning to explore the living story of contemporary Israel. ISTEAM is a hands-on learning approach which propels our students to innovate, collaborate and inquire to find solutions to complex problems.

We strive to use the natural world as a canvas for our curriculum. Whether through our hydroponics program, our collaboration with Stable Harvest Farms or our emphasis on plant-based learning, we promote the Jewish value of environmental stewardship (shomrei adamah שומרי אדמה) and curiosity as a framework for our students to make sustainable and impactful life choices.





Sowing the Seeds of Menschlichkeit: A Call to Action

At VTT, the Jewish values of *tzedakah* (righteousness צדקה) and *chesed* (performing acts of loving kindness חסד) are seamlessly woven into all aspects of student life. By studying the Torah's *mitzvot* (good deeds מצוות), students learn of their moral obligation to help others, and are called upon to act and respond by volunteering, fundraising and advocating for the causes they care about. From local to global, VTT's impact is far reaching. These pivotal experiences launch our alumni as future leaders and philanthropists in their communities.




"I appreciate the value placed on Jewish learning, Hebrew language and cultivating students' Jewish identity. It is so important to create a great love of our Jewish heritage and of Israel so going forward the students can inculcate this into who they are and feel a great connection and pride in their identity."
-Queenie Hamovich, a Vancouver bubbe



JEWISH LIFE AND LEARNING

Building the Foundation for a Meaningful Jewish Life

Our Goals:

-  **Jewish Life and Culture:** Solidify the Jewish ethos and identity of the school and determine pathways for enriching the Jewish lives of our diverse community and strengthening our connection to Israel.
-  **Jewish Learning:** Further establish a cohesive Judaics curriculum that cascades from Early Years to Grade 7.
-  **Jewish Leadership:** Empower the Judaics Leadership Team to make meaningful changes and strategic improvements to the Judaic Studies program while supporting the Judaics faculty.

"Jewish education influences Jewish continuity, identity and community engagement. We believe it is essential that VTT students continue to find meaning in Jewish education so Jewish traditions and values are passed on to current and future generations to come." -Jill Diamond, Executive Director, Diamond Foundation

Todah Rabah to The Diamond Foundation for supporting the Judaic Studies program's strategic goals.



COMMUNITY

Nurturing and Strengthening Vancouver's Jewish Future

Our Goals:

- Continue to cultivate strong connections and relationships between VTT and the greater Jewish community.
- Foster an enduring commitment to being an active member of the Jewish community.
- Articulate and model a clear mission and vision for the school that reflects the complexity and richness of our diverse community.



[As a third generation VTT family] we have always known that VTT was a community school and that there was tremendous care for one another. Yet, it is about what goes on inside the school - the people who shape it, the children who find freedom of expression and identity, the teachers who provide a safe, creative and motivating space to allow that growth and the administration who support it. We feel fortunate to have our children's second home at VTT."

-Shira Gold, VTT parent



Sowing the Seeds of Community: The VTT Ecosystem | L'Dor V'Dor לידור ודור

For over 100 years, VTT's alumni have been the pipeline to ensuring the continuity of Vancouver's Jewish community. As a multi-generational school, many of today's faculty, administrators, parents and board of directors began as VTT students. Today, their children and grandchildren, hailing from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, continue the legacy of Jewish scholarship, leadership and philanthropy.

VTT is inclusive to families spanning the entire spectrum of Jewish affiliation – from secular to modern Orthodox – and attracts families from across the Lower Mainland and from every corner of the globe. Inclusivity is a core VTT value that enriches the fabric of our community. Whether through our Affordability Discount Program or tuition assistance, which supports approximately 40% of our community, VTT proudly remains accessible to families of various means.





Sowing the Seeds of Longevity: Our VTT Bounty

Our predecessors believed in the mission and vision of VTT so passionately that they remortgaged their homes to secure the school's future. They inspired the vision that grew VTT into a premier Jewish day school. Today this legacy is evident in the strength of our branches – our families, our students, our faculty and our community. As the caretakers of VTT, we are committed to fortifying the roots that were planted long ago through sound governance and prudent financial management. We are humbled by this awesome responsibility and are committed to safeguarding and nurturing VTT and our mission for years to come.



STEWARDSHIP

Safeguarding the Long-Term Sustainability of VTT

Our Goals:

- Effectively recruit and actively retain students, faculty and staff.
- Ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the school and its capital assets.
- Enable visionary school leadership, sound governance and strategic risk management.

"A tuition subsidy has allowed us to be part of the VTT community – and we are so grateful for it. When finances allow, we plan to donate back to the school so that other families can have the same support as we have had this year." –Anonymous



"Oh, how I wish I was a student at your school. So much happening, so many Jewish flavours and Hebrew everywhere. I love the news, the programming, the projects, and the real Jewish life." –Morah Sandy Corenblum, a bubbe living in Calgary

VTT AT A GLANCE

- Founded in 1918
- Largest Jewish day school west of Ontario
- Average enrollment of 480-500 students
- Robust 1-to-1 laptop program
- New campus built in 2016 adding 42,000 square feet of 21st century learning space
- Licensed early childhood program with dedicated playground
- Two sanctified spaces on campus
- State of the art security infrastructure
- Certified kosher kitchens offering daily hot lunches
- Several on site after school programs, including our Bayit after care program
- Two gyms with climbing wall and largest rooftop sports field in Vancouver
- Specialist faculty in Art, Music, Drama and Health & Physical Education



The power of community, outstanding academics and inspirational Jewish experiences are the essence of VTT, forming the foundation of our students' future success.



PRIZMAH
Center for Jewish Day Schools



JEWISH FEDERATION
GREATER VANCOUVER