



vancouver talmud torah 

HEAD OF SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY



WELCOME

Founded in 1917, Vancouver Talmud Torah (VTT) is Canada's largest elementary Jewish day school west of Toronto, serving more than 200 families and 440 students in preschool 3 through grade 7. VTT is an inclusive Jewish day school rooted in Jewish traditions, values and knowledge, and infused with the spirit of *chesed* and *tikkun olam*. VTT serves a socially, economically, religiously and academically diverse community through a robust dual-track general and Judaic studies curriculum built upon the principles of 21st century learning. Students are welcomed into a warm, supportive and innovative learning environment, rich with extra-curricular, performing arts, athletic and Jewish values-based programming.

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.

To learn more about VTT's values, please click [here](#).

VISION

Families in Greater Vancouver will recognize VTT as the premiere 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 OPPORTUNITY

VTT presents an exceptional leadership opportunity for the next Head of School. VTT's next leader will arrive at a particularly exciting time as the school completes the first year of its second century and prepares to appoint its first new HOS in 17 years following the planned retirement of current head, Cathy Lowenstein.

With a strong foundation for the future and the right leadership, VTT has the potential to become one of North America's preeminent Jewish community day schools. The school's educational program is well established and highly regarded. Recent surveys provide evidence of extraordinary levels of support from parents and faculty. VTT has a culture rich in Jewish values and programming, including robust, innovative and highly valued programs based on the principles of *tikkun olam*. The school has a growing Early Years program, with significant potential for further investment and expansion to make VTT more accessible to young families and build a strong pipeline for future enrolment. VTT is entering the second year of a new affordability strategy (which is in addition to annual need-based tuition assistance). And the campus has been recently transformed through a \$28 million expansion and revitalization that has given VTT perhaps the finest academic, athletic and kitchen facilities of any elementary school in Vancouver.

This creates an extraordinary platform for new leadership to build on VTT's positive momentum and address significant new challenges and opportunities. These include: continuing to improve the depth and quality of our Judaics program; increasing enrolment in the face of regional affordability challenges; building high-performing marketing, communications, enrolment and development functions; and strengthening VTT's near and long-term financial stability and sustainability.

ABOUT VTT

VTT is an inclusive community Jewish day school that respects and embraces variation in observance and religious practice. We are proud of the very disparate geographic and cultural origins of our families, but our pluralism is also evident in our socioeconomic diversity and wide spectrum of Jewish affiliation. As a community school, we embrace all Jewish families—be they observant, traditional, secular or interfaith. The sense of community is enhanced by buddy programs that build cross-grade connections and friendships. In addition, our Parent Action Chavurah (PAC parent association) provides initiatives that support our school and parent body. Because so many of our families come from outside Vancouver, friends become family at VTT and this is where students – and parents – create friendships that last a lifetime.

We immerse students in the warmth and beauty of Jewish tradition and practice while creating joyful experiences. Jewish life is celebrated and lived daily through the values of *tikkun olam* (repair of the world), *chesed* (kindness) and *tzedakah* (charity). Shabbat activities and programs are a highlight of the weekly schedule. Our well-developed Judaic studies program engages students in Hebrew language instruction and facilitates the study of Jewish rituals, holidays, the weekly Torah portion and, in upper grades, Jewish texts. We also create a vibrant link to the State of Israel, particularly through our ShinShin program that allows young Israeli emissaries to spend the year interacting with and informally educating students.

The leaders and teachers of VTT seek to model and inspire active engagement in Jewish traditions, values and community. As a community Jewish day school, VTT offers an enriched educational program with a recently reimagined resource centre designed to ensure all our students succeed. Students rise to the challenge of completing the BC curriculum in addition to a full program of Judaic studies, where in addition to Hebrew language instruction, students study Torah, Jewish history, culture, values, holidays and traditions.



Centrally located in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, VTT's new and revitalized campus features state-of-the-art learning, collaboration and administrative spaces; superb indoor and outdoor athletic facilities; a dedicated Early Years wing; a natural exploration-based playground; and one of Vancouver's largest kosher kitchens.

Vancouver, which consistently ranks among the world's most livable cities¹, features an active and engaged Jewish community with a strong Jewish Federation, social service agencies, a vibrant Jewish Community Centre, multiple Jewish day schools, including two major high school programs (community and orthodox), shuls of all religious affiliations, a vibrant Jewish Film Festival and more.

VTT is accredited by the BC Ministry of Education and a candidate school for accreditation by the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS). Established in 1981, CAIS's mission is to pursue continuous whole school improvement through accreditation, exemplary leadership development, research, and national collaborative initiatives. Obtaining CAIS accreditation will place VTT among Canada's leading independent schools.

With a strong and supportive community, a talented and committed leadership team and faculty and exceptional facilities, VTT represents an extraordinary opportunity for a new Head of School to build a rich, meaningful and vital future for the lifeblood educational institution of Vancouver's Jewish community.



¹ According to The Economist Intelligence Unit.





ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Early Childhood Education: A Solid Foundation. Our early childhood program provides the building blocks for future academic growth and allows for the seamless transition to Grade One. We believe in the power of play. Through play children learn how to think, explore, discover and create. Play is also a basis for developing social and emotional skills allowing children to learn how to make friends, negotiate with others, and resolve conflicts. Through play, children learn independence, cooperation and collaboration.

Outstanding Real-World Education: Preparing our Students for an Ever Changing World. At VTT our commitment to academic excellence is unwavering. Our dynamic, innovative, real world and rigorous curriculum from Preschool through to Grade Seven enables students to acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence they will need to meet the challenges ahead. Critical thinking and communication skills are honed as students collaborate in multidisciplinary projects. Using an inquiry-based model, children learn how to creatively problem solve and, essentially, learn how to learn.

Building Jewish Identity: Traditions in Action. We immerse students in the warmth and beauty of Jewish tradition and practice while creating joyful experiences. Jewish life is celebrated and lived daily through the values of *tikkun olam* (repair of the world), *chesed* (kindness) and *tzedakah* (charity). Shabbat activities and programs are a highlight of the weekly schedule. Our well-developed Judaic studies program engages students in Hebrew language instruction and facilitates the study of Jewish rituals, holidays, the weekly Torah portion and, in upper grades, Jewish texts. We also create a vibrant link to the State of Israel, particularly through our ShinShin program that allows young Israeli emissaries to spend the year interacting with and informally educating students.

Technology at VTT: Enhancing Instruction. We believe that technology enhances, but does not replace, good classroom instruction. Students from SK onwards are provided with iPads and laptops to achieve curricular goals. In Grades 6 and 7, students are provided with their own MacBook Air for daily school use. The focus of our educational technology program is providing teachers and students with access to additional resources, insight, knowledge and expertise. In addition, competence with these tools and literacy in how best to use and apply them will prepare students for the next chapters in their educational journeys.

The Creative Child: A Focus on the Arts. At VTT, we promote the innate creativity of our students through daily art exploration and creation activities. We understand that engaging in the creative process strengthens neural pathways, promotes critical thinking, improves fine motor skills, and allows children to discover their individuality. Our art, music and drama faculty specialists contribute to the development of the whole child and our intermediate students love participating in our professional spring musical productions.

Recognizing the Individual. Athletics, Robotics, Dance and More. We offer a broad range of athletic opportunities with intramurals, house teams and competitive sports teams in volleyball, basketball, soccer, and cross country. Our extracurricular and co-curricular lunchtime programs include choir, chess, Israeli dance, hip hop and jazz, Lego robotics, floor hockey, basketball, soccer, photography, yoga and mixed media arts. Visit the Extra Curricular section of our website for more details.

Mitzvah of Valuing Philanthropy – MVP: How Our Students Make a Difference. Grade 7 is the year when most of our students become B'nei Mitzvah. As "Jewish adults" they learn about their responsibilities to their community and to the world around them. The culmination of their *Tikkun Olam* learning (a two-year program) happens with the Mitzvah of Valuing Philanthropy (MVP) program. Through acts of *tzedekah* and *chesed*, the students learn in a hands-on way what it means to become a caring and responsible adult.



A New 42,000 Sq Ft Campus Built for Learning: The VTT Campus.

A rich student experience with:

- Collaborative workspaces and lots of natural light
- Flexible learning environments to support new programs for STEM learning
- Two fully purposed gyms and large multi-purpose rooms
- The largest rooftop sport field in all of Vancouver
- Sanctified space for spiritual gatherings
- Revitalized early years wing including licensed extended day program
- Kosher kitchens offering hot lunches and catering services for school and community events
- State of the art security infrastructure for a safe and secure campust





GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

VTT is governed by a 20-member Board of Directors elected by members of the Vancouver Talmud Torah Association. VTT's Board of Directors has a duty to provide oversight and direction in the fulfillment of the school's mission to ensure its long-term success and sustainability. The Board's primary focus is on strategic planning, educational and operational excellence, financial stability and sustainability, and ensuring VTT is meeting the needs of the Vancouver Jewish community.

The Board provides oversight and direction via the VTT Head of School. The Head of School leads the team responsible for maintaining and enhancing academic and operational excellence, as well as financial stability and sustainability; executing policies set by the Board of Directors; and implementing the mission and mandate of the school. Specifically, the Head of School is the senior executive ultimately responsible for educational management and instructional leadership, complying with Ministry of Education requirements, managing board, community and stakeholder relations, human resources, financial management, marketing, public relations, enrolment, development and fundraising.

LOCATION

VTT is centrally located at 26th and Oak, close to Shara Tzedek, Temple Sholom, Congregation Beth Israel, the Jewish Community Centre, King David High School and numerous other Jewish institutions, as well as parks, shopping and amenities.

LIVING IN VANCOUVER

Located on Canada's Pacific coast, Vancouver is consistently ranked one of the world's most livable cities by The Economist, with spectacular natural surroundings, a temperate climate and a culture that embraces healthy living, prides itself on a commitment to the principles of environmental sustainability, inclusion and accessibility, and values good food, the outdoors and community. According to Forbes, Vancouver is the 10th cleanest city in the world. The city is ethnically and economically diverse and is home to multiple post-secondary institutions, including University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Emily Carr University of Art & Design and BC Institute of Technology, among others.





WHO SHOULD APPLY?

In light of the opportunities and challenges awaiting the next Head of School, VTT is seeking a talented educator and administrator who offers most or all of the following attributes:

- A capable, enthusiastic and inspiring leader with the skills, passion and energy to fulfill VTT's Mission and realizes its full potential as one of Canada's leading inclusive Jewish community day schools.
- A leader who empowers and motivates faculty and staff, promotes teamwork and accountability among his/her team and who has the skills and experience to help develop and execute a strategic plan built on the pillars of educational excellence, community and financial stability and sustainability.
- A motivated and decisive leader with an open communications style and a record of achieving excellence by setting high standards, driving results and demanding accountability from himself/herself and others.
- A leader who embraces Jewish traditions and values and who is passionate about driving an excellent Judaics program in the context of a pluralistic Jewish environment.
- An engaged leader with exceptional management, communication and listening skills.
- An educator or educational administrator with an understanding of current pedagogy who can promote thoughtful innovation, continuous improvement, and best practices in all aspects of the educational program, including Judaics, general studies, STEM, arts, athletics and values-based programming.
- An experienced professional who has demonstrated the ability to build a high-functioning, collaborative leadership team through skilled hiring, effective mentoring and strong leadership.
- A talented, systems-minded leader capable of ensuring operational excellence across VTT's finance, facilities, development, communications and marketing functions.
- An individual with *n'shamah*, integrity, honor and character who leads by example.

Minimum requirements for the position include a Master's Degree and a minimum of 15 years of experience in teaching and/or educational leadership positions. A competitive compensation package will be offered to the successful candidate.



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND SEARCH PROCESS

Candidates should submit an application package including the following **no later than Monday, November 12, 2018**:

- A cover letter indicating why you are interested in and qualified for the position (maximum of 750 words)
- A current résumé
- A statement of educational philosophy (maximum of 450 words)
- A statement of leadership philosophy (maximum of 450 words)
- The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references. (We will obtain permission from you before contacting references)
- Optional: Other supporting material (e.g. articles, speeches, or letters of recommendation) that might be useful to the Search Committee

Applications should be submitted in PDF format to our Prizmah search consultant, Amy Wasser, at amyw@prizmah.org. Submissions will be held in confidence by the Search Committee and VTT Board of Directors.

Thank you for your interest in VTT!





Vancouver Talmud Torah

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