

YESHIVAT CHOVEVEI TORAH RABBINICAL SCHOOL

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: RABBI DEVIN VILLARREAL

June 2, 2014 | 4 Sivan 5774

Newsletter Supplement



NAME: Devin Villarreal

GRADUATING CLASS: 2009

POSITION: Chair, Department of Jewish Studies; New Community Jewish High School; Los Angeles, California

“Train a child according to his way” (Mishlei 22:6). Since receiving *semikha* from YCT in 2009, Devin Villarreal has employed this wisdom of Shlomo HaMelekh in a variety of educational contexts, working first at Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy, a modern Orthodox middle school in Los Angeles, and now at New Community Jewish High School (aka “New Jew”), a community day school in the San Fernando Valley.

As an educator, Rabbi Villarreal has attempted to teach thoughtful curricula in Tanakh and Talmud, allowing students to find their own personal points of entry to Torah through textual skills and content knowledge. At New Jew, his endeavors are embodied in an integrated Media Arts/Jewish Text class and a Beit Midrash program for Talmud study. In the latter, ninth to twelfth grade students build traditional text skills and frame their learning in the context of classical *middot* as found in Mussar literature. Devin is excited to begin serving as Chair of the Jewish Studies Department in the fall of 2014.

While he is very grateful for these opportunities, Devin and his wife Pamela are most grateful for their growing family. Their four children — Oliver, 7; Elinor, 5; Sawyer, 3; and Everett, 4 months — make every day a joy.