



This Week's Update

From Michal Almalem

Imagine....a world where our students are part of a virtual classroom, learning together with Jewish students around the world.

Imagine...a world of individualized instruction reinforced by cutting-edge applications that offer students limitless learning opportunities.

Imagine...a world where our middle school students can learn from our amazing teachers, and then blog their thoughts and ideas, sharing them with Jewish students near and far.

You don't need to imagine it...you just need to watch Bornblum blossom!

We use technology to enhance the delivery of BJCS' outstanding Jewish Studies education providing unique opportunities for our students. When we connect our students into the global Jewish community, we make the Jewish world smaller, closer, and more accessible. We build relationships with students and schools around the globe giving our students the opportunity to be a part of a much larger community.

Using technology literally puts the global Jewish world in the palms of our students' hands. We deliver a rich, well-rounded Jewish education enabling our students to connect and follow people and events in far flung places. By utilizing technologies like Skype and Facebook they interact with other students and scholars in great urban centers like New York, Jerusalem, and Moscow. Technology brings thousands of years of Jewish history to life with interactive tools where students can literally feel as if they are living through these historic events. At Bornblum we are making the global Jewish village real, and not just a cyber-space virtual reality.

Our ability to deliver this powerful Jewish educational experience is bounded only by our own imagination. Laptops and iPads make it possible not only to learn about Eliezer Ben Yehuda, but minutes later to Skype with his grandson. In a few weeks our 8th grade class leaves for Israel. They will arrive already having met students from other the cities with whom they will explore our Jewish homeland. Fifth graders build their virtual Jewish community by celebrating Kabbalat Shabbat with fifth graders in Jacksonville, FL. Apps and websites like Quizlet, Hebrew flashcards, Jewperty and more, help students learn Hebrew vocabulary in a fun, interactive way.

This summer, our teachers will continue learning how to effectively “flip” their classrooms, utilizing modern technology to help introduce concepts. They will use classroom time to individualize instruction offering greater opportunities for supervised skill practice and differentiated learning. We continue to search for more schools that want to join our virtual Jewish community and faculty. We will continue to integrate applications and websites into the Judaic curriculum to encourage students to learn as much as they can.

One last note. Just like the real world in which we live, the virtual world requires us to be diligent about student safety and security. Rest assured that as we seek to adopt new technologies at Bornblum, we will be vigilant about the security of our students, and we will only deploy technologies that are safe, secure, and age-appropriate.

3,500 years ago Eretz Yisrael was the unknown destination which offered our ancestors who wandered through the desert for 40 years a mysterious, hope filled promise for their future. Today, technology and the internet present a mysterious and unknown world of promise for our students. At Bornblum, we are committed to guiding them through our part of their unknown journey because like the Jews of old, we have faith. We know that by integrating new and exciting technologies wherever possible, we will fulfill our promise to create a generation of Jewish students who are well prepared to participate and become leaders in the global Jewish community.