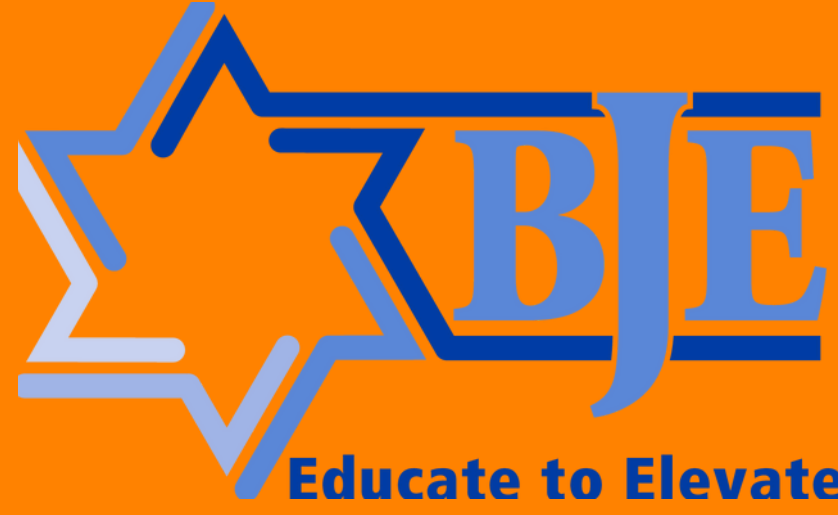


Neurodiversity and Differentiated Learning: A Jewish Perspective on Inclusion, Education, and Community חנוך לנער על פי דרכו



August 19, 2025; 8:00am-12:00pm

Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus at 12701 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ

Contact us at marinaa@bjephoenix.org

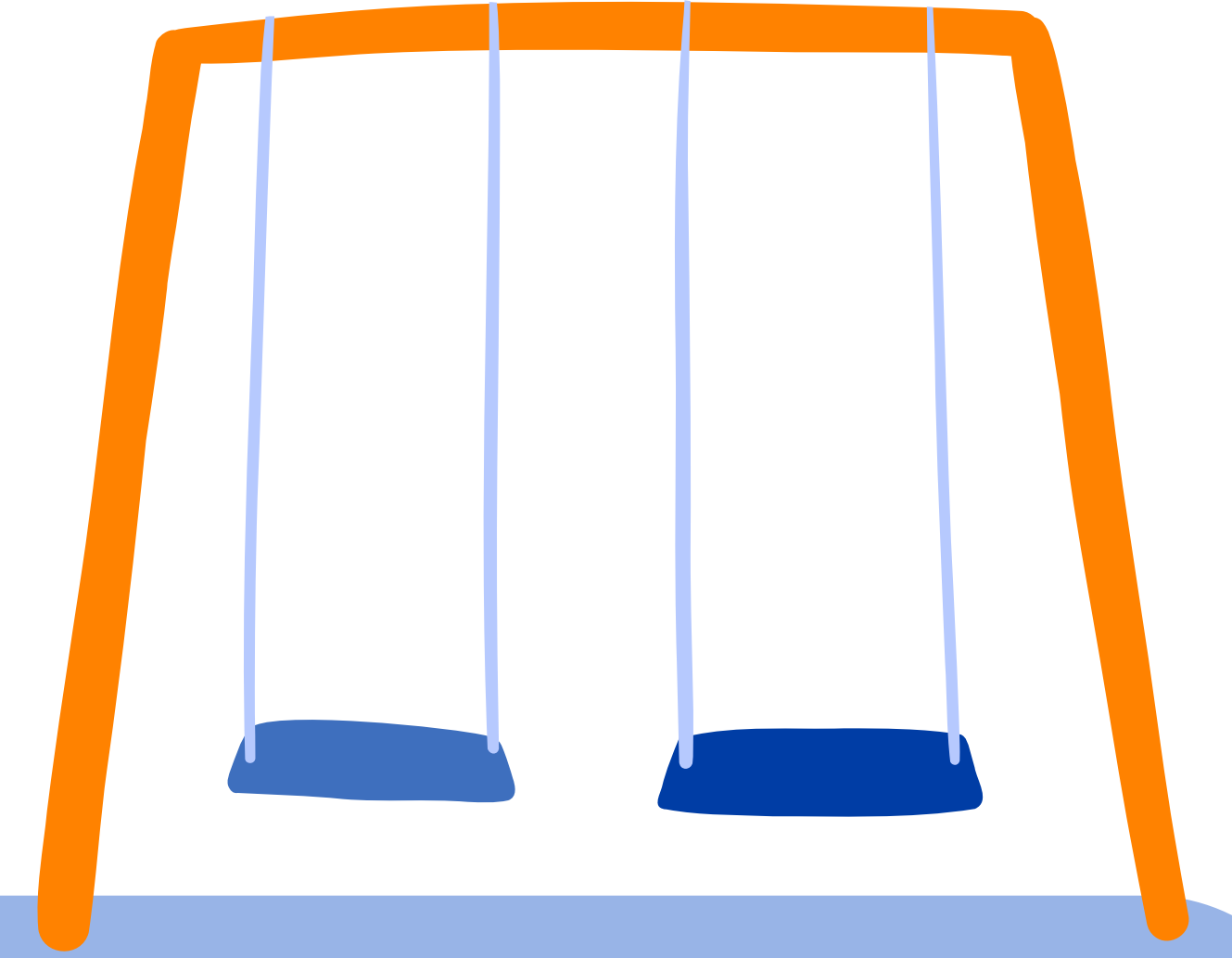
8:20AM-9:15AM

KEYNOTE-INCLUDING DIVERSE LEARNER: DESIGNING CLASSROOMS WHERE ALL STUDENTS THRIVE

Presented by: Dr. Debra Drang, Director of Educational Excellence at Prizmah

In every classroom, student strengths, needs, and learning profiles vary in ways we can predict and plan for in advance. This workshop explores why proactive planning for diverse learners is essential to creating inclusive, supportive learning environments. Participants will learn practical strategies to design lessons and classrooms that ensure all students can engage, grow, and thrive.

Join us for Registration and Nosh at 8:00 AM



9:25AM-10:15AM/10:25AM-11:15AM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Everything teachers are never taught about ADHD (but should be).

Presenter: Ryan Wexblatt- ADHD Dude

In this practical, no-fluff session, you'll learn:

- What ADHD really looks like in a classroom setting — beyond the stereotypes
- Straightforward strategies that seamlessly integrate into your existing routines
- How to facilitate students with ADHD to be more successful in your class

Best of all, the approaches shared in this training aren't just helpful for students with ADHD — they're effective for all students, making your classroom more efficient, supportive, and manageable for everyone.

You'll leave with tools you can use immediately without reinventing your lesson plans or spending hours prepping.

Gifted 101: Understanding Characteristics and Strategies for Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners

Presenter: Dr. DJ Graham, Head of School for ASU's Gary K. Herberger Young Scholars Academy

Gifted students are a unique population that has varied and diverse academic and social-emotional needs. By understanding the needs of gifted learners, educators are able to support these students in meeting their potential. Come learn a general overview of the academic and social-emotional characteristics of gifted learners as well as practical strategies for supporting them inside and outside the classroom.

Executive Functioning – Easier Than You Think

Presenters: Sharon Landay, Director of Education for Gesher Disability Resources and Stacy Rosenthal, Director of Programs for Gesher Disability Resources

There are simple ways to incorporate executive functioning into your classroom to improve student success. Unlock the mystery behind executive functioning and discover simple, effective strategies to support students in developing these critical life skills. This session breaks down the components of executive functioning—like planning, organization, and self-regulation—and offers practical, classroom-ready tools that make a big impact without overwhelming your day. Perfect for educators looking to boost student independence and success with ease.

Accommodating Neurodiversity: Kids don't come with instructions

Presenter: Dr. Joel Hanania

Dr. Hanania will explore how educators can create inclusive, responsive classrooms by anticipating challenges before they arise, embedding supports that benefit everyone, and fostering environments where all students thrive. Learn practical, preventative interventions that shift the focus from reacting to behavior to cultivating a culture of understanding, belonging, and success.

There is no kid in the back - engaging all learners in Judaic studies

Presenter: Rabbi Peretz Hochbaum

Join veteran educator and visionary leader Rabbi Peretz Hochbaum as he shares proven strategies for reaching every learner—regardless of background, ability, or learning style. Drawing from over three decades of leadership in K-12 Jewish education and a career steeped in innovation, Rabbi Hochbaum will explore techniques rooted in differentiated instruction, personalized learning, and cooperative engagement. Participants will walk away with practical tools to transform their Judaic Studies classrooms into dynamic, inclusive environments where no student is ever left behind.

11:20PM-12:00PM

Closing: Join together for grade level collaboration

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SPEAKER BIOS

Dr. Debra Drang

Dr. Debra Drang is the Director of Educational Excellence at Prizmah. She is passionate about partnering with Jewish day school leaders and teachers to create educational spaces that are both intentional and high quality. Prior to joining Prizmah, Debra served as Director of Special Education at Sulam, an organization dedicated to the inclusion of diverse learners in Jewish education, where she was instrumental in expanding Sulam's impact both locally and nationally. Debra is an innovative educational leader with extensive experience across the field as an administrator, professional learning specialist, coach/mentor, researcher, and classroom teacher. She holds a PhD in special education from University of Maryland and a Certificate in School Management and Leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Dr. DJ Graham

DJ Graham is the Head of School of the Gary K. Herberger Young Scholars Academy, a middle and high school for highly and profoundly gifted learners. He has more than decade of experience in the field of gifted education and is the author of "A Teacher's Guide to Supporting Gifted Middle School Students." DJ regularly appears as a speaker at state and national education conferences. He obtained master's degrees in Gifted Education Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Administration from Arizona State University and Grand Canyon University, respectively. DJ earned his doctorate at Northern Arizona University in Educational Leadership.

Dr. Joel Hanania

Dr. Joel Hanania has been a Licensed Psychologist in Arizona for over 30 years. After completing training as a School Psychologist, Dr. Hanania pursued his doctoral training in School Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he interned in pediatric psychology at the developmental disability diagnostic clinic at North Carolina Memorial Hospital. Dr. Hanania's career includes providing diagnostic and treatment services as part of a private practice and as the clinical director for an agency that operated private therapeutic day schools for children and adolescents with severe behavioral, emotional and/or learning challenges. Dr. Hanania also has a long history of working for and with public school districts and has extensive knowledge of the educational needs of children with a wide variety of developmental and mental health conditions. From the beginning of his career in 1980, Dr. Hanania has worked with children with autism spectrum disorder in all its forms. Dr. Hanania recently retired from Phoenix Children's where he was the first psychologist working with the Department of Developmental Pediatrics performing diagnostic evaluations for children suspected of being on the autism spectrum.

Rabbi Peretz Hochbaum

Rabbi Hochbaum studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Gush Etzion, Israel, earned his BA in Political Science, MS in Jewish Education, and Semicha at Yeshiva University, and did his Doctoral studies in Educational Leadership at American University in Washington, DC. He holds Certificates in Institutional Advancement from Wurzweiler Graduate School (YU), and Rabbinic Leadership from Puah.

Sharon Landay

Mrs. Landay has 30 years of experience in education. She has taught nearly every subject and grade level, including work with students with various disabilities. Sharon has launched one daughter into a successful college experience and supports another daughter as she learns to navigate independence. Sharon's professional and personal experiences provide her unique perspectives into successful education. She believes developing healthy (student/teacher) relationships is how positive school experiences begin.

Stacy Rosenthal

Stacy was the Senior Director of Education and Youth Engagement at a Congregation Beth Israel for over 20 years, overseeing educational programs of students ranging from preschool to high school. She is currently the Director of Programs for Gesher Disability Resources and the Accommodations Coordinator for Hebrew Union College. Stacy has been facilitating Intro to Judaism courses for the URJ for three years and was recently installed as the president of the Association of Reform Jewish Educators (ARJE). Stacy loves tackling difficult questions and learning with others.

Ryan Wexelblatt

Ryan Wexelblatt, LCSW, ADHD-CCSP is a licensed clinical social worker, certified school social worker, and the creator of ADHD Dude. He brings both professional expertise and personal experience as the father of a son with ADHD and learning differences.

Ryan specializes in helping parents and educators implement practical, real-world strategies for supporting kids with ADHD. Through ADHD Dude, he provides training and resources via the ADHD Dude Membership Site, a popular YouTube channel, the ADHD Parenting Podcast, and regular contributions to ADDitude Magazine.

