

Professional Development Catalog

The Lookstein Center,
Bar-Ilan University



Professional Development from The Lookstein Center

From one-off sessions to fully customized programs, The Lookstein Center's professional development approach is to combine theory and practice so educators can walk away with the knowledge, tools, and know-how needed to make instruction engaging and effective. Offerings cover foundational topics such as the application of pedagogic strategies to the teaching of Jewish texts, history, and values, as well as more advanced programs to help teachers experiment with different pedagogic approaches, build critical skills, and acquire new mindsets.

Immersive Programs (page 2-3)

Immersive programs are ongoing and transformative. They are designed to encourage continual pedagogical knowledge learning, reflective practice, collaboration with colleagues, and build skills for creating professional micro-communities. Graduates are poised to take on increasing positions of educational leadership in their schools and create cultures of ongoing, collaborative professional growth.

Intensive Bootcamps (page 4)

Bootcamps allow our learners to delve into a topic, discover new approaches, and develop teaching strategies through a collaborative learning process. Workshops are used to model relevant pedagogic approaches, while participants will have the opportunity to share, present, and learn from a cohort of peers.

One-Off Trainings (pages 5-9)

Online sessions and workshops are available a la carte. Each standalone session (or series) is designed to pinpoint a specific skill or topic area, and will provide a directed approach that will enable you to implement strategies informed by theory and best practice. One-off training sessions cost \$275/hour for nonmember schools and \$200/hour for Lookstein Center member schools. If you are an individual educator interested in any of these offerings, please email us at pd_inquiries@lookstein.org.

Customized Professional Development

Customized sessions are a great way to tailor professional development to your school's specific needs. For more information about customizing one of the programs in this catalog, or to create a new program, please contact us at pd_inquiries@lookstein.org.

Immersive Programs

Teacher Leadership @The Lookstein Center is for teachers who love and excel at their craft and are committed to ongoing improvement. It is for teachers who care about impacting their entire school community while remaining in the place that they love most, their classroom. Selected participants will emerge from the program ready to become catalysts for ongoing professional growth in their schools. The 18-month program integrates learning, practice, and the development and implementation of a school-specific initiative by each participant.

Program Components

- Face-to-Face conferences
- Monthly webinars
- Individual coaching/support
- *Hevruta* learning
- Individual projects
- Peer support

Competencies

- Understanding school culture
- Guiding participants to expand their educational toolboxes
- Collaboration-communication skills
- Coaching skills
- Creating a culture of meaningful, reflective, and ongoing learning
- Dealing with resistance to change (formal vs informal positions)
- Developing a leadership style

Please write to pd@lookstein.org for more information and for pricing.

Instructional Coaching for Jewish Studies Teachers

Immersive, long-term professional development that is embedded in practice works.

The Lookstein Center's one-on-one instructional coaching model for teachers is designed to harness existing knowledge and strengths, pinpoint challenges, and support continued learning and reflective practice in the Jewish studies classroom.

Teachers will benefit from:

- A customized coaching plan based on a comprehensive intake process
- A trusted mentor outside of their school community
- Individualized goal setting
- Opportunities for deep reflection and ongoing feedback
- Access to The Lookstein Center's coaching resource library
- Personalized recommendations for ongoing improvement

Potential Focus Areas:

- Lesson planning
- Student engagement
- Class culture
- Personalization/Differentiation
- Gauging student progress
- Embedding meaning-making into Jewish studies

Program:

Package #1: 14 meetings, 3 classroom observations, half year (academic) - \$2200

Package #2: 18 meetings, 4 classroom observations, full year (academic) - \$2800

Please write to pd@lookstein.org for more information and to get started.

Intensive Bootcamps

FACILITATING STUDENT-CENTERED TEXT STUDY

Jewish text educators are tasked with the ongoing challenge of balancing skill development and content mastery on the one hand and creating meaningful Jewish learning experiences on the other. This delicate balance of seemingly opposing goals requires skill, proper planning, and support. In this series, we will explore a student-centered approach to Tanakh and Talmud/Rabbinics study where the skills and content learned will aid students in their personal construction of meaning. The bootcamp will explore various strategies for achieving our meaning making goals including historical, literary, analytical, and inquiry-based approaches.

Participants will have opportunities to network and collaborate with peers in the field, and will also have individual workshop time with the series presenters.

- Small group sessions
- Workshop/*Hevruta*
- Reflection and application
- Coaching

One-Off Trainings: Best Practices in Online Education

TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF: MANAGING TIME, TASKS, AND EXPECTATIONS

Teaching online is difficult, but the fact that work comes home with us takes things to a whole new level. Come explore scheduling challenges and solutions, setting boundaries with students and parents, ideas for teacher networks, and learn about time-saving tools to reclaim your work-life balance.

TIME: 1 hour **FORMAT:** Online Webinar

MASTERING CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT ONLINE

With great power comes great responsibility. While digital technology provides unprecedented resources at our fingertips, it has also provided students with ample ways to disrupt learning. How can you set expectations and keep to them? How can you troubleshoot once a problem comes up? Join veteran online educators as they share stories, strategies, and shortcuts about online classroom management.

TIME: 1.5 hours **FORMAT:** Online Workshop

TEACHING IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE: CONCURRENT/HYBRID/FLEX/HYFLEX TEACHING

Today's classroom isn't what it used to be. Students and teachers alike are in and out of buildings this year, on and off devices, and navigating uncharted territory, leading to feelings of disruption and anxiety. This session explores strategies to keep face-to-face and remote students learning at the same pace, ease your workload, and create a cohesive classroom environment in the COVID-19 era.

TIME: 1.5 hours **FORMAT:** Online Webinar

VIRTUALLY TOGETHER: FOSTERING COMMUNITY IN A HYBRID ENVIRONMENT

How do we build classroom communities? What can we bring from the face-to-face classroom to the virtual and vice versa? What tools and best practices will help us intentionally foster a strong community that will in turn create a vibrant learning environment?

TIME: 1.5 hours **FORMAT:** Online Workshop

TEACHING FROM A DISTANCE: SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS FUNDAMENTALS

How do we best use free tools and resources for effective asynchronous learning, while engaging students in synchronous sessions and helping students step away from the computer and still learn?

TIME: 1.5 hours **FORMAT:** Face to Face or Online Session

One-Off Trainings: The Student-Centered Series

MAKING JEWISH LEARNING MEANINGFUL IN THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT

It is easy to see how the online environment can be used for teaching content knowledge or skills. But to make learning compelling, we need to teach in a way that is meaningful to others. In this session, we explore the fundamentals of meaning-making and look at digital tools to support this objective in an online/concurrent environment.

TIME: 1 hour **FORMAT:** Online Workshop

MAKING JEWISH LEARNING MEANINGFUL IN FACE-TO-FACE ENVIRONMENTS

As Jewish Day School professionals, we know how important meaning-making is, and yet this is one of the hardest things to impart in our classrooms. In this session we will explore the fundamentals of meaning-making and look at different classroom practices that can help us make Jewish learning truly meaningful for students.

TIME: 1 hour **FORMAT:** Face to Face or Online Workshop

PERSONALIZING INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

The move to online and blended learning has opened up new possibilities in the move away from whole-class instruction. In this session, we will explore how to harness these new modalities to promote personalized learning. We will discuss the design of multiple pathways, goal setting, the role of digital materials, the shifting role of the teacher, and how to create and use the formative assessments that make it possible.

TIME: 1.5 hours **FORMAT:** Face to Face or Online Webinar

One-Off Trainings: Jewish Studies

WHAT MAKES A KINGDOM: UNDERSTANDING AND TEACHING MAJOR THEMES IN *SEFER MELAKHIM*

This session explores overarching themes in the *Sefer Melakhim*, including the nature and functions of the kingdom; the importance of culture; and understanding the difference between *Malkhut Yehudah* and *Malkhut Yisrael*. The broad themes will be grounded in a careful understanding of multiple texts woven together into a narrative. These themes can be very valuable in shaping our understanding of the *sefer* and how we teach it.

TIME: 3 hours **FORMAT:** Online Workshop

HIGHER-LEVEL THINKING IN TANACH

This session will equip middle and high school Tanach educators to elevate student thinking, learning, and personal connection to text. Together we will explore moving the study of Tanach beyond translation; engaging students in the process of interacting with the texts they are learning; focused critical reading of *parshanim*; how to make *peshat* and *derash* meaningful categories for students.

TIME: 3 hours **FORMAT:** Online Workshop

TEACHING HUMASH WITH THE KOREN LEV LADAAT HUMASH

In partnership with Koren Publishers, this session for middle and high school teachers will explore the value of teaching Humash driven by questions and exploration. It will focus on two features of the Koren Lev Ladaat Humash, the Classical Commentaries and the Textual Tools, as vehicles to help students become more careful, analytical, and thoughtful learners of Humash and commentaries. Using concrete examples from the text, the workshop will guide teachers through processes that they can replicate and adapt to their own teaching, whether for in-classroom work with the teacher or independent student work.

TIME: 1.5 hours **FORMAT:** Online Workshop

TEACHING LEADERSHIP IN SEFER BAMIDBAR

This session, for 7th-12th grade Humash teachers, will explore leadership in *Sefer Bamdibar*, particularly through the lens of Moshe's leadership. It will include a look at Moshe's challenges and successes, an exploration of some of the techniques he used as a leader and their impact, as well as an exploration of some of the major events described in the *sefer*— the complaints of the people for food and water, the incident of the scouts, the rebellion of Korah, and the request by two tribes to remain on the eastern banks of the Jordan. This text-based series will focus on a careful reading of the Torah texts (without commentary), with an eye towards helping students to become more astute learners of Humash as well as thinkers about broad themes.

TIME: 3 hours **FORMAT:** Online Workshop

One-Off Trainings: Blended Learning

INTRODUCTION TO BLENDED LEARNING

The Covid-19 crisis has reinforced both the importance of the classroom experience as well as the importance of giving teachers new digital skills and tools. This introduction to blended learning will show teachers how to "blend" digital learning skills with the in-classroom experience to maximize the success of each student. We will discuss instruction, skill building, practice, application, and assessment and the role that digital tools and traditional classroom modalities should play in each.

TIME: 1.5 hours **FORMAT:** Face to Face or Online Workshop

INTRODUCTION TO HYFLEX LEARNING

The Covid-19 crisis has presented schools and teachers with new challenges, while also highlighting issues that have long been neglected in traditional classroom environments (how to effectively deal with extended student absence for example). With students in school or learning at home, in often rapidly shifting configurations, the Hybrid-Flex, or "hyflex", model of blended learning can help schools and teachers plan ahead and create learning plans that will allow students and teachers to move seamlessly between online and face-to-face environments.

TIME: 1.5 hours **FORMAT:** Face to Face or Online Workshop

One-Off Trainings: Expanding Your Toolbox

HOW TO USE *CREATING MEMORY: AN ARTS-BASED INITIATIVE IN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION*

'Creating Memory' is an arts-based program for Holocaust education, based on the successful Hebrew program *Yotzrim Zikaron*. Through the creative arts and exploration of relatable themes, students can connect to the Holocaust in new ways. This session will offer practical ideas and implementation techniques for Jewish day school and informal Jewish educators. Each mini-course is geared towards middle and high school educators across the globe. Every participant will receive a free copy of the 'Creating Memory' booklet.

TIME: 3 hours **FORMAT:** Online Workshop

DIGITAL TOOLS FOR BLOOM'S TAXONOMY

Effective teachers know how to design materials that ensure student learning, from the simple to the more complex. This session will delve into six digital tools, each matched with a category in the Taxonomy. For each tool, participants will see examples, watch how it's done, and receive how-to-videos to help them "do it at home."

- **Knowledge and Comprehension: Edpuzzle and Quizlet**
- **Application, Analysis, and Evaluation: Padlet and Flipgrid**
- **Creation: Create Digital Projects and Products and The Google Apps Suite**

TIME: 3 hours **FORMAT:** Face to Face or Online Workshop

COLLABORATIVE FILM-MAKING WITH CHILDREN

Video creation can help teachers present content to students. We will learn how to create concise, logically organized, visually pleasing, and pedagogically sound videos following research-based multimedia principles.

TIME: 2 hours **FORMAT:** Face to Face or Online Workshop

TEACHING COLLABORATION WITH GOOGLE APPS

This session is a beginners' introduction to using Google Docs and Slides to facilitate student collaboration and increase student engagement in both in-person and online environments. Together, we will discuss WHEN and WHY to use each of these tools, and learn HOW to create and share Google Docs and Slides, how to manage permissions and structure documents, and how to use these tools to maximize your lesson's impact. Participants will be given the opportunity to workshop their new skills during the session.

TIME: 1.5 hours **FORMAT:** Face to Face or Online Workshop

CHOOSE YOUR OWN HOLIDAY: TEACHING AND CELEBRATING JEWISH HOLIDAYS USING EDTECH

In this hands-on workshop, designed around a holiday of your choosing, we will explore a basic framework for holiday instruction and how it can be adapted easily to a virtual environment, using the tools Quizlet and Padlet. Participants will practice and implement these two tools and will leave the session with a peer-designed "toolbox" of ready-to-go holiday tools for their classrooms.

TIME: 1.5 hours **FORMAT:** Face to Face or Online Workshop