



ROBERT M. BEREN  
ACADEMY

School Code: 443460

## **SCHOOL PROFILE 2017-2018**

### **Head of School**

Paul S. Oberman, PhD  
poberman@berenacademy.org

### **Upper School Principals**

Raquel B. Cedano  
rcedano@berenacademy.org

Rabbi Aaron Levitt  
alevitt@berenacademy.org

### **Director of College Counseling**

Richard Stabell  
rstabell@berenacademy.org

### **Recent College Acceptances**

Bar Ilan University  
Barnard College  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Brooklyn College  
Clark University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Emory University  
Fashion Institute of New York  
George Washington University  
Harvard College  
Hofstra University  
Lander University  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Ohio State University  
Pratt Institute  
Princeton University  
Rice University  
Rutgers University  
Smith College  
Stern College Honors Program  
Stern College  
SUNY at Binghamton  
Syracuse University  
Tel Aviv University  
Texas A & M University  
Touro College  
Trinity University  
Tulane University  
University of Arizona  
University of Chicago  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Hartford  
University of Houston  
University of Illinois  
University of Kansas  
University of Maryland Honors Program  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan Honors Engineering  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Texas at Austin  
Yeshiva University Honors Program  
Yeshiva University

### **SCHOOL DESCRIPTION**

Robert M. Beren Academy is a Jewish co-educational Pre-K through 12 grade college preparatory school with an enrollment of 297. Fifty-six students are enrolled in the High School (grades 9-12). Beren Academy is dedicated to preparing students for success in college and beyond and developing in students a mature appreciation of their Jewish heritage. Each student pursues a program of secular studies, Judaic studies, enrichment courses, and extracurricular activities.

Accreditations and affiliations include the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/AdvancED, Yeshiva University Institute for University-School Partnership, the National Honor Society, the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, the College Board, ACT, and the Texas and National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Robert M. Beren Academy, located on a 52-acre campus in the southwest area of Houston, Texas, was founded in 1969 as The South Texas Hebrew Academy. The state-of-the-art facility includes chemistry, biology, physics, and computer technology laboratories; a 10,000-volume library, including a major Judaic collection, a regulation-size gymnasium, and art room. In addition, there are large athletic fields for physical education classes and interscholastic athletic competition.

### **PROGRAM OF STUDY**

Students attending Robert M. Beren Academy pursue an intensive dual curriculum of secular and Judaic studies. The secular studies enumerated in the school profile conform to the highest national standards for college preparation. The Judaic studies program consists of a sequential series of core courses, including intense study of Bible and Jewish Law and Philosophy. The combination of the two areas of study creates an atmosphere of academic excellence, which demands higher critical and analytical skills.

### **ADMISSIONS AND FACULTY/STAFF**

Admission to Robert M. Beren Academy is selective and based upon the applicant's achievement record, testing, recommendations, and interviews.

The Academy's high school academic administrative staff includes the Head of School, the Principal of General Studies, and the Principal of Judaic Studies. The high school faculty and administration consists of 23 men and women, 17 of whom hold an advanced degree.

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

- 4 years each of English, Math, History, and Science
- 4 years of 3-4 Judaic subjects (Bible, Talmud, Jewish Philosophy, and/or Jewish Law)
- 3 years of Modern Hebrew Language
- 4 years of Electives (including Foreign Languages other than Hebrew)
- 25 hours of Community Service per year



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**GRADING POLICY AND RANK**

Robert M. Beren Academy does not rank students. Student grades are assessed on a 100-point numeric scale. Transcript grades in Advanced Placement, Pre-AP, Advanced, and Honors classes reflect a weighting of five percentage points and one point on the Grade Point Average. The Academy reports student Grade Point Average on a weighted 4-point scale. The highest GPA for the 2017-2018 school year is 4.8319.

GRADING SCALE	GPA SCALE		REGULAR	ADVANCED
A 90-100	A		4	5
B 80-89	B		3	4
C 75-79	C		2	3
D 70-74	D		1	2
F 69 and below	F		0	0

**CURRICULUM**

College preparatory courses offered to the Class of 2018 appear below on our transcript. Courses are labeled **AP** (Advanced Placement), **Hon** (Honors), and **PAP** (pre-AP); courses without a designation are **Regular** level. In addition to **four college preparatory and four Judaic classes each year**, the Class of 2018 has been enrolled in the following electives: Journalism, Digital Photography, Desktop Publishing (Yearbook), Creative Writing, and Speech among others. With administrative approval, students may take courses online that are not offered at RMBA or do not fit into their schedule.

	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
English	American or World Literature Pre-AP American or World Literature		English Language or Literature AP English Language or Literature	
Math	Algebra I Pre-AP Geometry Pre-AP Algebra II	Algebra II Pre-AP Algebra II Pre-AP Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Statistics	Statistics AP Calculus (AB and BC) AP Statistics
Science	Chemistry or Physics Pre-AP Chemistry or Physics		Astronomy Environmental Science AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics	
Social Studies	World History and US History AP World History and AP US History		Psychology and US Government/Economics AP Psychology and AP US Government/Economics	
Electives	Advanced Talmudic Studies Art, AP Art Physical Education Bechina Yerushalmit (Jerusalem Hebrew Exam) Desktop Publishing (Yearbook) Introduction to Music Digital Photography (Some classes are offered in alternating years)			

**STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS: MEAN SCORES FOR 2016-2017**

ACT	RMBA	TX	Nat'l
English	28.7	19.5	20.3
Math	25.4	20.7	20.7
Reading	26.5	21.1	21.4
Science	25.9	20.9	21.0
Composite	26.8	20.7	21.0