



# THE PATHWAY TO LIVING TORAH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

NETIVOT HATORAH STRATEGIC PLAN  
2022-2025





# NETIVOT BY THE NUMBERS

<b>631</b> STUDENTS	<b>120</b> STAFF	<b>310</b> FAMILIES	<b>19</b> CLUBS
<b>18</b> STUDENT PERFORMANCES	<b>22</b> CHIDON HATANACH PARTICIPANTS	<b>37</b> YEARS OLD	<b>13</b> SPORTS TEAMS
<b>13</b> EXTRA LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES	<b>9</b> OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS	<b>8</b> PARENT SEMINARS	<b>39</b> STEAM PROGRAMS
<b>7</b> VISITING STAFF FROM ISRAEL	<b>3</b> SPECIALTY WEEKS BULLYING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK שבוע עברית - SHAVUA IVRIT	<b>655</b> ATTENDEES AT NETIVOT UNITY SHABBATON	

# 1 INCREDIBLE SCHOOL



Netivot stands on the pillars of Torah, Israel, and Derech Eretz. Even with these core commitments we regularly ask ourselves: How can we help each of our students best internalize and live these values in their everyday lives? To do this we engaged our community in a process of thinking this question through, with the outcome represented in the strategic vision you'll find in these pages. We, the staff and lay leadership alike, have found it incredibly exciting and invigorating, as we hope you do as well!

Thank you for your partnership in living the Netivot mission,

*Rafi Cashman*

**Rabbi Dr. Rafi Cashman,**  
HEAD OF SCHOOL



## OUR MISSION:

Netivot is dedicated to the development of the whole child. Through powerful religious and academic learning experiences we cultivate in our children connections between Torah and everyday life, a love for and support of מדינת ישראל, and their growth as respectful individuals and positive contributors to עם ישראל, and society at large.

In order to accomplish our mission, we:

- Guide every child to create the vital habits of heart, mind and *neshama* that make a fulfilling and meaningful Torah life;
- Recognize that each student is an individual, and seek to ignite their unique potential;
- Nurture each student to be confident, and feel loved and respected; and
- Help each student advance towards a mastery of Judaic and General studies using a child-centered learning approach. We aim towards proficiency in Hebrew language as the means to most fully access Jewish culture and texts.



Netivot HaTorah is a co-educational Pre-Nursery through Grade 8 school that supports the breadth of the Orthodox community in Toronto. At Netivot HaTorah personalities emerge, individuality develops, friendships form, and your child thrives.

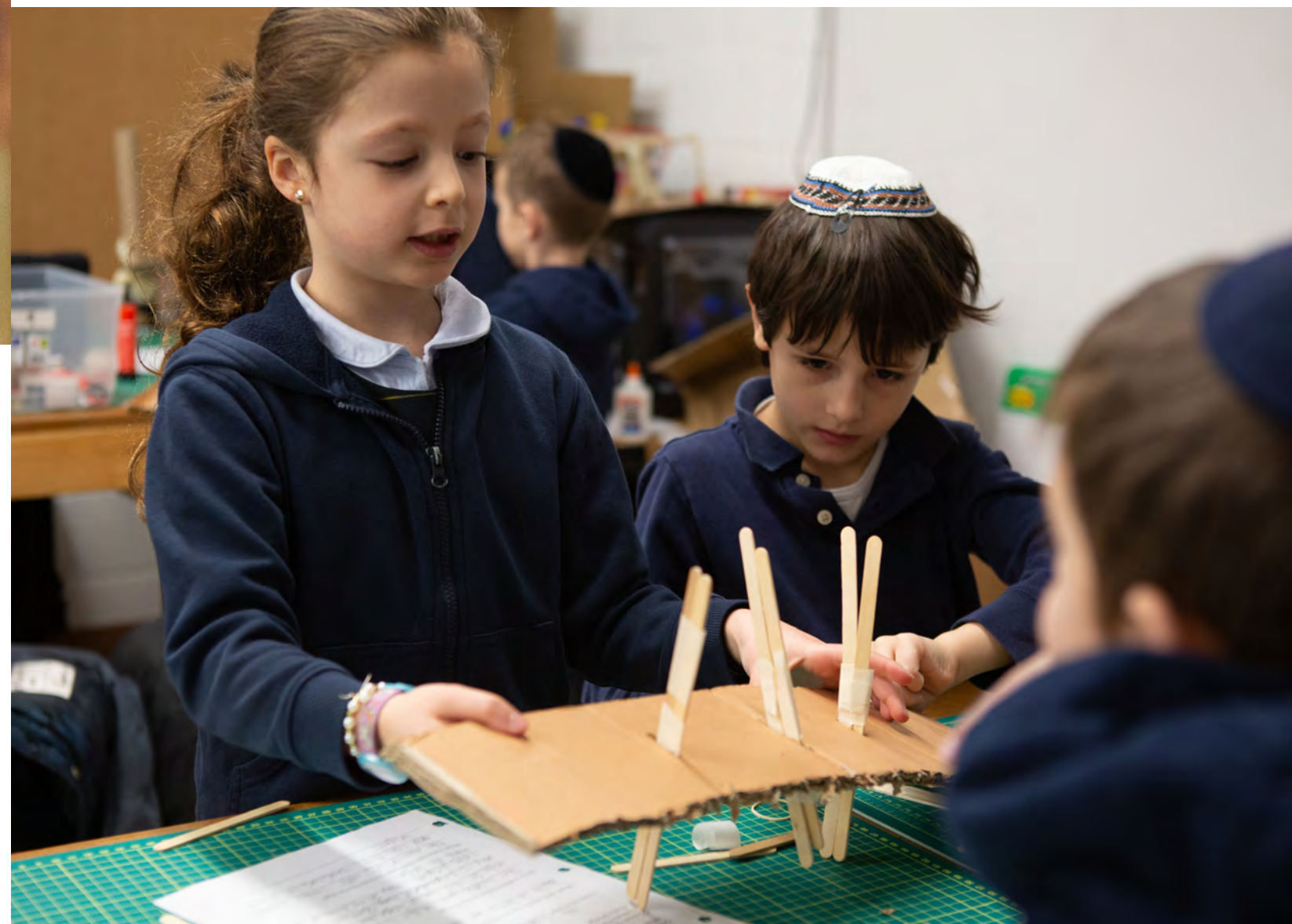
We are inspired by three guiding principles:

**Torah, Israel & Derech Eretz.**



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2022 – 2025:

1. CONNECTING TORAH TO EVERYDAY LIFE
2. DESIGNING ACADEMIC AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THAT IS ENGAGING, ACTIVE AND INNOVATIVE
3. GROWING EACH MEMBER OF OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY
4. DEVELOPING THE WHOLE CHILD
5. CULTIVATING OUR KEHILAH



## OUR VISION:

Our vision is that each of our students is uniquely prepared and proud to live a life guided by and committed to Torah values and *Halacha*, integrated with knowledge of the sciences and humanities, and a deep connection to Israel. This will enrich each child, their home, and the world around them.



## CONNECTING TORAH TO EVERYDAY LIFE

Torah is at the forefront of everything we do at Netivot, and influences all of our learning. While our school day is separated between Jewish and General Studies, we understand that our students live full and integrated lives, and their learning needs to reflect that reality. We motivate our students to be excited about living a full life of Torah and passionate about their religious Zionist identity, all while making personal connections to what they are learning in all disciplines and putting their Torah values into practice.

### OBJECTIVE:

We will be guided by the principle of “connecting the Torah to everyday life” in all aspects of the school experience.

### ACTION:

- Every step of our work is guided by our Torah values and *halacha*.
- Daily moments, from brachot to tefilah, from recess to lunch, from the classroom to the gym, are infused with the values of Torah and Derech Eretz.
- Torah values are expressed publicly in the school, from its walls to its spirit.
- Partnerships are fostered with other organizations and schools locally and in Israel as a way to make a positive impact in the community in Canada and Israel.

# ACADEMIC AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THAT IS ENGAGING, ACTIVE AND INNOVATIVE

Our curriculum design starts with understanding where our students are on their learning journey. Making learning memories is as important as memorizing to learn. So wherever we can, we design active, experiential learning that goes deep. We 'learn by doing' so that our students secure a depth of knowledge about whatever subject they encounter, and are deeply engaged while doing it.

## OBJECTIVE:

Students engage in active, experiential learning in both General Studies and Judaic Studies.

## ACTION:

- We use data, both qualitative and quantitative, at the class and school level, to help us make informed decisions that guide our students on their path to mastering Judaic and General Studies.
- Interdisciplinary projects and learning experiences create a more holistic learning experience across the school day.
- Teachers create meaningful and engaging learning that has real-world application, and connections are made between new and old knowledge, between diverse disciplines and between General Studies and Torah learning.
- We engage, empower and inspire our students to improve student learning engagement and outcomes.



## OBJECTIVE:

Students will communicate meaningfully and effectively in Ivrit as a way to access Jewish culture and Torah texts.

## ACTION:

- Students speak and write in meaningful contexts in order to increase engagement and language proficiency.
- Israeli culture is integrated into all aspects of instruction in order to support authentic language learning.
- Authentic texts are used to maximize interest, and best evaluate oral and written comprehension.
- Basic skills, such as grammar and syntax, are integrated into regular instruction.





## GROWING EACH MEMBER OF OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY

Our approach to learning design is not just for students. At Netivot we invest in growing our teachers, and catalyzing their learning to impact the school as a whole.

### OBJECTIVE:

We will design professional learning processes that help everyone become the best educator they can be at Netivot. We will make sure that all Netivot teachers are sharing what works, in order to build the capacities of the whole team and consistency across the school.

### ACTION:

- An onboarding and mentoring system to help new staff learn the culture of Netivot and become active contributors to the school community.
- Teacher growth and assessment systems that support everyone's learning pathway.
- Shared time for educators to work together, and with the leadership team, to develop new learning experiences for students and grow, and learn new skills for their own practice.
- Design a system to share best practices across the school and expose all teachers to more engaging pedagogy that involves students in the process of learning.

# DEVELOPING THE WHOLE CHILD

Our commitment to Derech Eretz means we have a sharp focus on the social and emotional needs, as well as the *midot* of our students, as much as their academic ones. This focus will help us grow more well-rounded students able to collaborate and relate well with others. As a result, we will be a stronger community and see better academic outcomes.

## OBJECTIVE:

There are systems in place that support our vision of learning, with clear practices for how to teach the whole child.

## ACTION:

- Faculty uses our Portrait of a Graduate in their educational planning, with revised reporting to our parents that reflects this vision.
- Create systems so that each child, their interests and learning profile, are known by teachers and staff. This knowledge will provide the grounds for increased student engagement and fulfillment.
- Curricular and extracurricular initiatives are focused on *derech eretz*, *ruchniyut*, mental health, and the well being of our students.





## CULTIVATING OUR KEHILAH

Netivot is more than a school for our children. Netivot is a community where the whole family belongs. Families want a school community they can feel connected to, identify with, and comfortable in. Through mission-driven projects, and in collaboration with the Parents' Association, we grow our community as we grow our students.

### OBJECTIVE:

Netivot families will feel part of an inclusive school community.

### ACTION:

- Netivot inspired Shabbat experiences as a way to connect members of our community.
- Educate the students, and their families, beyond the hours they're in the building.
- Engage our parents as thought-partners and vital stakeholders in our mission.
- Mission-driven community projects.



## YOU KNOW A NETIVOT GRADUATE BY THE WAY THEY...

### COMMIT TO TORAH AND HASHEM

Guided by Torah and a deep-rooted connection to Hashem, Netivot graduates find joy in living a Torah-centered life. They enthusiastically participate in a range of activities that allow them to cultivate the skills and experiences necessary for a purposeful and fulfilling existence.

### EMBRACE LEARNING WITH CREATIVITY, CRITICAL THINKING AND CURIOSITY

Netivot graduates are problem solvers who positively approach challenges with a critical and innovative mindset, whether in the pages of a *Talmud* or in the STEAM lab.

### FOSTER AND CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY

Netivot graduates are an integral part of their local and broader Jewish communities. They are supportive of and deeply connected to Israel as the nucleus of *Klal Yisrael*.

### AUTHENTICALLY DEMONSTRATE KINDNESS, HUMILITY AND RESPECT

Netivot graduates model *derech erez* in all areas of their life, both in and out of the classroom.

### COMMUNICATE AND LISTEN ACTIVELY

Netivot graduates communicate successfully, a testament to their skillful listening and clear expression of ideas. They understand the value of building meaningful connections by actively listening to others.

### DEMONSTRATE CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM

Netivot graduates exhibit an internal and external awareness that enables them to navigate life's complexities with resilience, a willingness to take risks and a healthy embrace of discomfort. This self-awareness extends beyond themselves, as they actively engage with the world around them, constantly seeking to make a positive impact.

# PORTRAIT OF A NETIVOT HATORAH GRADUATE

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO NETIVOT

Thank you to the 2022-23 Netivot Board of Directors and the Strategic Planning Design Team and Portrait of a Graduate committee for their commitment to and efforts in this process.

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**NETIVOT HATORAH**  
**נתיבות התורה**



TORAH. ISRAEL. DERECH ERETZ.

**NETIVOT HATORAH DAY SCHOOL**

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