



ROBERT M. BEREN
ACADEMY

School Code: 443460

SCHOOL PROFILE 2019–2020

Head of School

Paul S. Oberman, PhD
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Upper School Principals

Raquel B. Cedano
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Ari Kellerman
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Director of College Counseling

Ari Kellerman
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College Acceptances Since 2016

American University
Bar Ilan University, Israel
Barnard College
Binghamton University
Brandeis University
Clark University
Hebrew University, Israel
Houston Baptist University
Landers College
Ohio State University
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Rice University
Stern College Honors Program
Stern College
Syracuse University
Texas A & M University
Trinity University
UCLA
University of Arizona
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Denver
University of Houston
University of Maryland Honors
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas at Austin
University of Tulsa
Yeshiva University Honors
Yeshiva University

SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

Robert M. Beren Academy (RMBA) is a Jewish co-educational Pre-K through 12th grade college preparatory school with an enrollment of 250 students, 55 of whom are enrolled in the High School (grades 9-12). RMBA 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; art room; and STEM makerspace. In addition, there are large athletic fields for physical education classes and interscholastic athletic competition.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The RMBA community is made up of a diverse array of families. 70% of students at RMBA are provided with tuition assistance. Though the school is an Orthodox Jewish institution, about 40% of our families would not self-identify as Orthodox. The Orthodox families live in a very tight-knit community, all within walking-distance to the Synagogue. There is a strong emphasis placed on family and community. In any given year, between 70–90% of RMBA graduates choose to spend a gap year continuing their Judaic studies in Israel before beginning college.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Students attending RMBA pursue an intensive dual curriculum program 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 Hebrew language, Bible, 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. RMBA students learn to value time management and good study habits from a young age.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

80% of high school students at RMBA take part in after-school youth group activities, which consist mostly of religious-centered growth and social programs. Our high school offers girls' volleyball and basketball as well as boys' basketball and flag football teams. Teens are also very active in Israel advocacy; many attend the annual AIPAC Policy conference in Washington D.C.



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ADMISSIONS AND FACULTY/STAFF

Admission to RMBA is selective and based upon the applicant’s achievement record, testing, recommendations, and interviews.

RMBA’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 consists of 23 educators, 17 of whom hold advanced degrees.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 4 years each of English, Math, History, and Science
- 4 years each of 4 Judaic subjects: Bible, Talmud (Aramaic Jewish legal texts), 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

GRADING POLICY AND RANK

RMBA 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. RMBA reports student Grade Point Average on a weighted 4-point scale. As of the end of their junior year, the highest GPA for the 2019–2020 class is 4.6897.

GRADING SCALE	GPA SCALE	REGULAR	ADVANCED
A 90-100	A	4.0	5.0
B 80-89	B	3.0	4.0
C 75-79	C	2.0	3.0
D 70-74	D	1.0	2.0
F 69 and below	F	0	0

CURRICULUM

College preparatory courses offered to the Class of 2020 appear below on our transcript. Courses are labeled AP (Advanced Placement), Hon (Honors), and PAP (pre-AP); courses without a designation are on-level classes. In addition to four college preparatory and four Judaic classes each year, the Class of 2020 has been enrolled in several electives listed below.

	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
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	Geometry Algebra II Pre-AP Algebra II Pre-AP Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Statistics	College Algebra Pre-Calculus AP Calculus AB
Science	Biology or Physics Pre-AP Biology 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 (Some classes are offered in alternating years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advanced Talmudic Studies ● Art, AP Art ● Scene Design ● Physical Education ● Chidon HaTanach (Biblical Text Mastery Exam) ● Yearbook ● Peer Leadership 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conversational Hebrew ● Journalism ● Essentials of Jewish Thought, Jewish Philosophy ● Pirkei Avot (Ethics of Our Fathers through the Talmud) ● 3D Halacha (3D Design of spatially related Jewish law) ● Jewish Life Cycle ● Digital Photography, Photojournalism ● Philosophy 	