

## HITLAHAVUT PROGRAM

A passion is worth pursuing. That passion can be an academic subject – *Tanakh*, computers, science, Hebrew, or mathematics. It can also be studio arts, graphic design, music, theater or *chesed*. At Ramaz our passion is to encourage students to develop their talents and their dreams.

Our *Hitlahavut* Program is one of the many ways we recognize the varied and special talents of our students. It provides a four year mentorship program for students who demonstrate distinction in a specific area and includes a merit scholarship of \$7500 per year.

Students chosen to participate in the *Hitlahavut* Program will benefit from enhanced curricular opportunities, mentoring from individual faculty members with expertise in the specific talent area, and a customized summer work study program. The scholarship award is an honor and an opportunity for the recipient and carries expectations, as well. Scholars will work with a mentor to develop a program of study, meet on a regular basis with the mentor, and submit progress reports to the program directors. Scholars will also present the results of the project at the end of each academic year in a format that will be decided upon with the mentor and program directors.

Participants in the *Hitlahavut* Program will be chosen from among all candidates for the Upper School in a given admissions year, regardless of whether they attended the Ramaz Middle School or another school. All interested students must complete an application, submit a letter of recommendation from a teacher or mentor, and meet with a member of the selection committee.

In making our decisions, we will consider a student's sustained level of dedication and achievement, as well as our ability to support and mentor the student in his/her chosen area. In academic disciplines, a student will be selected based on his/her achievements, indicated by earning distinction, awards, citations in various competitions, or taking part in research programs, where applicable. In performance areas, a student's accomplishments and commitment in the specific realm will be evaluated, in addition to his/her overall academic record.

We recognize that there are many talented students who apply to the Upper School and it is not possible to include all of them in the *Hitlahavut* Program. This year, we are offering students an additional opportunity to apply for the Program in the spring term of the Freshman or Sophomore year. Students selected at this second entry point will receive mentoring and participate in the summer work study program, but will not receive the \$7500 annual stipend.

Possible categories for mentorship will depend on the talent areas represented in the incoming class. Potential disciplines will include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Art: Studio-Graphic Design
- ◆ *Chesed*/Community Service
- ◆ Computer Science
- ◆ Creative Writing
- ◆ *Gemara*
- ◆ Hebrew Language
- ◆ Humanities
- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Performing Arts
- ◆ Political Action
- ◆ Science Research
- ◆ *Tanakh*

Awards will be announced in February with our admissions decisions. For further information, please contact the Ramaz Admissions Office at 212-774-8093 or [admissions@ramaz.org](mailto:admissions@ramaz.org). *Hitlahavut* scholarship awards are independent of financial aid decisions.