JCRB AJC Kansas City

COMBATING ANTISEMITISM & PURSUING JUSTICE

EDUCATE AND EMPOWER STUDENTS AND STAFF TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM AT SCHOOL





UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING JEWISH STUDENTS

This I hour training for staff explains:

- Jewish religious observances and how to best accommodate Jewish students and staff during Jewish holidays
- How antisemitism is a unique form of hatred and how to properly identify its various manifestations
- What antisemitism looks like for Jewish students in Kansas City
- How educators can be allies to their students

We also partner with the Muslim Community to deliver a 1.5-2 hours "Understanding and Supporting Jewish and Muslim students" presentation on Muslim and Jewish religious observances, antisemitism, and Islamophobia.







"THANK YOU FOR MEETING ME HERE"

"Thank You For Meeting Me Here," is 25 minute powerful original play written by local playwright Victor Wishna and performed by teen volunteer actors.

<u>The play</u> highlights the issue of antisemitism in schools and is based on the real-life experiences of Jewish students in Kansas City. JCRB|AJC facilitates a brief discussion after the play with the student audience.

The play was commissioned by the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City and developed in partnership with JCRB|AJC as part of the national 2021 Shine A Light on Antisemitism initiative.



HOW OUR PROGRAMS MAKE AN IMPACT

Understanding and Supporting Jewish Students | "The presentation was hugely impactful; it gave us an insight into how to be more supportive of our Jewish students and colleagues as well as ways to recognize and combat antsemitism. JCRB|AJC is an extraordinary resource for our community and we are proud to have partnered with them." - Vice President of Inclusion, Diversity & Equity, The Barstow School

Understanding and Supporting Jewish and Muslim Students | "The training was extremely insightful. I highly recommend this presentation for anyone working in spaces where they serve these two demographics." - Coordinator of DEI, Shawnee Mission School District

"Thank You For Meeting Me Here" | "This excellent student performance was very well-received by our middle school students. It increased their empathy, and not only taught them about the increase in antisemitism in our schools today, but it inspired them to consider how their words and actions impact others." - Mission Director, Notre Dame de Sion Schools of Kansas City

UTILIZING JCRB AJC AS A RESOURCE

In our continued efforts to prevent and address antisemitism in schools, JCRB|AJC proactively works to ensure that educators will be able to recognize and address antisemitism when it occurs and can more accurately teach about the Holocaust, Israel, and Judaism in their classrooms. We also distribute a <u>Calendar of Jewish Holidays</u> each year to ensure that Jewish students are accommodated in their schools.

We also provide assistance regarding:

- Student or Faculty Tension Arising from Antisemitism or Intolerance We can assist with anything from proactive education to responsive consultation and conflict mediation:
- Religious Observance We can address broad inquiries about the fundamentals of Judaism, or help find appropriate speakers for educational presentations;
- Scheduling and the Jewish Calendar In addition to our yearly calendar detailing Jewish holidays that impact student attendance, we can answer questions regarding specific scheduling and potential conflicts;
- Student, Faculty, or Parental Concerns Regarding Curriculum We can provide our perspective and suggest possible solutions regarding curriculum on sensitive topics such as Israel/Palestine, the Middle East, and religion; and
- Current Events Involving Israel, Antisemitism, or Other Extremism We can help navigate events that are likely to create tension in schools and offer our insight and resources to assist in addressing such events constructively.

JCRB|AJC also partners with the <u>Midwest Center for Holocaust Education</u> to promote and further Holocaust education in our region. This list is not exhaustive. If you contact us on a related topic and we are unable to help you directly, it is likely that we can refer you to the appropriate resource.

For inquiries and questions please contact Sarah Markowitz, JCRB|AJC's Director of Education and Programs, at sarahm@jewishkc.org.

Find more information and resources on jcrbajc.org

