Program Description:

Upper School:
Upper School Soul Center is JLA's experiential Jewish learning program for students in Grades 9–12. Students choose from a range of creative, discussion-based mini-courses that explore Jewish texts, values, history, identity, and contemporary questions through topics that are engaging and relevant to their lives.
Each course runs as a three-part series, allowing students to stay with the same teacher and cohort while exploring one idea in greater depth. The emphasis is on **learning, experiencing, and producing**: students encounter meaningful Jewish ideas and sources, actively discuss, debate, create, solve, simulate, or collaborate, and leave with a concrete product, position, reflection, or project that grows out of the learning.
Throughout the year, students rotate through multiple electives they selected, giving them the opportunity to experience different teachers, topics, and approaches to Jewish learning. Upper School Soul Center is designed to make Jewish learning feel intellectually serious, personally relevant, creative, and alive.

Middle School:
Middle School Soul Center is a weekly Jewish life program designed to help students connect more deeply to Jewish ideas, values, holidays, and community through engaging, experiential learning. Each session combines meaningful discussion with hands-on activities, creative projects, teamwork, and reflection, giving students opportunities to explore how Jewish values apply to their own lives. The goal is to make Jewish learning feel relevant, memorable, and personally meaningful while strengthening students' sense of identity and community.

Torah Lab:
Torah Lab is a Soul Center learning track for students in both Middle and Upper School who are motivated to engage more deeply with Torah texts, ideas, and Jewish thought. Through close text study, chavruta learning, discussion, debate, and real-world application, students are challenged to ask strong questions, analyze sources carefully, and develop their own thoughtful positions.

In Middle School, Torah Lab focuses on deeper exploration of the weekly Parsha and provides opportunities for more advanced, source-based learning. In Upper School, students explore complex halachic and philosophical issues and have the opportunity to participate in the Maimonides Moot Court competition.

Across both divisions, Torah Lab is designed for students who want to go beyond the surface and experience Torah as something to investigate, question, and discover.