

Rockwern
Academy

Est. 1952 as Yavneh Day School



**Welcome to
Rockwern!**

Discover. Believe. Achieve.





Our Mission

Rockwern Academy serves our students and the community by promoting a culture of academic excellence, developing a strong Jewish identity, and actively pursuing Tikkun Olam (repairing the world).

Rockwern students are well prepared to achieve success in life and to be leaders in their communities. Our students have a passion for life-long learning, a foundation of Jewish values, and a strong bond to Israel and the Jewish People.



Nurturing Excellence

A School in a Class of Its Own

Rockwern Academy, an ISACS accredited school, provides an unparalleled standard of academic excellence, supported by a warm, inclusive community grounded in Jewish values.

Our small class sizes allow our teachers to know their students at a deep personal level, tailoring the learning experience to meet individual needs and interests.

An integrated, multi-disciplined curriculum for early childhood through 8th grade supports personal and intellectual growth through discovery and hands-on experiences.

In our Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC), children are introduced to the joy of learning through play, and reap the many benefits of early second language acquisition.

In our upper grades, students feel safe to take intellectual and creative risks, and each child is uniquely guided to soar to his or her full potential.

Choosing Rockwern Academy for your child means choosing what other schools simply cannot offer – a second home.

Happy Teachers, Happy Kids

A Welcoming Foundation

Kind. Smart. Curious. Happy. The traits we hope to encourage in our little mensches are the same as those we seek in our teachers. Rockwern's Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) staff creates a safe, nurturing environment by modeling the behavior that we hope for in all members of our community, even the very youngest.

Intimate class sizes allow for an individualized approach that responds to each child's budding personality, strengths, and challenges.

Our students are introduced to numbers, letters, Hebrew, and science through a play-based curriculum.

Each day is packed with activities, art projects, singing, dancing, and games!





Play-Based Learning

We Take Play Seriously!

Our enthusiastic ECEC teachers understand that true development happens when children are active and engaged.

We recognize that children’s primary method of learning is through play. When children play, they can achieve extraordinary things. Play creates an environment where students take a step (or even a leap) forward and helps them develop the social-emotional, physical, and cognitive skills used in everyday life.

That is why at Rockwern, play is so central to teaching and learning. Our curriculum emphasizes hands-on experiences that allow children to learn by doing, using as many senses as possible.



SPOTLIGHT

Young Explorers

Our ECEC students enjoy a rich variety of programs. Weekly yoga classes help center little minds and bodies. School House Symphony teaches us about music and instruments. We explore recycling with Mother Nature herself, who stops by our classrooms regularly. Enjoying story time in our library, surrounded by books, is the perfect way to introduce a love of reading that will last a lifetime.



From Playing to Projects

Learning that Grows with You

In the ECEC, literacy, math, and science are truly child’s play. Our teachers lay the foundation for the big-kid stuff right from the start. Story time transitions seamlessly to writers’ workshops. Hebrew songs evolve into Talmudic studies. Sensory tables become science experiments.

Fun, engaging activities plant the seeds of concepts that evolve throughout the child’s education at Rockwern – and beyond.

THE
ECEC



SPOTLIGHT

Second Language Acquisition at an Early Age

Studies show that the ability to know two or more languages can contribute to a child’s future academic success. Our Hebrew and Judaic studies program begins in the ECEC, focusing on songs, holidays, Shabbat, and other Jewish traditions. The program evolves in Kindergarten with letter recognition, advancing to reading, writing, and speaking in the primary grades.

From Play-Based to Project-Based Learning

We believe in introducing big concepts at an early age, developing them and diving into complexity as our students grow. Subjects introduced in the ECEC through play and song are advanced and expanded throughout a student's time at Rockwern.

THE ECEC
TODDLER - PRE-K

PRIMARY GRADES
K - 2ND GRADE

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
3RD - 5TH GRADE

MIDDLE SCHOOL
6TH - 8TH GRADE



K-8: Our Philosophy

Something Extraordinary in Each Child

An unparalleled student-teacher ratio allows us to take a deep interest in every student. Our teachers are determined to help each student discover what gives them their unique inner spark.

From Kindergarten on, we ramp up concepts introduced in the ECEC, helping students to build character and leadership within the context of a values-based Jewish education.

Rockwern's mission is to provide a rigorous, exciting academic program in both general and Judaic Studies. Through creative, project based, cross-curricular programs, our students develop tools for critical thinking, problem solving, and innovation. A differentiated learning experience allows us to reach all students at their own academic level, while the Responsive Classroom approach nurtures strong social skills, enabling each student to thrive.

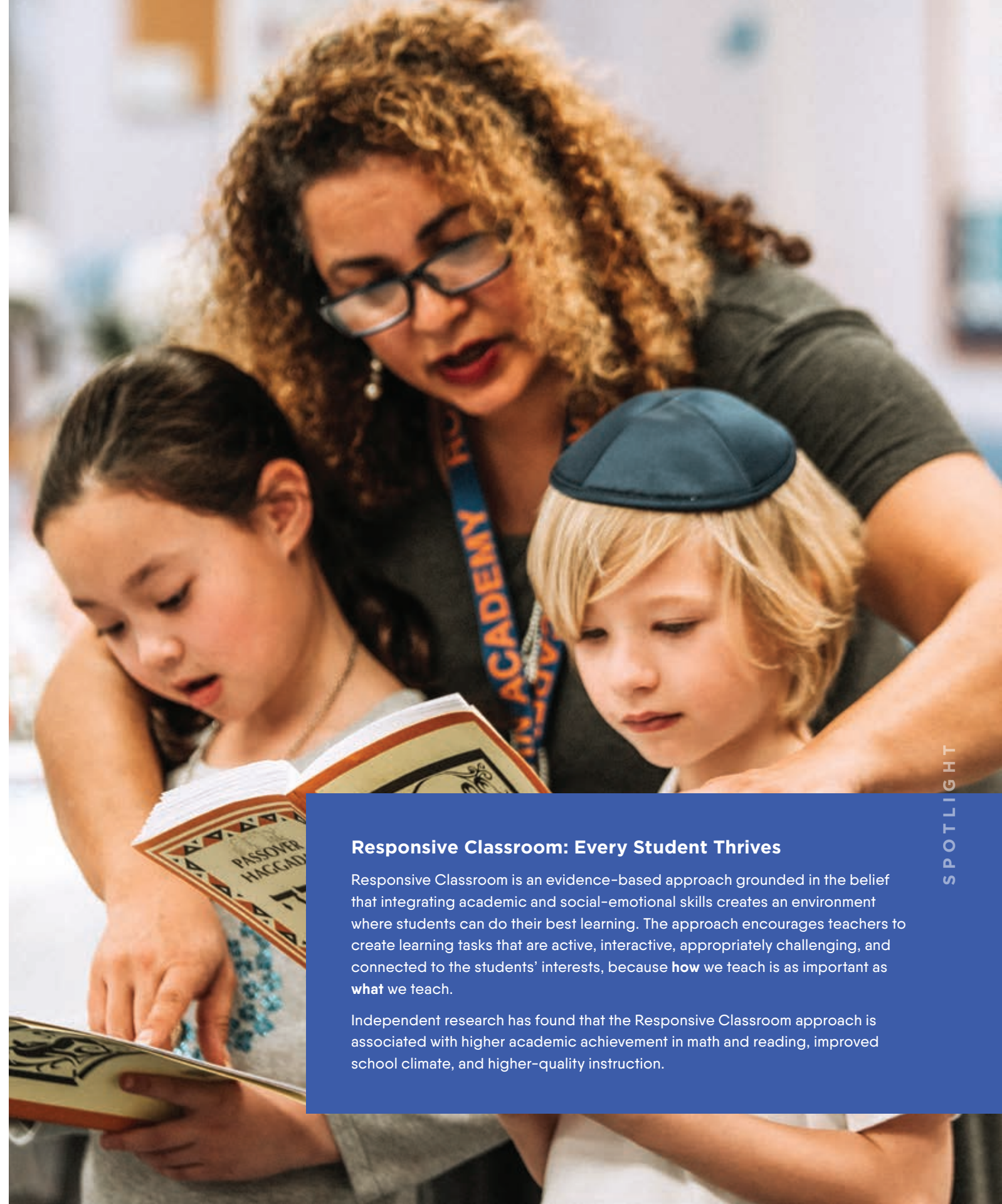
A recent study found that day school alumni not only demonstrate the highest levels of academic confidence and success but also exhibit significant advantages over their peers who are public and independent school graduates.

Rockwern makes possible unlimited achievement, opening up a world of opportunity in higher education and beyond.

Responsive Classroom: Every Student Thrives

Responsive Classroom is an evidence-based approach grounded in the belief that integrating academic and social-emotional skills creates an environment where students can do their best learning. The approach encourages teachers to create learning tasks that are active, interactive, appropriately challenging, and connected to the students' interests, because **how** we teach is as important as **what** we teach.

Independent research has found that the Responsive Classroom approach is associated with higher academic achievement in math and reading, improved school climate, and higher-quality instruction.





Full STEAM Ahead

A 21st Century Approach to Learning

To succeed in today's tech economy, students need in-depth knowledge of math and science, plus the ability to integrate and apply that knowledge to solve the many challenges facing our world.

At Rockwern, we prepare students to excel by implementing a STEAM curriculum. STEAM is an educational approach that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking.

In addition to providing a strong foundation in the sciences, children who study STEAM also develop a variety of skills that are essential for success, including problem solving, creativity, communication, collaboration, and entrepreneurship.

Simply put, our STEAM curriculum makes learning the crucial disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics fun, engaging, and applicable to our everyday lives.

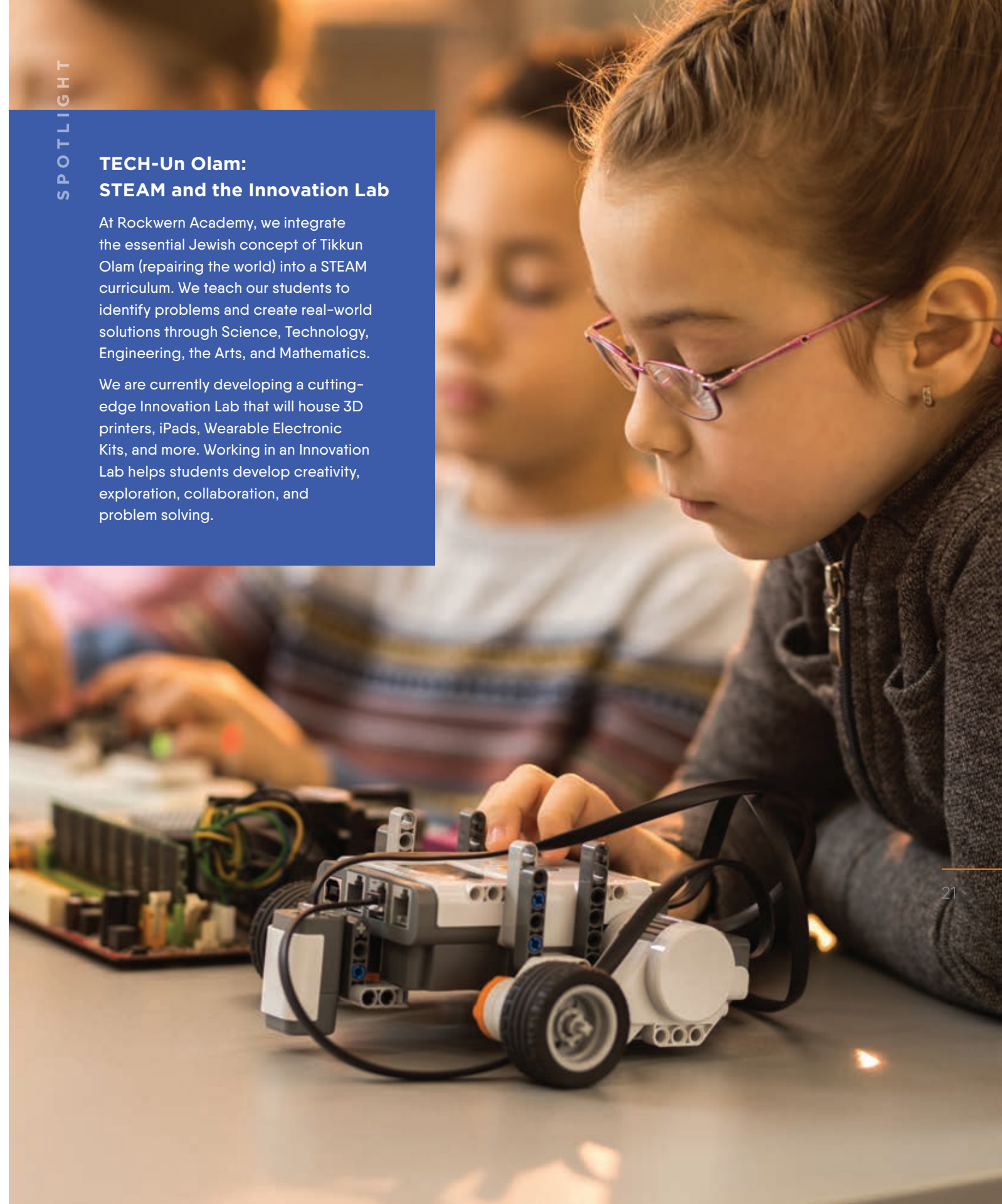
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SPOTLIGHT

TECH-Un Olam: STEAM and the Innovation Lab

At Rockwern Academy, we integrate the essential Jewish concept of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) into a STEAM curriculum. We teach our students to identify problems and create real-world solutions through Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics.

We are currently developing a cutting-edge Innovation Lab that will house 3D printers, iPads, Wearable Electronic Kits, and more. Working in an Innovation Lab helps students develop creativity, exploration, collaboration, and problem solving.



Judaic Studies + Hebrew

The Future of Jewish Life and Learning

At Rockwern, we impart the foundation for a meaningful life based on Jewish values; a knowledge of Jewish history, texts, and culture; connection to Israel; and Hebrew language skills.

Here, students experience the beauty and traditions of Shabbat and the Jewish holidays. They recite – and then lead – morning prayers, and learn to read from the Torah. As their Hebrew language acquisition progresses, our students’ connection to Israel’s culture and history is strengthened by our unique partnership with Netanya, Israel. Students are able to practice conversational Hebrew with their Israeli counterparts, forming real-world language skills and lasting friendships.

Jewish learning is woven throughout our curriculum, integrated into art, history, science, and philosophy. By experiencing Jewish history and texts through a multidisciplinary lens, our students come to see how their Judaism informs and enriches every aspect of their lives.

At Rockwern, students are enveloped in the rich traditions and values of Judaism, while simultaneously empowered to create a Jewish identity that is uniquely theirs.

“Rockwern taught me that there is rarely one answer to a question, as demonstrated in the Talmud. This has helped me tremendously in my career as a researcher.”

Billy Bernstein, Class of '03
Mechanical Engineer
National Institute of Standards & Technology

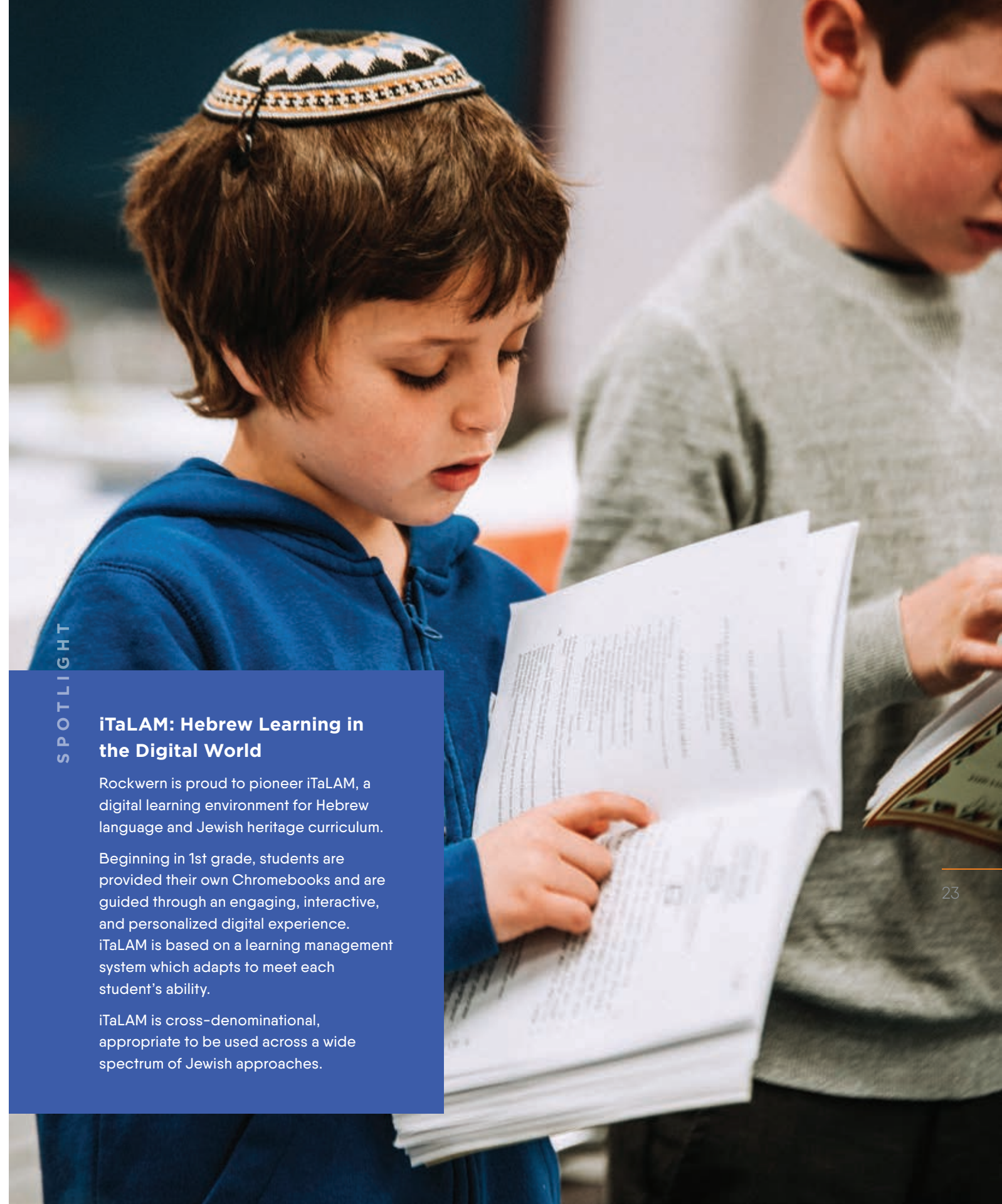
SPOTLIGHT

iTaLAM: Hebrew Learning in the Digital World

Rockwern is proud to pioneer iTaLAM, a digital learning environment for Hebrew language and Jewish heritage curriculum.

Beginning in 1st grade, students are provided their own Chromebooks and are guided through an engaging, interactive, and personalized digital experience. iTaLAM is based on a learning management system which adapts to meet each student’s ability.

iTaLAM is cross-denominational, appropriate to be used across a wide spectrum of Jewish approaches.





A Life Enriched by the Arts

The World is Our Canvas

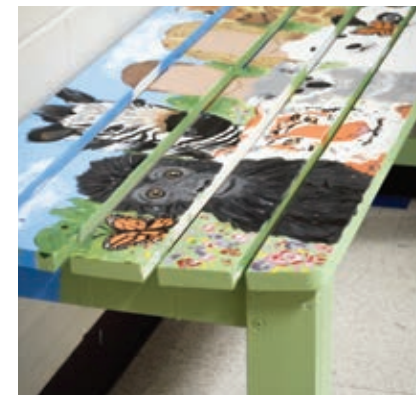
As a Jewish day school, we understand the importance of self-expression and creativity. Our current and former students' art is showcased throughout our school, creating a beautiful, lasting legacy. Art is often taught in conjunction with other subjects, reinforcing the impact and scope of arts in our daily lives.

Our music program starts in the ECEC, as children are introduced to different musical instruments, styles and rhythms. The program continues through graduation, as students learn how to read notes and play the keyboard in 4th grade, the recorder in 5th grade, and the ukulele in 6th. The K-8th grade annual art and music shows are a school-wide celebration of the arts!

A deliberate focus on creativity is crucial to Rockwern's unique, vibrant community, and ensures a lifelong love and appreciation for art in each child.

“I am blessed to work in a school where tests do not define us, and students are encouraged to create with words, images, numbers, and music.”

Diana Woloshin,
Art Teacher





Future Lions of the Community

An AVI CHAI Foundation study on emerging Jewish community leaders in their 20s and 30s found that 40% attended a Jewish day school. This data suggests that not only do day schools produce luminaries at a disproportionate rate, but that many of the key players in our 21st-century Jewish community will come from day-school alumni. Here in Cincinnati, we see these findings brought to life by the many day school alumni that guide and inspire our Jewish community.



Unlimited Possibilities

The Brightest Futures

By the time our students graduate, they are truly ready for the challenges and opportunities the world has to offer. High schools in Cincinnati and beyond welcome Rockwern alumni enthusiastically, as our reputation for excellent students extends not just to high school, but to colleges as well.

No matter where our students may travel, their education has prepared them with a secure Jewish identity as well as the tools to learn new concepts and skills, build meaningful relationships, and make a positive impact on the world.

“The Rockwern students who come to us have been a real asset to our school. Strong academic performers and well-rounded young men and women.”

Matthew Bolton, Ph.D.
Head of Upper School, Seven Hills School

Rockwern at a Glance



Get In Touch

CALL 513.984.3770

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CLICK rockwernacademy.org

VISIT 8401 Montgomery Rd
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

School Hours

ECEC

M-F Full Day 8:15-3:15

M-F Extended Day 8:15-6:00

MWF and Half Day option available

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

M-F 8:15-3:30

M-F Extended Day 8:15-6:00

Early Care is available for all students from 7:00-8:15 am

Tuition Grants

Information regarding the Rockwern Affordability Initiative and exciting tuition grants can be found on our website.

Community Partners

Rockwern Academy receives generous funding from The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati and The Jewish Federation of Cincinnati.



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