



AWARD-WINNING EDUCATOR PAUL SHAVIV JOINS RAMAZ AS NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL

COMMITMENT TO INNOVATIVE JEWISH EDUCATION CONTINUES IN SCHOOL'S 75TH YEAR

December 8, 2011 -- [The Ramaz School](#), one of the pre-eminent and most influential Modern Orthodox day schools in the United States, is proud to announce the selection of [Paul Shaviv](#), a world-renowned leader in Jewish education, to be its next Head of School, beginning in the 2012/2013 academic year. During the 2011-12 academic year, Ramaz is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Shaviv brings more than four decades of experience in the field of education. He has held leadership posts as Director of Jewish Studies, Deputy Head, Principal, and Director of Education at five Jewish schools on three continents, spanning a wide spectrum of Jewish ideologies and affiliations.

Previously, Shaviv spent 13 years at Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (TanenbaumCHAT). During his tenure, the highly respected, co-educational school has doubled in size to just under 1,400 students in grades 9-12 and established a second branch in new areas of the Jewish community north of Toronto.

He has published and lectured widely on Jewish education, Jewish history, Jewish affairs, and on Jewish school management, policy and vision. Shaviv is the author of *The Jewish High School: A Complete Management Guide*.

"Paul Shaviv is eminently qualified for this critically important role. He is committed to our school's values and vision, and passionate about a Modern Orthodox centrist way of life, something that has characterized Ramaz from its founding 75 years ago," noted Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, Ramaz Principal.

"Ramaz is very fortunate to have Paul Shaviv serve as our Head of School as he has literally written the book on how to run an institution like ours," said Jacob W. Doft, Chairman of the Ramaz Board. "On behalf of the families of our community and the Board of Trustees, we welcome Paul's professionalism, experience, educational vision, and, most important, his commitment to education."

"I am delighted to be joining Ramaz, which has always been regarded as one of the world's flagship Jewish schools," said Paul Shaviv. "We've been witnessing major forces driving changes in the world and Jewish community that will soon require private schools, including Jewish schools, to meet complex challenges. I look forward to working with the Ramaz faculty, parents, students, and community to ensure the school is strongly positioned to maintain and improve upon its educational, spiritual, and caring services for decades to come."

Shaviv, who has lived in North America for almost 20 years, was born and educated in the U.K. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Art from Cambridge University in Architecture, and an M.Phil. from Oxford University in Medieval and Modern Jewish Studies. In 2009, Shaviv was awarded the Max M. Fisher Prize for Excellence in Jewish Education.

Shaviv succeeds Judith Fagin who will have served as Head of School from 2005-2012. Fagin announced that she was stepping down last year and chose to stay on as Head of School to ensure a smooth transition to her successor.

About Ramaz

Currently celebrating its 75th year, the [Ramaz School](#) is a co-educational Modern Orthodox day school, Nursery through twelfth grade, in which intellectual growth and self-esteem are cultivated in a warm and nurturing environment. The school offers its students a fully integrated, comprehensive, and enriched program in both General and Judaic Studies. The curriculum is designed to encourage students to grow intellectually, religiously, and spiritually, while meeting the needs of a broad range of abilities.

Faculty members and administrators focus on children as individuals, helping them to develop in distinctive ways. Each teacher is an educated, experienced professional, offering vital skills and talents that help create a vibrant and varied learning environment. The Hebrew immersion program begins in the ECC, with one teacher in each classroom who speaks only in Hebrew throughout the day.

Ramaz is enriched by a student body drawn from the New York metropolitan area, as well as members of different international communities. Its educational programs are most effective in an environment where children from all social and economic segments of the Jewish community grow together and learn from each other.

Ramaz students are prepared to contribute to the good of society as Torah observant Jews. The school places special emphasis on fostering a love and personal connection between our students and the State of Israel. Students demonstrate the highest achievement in Jewish and general studies; exhibit integrity, *menschlichkeit*, responsibility for community, and respect for all humankind.

All divisions offer an extensive array of co-curricular activities to challenge young minds. These include the performing arts, student publications, *tzedakah* drives, *chesed* and community service projects, scientific research, and athletics complements classroom activities.

The school is located on New York's Upper East Side, where nearby landmark museums, cultural institutions, and political venues are integrated into the school curricula.

Additional information can be found at www.ramaz.org.

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Available for interviews:

Please note that both Ramaz Principal Rabbi Haskel Lookstein and Chairman of the Ramaz Board Jacob W. Doft are available for interviews.

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