

## CJDS Points of Pride

From the words of a current parent, “the feeling you get each day, when you drop off and pick up knowing that your child has the opportunity to attend school there it is truly touching, there is a special feeling knowing that your child is so loved, protected, nurtured, and not too mention educated in all facets of life. I really feel that the children there at CJDS are a step ahead in life.”

- CJDS is accredited by the National Association of Education for Young Children ([www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)) and was the first school in the state to gain the new NAEYC accreditation.
- The school has received a AA rating from the State of SC. The highest possible rating of an early childhood center (the state offers A through C ratings and only NAEYC accredited centers can score AA).
- The principal is nearing a doctorate in education, the assistant principal holds a master’s degree and all teachers hold at least a four-year degree and fifty percent of the assistant teachers have or are working on degrees.
- Teacher-to-student ratios are among the lowest in the city resulting in many one to one interactions and individual attention for each student. The ratios for 09 are 1:6 in the twos, 1:9 in the threes and fours, and 1:10 in the kindergarten class. These ratios can be compared to the state of SC which allows 1:11 and 1:16 in the threes and fours.
- Your child is loved. Many schools love all children but we love each child. The individual attention and love can be seen in the classrooms, on the playground, before and after school, and in teacher student evening calls and emails.
- Inquiry-based learning featuring expert projects is a focus of our academic goals. The school follows a philosophy of constructivist learning. We believe that the goal of education is for children to construct knowledge as opposed to memorize information.

- Math is taught through a hands-on minds-on process and all areas of study include the scientific method of asking questions, researching, constructing a hypothesis, testing a hypothesis, analyzing data, and publishing results.
- Warm Jewish teaching forms a positive Jewish identity, creates the beginnings of Jewish literacy, and focuses on character development. Your child will appreciate Judaism. Jewish heritage, culture, and customs are taught in a loving and respectful manner. Your child and family will have opportunities to build friendships and celebrate together with other families. You will be offered opportunities to participate in child development and Jewish life skills learning programs, together with a community of other parents.
- Immersion Hebrew has children as young as four-years-old speaking and understanding Hebrew.
- Having an open door policy for families and reaching out to extended family creates a strong school community.
- CJDS families feel part of the school community through activities in and out of school.
- Our excellent literacy program includes student-created books, interactive writing, visits from published authors, and hundreds of read-alouds.
- The school bridges the student's experiences with the wider world through guest speakers and community experiences.
- The school's technology includes classroom computers, a computer laboratory, and a SMART Board. All computers are networked to the school's copy machine so the children can print their research.
- Excellent communication includes school wide weekly updates and periodic newsletters from every class.
- Second through fifth graders have consistently scored in the top tier on standardized exams.
- Students who complete our fifth grade integrate into the public school talented-and-gifted and advanced programs.

- The students are involved in multiple service learning projects each year.
- **CJDS is the only private school to have USC student teachers assigned by the College of Education. The school also enjoys a semester of USC “math buddies” –an interactive one-on-one opportunity for CJDS students to work with USC pre-service teachers.**
- Your child is guided to become a *mentch* (an outstanding person with integrity, empathy, and kindness). Through the staff being role models and encouraging student autonomy children develop leadership abilities and life skills. Children also are involved in multiple social justice projects. One child commented that her school is so special because “she likes helping people while learning.”