

Tampa Torah Academy Hosts Professionals to Excite Student Career Choices

March 09, 2026



Lea Merrill Davidson-Bern, Peshah Wohlfarth, Nesya Friedman, Jacqueline Davidson, Sima Levin, Yocheved Levin, Kate Friedman

Tampa Torah Academy recently welcomed two career visitors to the school. The preschool through fourth grade met a research biochemist, Dr. Zalman Burger. He shared science demonstrations with a surprising key ingredient – hand sanitizer – aimed at two separate age groups, each at their own academic level. Dr. Burger also told stories from his years pursuing his hobby in astronomy and his decades in chemistry labs.

Just a couple days later, our 5th-8th graders had a pair of guest speakers representing the broad field of social work. Ms. Lea Merrill Davidson-Bern spoke about her decades of experience in social services at Tampa Jewish Family Services Community Food Bank. Simultaneously, she extensively pursued a huge array of community chesed opportunities, both in Tampa, Israel, and in fact, anywhere in the world where she found herself along her travels. The stories and superlatives she spoke of were intriguing and interesting. Ms. Davidson-Bern's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Jacqueline Davidson, MSW, MPH, contributed to the

“career chat” by sharing her experience pursuing higher education and training in social work and mental health counseling and described the numerous career options open to those with degrees in the field. The students abounded with questions and left with inspiration about practical and widely available helping professions within and beyond the Jewish community.

The 8th grade is also preparing for a virtual meeting with a government economist, Dr. Jennifer Helgeson, who works at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to learn more about careers using math and statistics, which also connects to their recent and current studies of algebra, personal finances, economics, and government.

Related Stories by Jewish Press - Tampa Edition

[Go To The Schools Section](#)



Rooted in Tradition: All Local Jewish Preschools Have Achieved a High Degree of Excellence

The Tampa community is very fortunate to have five Jewish preschool programs that are all exceptional in terms of the...



Hebrew Academy Tampa Bay's Purim Sunday Funday Had Something For Everyone

Hebrew Academy (HATB) hosted the Tampa Bay community's Annual Purim Sunday Funday celebration on February 22, 2026. This extravaganza celebrated...



Hillel Academy Preschool Opens Its Doors to Families Transitioning from the JCC on the Cohn Campus

As families across Tampa's Jewish community look ahead to changes following the upcoming closure of the JCC on the Cohn...

[Load More](#)