

Rosa: My Choice And Yours

By Shari Bodofsky & Gilana Levavi

The average Joe doesn't have the choice. But you, my friend, are not the average Joe. Middle school is a big decision (or at least big enough) and may be leaving you stumped. Don't be. No matter which school you choose, you are entering into an amazing time, filled with friendships and discovery. However, we can assure you that if you choose Rosa, you will have a stupendous, fulfilling, and rewarding experience. And, we can promise that you'll get an education ready to take you to the moon - or at least high school. Rosa is a great choice because of the Rosa spirit, great after-school activities, friendships, and great teachers.

THE ROSA SPIRIT

Rosa has won a National School of Character award, and we try to live up to it every day. Even if we aren't necessarily friends with everyone, we respect everyone. This spirit dominates Rosa, and usually provides for a safe, comfortable environment. It's not often that students feel left out or hurt, but when they do, advisors, teachers, and guidance counselors are always there to help out.

Besides caring for each other, we also try to care for the world around us. On any given day, there is at least one community service project going on, most of which are organized by students. There are (drives) to raise money for causes that matter to students. One effort was a scarf sale and raffle to raise money for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. In addition, Rosa sponsors the Awegys School in Kigo, Uganda. Every year, Rosa has a talent show, *Stars Over Africa*, to benefit Awegys. Rosa has funded a well and a library, as well as provided musical instruments for the children through the music program *Voices Banding Together to Orchestrate Change* initiative.

ACTIVITIES

Rosa has a multitude of after-school activities in which to participate. All you need to do is listen to the morning and afternoon announcements to find out when they meet. Everyone is welcome to participate. Becoming involved in one or more after-school activities can be very rewarding, and can help you make friends. Some after-school activities include newspaper, sports, cheerleading, bowling, drama, harmony groups, debate club, art and literacy magazine, art club, *Harry Potter* club and so many more. To find out more about extracurricular activities, turn to page 2.

FRIENDSHIP

At Rosa, there are countless opportunities to make friends and socialize. Before school, in the hallways, during lunch, after school, and even during class, friendship is abundant. The connections built can last a lifetime. I (Gilana speaking) was one of only five students who came to Rosa from my elementary school. I barely knew anyone who was going to Rosa, but it was not hard for me to find people with whom I could connect. If all of your friends aren't going to Rosa, don't worry. Remember that in middle school, there are 250 kids your age (plus another 550 in other grades, most of whom aren't that scary, either), whereas in elementary school, there are probably only about a hundred. With this many kids, you're bound to find at least one good friend. Also, you can easily keep in touch with elementary school friends after school and on the weekends. Where your friends are going should not be the deciding factor in where you go to middle school.

TEACHERS

Rosa teachers truly care about students. Most teachers go out of their way to make class amusing, interesting and fun. They are always there when students need help. As long as you do what is expected of you, they will do everything to make sure that you understand the material. Teachers and students are organized into learning communities (LCs). The teachers on each LC have daily meetings to coordinate what they teach, and to make sure that you don't get too much work to do at once.

For example, if your Language A teacher knows that you're going to have a big project due soon, he/she will let the other teachers know so that they don't assign a big project, too. Also, every teacher has something amazing to offer outside of just teaching. Some "bonuses" include experience from other countries, fundraising goals and, most importantly, friendship. Personally, we know we will always stay connected with some of our teachers. They have helped us through the middle school journey.

Overall, Rosa has so much to offer. From spirit, to after-school activities, friendship, and the teachers, Rosa can offer you an incredible experience. There is a lot of choice when it comes to middle school, but we can honestly say Rosa provides an enriching and unique environment that guides the young minds of tomorrow. To us, the choice is clear. We love our award-winning, character-filled, supporting school. We love Rosa, and we hope you have a chance to love it too.