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One program that makes Schechter Manhattan unique is the Gesher program. The word Gesher in Hebrew means bridge. The program bridges together kids of different ages. Groups are made up of students from each grade, and the students move with their group as they grow older. Each group is referred to as a shevet; the Hebrew word for tribe, and is named after significant people in the Torah. Gesher activities are a great opportunity for younger and older kids to form relationships. In our Gesher Shvatim, we participate in many activities together like Kabbalat Shabbat, team building activities for the holidays, and we play games together. Older kids often choose to help out younger kids so that kids of all age groups are interacting with each other.

Every year, we celebrate Lag- Baomer field day with our Gesher groups, a full day playing sports and participating in relay races in the park. The kids in third grade through seventh grade collaborate, and work as a team. The younger kids participate in relay races that are led by the eighth graders. The eighth graders help the younger kids by cheering them on and supporting them. Some of us have memories of running to the eighth graders when we were younger, and it was a powerful experience for us to be the leaders on Lag Baomer. When walking through the Schechter Manhattan hallways, one will most likely sense a unique bond between the younger and older students. Some of these interactions might include highfives, hellos, and handshakes. The Gesher friendships that we have made are ones that we cherish and will carry on throughout our lives. Gesher builds important communities within Schechter Manhattan, and reflects the remarkable feeling of community when you walk into this special school.