

# Rabbi Aaron Leibtag



Rabbi Aaron Leibtag grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, and attended the Talmudical Academy of Baltimore for his elementary and high school education. After graduating from high school, he spent two years learning at *Yeshivat Shaalvim*. He then continued his education at Yeshiva University receiving a bachelor's degree, his *smicha* from the R.I.E.T.S program and a Master's in Education from YU's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration.

Rabbi Leibtag began his career in *chinuch* and *rabbanus* over 10 years ago in the NY area, teaching at MTA High School of Yeshiva University and serving as the Rabbinic Intern of Congregation *Ahavas Achim B'nai Jacob & David* in West Orange, NJ, and at *Keter Torah* in Teaneck, NJ. After moving to Chicago as an inaugural member of the Yeshiva University *Torah Mitzion Kollel*, Rabbi Leibtag has the honor of serving as the Rabbi of Congregation KJBS in Lincolnwood/Peterson Park, where he has continued teaching and educating his *kehilla* for the past 8 years.

Concurrently, Rabbi Leibtag enjoys teaching *Navi*, *Gemara* and *Halacha* to the 7th and 8th grade students of Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School. Through his engaging and interactive lessons, Rabbi Leibtag inspires his students to uncover their potential and become lifelong learners. Whether through a *sugya* in *Gemara*, a story in *Navi* or discussing an aspect of *Halacha*, Rabbi Leibtag instills a passion and love for *Torah* and Judaism in his students. In addition to his position as a teacher, Rabbi Leibtag also serves as the advisor to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys. In this role, Rabbi Leibtag facilitates discussions on a variety of life lessons including friendship, values, and leadership. Outside the classroom, Rabbi Leibtag leads a variety of programs for both his current and past students. Rabbi Leibtag enjoys maintaining relationships with his students well after they have left Hillel Torah.

Ever since he was a child, Rabbi Leibtag aspired to enter the field of Jewish education, following the tradition of his namesake who was a beloved educator in Baltimore for many years. Rabbi Leibtag feels privileged to be part of the engaging and highly motivated staff at Hillel Torah, who have all helped him become a better teacher and educator. Rabbi Leibtag sees the Hartman Award as an opportunity to aspire to accomplish even greater things at Hillel Torah and in the Jewish community at large.