



Parent - Student Handbook
2016-2017/5776-5777

A letter from the Director...

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to another wonderful year at Chabad Hebrew School - where Judaism comes alive and children are encouraged to ask and explore.

Our staff is comprised of highly motivated teachers with a proven track record of caring, devotion, and academic expertise. We are lucky to have Rabbi Deren, Rabbi Feldman, Morah Maryashie and Morah Chani on our teaching staff, as well as returning Morahs Mushkie and Morah Leah. You will have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher at our Orientation Day on September 11.

Enclosed you will find this year's curriculum, school calendar and parent handbook. Please keep these handy for future reference.

If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions, please contact me to discuss them at any time. My cell number is 718-915-6161.

Looking forward to an exciting year!

Yours sincerely,

Chani Feldman
Director

Rabbi Yossi Deren
Hebrew School Rabbi

Philosophy

The Chabad Hebrew School offers a warm and lively Jewish atmosphere where children can attain a unique and exciting awareness of their Jewish identity.

Indeed, a child equipped with Jewish knowledge and sensitivity to our beautiful teachings and traditions, is a child better equipped to face the awesome moral challenges that confront us each day.

Aside from the acquisition of Jewish knowledge, our approach puts a heavy emphasis on creating a positive, vibrant and joyful environment to ensure the children's continued interest in Judaism even as they move on in life. Our program is thus carefully blended with educational games, incentives, crafts, dramatics, family celebrations and other engaging co-curricular activities.

We encourage you as a parent to get involved and take interest in the material your child is learning. You may discover that your child's Hebrew School education will add an enriching spiritual dimension to the life of your entire family.

Our Goal is that every student should...

- Identify strongly as a Jewish person.
- Know the why's and how's of Jewish life and gain an appreciation for the values and mandate of the Jewish people.
- Master Hebrew reading and comprehension of basic Hebrew language.
- Be familiar with basic Synagogue prayers and traditions.
- Know the basic history of the Jewish people and its relevance for today.
- Be comfortable expressing their feelings about G-d, Torah, and religion.
- Attain a Jewish perspective on life which will influence their involvement beyond their Hebrew School years.

Hebrew School

For girls and boys from Kindergarten through 7th grade

Times: Sunday 9:15am – 11:45am

Tuition Fees: \$1000 Security Fee: \$100 per family

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Discovery Course

For girls and boys in 6th & 7th grade

Times: Tuesday evening 6:30pm-7:30pm

Tuition Fees: \$600

JLI Teens

For high school girls and boys

Call Rabbi Feldman at 203-629-9059 x23 for more information.

Bar and Bat Mitzvah

All students nearing Bar and Bat Mitzvah – 13 years for boys and 12 years for girls, are given special training to prepare them in a meaningful way for their special day. Please meet with us 20 months in advance to set a date and begin planning.

All Hebrew School and Discovery Course students in your child's class must be invited to your child's Bar Mitzvah Service. You have an option to send them a personal invitation or we at Chabad will send one out on your behalf.

Tutoring

To ensure your child does not miss out on vital information when away from school, we offer private tutoring on an individual basis. Times and venues are flexible.

TUITION

Registration forms & first installments of tuition fees must be submitted before September 1.

Attendance

Hebrew School is on Sunday morning from 9:15 AM to 11:45AM for all grades. For the benefit of all students, please ensure that your child arrives on time. This year our day will begin with a story given over by Rabbi Deren and presentation of Birthday Boxes. It is important that your child comes on time in order to start their day with the energy and enthusiasm gained in a school assembly.

Consistent and timely attendance is vital! Please make Hebrew School a priority and impart this sense to your children in unequivocal terms.

Please make sure to schedule parties, play dates, sports activities and meetings after Hebrew School is over.

In the event of inclement weather, parents will be notified by email, text and through our website whether or not Hebrew School will be in session.

COMMUNICATION

Chabad Hebrew School is located at the Chabad House
75 Mason Street Greenwich, CT 06830

Phone Office: 203-629-9059 x 11
Phone Cell: 718-915-6161
Email: chani@chabadgreenwich.org

Please share your feedback and suggestions regarding any aspect of the school's program with us. Your input allows us to constantly improve and upgrade our program and we value it greatly.

Security

Magen Security staffs our security guard on campus from 9:00-12:00 every Sunday that Hebrew School is in session. There is a \$100 fee per family per year to help cover the cost.

For your child's safety the doors to our building will be locked at 9:30am. If your child is late or you needs to do an early pick up, our security guard will let you into the building. Please let your child's teacher know about any early pick up so we can make sure your child is ready to leave at that time.

Changes or notifications will be made through one of the following ways:

- A letter sent home in child's folder (please check bag weekly.)
- An e-mail to parents
- A phone call

Parent-Teacher Rapport is extremely important. Our School is run by a staff of dedicated teachers. Each of them spends hours planning their lessons and designing creative methods of teaching. They are deeply concerned about the progress of each student and would be happy to discuss your child's progress with you. Please call our office and we will make arrangements for you to speak with your child's teacher.

Each week you will receive a text from your child's teacher with a short description of what was learnt that day in Hebrew School. This is a wonderful way for you to discuss with your child what they did that day in Hebrew School.

Safety

Safety is of primary importance. Minor Injuries will be cared for by the school staff.

In case of a serious medical emergency, G-d forbid, your family doctor, emergency responders and parents (or guardian) will be contacted immediately. If, however, we can not reach a doctor, parent or emergency contact immediately we will use our best judgment on behalf of your child.

If your child has any special challenges or conditions (i.e. social, behavioral), the knowledge of which would help us in caring for them and maximizing their potential, please bring it to our attention. (Of course this information will be kept confidential.)

Dress Code & Supplies

Boys must wear a kippa at all times. Caps and hoods are not a substitute. We will supply a kippa to each child at the beginning of the school year.

Tzedaka/charity is an important part of our curriculum, and we'd like to encourage students to bring a coin every Sunday to help fill up the class Tzedaka Box. As their boxes fill, they will have the opportunity to count it and discuss where to appropriate the money.

Please ensure that ALL Hebrew School books and folders are brought back to school each week. We will provide all books and supplies including Hebrew School folders and backpacks. There is a \$3.50 fee for a lost Aleph Champ book.

Students are not permitted to bring cell phones, I-pods, electronic gadgets or any dangerous objects to School. In the event that a student brings them or any other materials we deem inappropriate for learning, the teacher will hold it for safekeeping and will return it to the parents at the end of the day.

Food

Snacks and drinks are provided by the school. We are a nut free and Kosher facility. Please avoid sending any food to school.

A special occasion such as a Birthday is a wonderful time to share with Hebrew School Friends. Each month we will present a Birthday Box to the children with Jewish birthdays in that coming Hebrew month. IF you choose to make a bigger celebration, please be in touch with Chani Feldman to make arrangements.

Behavioural Expectations

The Chabad Hebrew School strives to create an atmosphere that reflects our Jewish values. We take pride in our student body who respect teachers, fellow students, and the property of our school.

We expect each student to:

- Be courteous to fellow students and staff members
- Follow classroom directions promptly and quietly
- Complete all class assignments and homework
- Come prepared with books and materials to each session

Homework

Each week your child will receive a short 5 minute Hebrew reading homework assignment to be completed during the course of the week. When learning a language, review is an important part of retaining what was learnt. This short homework will make that difference in your child's progress.

Torah Trivia

Every week you will receive an email with a short trivia question connected to the Jewish holidays or the weekly Torah portion. Your child's answer should be recorded in writing on a piece of paper. We encourage you to talk with your family about it over dinner, look it up online, or check it up in a Chumash. Any child who brings the written answer to Hebrew School, will receive a small prize. This isn't homework, just a cool way to bring a fun Jewish conversation to your dinner table.

Parent Participation:

We have many opportunities for parents to join and be a part of our Hebrew School learning. When you participate and show excitement for these activities, you show your child being Jewish is an important part of your life and therefore an important part of theirs. Please join us for each of these activities and show your support.

Each activity we do in Hebrew School will need parent volunteers to make it a success. If you would like to join a committee for one or more of the activities mentioned below please contact Chani at 203-629-9059 x11 or 718-915-6161.

In order for our Hebrew School program to be most effective the parents and school must work hand in hand to promote a close relationship. The following are a few suggestions to aid you in allowing this to happen.

- A growing child needs plenty of rest. Set a reasonable bedtime the night before a school day.
- Many of our students are involved in other extra curricular activities (e.g. sports, music, etc.). All these are important; however please make your child's Jewish education a priority.
- There is a direct correlation between a student's attendance, and his/her interest, achievement and attitude. Every time your child is absent, there is a loss of continuity to the program. Keep your child in school regularly.
- Please help your child come to Hebrew School on time.
- The place to voice your concerns of the school is with the school director and teacher. Please do not discuss school issues in the presence of your child.
- **Participation in synagogue services and celebration of Jewish holidays will greatly enhance your child's interest in Judaism and strengthen his/her Jewish identity.** Our director and teachers are always willing to provide resources, share their expertise, and help out however possible.
- **Show your child that you are interested in his/her Jewish education.** Spend time with your child reviewing what he/she has learned in class and listening to him/her read Hebrew to you. This will greatly encourage and help foster a strong and positive identity.