



Chabad Olney Hebrew School of the Arts

# Parent Handbook





## Director's Letter

Dear Parents,

Imagine a Hebrew school where your kids don't want to miss a day. They come in with a smile and leave humming a new Hebrew song.

Imagine a child who feels the warmth and spirit of Judaism and then imagine the pride of this child's parents.

Welcome to Hebrew School of the Arts, where the values and tradition of Judaism are vividly brought to life!

The goal of our Hebrew School is to experience and deepen Jewish knowledge which will strengthen your children's understanding of G-d, their identification with the Jewish people, their involvement in the synagogue, their participation in Jewish life and their determination to live as Jews.

We need your help to achieve this goal! With your interest and participation, your child will see Hebrew school as a privilege and opportunity to learn about their Jewish identity. Thank you for taking on this commitment and welcome to the team!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful New Year!

Hebrew School Director

Devorah Stolik

## Curriculum

Throughout this curriculum, students will be introduced to key figures in the Torah, beginning from Adam and Eve and through the journey of our forefathers and foremothers. Students will know their Jewish story and strongly feel their part in it. With a pride in their ancestors, they will be confident and equipped to live their lives proud Jews.

Each class is broken into two parts:

Part 1: An interactive way to tell the story.

Part 2: A hands-on activity where the kids continue learning the story or internalize the message.

Through engaging and fresh activities, your child will sense that Jewish history isn't just something of the past. Students will perceive that this is their story and feel confident and responsible to live an active life portraying the values taught by our ancestors.

The curriculum is designed to generate a positive change in children by encouraging them to integrate Torah and Mitzvot into their lives. Through focused lesson goals and repeated application, the children will gain real skills and will be able to effect a genuine change in their lives. The curriculum offers timeless lessons and ways to integrate the knowledge children need to practically implement the skill. Children will have the passion and knowledge to live Jewishly, by internalizing the lessons and skills they learn. Upon completion of this course the student will have created a method to integrate Torah, Mitzvot and Jewish Holidays into their lives and developed methods to create change in the world around them.

Areas of academic emphasis include:

1. Jewish History
2. Hebrew reading and vocabulary
3. Holidays and traditions
4. Culture and current events

This course engages children in discovering the higher purpose of everyday lifestyle, and gives them the tools to practically implement their inspiration.

## Communication

Effective communication between parents and school is very important to ensure that Hebrew School be a meaningful and pleasant experience for your child. You should feel free to contact the school with any matter that requires clarification.

Weekly Emails/Text: Every Thursday morning, an email or text will be sent out with an update on your child's day in Hebrew School. The email will include progress, special events, pictures as well as important information.

Should you need to contact our staff during school hours, please contact:

**Devorah Stolik at 301.660.6771**

## Homework

Although homework is not mandatory, we strongly encourage your child to review at least 2x a week of their Hebrew reading. New for this year: **Study Hall on zoom**: An Aleph Champ teacher will be available on Sunday mornings between 10 am and 12 pm for one and one Aleph Bet review. Students are able to book a weekly time slot to help keep their Hebrew reading in check.

## Our Approach

At Hebrew School of the arts we strive to stress the beauty and warmth of Judaism and its Mitzvot, providing a learning experience in an atmosphere of joy and liveliness. We place particular emphasis on the inclusion of Jewish ethics and values. Mutual tolerance and respect for fellow human beings are taught as basic principles of faith.

Besides for the weekly Bereishit lessons, we have a host of other programs that we use to create the best experiences for your child:

### **Holiday Programming**

Chabad hosts a multitude of exciting programs throughout the year, whether it's Chanukah, Purim, or Shavuot. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to these programs where the lessons they have learned in school are reinforced and where they are provided with an added Jewish social opportunity.

### **Friday Night Dinner**

Mark your calendars for each class to participate in a Shabbat dinner at the Stolik home. Your child will be learning and preparing prayers, food for the dinner, Centerpieces and more. It's an opportunity for your child to experience an authentic Shabbat experience! Parents are invited for Dessert! Please refer to the calendar for your child's class date for dinner.

### **Extracurricular**

Family days, Shabbat experiences, school contests, hands-on education, and family workshops as well as games, drama, and songs are blended into our curriculum.

## JEWQ Competition

Children in 150+ cities worldwide put their Jewish knowledge to the ULTIMATE test. High achievers win prizes and an exciting end-of-year trip! **In our school grades 4-6 will be participating and learning the information in school.** However, as experience has shown, for them to do well in the test and competition, it is integral that they review the material during the week, **outside of Hebrew School.** We encourage all parents to either (1) *buy* a JEWQ book for \$20 (You can keep it from year to year, plus it's a great book to keep.) or (2) *borrow* a JEWQ book from Hebrew school (\$10 deposit required, to be returned upon return of the book). Students who study/review for an average of 10 minutes each week at home will be eligible for the end of year JEWQ field trip!

## Aleph Champ/Hebrew Language Reading & Comprehension

Aleph Champ is a ground-breaking program that is the talk of the town. This system offers a new and innovative Hebrew reading technique that involves ten easily attainable levels for children to master. Students are motivated and have clear goals defined for them. In addition to reading they will be able to write and understand basic Hebrew vocabulary.

## Health and Wellness

Communication is key to allowing us to help your child. Please let us know if there are any important factors in your child's health, such as allergies, vision, hearing, medications, etc. This will help us to be understanding and cater to his/her needs. Of course, the greatest care will be taken to maintain the confidentiality of the student/family.

Contagious Illness: Please notify us in the event of a contagious illness so that we may notify the parents of other children in the class to be aware of the symptoms.

**Hebrew School of the Arts** has someone certified in CPR/First Aid on duty at all times.

In case of minor injury, the first aider will treat the injury. For major injuries, G-d forbid, EMS will be called as well as the parents. In the event the parents/guardians cannot be reached, the emergency contact on file will be contacted. If necessary, the child will be taken to the nearest hospital..

## Drop Off/ Pick Up

Arrival: Parents that are driving their children, should wait in line at the school, a staff will greet your child and usher them into the building. If you choose to walk your child into the building, please park in the parking lot

Dismissal: Students will be lined up in the hallway or outside weather permitting, parents please wait on the carpool lane as a staff member brings your child to the car.

## Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial to your child's success in Hebrew school. There is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement, interest and attitude. Furthermore, coming late disturbs the entire class and disrupts your child's classroom routine. Any work that is missed due to attendance has to be made up.

Adhering to the attendance policy will be greatly appreciated and will help your child get the most out of Hebrew school. Great attendance will be rewarded.

## Communication

Your child's happiness is our top priority. Communication between parents and staff is very important and will make the Hebrew school experience more pleasant for your child.

If there are any issues that are bothering you concerning your child's education, do not disregard them. Please talk to us so that we can make your child more comfortable and alleviate any distress immediately.

We will be emailing important notices and newsletters to let you know what is happening during Hebrew school. Please check your email Hebrew school notices to monitor how your child is progressing.

## Unexpected School Closings:

In case of snow or other unexpected cancellations, expect an email or text message (no later) than 1.5 hours before the starting time of Hebrew School. We typically follow Montgomery County for afternoon/evening activities

## Behavioral Expectations

We strive to create a respectful and calm learning atmosphere. Our students understand that respect for teachers, respect for each other and each other's property is essential for a successful learning environment. We expect all rules for student behavior to be complied within class as well as during school events. Please share with us any information that would help us help your child. Please provide information about any conditions that may affect your child's ability to learn in a classroom setting in his/her registration form. Prior knowledge of any physical, social or psychological challenges can aid a teacher in planning instruction for each child. All such information will be kept confidential. Should a student's behavior be deemed inappropriate, it will be brought to the attention of the director. If the problem persists, communication with the parent will be initiated.

## Kippah

All boys will receive a kippah to wear during Hebrew School. The Kippahs will be kept in school.

## Pizza Dinner

Pizza Dinner will be served at the beginning of the day. If your child doesn't like pizza, please let us know! Water is always available for students to drink.

## Helping Your Child Succeed

In order for our Hebrew School program to be most effective, the home and Hebrew School must work hand in hand and promote a close partnership. The following are a few suggestions:

- Many of our students are involved in other extracurricular activities, i.e. sports, music lessons, etc. All these are important; however, please place priority on your child's Jewish education.
- Participation in Synagogue services and celebration of Jewish Holidays will greatly enhance your child's interest in Judaism and strengthen his/her Jewish identity. We invite all Hebrew School families to join us at Chabad for Shabbat and holiday services and programs. You belong-no membership needed!
- Show your child that you are interested in his/her Jewish education. Make a habit of asking your child/ren how their day was, and what they have learned. This will greatly encourage and help foster a strong Jewish identity and positive attitude.
- Always remember that informal Jewish education is one of the best motivators for creating a positive Jewish identity!