



PARENT HANDBOOK

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CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL AT CHESTNUT HILL
Parent - Student Handbook
5775 / 2014-2015
www.chabadch.com



A letter from the Director...

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Chabad Hebrew School!

At Chabad Hebrew School our goal is to educate your child in a way that augments their Jewish identity in a warm, nurturing and engaging atmosphere. Our teachers LIVE what they TEACH, and are enthusiastic about sharing that experience with their students. At Chabad Hebrew School Judaism comes alive through our interactive curriculum, holiday workshops and creative activities.

Our curriculum is designed to instill the children with a basic yet thorough understanding of our traditions and values, a strong sense of Jewish pride, and a love of Jewish life. Our exclusive **CAP-IT** reading program has been uniquely successful in motivating the students toward Hebrew fluency.

We firmly believe that the holistic approach we employ is the most effective way to educate children and ensure an enduring connection with our Heritage. Parents and the entire family will play an integral role in the educational process both at home and through holiday celebrations, social activities, and educational opportunities at school during the year. Education is at its best when brought into practice as a family!

This year we are including new programs at school, as well as continuing some that we initiated in the past: Hebrew School Shabbat Service, Hebrew School Shabbat Dinner, Parent/Child Learning Activity: Family Holiday Events, Birthday Bash and end-of-year celebration. We invite parents to volunteer to assist with at least one school program this year.

There will be a "Chabad Hebrew School Chestnut Hill" Facebook page on which we will post pictures and documentation of what is new at Hebrew school so you can be a part of your child's exciting Hebrew School experience. Please make sure to like our page so that you can be updated regularly.

Please make sure to read this handbook in its entirety, so that you're well informed regarding all aspects and programs in Hebrew School.

If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions, please feel free to call and discuss them with me at any time. Looking forward to an exciting and successful year!

Yours sincerely,

Grunie Uminer
Director



Educational Philosophy

The Chabad Hebrew School offers a warm and lively Jewish atmosphere where children 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 places 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 be in-tune with 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.

Goal

Our Goal is for each student to...

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



General Information

Contact Information

Location: Chabad Hebrew School

163 Bellingham Road

Chestnut Hill MA 02467

Phone: 617.738.9770

Grunie's Cell: 617.323.2000

Rabbi's Cell: 617.571.1900

Email: grunie@chabadch.com

Days & Times/ Attendance

Sunday Mornings 9:30-12:00

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

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

Arrivals

Drop off is at the entrance at the front of the building. Drive up to the front and a staff member will be there to greet you and your child. If you'd like to walk your child in, please park safely and walk your child in. Please be punctual and limit late arrivals to emergency situations. It is difficult for a child to come to school when class has already begun. The initial welcome period allows for your child to settle in to the routine of the day

Pickup

Students will be brought out to you at the end of the day. Please be aware of the children crossing roads and getting into cars when driving, and parking.

Informing of Absence/ Changes

Please remember to inform the school if your child will be absent from school for any reason. Text 617.323.2000

Emergency School Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather, parents will be notified by phone and email if Hebrew School has been canceled.



Beginning of the Year

First Day of School

On the first morning of school, students will meet their teachers and divide into their classes. They will get right into learning in order to properly prepare them for the upcoming High Holidays. A detailed “orientation email” detailing our CAP-IT program, each classes curriculum, and the breakdown of the day will be sent out.

Parent-School Communication & Cooperation

A child's educational journey encompasses the unique qualities of his/her family as an integral part of the learning experience. It is our hope that your entire family will become active participants in our greater school community and all it has to offer. In our pursuit of excellence, we welcome your questions, concerns, suggestions and ideas.

Communication

Office: 617.738.9770

Grunie Cell: 617.323.2000

Rabbi Cell: 617.571.1900

Email: grunie@chabadch.com or rabbi@chabadch.com

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

Changes or notifications will be made through:

1. A letter sent home in child's folder (please check bag weekly.)
2. A weekly e-mail
3. Photos of school activities are displayed on our Facebook page 'Chabad Hebrew School at Chestnut Hill' and on our website www.chabadch.com

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.



Guidance/ Discipline

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 school.

We expect each student to:

1. Be courteous to fellow students and staff members
2. Follow classroom directions
3. Complete class assignments and homework

We use incentives to encourage the children to participate and interact in a positive manner.

Snack

Snacks and drinks are provided by the school. Please avoid sending any food to school.

Sponsors of \$36 are welcomed, so that we can maintain our healthy snack program. Please email grunie@chabadch.com if you'd like to be a snack sponsor.

Safety

Safety is of primary importance. Minor bumps, scrapes or bruises will be cared for by the school staff. In case of a serious medical emergency, G-d forbid, parents, family doctor and emergency responders will be contacted immediately. If, however, we cannot reach you or your doctor immediately we will use our best judgment on behalf of your child.

Special Conditions

If your child has any allergies, 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 them to our attention. (Please note that this information will be kept confidential.)



Dress Code & Supplies

Kippah

Boys are encouraged to wear a kippah at all times. We will give each boy a kippah at the beginning of the school year, and they should wear it at Hebrew School. For those who do not have their kippah with them, we will supply one at school.

Tzedakah/ Charity

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

Backpacks & Supplies

We provide an exclusive Hebrew School backpack, books, supplies and a Hebrew School folder with an Aleph Bet chart. The only items which should be brought to school are the backpack and its contents. Please ensure that ALL Hebrew School papers and homework are returned to their folders as soon as you have completed reviewing the contents so that nothing is missing when they return to class.

Jewish Lending Library

Children will be allowed to borrow Jewish books for one week duration. Books are to be returned in the same condition in which they were received. If books are damaged beyond normal wear, parents will be responsible to pay for a replacement book (and keep the damaged one if desired.)

Lost Supplies

A \$5 charge for lost CAP It & Aleph Champ books or backpack will be assessed.

Personal Belongings

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 these items, 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. We respectfully request that parents take the lead in enforcing this rule and not put the administration in an uncomfortable position.



Family Involvement

Parent's involvement in Hebrew School is crucial. The best way to teach and support your child is by role modeling.

Please save the dates:

Hebrew School Friday Night Dinner

We will experience Shabbat in a very unique way. The students will lead the services, have a delicious Shabbat meal, engage in Shabbat conversations and games, and join in the very special Shabbat spirit.

- November 14 at 6:30 pm.

Shabbat Services

All of the children in Hebrew School will come to Shul and showcase the prayers they learn and sing each week in school. Parents Participation is required.

- January 10- Kita Hey & Vav
- February 7- Kita Gimmel & Daled
- March 7- Kita Aleph & Bet

Holiday Programs in Hebrew School

Families are invited to join us to celebrate the Jewish Holidays

- September 25-26 Family friendly Holiday Services @Baker
- October 12 Sukkot Family Party
- December 21 Chanukah Celebration
- March 5- Purim Festivities
- March 29- Chocolate Model Seder

Parent-Child Learning Initiative & Mezuzah Campaign launch

- January 25 for K-3
- February 8 for 4-6

End of the year Hebrew School celebration.

- May 31

Additional Youth Programming at Chabad

Bar and Bat Mitzvah Training

All students nearing Bar & Bat Mitzvah receive specialized training to prepare them in a meaningful way for their special day. Please set up a meeting with us 18 months in advance to set a date and begin planning.

Bat Mitzvah Discovery Course

Sundays 12:15-1:30. This program will cover a lot of important topics in a Jewish Girl's life. It will give her an organized, and thorough understanding of many Mitzvot, basic Jewish ideas and an understanding of women in Jewish Life.

Bat Mitzvah Club

This program will meet monthly during the school year in place of the Discovery Course- on Sundays from 12:15-2:15. It will cover concepts such as creating a meaningful Bat Mitzvah experience that is much more than just a party. We will focus on Mitzvot more specific to Jewish women and give the girls the opportunity to get to know their Jewish self through art, creative writing and community service. Lunch will be provided.

B.A.M - Bar Mitzvah Club

Monthly on Tuesday Evenings 5PM. This program is for Boys in 6th-8th grade. These pre and post Bar Mitzvah boys will hang out with friends, get involved with cool projects, raise the fun barometer and pump up the volume with meaningful discussions.

Birthday Club

Find out your Jewish Birthday and JOIN THE CLUB!
Celebrating your Jewish birthday is important and should be a lot of fun. Let us know your birth date and we will figure out your Jewish Birthday. Our youth

leaders will bring over a party to celebrate!

Musical Tot Shabbat

Monthly Friday evening service for families with young kids
Motion & Prop Songs | Shabbat Food Crafts | Child Friendly
Oct 31, Nov 21, Dec 19, Jan 23, Feb 27, March 20, May 15

Mommy & Me

A special time and place for Mother & Child. Spend quality time with your child in a warm Jewish atmosphere & connect with other moms.

Singing | Creative Movement | Rhythm | Fun | Parenting tips & discussions | Music | Snack

Thursday Mornings 9:15-10:15

Shabbat Groups

Every Shabbat morning 10:30-12:00 children are invited to join our fun and engaging children's service. Followed by leading the congregation in Ein Keloikeinu and a special **Kids Kiddush**

Library Story Hours

Give your little ones the gift of celebrating the Jewish Holidays. At the Putterham Public Library.

Smile on Seniors

Weekly Visits to the Hebrew Rehab

JCH Teens

Events for Jewish Teens, By Jewish teens

Youth Zone

Kids, Give a hand!

A unique, fun way for kids to be involved with community needs and projects. Kids get to be a part of social action adventures and make a world of a difference for others.

Camp Gan Israel



www.campgan.org The best Jewish summer camping experience around.

PARENT HANDBOOK

How to Help your Child Succeed

In order for our Hebrew School program to be most effective, the home 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 bed time 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 in private. 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.