



Chabad Hebrew School of the West Side

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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 Chabad Hebrew School 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!

Sarah Alevsky
Hebrew School Director

Contact

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

Sarah Alevsky, 203 676 5306, sarah@chabadwestside.org. She will be teaching in person on Wednesdays, so if she is not reachable please contact:

Rabbi Chayim B. Alevsky - 203 887 6044 - rabbicba@gmail.com

Yehudis Alevsky, assistant director - 917 687-7122 - yehudisbracha@gmail.com

Curriculum

The curriculum is designed to generate a positive change in children by encouraging them to integrate Torah, Mitzvot and Yomim Tovim 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. Hebrew reading and vocabulary
2. Holidays and traditions
3. 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.

The Atmosphere

The underlying strength of our school is in its general warmth and spirit, providing a learning experience in an atmosphere of joy and liveliness. We believe that family connection is the most important aspect of our programming. This year, we will be working on building community even when we need to socially distance. It will be a challenge for us all but we hope to continue to build the CHS family.

Holiday celebrations, Friday night dinners, school contests, hands-on education, and family workshops as well as games, drama, and songs are blended into our curriculum. This year, things will be different but we will try to make it as meaningful and fun as possible. When we cannot get together inside, we will look for alternatives outside and virtually.

Our Approach

At our Hebrew School we strive to stress the beauty and warmth of Judaism and its Mitzvot. 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.

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.

Payment and Refund Policy

Tuition fees can be paid by check or credit card. We use the campdoc platform for registrations. Please register online there. Payments can be set up to be monthly; please contact us at blumi@chabadwestside.org or sarah@chabadwestside.org to schedule automatic payments.

Refunds will be on a case-by-case basis. We generally are understanding -and especially this year - if things change for you personally and you need to withdraw your child.

Communication

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 believe in a strong parent/teacher partnership. Communication between parents and CHS is very important to ensure that Hebrew School is a meaningful and pleasant experience for your child.

We will be sending out weekly emails notifying you of upcoming events, important notices, and what your child has covered in class each week. Homework and other important information will be sent home with your child as well. Please check his/her school bag for these notices.

Photos of Chabad Hebrew School in action will be posted weekly on our whatsapp group and on our facebook page.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's performance and/or progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, call our director **Sarah Alevsky** at **203 676 5306**.

Behavior Management Plan

Teachers will make all classroom rules clear to students.

Teachers will give one reminder of the rule. If the behavior continues, the student will be asked to observe from the back of the classroom.

If a child continues to be disruptive, they will ask the student to leave the classroom for three minutes to collect themselves. Parents will be contacted to review the episode. If disruptive behavior continues, a conference will be set up between child, parent and the director where a behavior management contract will be drafted.

Zero Tolerance Policy: Any student involved in harmful and/or dangerous behavior to himself or others, or destruction of property, will result in immediate suspension pending a conference between the director and the parents

Helping Your Child Succeed

In order for our CHS program to be most effective, the home and CHS 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.
- Participate in Shul or other holiday celebrations when and if possible. We know this year it's not going to be easy, but please try to make the effort to create some kind of religious experiences outside of home and Hebrew school accessible for your children.
- 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!



Kippah

All boys must bring their own kippah to wear in class. For sanitary reasons, please make sure your child has his own kippah every day. If he forgets his own kippah, he will be given one. He can also wear a cap if he prefers.

Tzedakah

Tzedakah (charity) is a concept which is basic to Judaism. Our school attempts to develop a commitment among our students to share with the less fortunate by donating a few pennies a day to charity. Parents are asked to provide the students with a daily coin for tzedakah.

In-Person Hebrew School

Wednesdays, 4 - 6 pm

We have three classes meeting, and they will be meeting in 2 rooms upstairs, and one room downstairs.

Each class is small, with anywhere from 3 - 6 children in each class.

Sample Schedule	Activity
4:00 pm	Tefillah-Prayer
4:20 - 4:50 pm	Hebrew Reading-Aleph Champ
4:50 - 5:10 pm	Recess & Snack
5:10 - 6:00 pm	Class Curriculum

Snacks

We are providing snacks that are packaged individually, and water to drink.

Aleph Champ/Hebrew Language Reading & Comprehension

Aleph Champ is a ground-breaking program. 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.

In person, we will use the books and do small groups of readers together.


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.

Chabad Hebrew School 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.



This year, we have added an extra precaution to ensure health and wellness during the ongoing COVID outbreak.

For **In-Person Hebrew School**, please fill out the [Health Questionnaire](#) sent to you by 9:00 AM, each week of Hebrew School.

Drop Off/ Pick Up

- Wednesday: 3:50 drop off, 6:00 pick up.
- This year, drop-off and pickup is done solely outside, unless its freezing cold and we will revisit. Please wait outside, with 6 feet between you and the other parents, while you wait for your children. We will be doing a quick temperature check each day and ask you to fill in the form we will send to you in the morning.

Click on this link to join our Wednesday in person group:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IA2FSkqfHYt1r9oVstporh>

Virtual Hebrew School

Mondays, 4 - 5 pm, followed by private Aleph Champ lesson, 15 minutes from 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

Sample Schedule	Activity
4:00	Tefillah-Prayer
4:10	Class Curriculum
4:55	Raffle
5:00 - 5:25	personal Aleph Champ time

Tech Setup

For our virtual platform, we've added Google Classroom as a means for students and parents to remain up-to-date on communication and school.

- Go to classroom.google.com.
- Make sure to sign in with the correct account. If you're already signed in and need to switch accounts, in the top-right corner, click your profile picture and then select or add your account.
- At the top, click Join class
- Enter the class code from your teacher and click Join. Below are our class codes:
 - K-2 with Sara Croituru: [bjhyfpw](#)
 - 3-5 with Anna Greenblatt: [r5m7ixn](#)
 - 6-7 with Rabbi Eliyahu: [ldxu2up](#)

Our Google Classrooms will post pre-lesson engagement, class discussions, Aleph Champ reading, grades and forms. Please make sure that as a parent, you join as a parental guardian so that you can be up-to-date on your child's progress.

We will also be sharing with you their zoom logins via the whatsapp group and through emails, and in google classroom. We will keep the same classroom login until the end of the semester.

Aleph Champ

We will continue to work with the children one-on-one this year on letter recognition and hebrew reading. Aleph Champ will take place for 15 minutes from 5 - 6. You choose a time using our appointy system. You can choose the teacher and timeslot here:

<https://booking.appointy.com/en-US/chabadfamlyprograms/bookings/staff>

Please access the Aleph Champ pages here: <https://www.achomework.com/> Password: **alephchamp**

We will be assessing their levels based on where they left off last year, and then go from there.

Supplies:

We will be sending home packages every 4 - 6 weeks with supplies they will need. We are also sending a starter kit with basic arts and crafts supplies. If they get lost or used up, be sure to replace them so your kids are prepared to participate!

Communication

We will be using google classroom to communicate with the parents. In addition to emails, we might communicate with you via whatsapp. Click on this link to join the ZOOM Monday group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FL1DAS23xd9CNFmBFcGoPa>

Virtual Hebrew School Success Tips

We have hired teachers that are certified for Zoom instruction by the Ckids Hebrew School Network to make your child's experience as best as possible.

In order to set your child up for success this year, please make sure that the following is adhered to:

1. Make sure that your child is properly set up for online learning, with a set place to learn, a laptop/computer and proper bandwidth for wifi.
2. Please make sure that your child's camera is on and the microphone works.
3. Please remove all distractions from nearby, only having the materials for the classroom available.
4. Make sure your child is familiar with the platform
5. Make sure you are signed up for google classroom as well as know how to access the alephchamp homework site and the appointy system to schedule their one-on-one learning with their hebrew reading coach.