



at Dublin Heights & Faywood ABC

PARENT HANDBOOK & CURRICULUM GUIDE

Chabad Hebrew School

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Parent,

Imagine a Hebrew School where kids don't want to miss a day. They come in with a smile and leave humming a Hebrew song. Walking through the halls, you can hear the sounds of lively discussion, of singing, laughter and prayer.

Welcome to Chabad Hebrew School - An exciting and innovative educational program run through Uptown Chabad. Chabad Hebrew School is where Judaism comes alive and children are encouraged to ask and explore. Our experienced staff, hands-on curriculum, and Holiday workshops are sure to make this year both educational and enjoyable for our students.

Our curriculum is designed to instill our students 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 ALEPH-CHAMP reading program has been 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.

Please make sure to mark your personal calendars with all the special Hebrew School days and events to ensure that you and your family join.

We look forward to working together with you to educate and inspire your children. Should you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch with me.

Looking forward to a wonderful year!

Yours sincerely,

Rabbi Moshe and Yehudis Steiner
Co-Directors, Chabad Hebrew School



GOALS

AT CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL, WE AIM FOR OUR STUDENTS TO...

- ...attain a strong sense of love and pride in being Jewish.
- ...explore the Torah and discover the incredible history of our people.
- ...study the Torah's moral and ethical expectations.
- ...gain an understanding of Judaism's relevance in the 21st century.
- ...experience a hands-on appreciation for the Jewish holidays.
- ...master the skills of Hebrew reading.
- ...achieve familiarity with the basic Jewish prayers.
- ...identify with the Land of Israel and its history.
- ...express their opinions and questions.



REGISTRATION

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

It is of great importance for the teacher to have any information that can help us facilitate the optimum learning experience for your child. Information of a physical, social, or psychological nature can aid a teacher in planning instruction for each child. Without this knowledge, teachers may be unable to provide the kind of support needed.

Such information should be transmitted either in writing to, or by a private conference with, the directors who will make it known to the appropriate teacher.

REFUND POLICY

A 50% tuition refund will be given to students who are withdrawn from the school within 2 months from the beginning of the school year. After that date no refund will be given for Chabad Hebrew School tuition. There are no refund credits for days missed due to illness, holidays, family vacations or school closures.



ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is crucial in accomplishing the goals of our educational program. There is direct correlation between attendance and achievement, interest, and attitude at school. Furthermore, coming late and leaving early disrupts the entire class as well as your child's classroom routine. Your support of our attendance policy is greatly appreciated.

GETTING to HEBREW PROGRAM and PICK UP

At the end of the public school day, arrangements have been made for your child to be brought by school staff from his/her classroom to the designated Hebrew School space within the school. Parents are responsible to pick up their children from Hebrew School in a timely manner.

EARLY DISMISSAL

If, for any reason, your child must leave Hebrew School early, please send an email in advance to Rabbi Moshe Steiner: rabbi@uptownchabad.com



HEALTH and SAFETY

Chabad Hebrew School is committed to providing a safe environment for the children in our care.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

Chabad Hebrew school is a nut-free school. Please do not send any nuts or peanuts products to school. Please read packaging labels carefully to make sure that there are no traces of nuts or peanuts.

In any classroom in which there is a child with a severe food allergy, other than nuts and peanuts, please be aware that that specific food will also not be allowed into class at all. The school will notify the parents of that class via email of any such allergies.

Notwithstanding our best efforts, the school and families with allergies acknowledge that it is impossible to guarantee an absolute safe environment for those with life threatening allergies.

We depend on the cooperation of parents in ensuring the safety of all children.

SNACK

There will be a 10 minute break during which the children will eat snack. Please send along a Kosher snack (or two) with your child. The children get very hungry toward the end of the day and with proper nourishment, they will learn better. If there are any specific concerns, please be sure to discuss this with us prior to the start of the school year. Remember to check the labels as we are a Kosher & nut-free school.

Once a month, the school will provide the children with bread (in addition to the snack they bring from home). This will encourage them to learn the hamotzi blessing.

MINOR INJURIES & ILLNESS

The school is equipped to handle minor injuries such as superficial cuts or bruises. If we have any question as to the severity of an injury, we will contact parents at the emergency numbers we have on file.

If your child becomes sick during school hours, we will call you. In the meantime, we will set up a safe and comfortable area, under supervision, where your child can wait for you. If you cannot be reached, the emergency contact on your registration form will be called upon to pick up your child.

Please be advised that we are not permitted to administer any medication. As such, please do not send any medication to school.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, the following procedure will be followed:

We will notify the parents. If they are unavailable, we will contact the person listed as your emergency backup. Depending on the severity of the emergency, it may become necessary to call 911 or transport the child to an emergency facility.



OUR PROGRAM

We hope to engage your child's sense of identity by capturing his/her imagination and attention. We put tremendous effort into providing our students with substantive lessons and a positive atmosphere. The lessons are multi-sensory and hands-on, ensuring that the students truly experience what they are being taught.



SUPPLIES

All textbooks and workbooks will be provided by the school. Books are to be treated with care and respect. Textbooks are to be returned at the end of the Hebrew School year in good condition. If your child loses or damages a book, you will be charged for a new one.

We ask that each student have a school bag designated especially for Hebrew School with the following supplies:

- ✓ A pack of sharpened pencils
- ✓ 1 Sharpener
- ✓ 1 Pair of scissors
- ✓ 1 Glue stick
- ✓ 1 Pack of Crayons
- ✓ 1 Roll of coins for Tzedakah

KIPPAH

Please provide a Kippah for your son. Aleph Champ Hebrew School will have extras in case children forget to bring their own.

HEBREW READING

Level 1	Level 6
Level 2	Level 7
Level 3	Level 8
Level 4	Level 9
Level 5	Level 10

Our Hebrew School uses the acclaimed Aleph Champ Reading program to ensure that your child will read fluently at the end of his/her Hebrew School experience. This revolutionary program modeled after the Karate Martial Arts system of motivational coloured levels, breaks up the Hebrew reading process into bite sized motivational levels making it exceptionally kid friendly and exciting.

Our reading program is an innovative approach to Hebrew reading. The students will learn to read Hebrew quickly, accurately, and painlessly, in a fast and exciting way. The students learn the vowels and letters of the Hebrew Alphabet by visualizing it with the help of toys. These toys help the students associate all the Hebrew characters with real-life images they actually hold in their hand, store in their visual memory, and later easily recall along with the toys, songs, and games. Within a couple classes your children will be reading two letter words. They will work their way through the different "belts" until they become a black Aleph Champ with the ability to read fluently from the Siddur (Prayer Book). Reading groups are divided within the classes by colour, allowing each student to advance at his/her own pace. Aleph Champ gives children the motivation they need to advance steadily in their Hebrew reading.



HEBREW LANGUAGE

We will introduce a couple of Hebrew words each week based on the topic that the children will be learning, and the students will then use these words in conversation with their teacher and amongst their peers.

JEWISH HOLIDAYS, SHABBAT & JEWISH VALUES

Before each Jewish Holiday, the children will be treated to a rich understanding of the traditions and celebrations affiliated with the Holiday. We will explore the Jewish Holidays and Shabbat, providing a deeper understanding of their meaning for our students.

Traditional Holiday songs, blessings and art will be part of the exciting lessons. At times, families will be invited to join in the Holiday spirit together with their child at school.

Jewish Values and lessons will be put to practice within the school setting.

HOMEWORK SYSTEM

Homework is essential for your child's success, especially in Hebrew Reading. The homework for Kita Aleph children is in the weekly e-newsletter. Please take note and practice the proscribed letters with your child.

Children from Kita Bet and older will be provided with a homework folder and homework book. Please check your child's folder on a weekly basis and make sure he/she completes the homework that will be placed in the folder. Remember to sign your child's homework book and send it in for the following week.

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

We understand that Hebrew School comes after a full day at general school. It makes perfect sense for children to feel tired at this hour. Our teachers plan their lessons with this in mind. Positive and respectful behaviour will be acknowledged during school with an incentive system.

On that note, misbehavior will not be tolerated in our school.

If a child continuously misbehaves, a face to face meeting will need to take place with the child, a parent, the teacher and director before allowing the child to return to class. Together, we will try to resolve the behavioural issue in a positive manner.

INCENTIVE SYSTEM

The Torah Dollar system is used to promote good behavior and cooperation. On occasional "Prize Days" the children will be able to buy exciting prizes with their Torah Dollars.

JEWISH BIRTHDAY CLUB

Each month, the school will celebrate the Jewish Birthdays of that month. The birthday children will be treated to a birthday certificate and mini treat to share with their peers. The traditional Happy Birthday (Yom Huledet) song will be sung in Hebrew. This will bring awareness to the Jewish calendar, Hebrew months of the year and of course, their Jewish Birthday.

FIELD TRIPS

The Chabad Hebrew School program includes several exciting and educational field trips. Permission slips will be sent via email and parents must grant permission before each trip. There may be a minimal fee for such outings. Transportation arrangements will be made with a bus company or we will ask parents to volunteer and car-pool the children.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY

One of the highlights of the school year is our Friday Night Dinner & Awards Ceremony. For the success of the evening as well as your child's experience, your family's participation for this evening is very much encouraged. Please check the date in the school calendar and mark it down in yours.

An End-of-the-Year Awards ceremony will take place in the last week of school. The children will perform and receive their outstanding medallions.



OUR CURRICULUM

JK, SK & Grade 1

- Prayers
- Aleph Bet – A Letter a Week
- Hebrew Words (Shalom, Todah, Bevakasha ...)
- Mitzvot Part 1 (Mezuzah, Shabbat, Tzedakah ...)
- Jewish Holidays & Customs

Grades 2, 3 & 4

- Prayers
- Hebrew Greetings
- Hebrew Reading – Master the basics of Reading
- Torah Events & Lessons
- Jewish Holidays & Customs



PARENT-SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Communication between parents and Chabad Hebrew School is very important to ensure that Hebrew School be a meaningful and pleasant experience for your child. Hebrew School notices will be sent to parents via email.

Please contact us if you have any concerns regarding your child's performance and/or progress.

The Chabad Hebrew School closed Facebook group is updated with announcements and pictures. Please make sure to visit the group every so often.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The weekly newsletter contains learning activities for parents to do with their children. Please read the newsletter and do the activities with your child. This will reinforce what the children have learned and help parents get a sense of their child's progress.

EMAIL UPDATES

Please ensure that you have given us a valid, current email address so we can keep you informed, let you know about special events and send pictures. Your comments

are always welcome, as we are always looking for ways to improve our educational program.

PROGRESS REPORTS

A summary of your child's report will be emailed to you at the end of each semester:
End of December & End of May.

MAKING IT A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

In order for our Chabad Hebrew School program to be most effective, parents and the Hebrew School must work hand in hand and promote a close partnership. Here 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.
- ✓ Show your child that you are interested in his/her Jewish education by making a habit of asking your child/ren how their day at Hebrew School was, and what they have learned. This will greatly encourage and help foster a strong & positive attitude towards Judaism.
- ✓ Participation in Synagogue service and celebration of Jewish Holidays will enhance your child's interest in Judaism & strengthen your child's sense of Jewish identity.