



Hebrew School of the Arts

# Parent Information 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

Chana Caytak

## Curriculum

Throughout this curriculum, students will be introduced to important events in Shemot (Exodus), beginning with our slavery in Egypt and through a forty year journey to becoming a nation and receiving the Torah. 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.

## 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.

Each week, we choose a Student of the Week from the entire school. The candidate is a child who is recognized for his/her positive attitude, participation and attendance.

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Friday night dinners, Holiday programs, Jewish Kids Club, hands-on education, and family workshops as well as games, drama, and songs are blended into our curriculum.

## Homework

Limited homework will be assigned. Homework will generally consist of a review, reinforcement or completion of classroom work, specifically Hebrew reading.

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

### **CKids Clubs**

CKids Clubs are insider events that get children innovating with fun, new mediums and skill sets. Open to the larger Jewish community, we invite more Jewish children to join CKids Clubs.

### **CKids Shabbaton**

Exciting performances. New friends. Yummy Shabbat food. One action packed Shabbat with family and friends.

### **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.

## 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.

## Hebrew School Schedule

All classes meet on Sunday's from 10:3—12:00 PM at the Chabad Jewish Center of Troy located at 3306 Auburn Rd, Auburn Hills, 48326.

Sample Schedule	Activity
10:30-10:40	Tefillah-Prayer
10:40-11:00	Class Curriculum
11:00-11:30	Hands on interactive learning
11:30-12PM	Hebrew Reading-Aleph Champ

## 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.

## Textbooks

Textbooks and workbooks will be supplied by the school. Books should be treated with care and respect. There will be a charge for lost books.

## 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.

As well as we will have a WhatsApp group together with all the parents where necessary information, pictures and information with immediate responses will be shared. Please download the WhatsApp app and turn on notifications so you will be notified of new information being posted.

## 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.

## Parent/CHS Communication

We believe in a strong parent/teacher partnership. Communication between parents and Hebrew School of the Arts 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 the WhatsApp group for you to enjoy.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's performance and/or progress, please do not hesitate to contact our director, Chana Caytak at 248-877-5781.

## Helping Your Child Succeed

In order for our Hebrew School of the Arts program to be most effective, the home and Hebrew School of the Arts 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!