



# Parent Handbook

# A Letter from the Director

Dear Parents,

Welcome and thank you for choosing 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 "hands on" 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 ALEPH-CHAMP 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!

Make sure to mark your personal calendars with all the special Hebrew School days and events to prevent scheduling conflicts.

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!

Sincerely,

*Mimi Kaplan*

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...

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

## General Information

### Contact Information

**Location:** Chabad Hebrew School  
375 Pulis Ave.  
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

**Phone:** 201-848-0449

**Mimi's Cell:** 201-560-2640

**Rabbi's Cell:** 201-560-2640

**Email:** [mimi@chabadplace.org](mailto:mimi@chabadplace.org)

## 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 in the back parking lot to allow traffic flow.** 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

We ask that you **park in the back of the building and walk to the front entrance to pick up your child. Please do not park in the front as this clogs up the driveway and does not allow for traffic flow.**

## Informing of Absence/ Changes

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

## Emergency School Cancellations

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

# Beginning of the Year

## First Day of School

**Parent Meet & Greet** will take place on the first day of Hebrew School from 9:45-10:15. Please come and show your commitment and Support. Introduce yourself and get to know our Hebrew School families over a coffee and light refreshments. Both Rabbi and Mimi will give a short welcome.

# 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: 201-848-0449

Mimi Cell: 201-560-2640

Rabbi Cell: 201-560-2502

Email: [mimi@chabadplace.org](mailto:mimi@chabadplace.org) or [rabbi@chabadplace.org](mailto:rabbi@chabadplace.org)

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:

- Emails
- Photos and updates of school activities are displayed on our fb page: Chabad Hebrew School NWBC – Franklin Lakes

**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

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:**

- Be courteous and show respect to fellow students and staff members
- Participate in class activities and discussions
- Complete 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 [mimi@chabadplace.org](mailto:mimi@chabadplace.org) 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 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

### Kippa

Boys should wear a kippa at all times. We recommend that each boy bring their own kippa and keep it stored in their backpack. For those who do not, 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 Tzedaka 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 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 them 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.

## Programs

### Please Save The Date!

All dates are listed on our school calendar. A calendar is mailed out at the beginning of the year and is also posted on our website.

### Shabbat Services

CHS students come to Shul and showcase the prayers they learn and sing each week. Parents Participation is required.

### Holiday Programs in Hebrew School

Families are invited to join our Sukkah Building, Holiday Programs, and Mom & Dad special days.

## Volunteers

Parents are asked volunteer to help out with one Hebrew School Program to contribute in helping create a successful event.

# 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.