

CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL

OF BOCA RATON

5776-5777 / 2016-2017

PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK



Central Location 17950 Military Trail

Boca Raton, FL 33487

Office- 994.6257

Chaya Gopin: 561.414.7999

ChabadofBoca.com



LEARN IT. LIVE IT. LOVE IT.

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 in Boca Raton. Our school is quickly building a reputation as a trend setter in creative Jewish education for children in Kindergarten through Grade 7, and for making every Jewish child feel welcome, regardless of knowledge or affiliation. 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 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.

Please take a moment to review the parent's handbook so that we can be partners in creating the best, safest and most enjoyable experience at Chabad Hebrew School. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call at any time.

Looking forward to a wonderful year!
Yours sincerely,

Chaya Gopin

Director

561 414 7999

chaya@chabadofbocaraton.com

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MISSION STATEMENT:

At Chabad Hebrew School, we are proud of our refreshing approach to Jewish Education! Our mission is to provide and promote the highest quality Hebrew and Judaic education to a diverse community of Jewish children. Our aim is to nurture and build the foundation of your child's Jewish identity, through our interdisciplinary educational approach. The focus of our dedicated teachers is to inspire a twofold love; a love for learning and a love for Judaism. A well-balanced Hebrew School education will develop in our students a commitment to using Jewish values as a guide to the decisions of life, community and family. Our environment is one of openness; welcoming families from all backgrounds. We acknowledge and respect the diversity of our children; while emphasizing Jewish values of family, community, caring, joy, tradition and rituals. Through comprehensive learning, holiday celebrations, and community events, our children gain pride in the richness of their Jewish heritage, culture and history as one united Jewish Nation! We value each and every family that joins us!

EDUCATIONAL GOALS:

- ❖ To develop within our students a positive attitude towards Judaism and their Jewish identity.
- ❖ To give our students knowledge of Torah, Holidays, Prayers, Jewish History, customs, laws, culture, ethics and ideals.
- ❖ To develop within our students a sense of belonging and commitment to the Jewish people along with the knowledge and understanding of our love and spiritual ties to Israel.
- ❖ To foster care and concern for each individual Jew, encourage support of Jewish charities, and acts of kindness towards humanity as a whole.
- ❖ To develop, through Hebrew reading competency, a familiarity with our prayer book, synagogue rituals and observances.
- ❖ To instill in each of our students a love for Jewish learning and a commitment of Jewish study that will last a lifetime!

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Chabad Hebrew School meets on Sundays beginning September 11th and ending May 7th, from 10:00am-12:30pm.

A Hebrew School year calendar has been inserted into this booklet. Please remove it and place it somewhere you can easily refer to it during the year.

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COMMUNICATION

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

Central location: Chaya Gopin 561 414 7999 or email chaya@chabadofbocaraton.com

CURRICULUM

At CHS, we put a lot of 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 and that the information truly becomes the student's own. Each lesson is structured with discussion-starters to create a lively, interactive classroom experience.

The following is a sample of a typical Sunday morning's schedule:

10:00am-10:45am	Hebrew reading-Aleph Champ/Hebrew
10:45-11:15 am	Tefillah-Prayer
11:15am-11:30am	Recess & Snack
11:30am-12:30pm	Jewish Studies and Hebrew Language

Aleph Champion Hebrew Reading allows each individual child to advance in reading at their own pace and become proficient Hebrew readers. Aleph Champ is based on the Karate motivational system and integrates color based levels for Hebrew reading. Students start out on the white champ level with a white champ book and white flash cards and a burning desire to pass to the next level. Age appropriate, creative and motivational methods are used.

Aleph Champion Levels:

Level 1- White Aleph Champ: First 19 Letters of the Hebrew Alphabet
Pre-reading skills; involving proficiency in the names and sounds of the Aleph-Bet.

Level 2 – Red Aleph Champ: Next 13 letters of the Hebrew Alphabet.

Level 3 – Orange Aleph Champ; The first 3 vowels of the Hebrew Reading System:
Kamatz, Patach, Tzeirei

Level 4-Yellow Aleph Champ; The next 3 vowels...Segol, Shva, Cholam

Level 5 – Green Aleph Champ; The last 3 vowels: Chirik, Koobootz, Shoorook

Level 6 – Blue Aleph Champ; Exceptions to the Rule: Patach Chet, Double shva, (middle & end of words) Yud vav, Patach yud...

Level 7 – Purple Aleph Champ: 60 wpm (words per minute) Prayers

Level 8 – Brown Aleph Champ 70wpm, Prayers from everyday & Shabbat prayers

Level 9 – Grey Belt! Proficiency

Level 10- Black Belt! Can Read like the Cantor

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Jewish Studies Curriculum Summary:

Our unique Jewish studies curriculum combines seven carefully chosen themes. This is in addition to all the Jewish Holidays, covered two lessons prior to every festival.

Level 1 My Magical Mitzvot

Jewish Ethics and Values in Order of the Aleph-Bet

Ahavat Yisrael/Love thy Neighbour; Bikkur Cholim/Visiting the Sick; Gemilut Chasadim/Acts of Kindness; Derech Eretz/Respect; Hachnasat Orchim/Inviting Guests; Vatronut/Patience; Zrizut/swiftness; Challah; Netilat Yadayim/Washing Hands; Kibud Av V'Em/Honor your Father and Mother; Lashon Tov & Lashon Hara/Talebearing; Seder V'Nikayon/Order and Cleanliness; Mezuzah; Tzedakah/Charity; Emet & Sheker/Honesty; Talmud-Torah/Torah Study.

Level 2 Beginnings – Bible Stories of Bereshit

Genesis- Stories of the 1st Book of the Torah.

Famous Jewish heroes and characters; timeline of events; storyline; lessons, morals and messages for our lives today. Topics include: Creation; Noach and the Flood; Dor Haflaga/Generation of Confusion; our Patriarchs and Matriarchs; Joseph & the 12 Tribes.

Level 3 Torah Travels

Shemot-.Devarim Stories of 4 Books of the Torah

Famous Jewish heroes and characters; timeline of events; storyline; lessons, morals and messages for our lives today. Topics include: Moses and the Israelites in Egypt; Exodus; Mt Sinai- The Giving of the Torah; Jews Travels in the Dessert.

Level 4 WikiTorah

Fundamental Mitzvot and Foundations of Jewish Faith.

Topics include: Gam Zu LeTova/Everything is for the best; Torah study; Jewish Birthdays; Kashrut/Kosher; Anava/humility; Shabbat; Blessings; Hashgacha Pratit/Divine Providence; Simcha/Joy.

Level 5 In their Shoes

Jewish History from Joshua to the Second Temple Era

Events covered: Judges; Samson the Great; Deborah the prophetess; Kings Saul, David & Solomon; Elijah the prophet; Temple I; Babylonian Exile; Purim; Oral/written Law

Level 6 Stepping Forward

Jewish History from the Second Temple Era until Today

Events covered: The second Temple era; Ezra and Nechemia; the Chashmonaim; Chanukah; Christianity; the Middle Ages; Spanish Inquisition; European Jewry; Great Jewish Scholars; Holocaust; Modern Israel

Level 7 Kids in Action/ Lifecycles

The Torahs' Perspective on Lifecycle Events.

Participate in the real thing, and learn it, live it, love it!

Topics include; Birth and the Neshamah/soul; Brit; Bar/Bat Mitzvah; Adolescence-think the Jewish way; Jewish Wedding; Mourning; Death; and Moshiach.



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WORKBOOKS/SUPPLIES

All workbooks and supplies for all grades are provided by Chabad Hebrew School. All books are to be treated with care and respect. There will be a \$36 book fee which will cover all reading and workbooks.

Boys are encouraged to bring and wear a *Kipah & Tzitzit* for all classes. If you do not have one, Hebrew School will provide one for you.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Consistent and timely attendance is vital! Consistent attendance is key to a successful year in Hebrew School and crucial in accomplishing the goals of our educational program. There is a direct correlation between a student's attendance, and his/her interest, achievement and attitude. For the benefit of your child and all students, it is imperative that your child arrives on time and remains in school until the end of the session. Your support of our attendance policy is greatly appreciated.

If for any reason your child must leave early, please email or let the director know a note with an explanation and the time you will pick up your child. Please pick up your child from his/her classroom.

DROP OFF AND DISMISSAL

Parents are asked to park their cars, bring their children into their classrooms, and sign them in each Sunday. At 12:30, parents should park in the carpool circle and have their child brought to them by a staff member. Children will not be released to anyone other than a parent or regular carpool driver without permission from the parent. Please send a note with your child or call if someone other than the parent will be picking up your child. Please help us keep our students safe by following our dismissal policy.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, parents will be notified via email whether Hebrew School has been canceled.

PAYMENT & REFUND POLICY

Tuition fees can be paid by check or credit card. Payments should be given to the director only and not to other staff members. Tuition fees are non-refundable. Should you decide to withdraw your child from CHS, your refund will be pro-rated up to December 1 plus 30% of the tuition costs. After that date no refund will be allowed for CHS tuition. There are no refunds or credits for days missed due to illness, holidays, or family vacations.

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PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Students are not permitted to bring cell phones, iPods or other electronic devices to Hebrew School, all of which serve as a distraction for the student and the class. In the event that a student brings these items, the teacher will hold it for safekeeping and return it to the student at the end of the day. We respectfully request that parents take the lead in reinforcing this important rule.

TZEDAKAH

Tzedakah (charity) is a concept that is basic to Judaism. CHS strives to develop a commitment among our students to share with others less fortunate than themselves, by donating a few pennies a day to charity. Please send your child with some coins for Tzedakah to encourage them to perform this Mitzvah. Older children should be encouraged to give Tzedakah from their own allowance money. Each class will have the opportunity to discuss and decide where to allocate the money they collect throughout the year.

SNACKS

Kosher and nutritious snacks are provided; we therefore request that you do not send in any additional snacks or drinks. If your child is allergic to any food or beverages, please be sure that it is written on his/her registration form.

HOMEWORK

Your child will be coming home from school with optional weekly homework for review. In order to gain the most from our once a week Hebrew School, students are strongly encouraged to practice their Hebrew reading and to go over at home what they have learned in class. Please encourage your child to complete his/her assignments.

MOTIVATIONAL SYSTEMS

Chabad Hebrew School uses highly successful Motivational Systems such as Torah Dollars and Mitzvah Missions to help motivate and encourage our students. Students can earn Dollars for praying nicely, class participation, completed Mitzvah Missions and good behavior. We will open a "Torah Dollar Store" on a monthly basis where students can redeem their hard earned Dollars for fabulous prizes. Please encourage your child to complete Mitzvah Missions and other school assignments, which are rewarded with Torah Dollars.

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PARENT/CHS COMMUNICATION

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

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:

Central location: Chaya Gopin 561 414 7999 or email chaya@chabadofbocaraton.com

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

When a parent is involved in their child's educational experience, the child's schooling is far more effective. When enrolling your child in Hebrew School, you demonstrate to your child that their Judaism is an integral part of your life, and you want it to be an integral part of theirs.

Chabad Hebrew School offers many venues for parental involvement. We invite our parents to take advantage of our many adult education classes, our innovative and unique women's classes and programs, the wealth of information located on our chabadofbocaraton.com, as well as our Shabbat and Holiday services/events.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Families are invited to participate in Hebrew School Family Holiday Activities such as a Sukkot party, Chanukah Celebration, Hamentash baking prior to Purim, and a Model Passover Seder.

Parental involvement in Hebrew School is crucial, so please make every effort to take part in these Hebrew School activities. The best way to teach and support your child is by personal participation.

HOW TO HELP 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.
- 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!

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