

CHABAD OF SILVER SPRING HEBREW SCHOOL

5777 / 2016-2017

PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK



chabadhebrewschool

**A Division of Chabad of Silver Spring
301-593-1117 ♦ silverspringchabad@gmail.com
www.chabadsilverspring.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 of Silver Spring Hebrew School, an exciting and innovative educational program in Silver Spring. Our school enjoys a well-earned 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 make sure to mark your personal calendars with all the special Hebrew School days and events to ensure that you are there.

We look forward to working together with you to educate and inspire your children. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me any time at 301-593-1117 or email me at chayawolvovsky@gmail.com

Looking forward to a wonderful year!

Yours sincerely,

Chaya Wolvovsky, Director

Educate Your Child, Educate a Generation!



LEARN IT. LIVE IT. LOVE IT.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Chabad Hebrew School meets on Sundays beginning September 11, 2016 and ending May 21, 2017 from 10:00 am to 12:00pm.

A Hebrew School year calendar has been posted on our website. Please print it and place it somewhere you can easily refer to it during the year.

COMMUNICATION

Should you need to contact our staff during school hours, please call our director Chaya Wolvovsky on her cell phone at 301-915-7394.

Office: 301-593-1117

Chaya's Cell-301-915-7394

Email: chayawolvovsky@gmail.com

INCLEMENT WEATHER

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

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:

10:00-10:15	Tefillah-Prayer
10:15-11:00	Hebrew reading-Aleph Champ/Hebrew Writing/Hebrew language
11:00-11:10	Recess & Snack
11:10am-12:00pm	Individual Class Curriculum/Holidays

Educate Your Child, Educate a Generation!



LEARN IT. LIVE IT. LOVE IT.

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. Text books are to be returned at the end of the HS school year in good condition. There will be a \$5 fee for any book that is lost or misplaced.

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 send a note with an explanation and the time you will pick up your child. This note must be given to your child's teacher. Please pick up your child from his/her classroom.

DISMISSAL

Students will be brought to the main lobby for dismissal. Parents can either enter the building to pick up their child, or 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.

PAYMENT & REFUND POLICY

Tuition fees are non-refundable. Should you decide to withdraw your child from CHS, your refund will be pro-rated up to February 1. 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.

Educate Your Child, Educate a Generation!



LEARN IT. LIVE IT. LOVE IT.

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.

HOMWORK

Your child will be coming home from school with 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. For your convenience, homework sheets and assignments are available on our website www.chabadsilverspring.com. Please encourage your child to complete his/her assignments.

TORAH TOKENS

Chabad Hebrew School uses the highly successful Torah Tokens Motivational System to help motivate and encourage our students. Students earn tokens for praying nicely, class participation, completed Mitzvah Missions and good behavior. We will open a "Torah Token Store" on a monthly basis where students can redeem their hard earned tokens for fabulous prizes, including digital cameras, games, books and much more! Torah Tokens will be kept in a special place in the classrooms. Please encourage your child to complete Mitzvah Missions and other school assignments, which are rewarded with Torah Tokens.

Educate Your Child, Educate a Generation!



LEARN IT. LIVE IT. LOVE IT.

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 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 on our website-make sure to view them at www.ChabadSilverspring.com.

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 Chaya Wolvovsky at 301-593-1117, or email chayawolvovsky@gmail.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 website, www.chabadsilverspring.com, as well as our Shabbat and Holiday services/events.

Educate Your Child, Educate a Generation!



LEARN IT. LIVE IT. LOVE IT.

Please note and mark down the following opportunities for parental involvement in Hebrew School:

Holiday Programs in Hebrew School:

Families are invited to participate in Hebrew School Holiday Activities including a Rosh Hashanah fair, a Sukkot party, hamentash baking prior to Purim, a community Chanukah celebration, 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.

Class updates are emailed weekly and we encourage you to read them over and discuss them with your children as you embark on their Hebrew School journey. Additionally, we welcome parent volunteers at our extra-curricular Hebrew school events and holiday programming.

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!
- 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.
- Parents should go through their child/ren's book bag on a regular basis to find important notices.
- Always remember that informal Jewish education is one of the best motivators for creating a positive Jewish identity!

Educate Your Child, Educate a Generation!