



Chabad of Orange County • 845-782-2770 • HS@ChabadOrange.com • www.ChabadOrange.com

Chabad Hebrew School Parent Handbook 5775 (2014-2015)

Welcome to Chabad Hebrew School! CHS is committed to providing your child with a Hebrew School experience that will be enjoyable, inspiring, putting the FUN in FUNdamentals, and provide warm memories for a lifetime. Parent input, as outlined in this booklet, is designed to help maximize your child’s Hebrew School experience. We are pleased that you have chosen our school for your child’s education. We are thrilled that our school has expanded with so many new students. Our innovative methods are geared to foster creativity and support your child’s personal style of learning. The year ahead promises to be full of exciting learning; highlighted with arts and crafts, drama, stories, games and special extra-curricular activities.

Hebrew School Hours & Location



Hebrew School is located at the Chabad Center in Chester, 1170 Route 17m, Suite 1, Upper level entrance, Chester. The Sunday class meets from 10:00am-12:15pm. The Monday class meets from 4:00-6:15pm. Please refer to our Hebrew School Calendar for dates of classes and events. We urge you

to arrange for your children to be prompt and arrive on time. We ask that conversations with teachers be reserved for before or after school hours, except in the case of emergency.

Attendance



Regular attendance is crucial in accomplishing the goals of our educational program. There is direct correlation between attendance and achievement, interest and attitude. Furthermore, coming late and leaving early disrupts the classroom atmosphere and disrupts your child’s

classroom routine. Your support of our attendance policy will be greatly appreciated.

Absence



It is important that you contact us if your child will be absent or late.

You may do so either by calling 845-782-2770 or emailing HS@ChabadOrange.com. In case of a student’s absence for any length of time due to illness or vacation, arrangements

should be made for obtaining the material covered in class as well as class homework.

Parent/School Communication



Communication between parents and our staff is very important to ensure that your child’s Hebrew School experience continues to be a pleasant and positive one. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child’s class or

progress; we encourage you to contact your child’s teacher.

Digital Decorum



Cellphones, as well as any media, will not be allowed into class, as they are a distraction. Parents who need to contact their children can call the office. If your child must have a device, please arrange for them to hand it in to the office during classes, and will be returned afterwards.

Hebrew School Email List & Updates



To enhance our parent/school communication, Hebrew School communication (updates, cancellations, reminders and events etc.) will be via e-mail. **Please make sure that we have your email address on file.** Also, kindly make sure that our emails do not go to your spam folder. (For those who do not have

email or wish to use email, please let us know your preferred method of communication.) Updates will be posted online and communicated by email. Please check our website periodically. Also, enjoy viewing your children in Hebrew School on our continuously updated photo gallery.

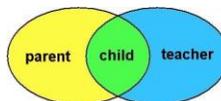
Behavioral Expectations



At Chabad Hebrew School we strive to create an atmosphere that reflects our traditional Jewish values. Our students understand that respect for teachers; respect for each other and each other’s property is essential for a successful learning environment. We expect all rules for student behavior to be complied within class as well as during school events.

Parent Involvement

We believe that parents should take an active part in their child’s Jewish education. Volunteering to help organize extra-curricular activities, encouraging your child to complete homework and bringing your child to Chabad’s enriching holiday events will enhance your child’s Jewish education. If you have a special talent



you would like to share with your child’s class, please notify the Chabad office.

Extra-Curricular Activities



Several times a year Chabad Hebrew School will enjoy special extra curricular events. These events are mandatory for the students, as they are educational and are designed to enhance classroom learning. Parental involvement is crucial for the success of these programs. Events will be announced, and a list will be given at the beginning of the school year and are subject to change.

Staff



Chabad Hebrew School is directed by Rabbi Pesach and Chana Burston who have had many years of experience in childhood education. Rabbi Pesach and Chana, assisted by the Hebrew School staff, will be conducting special activities for the students throughout the year and will be available to answer questions or discuss issues pertaining to your child. The teachers are handpicked for their warmth and dedication to provide you child with a creative and exciting Jewish experience.

Tzedakah



Tzedakah (charity) is a concept that is basic to Judaism. Our school attempts to develop a commitment among our students to share with others less fortunate than themselves by donating a few pennies a day to charity. Parents are asked to provide children with a coin for Tzedakah.

Snacks



A snack and drink is provided for your child during Hebrew School hours. If your child is allergic to any food or beverages, please be sure that it is written down on his/her registration form.

Birthdays



In addition to the monthly Jewish Birthday Club program offered by Chabad, if your child is celebrating a birthday you may send in a special snack to share with the class. The snack should have a kosher symbol and be parve (not dairy). Please notify Chana if you will be bringing in a birthday treat. You may also sponsor a birthday treat with advance notice and the Chabad Staff will purchase the snack.

Bringing a Friend



Students who wish to bring a Jewish guest/friend to school can do so gladly, provided that you give the school advance notice and that the guest understands that he/she must respect the school's system and regulations. Chabad offers significant referral discounts for encouraging a new student to register.

Homework (aka "Funwork")



We will be sending home light and fun homework assignments. Students are expected to complete all homework assignments accurately and promptly and have a parent sign their homework, which is to be brought in the following session. Students should practice reading on a regular basis from texts or other material used in class.

It is of utmost importance that you encourage your child to complete his/her homework assignments. Your positive reinforcement is of great assistance in making the Hebrew School experience work for your child. Please send in a folder that will be used to keep all homework assignments.

Chabad Hebrew School will provide a homework assignment book to help students and parents keep track of assignments. Weekly homework for First Taste Students will include Aleph-Bet worksheets and a Mitzvah Mission. Homework for students 7-13 will include Adventure Through Torah worksheets, Aleph Champ review and Hebrew Vocabulary.

Classes & Curriculum

Classes are divided accordingly:



- Kitah Aleph: Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades
- Kitah Bet: Third and Fourth Grades
- Kitah Gemmel: Fifth Grade and up

Curriculum Structure

Basic class schedule: Aleph Champ Hebrew Reading (in shul, divided according to level), Snack, Prayers and Jewish Learning & Traditions Curriculum (in classrooms, divided according to age).

Hebrew Learning Curriculum:

Age 5: Students in kindergarten learn the Hebrew letters through writing, art, play-dough, baking and lots of fun surprises

Ages 6-13: Aleph Champ: Each student is assigned to a table according to their level/color. See back page for Aleph Champ Levels.

New: Students who finish purple do a combination of:

- Aleph Champ - reading fluency
- Hebrew Milim Curriculum, learning the meaning of basic words
- Torah Tablet time: Interactive educational learning apps

Jewish Learning & Traditions Curriculum:

Kitah Aleph: Students learn basic prayers and are introduced to new ones throughout the year. Learning curriculum includes Holidays, Blessings, Kosher and Shabbat. Lessons are taught in creative and exciting ways, using various mediums, and conducting special activities highlighting the lesson's theme.

Kitah Bet & Gimmel: "TORAHpedia" is a cleverly constructed bite-size lessons curriculum, focusing on one mitzvah for each letter of the aleph-bet. TORAHpedia brings real-life relevance to key Jewish concepts, demonstrating how Torah's lessons are applicable to the student's actual lives. In addition, students learn about the various Jewish Holidays and traditions.

Snow Cancellations



For information on snow cancellations, a notice will be posted on Chabad's website (no later than) two hours before the starting time of Hebrew School.

Please contact the office at 782-

2770 if you need to receive a personal phone call. Please note: We do not follow the public school cancellation schedule.

Hebrew Reading



Our Hebrew Reading curriculum, "Aleph Champ," is the latest educational breakthrough! Based on the martial arts motivational philosophy of color-coded levels and testing, it provides excitement and inspiration, leading the students into a winning cycle of learning. For each color level completed, students receive a special medallion, an Aleph Champ collector's item. Our interactive Aleph

Champ stations of reading, writing and games make learning Hebrew fun. Textbooks will remain in Hebrew School and each student will be receiving a homework booklet, which they will complete at home.

Torah Tokens



Students of all ages will earn "Torah Tokens" for completing homework, excellent class participation and attentive listening. Monthly they will shop at Chabad Hebrew School's exclusive Torah Token Store. The oldest students will have special opportunities to

use their tokens earned towards trips and pizza parties as well as really great prizes.

Parents Lounge



Parents and visitors are welcome to make yourself at home at Chabad and hang out. Help yourself to a fresh cup of coffee and snacks in the kitchen, inspire yourself with a book from our library, connect yourself with others or online, using our free Wi-Fi network (password can be obtained from office).

Early Sign-Out Policy



If your child needs to leave Hebrew School early, you are required to sign your child out at the office. Then you may have your child called out of class. Teachers can not send children down to the lobby to wait for parents. This policy is for the purpose of

both safety as well as avoiding class disruption.

Shabbat Educational Opportunities

1) Friday Night Live

2) Saturday Shabbat Journey

Friday Night Live



Hebrew School students and their families are encouraged to join together to celebrate Shabbat with the glow of Shabbat Candles, a lovely Service, followed by a delicious Kiddush. This takes place 1st Fridays of each month. Check calendar for exact times.

In addition, each Hebrew School class will have one service in which their class will be highlighted. They will also help prepare for the Shabbat Kiddush. Please check Hebrew School Extra-Curricular Events Calendar for dates.

Shabbat Kid-dish Club (Jr. Congregation)



The Shabbat Kid-dish Club is a wonderful way to introduce your child to the synagogue while you enjoy the services. Shabbat Kid-dish Club will be held the first Saturday of every month from 10:30am-12:00pm. All Hebrew School children are expected to join this program. Younger students can enjoy interactive Shabbat games, Jewish stories, Shabbat songs, and a taste of the Synagogue. A special Shabbat treat will be served. At Shabbat Journey for older students, participants will enjoy an introduction to prayer, educational Shabbat games and experience various aspects of the synagogue.

Shabbat Journey is an integral part of preparation for your child's Bar/Bat-Mitzvah. Services are followed by a Kiddush lunch. There is no cost to attend the Shabbat services or the Kiddush.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparations & Celebrations



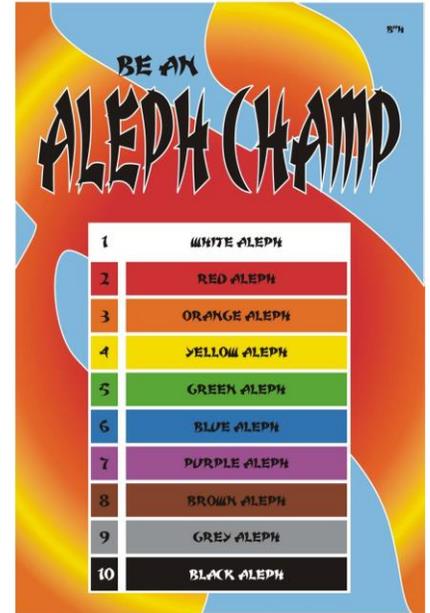
Chabad will prepare your child and your family for a most meaningful and enjoyable Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience! We provide tutoring and personalized preparation, as well as a Bar-Mitzvah Club and Bat-Mitzvah Club. Chabad offers various Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Celebrations to choose from. We recommend you schedule a Bar/Bat Mitzvah initial meeting with Rabbi Pesach at least 18 months before your child turns 12 or 13. To inquire and to book dates, please contact us.

Aleph Champ Motivational Reading Program Chart

Chabad Hebrew School uses the internationally acclaimed Aleph Champion Reading Program. Based on the martial arts motivational philosophy of color-coded levels and testing, it provides excitement and inspiration, leading the students into a winning cycle of learning. Games, flashcards, workbooks and rewards make every step along this remarkable journey a fun and educational success.

Each level is divided into three stripes. As the children progress within their reading primer, they are awarded a stripe. Stripes keep students motivated in the long haul from one level to the next. The excitement of receiving a stripe keeps up the Aleph Champ momentum.



Understanding Levels

1. White Aleph Champions

Master the first 18 letters of the Aleph Bet.

2. Red Aleph Champions

Master all 32 letters of the Aleph Bet.

3. Orange Aleph Champions

Master the first 3 vowels with letter combinations.

4. Yellow Aleph Champions

Master the first 6 vowels with letter combinations.

5. Green Aleph Champions

Master the all 9 vowels with letter combinations.

6. Blue Aleph Champions

Master all the vowels and exceptions to the rules.

7. Purple Aleph Champions

Master reading basic, familiar everyday prayers. 35-50 wpm.

8. Brown Aleph Champions

Master reading Shabbat Prayers. 40-60wpm.
Plus: Vocabulary Level 1.

9. Grey Aleph Champions

Welcome to the siddur! Grey level integrates students from the Aleph Champ program into the real world.
Plus: Vocabulary Level 2.

10. Black Aleph Champions

Master reading over 100 words in a minute.
Plus: Advanced Vocabulary.



Log onto ChabadOrange.com for continual photo updates of Hebrew School. You may contact Chana Burston at 782-2770 or Chana@ChabadOrange.com with any questions or special concerns. Wishing you all a wonderful school year!

Rabbi Pesach & Chana Burston, *Directors*