



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

## Chabad Hebrew School Parent Handbook

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Chabad Hebrew School!

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. Welcome back to all of the students who attended last year – we missed you over the summer! We are thrilled that our school has expanded with so many new students. We are committed to providing your child with a Hebrew School experience that will be enjoyable, inspiring, and provide warm memories for a lifetime. 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



The Goshen class meets on Sunday from 10:00am-12:00pm. The Monroe class meets on Thursday from 4:00-6:00pm. Please refer to our Hebrew School Calendar for dates of classes, and additional programs and events. We will be adding additional events throughout the year and will notify you accordingly. 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 entire class and disrupts your child’s classroom routine. Your support of our attendance policy will be greatly appreciated. To further encourage excellent attendance, we will be awarding raffle tickets to students who arrive on time and draw a raffle prize weekly.

### 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](mailto: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.

### Hebrew School Email List & Updates



To enhance our parent/school communication, communication regarding Hebrew School (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.)

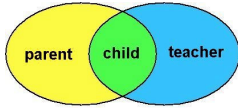
Updates will be posted online and communicated by email. Please check our website periodically. Also, enjoy viewing your children in Hebrew School on our continuously updated photo gallery.

## 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 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 Morah Chana 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



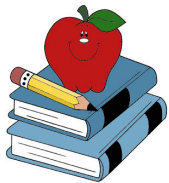
Tzedakah (charity) is a concept that is basic to Judaism. Our school attempts to develop a commitment among our students to share with others less fortunate than themselves by donating a few pennies a day to charity. Parents are asked to provide children with a coin for Tzedakah.

## 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 medical form.

## Homework



Our teachers 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.

## Bringing a Friend



Students who wish to bring a 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.

## Contacting Hebrew School



Should you need to contact the school during Hebrew School hours please call 845-782-2770. Otherwise, you can either call us or email [HS@ChabadOrange.com](mailto:HS@ChabadOrange.com)

## Curriculum



The First Taste Program (ages 5-6) will be learning the Hebrew letters through writing, art, play-dough, baking and lots of fun surprises! They will also be exploring "Mitzvot" (good deeds) through various mediums, and conducting special activities highlighting the lesson's theme.

Hebrew School students (ages 7-13) will be using a new curriculum exclusive to Chabad Hebrew Schools called "Hang With the Ten". This innovative and fun curriculum features learning and exploring the fundamental Ten Commandments, and will be taught at different comprehensive lessons for each class. This curriculum was chosen for its creativity and the vast Jewish knowledge it will provide.

## 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.

## 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.

## Bikur Bayit



Chabad Hebrew School would like to remind all of the parents about our special Bikur Bayit program. Bikur Bayit ("visiting the home") is a wonderful chance for children to spend one-on-one time with their Hebrew School teachers in their own home. Teachers will bring a special Jewish craft and visit your child in your home for one hour on a day or evening that is convenient for your family. Many families have already signed up for the Bikur Bayit program. To schedule a time to have your child's Hebrew school teacher visit, please contact Chana at 782-2770.

## Torah Tokens



This year, 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.

## Shabbat Kids Club - First Saturday of each month



All students are encouraged to attend Chabad's special Shabbat Kids Club program. This program is led by Chabad Youth Leaders and takes place the first Saturday of every month. Located at the Burston home, 47 Highview Rd, Monroe, the program runs from 10:15am-12pm. Children will experience a taste of the Synagogue while also playing Shabbat games, singing songs and hearing stories. Parents are welcome to stay and enjoy services. Services are followed by a Kiddush lunch. There is no cost to attend the Shabbat Kids Club, services or the Kiddush. Shabbat Kids Club is geared for ages 5-10 years.

## Shabbat Pre-Teen Club – Mandatory for ages 11-13 – Third Sat. of each month



This new program is geared for ages 11-13 and will take place the third Shabbat of every month. The children will attend part of the Shabbat service and become acquainted with the Synagogue. Students will also engage in a special activity/discussion group of contemporary Jewish issues. The program will be fun and educational. Program is currently held at 47 Highview Rd., Monroe. This program is essential for Bar/Bat-Mitzvah preparation. This program is mandatory for all students in this age group. If your child cannot attend this monthly program for a specific reason please contact Chana for further arrangements.

## 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.

Chabad offers various Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebrations to choose from.

To inquire and to book dates, please contact us.

Please log onto [ChabadOrange.com](http://ChabadOrange.com) for continual photo updates of Hebrew School. You may contact Chana Burston at 782-2770 or [Chana@ChabadOrange.com](mailto:Chana@ChabadOrange.com) with any questions or special concerns. Wishing you all a wonderful school year!

**Rabbi Pesach & Chana Burston**  
Directors