



Parent Handbook 2022-2023

Rabbi Yakov Saacks - Executive Director
Zoey Saacks, LMSW- Hebrew School Director



Director’s Letter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to The Chai Center Hebrew School where the values and tradition of Judaism are vividly brought to life! The goal of our Hebrew School is to experience and deepen Jewish knowledge which will strengthen your children’s understanding of G-d and their identification with the Jewish people.

As the founding director of The Chai Center Hebrew School, I am excited to rejoin The Chai Center Hebrew School in the capacity of director. I, along with Rabbi Saacks, the dynamic Hebrew School teachers and volunteers and the dedicated office staff are committed to creating a wonderful Hebrew School experience for each student along with their family.

We look forward to partnering with you in providing your children with an outstanding Hebrew and Jewish Education! Feel free to reach out with any questions at HebrewSchool@TheChaiCenter.com or call the office and leave a message for me.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and successful year!

Zoey Saacks , LMSW
Hebrew School Director

Chaya Saacks MS.ED
Assistant Director

Curriculum/Approach

We work to engage your child's sense of identity by capturing their imagination and attention. 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. The lessons are structured to create a lively and interactive classroom experience, in order that the information truly becomes the student's own.

Our Hebrew School uses the internationally acclaimed Ckids, Aleph Champ, JewQ, and Tzivos Hashem curriculums to ensure that your child will have an incredible and meaningful Hebrew School experience.

Areas of academic emphasis include:

1. Jewish History
2. Hebrew Reading and Vocabulary
3. Holidays and Traditions
4. Culture and Prayer

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www.thechaicenter.com

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Aleph Champ Hebrew Reading Curriculum

Aleph Champ is a ground-breaking and innovative Hebrew reading program that incorporates ten levels for children to master towards Hebrew reading fluency. Students are motivated and have clear goals defined for them.

Jewish History Bereishis Curriculum

Bereishit - The Story of My Life, is an invigorating curriculum classes will delve into for this year. Bereshit- The Story of My Life explores the vibrant history of the Jewish nation. Beginning with the story of Adam and Eve and through the birth of the Jewish people, students are taken on an immersive journey allowing students to use their creative minds and imagination.

CKids Family Days

CKids Family Days are events that invite children and families to join together in celebration of their Judaism throughout the year themed along with the Jewish holidays.

*See Calendar

JewQ Torah Competition

An international learning challenge joining Jewish students in 150+ cities worldwide who put their Jewish knowledge to the ULTIMATE test. High achievers win prizes and an exciting end-of-year trip!

Tzivos Hashem

A program celebrating a meaningful, mitzvah-filled Judaism. Monthly rallies highlight Jewish birthdays and ranks. We feature a Student of the Month from each class who is recognized for his/her positive attitude, participation and attendance.

CKids Shabbaton

Exciting performances. New friends. Yummy Shabbat food. One action packed weekend. Finish up with Sunday’s International JewQ Championship and Tzivos Hashem Award Ceremony.

Extracurricular

Family days, Shabbat experiences, school contests, hands-on education, and family workshops as well as games, drama, and songs are blended into our curriculum.



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Items to bring weekly:

Tzedakah

Kippah for boys

Mitzvah note for grades K -4.

Kippah

All boys must bring their own kippah to wear in class. For sanitary reasons, please make sure your child has his own kippah every day. If he forgets his own kippah, he will be given one.

Tzedakah

Tzedakah (charity) is a concept which is basic to Judaism. Parents are asked to provide the students with a daily coin for tzedakah.

Mitzvah Notes (Grades K-4)

A mitzvah is a good deed. We support you to notice the good deeds your child performs and write a mitzvah note to send in weekly with your child. Your child, along with their good deeds will be celebrated in class weekly. An example of a mitzvah note: Max was kind to his brother and shared his new toy.

Snacks

Snacks and water will be provided for all students. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY FOOD ALLERGIES.

Drop Off/ Pick Up - Drop Off Line opens @ 9:15am

Hebrew School classes meet on Sundays: 9:30-11:30 am. Please ensure that your child arrives on time and is picked up on time in order to get the most out of his/her experience.

Drop-off and pickup is done solely via the carpool line. You can enter our parking lot and join our carpool line outside the building.

Please note, if you are planning to come inside the building, park your car in a designated spot. Do not leave your car in the carpool lane.

Leaving Class Early

If for some significant reason your child has to leave early, you are required to go to the office and sign them out. The secretary will then call your child who will come up. This is a safety precaution to protect your children. No child will be allowed to linger in the hallways or wait outside.

Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial to your child’s success in Hebrew school. There is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement, interest and attitude. Furthermore, coming late disturbs the entire class and disrupts your child’s classroom routine. Adhering to the attendance policy will be greatly appreciated and will help your child get the most out of Hebrew school.

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Family Involvement

Parents are an integral part of our program. We host many opportunities for parents to participate and grow along with their child in their Hebrew School journey. We offer family days, parent breakfasts', Friday night dinners, an active PTA, family workshops, and a myriad of other family programs throughout the year.

Security

The Chai Center takes the safety of our students and families seriously. Our Hebrew School students are protected by a professional armed security guard to ensure maximum safety. The main entrance is the only egress used during Hebrew School times.

Homework

Limited homework may be assigned. Homework will consist of a review and reinforcement of Hebrew reading.

Communication

We believe in a strong parent/teacher partnership. Communication helps support a meaningful and pleasant Hebrew School experience for your child. Your child’s happiness is our top priority.

We will be sending out weekly emails notifying you of upcoming events, important notices, and what your child has covered in class each week.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's performance and/or progress, please do not hesitate to leave a message for your child’s teacher or Zoey at (631)351-8672 or Hebrewschool@thechaicenter.com

Health and Wellness

Please inform us of any important factors in your child's health, such as allergies, vision, hearing, medications, an IEP or specific learning needs. This will help us to be understanding and cater to his/her needs. Of course, the greatest care will be taken to maintain the confidentiality of the student/family.

Contagious Illness: Please notify us in the event of a contagious illness so that we may notify the parents of other children in the class to be aware of the symptoms.

We have a trained staff member certified in CPR/First Aid on duty at all times.

In case of minor injury, the first aider will treat the injury. For major injuries, G-d forbid, EMS will be called as well as the parents. In the event the parents/guardians cannot be reached, the emergency contact on file will be contacted. If necessary, the child will be taken to the nearest hospital.

Helping Your Child Succeed

In order for our program to be most effective, 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 for Shabbat and holiday services and programs.
- 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.

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