

Chabad Hebrew School Learn it! Live it!  
Love it!



# **PARENT** **HANDBOOK 2016-** **17**

Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts 2016-17  
Chabad of Ridgefield  
27 R West Lane, Ridgefield CT  
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## Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts Learn It! Live It! Love It!

Dear Parents,

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 school, you can hear the sounds of lively discussion, of singing, laughter, and prayer. Imagine your pride.

We are pleased to welcome you to the Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts, with a creative curriculum where students are engaged, stimulated and motivated. Our philosophy is that every Jewish child is entitled to a basic education regardless of family affiliation or membership. To achieve this goal, our Hebrew School is here for you.

The Chabad Hebrew School offers a warm and lively Jewish atmosphere where children can attain a unique and exciting awareness of their Jewish identity. We look forward to great success and growth and to your family being an integral part of it.

Jewish music, being played at the beginning of each day, as well as the Hebrew songs being taught every class, will enhance the holiday and Judaic classes, by adding audio and kinesthetic stimulation and active participation.

Our goal is that by the year's end, in addition to Hebrew Reading, Jewish History, Holiday learning, Judaica, and prayer, your child/ren will have developed a deep love and respect for our heritage.

We encourage you, as a parent, to get involved, ask questions and keep in touch with us throughout the year. Please follow our newsletter emails for updates on what your child covered. Join us on our facebook group Chabad of Ridgefield for a glimpse of our day and other updates. Please feel free to call us anytime. Keep us posted on your child's progress, the amount that he/she comes home with, as well as any concerns you may have.

Wishing your children a Happy and Successful year, at Hebrew School and beyond!  
Sincerely,

Chana Deitsch  
Director



## *Information*

- Ages: Our program is for boys and girls ages 3-13
- Hours: Sunday mornings September through May
- Regular Hebrew School: 10:00 am = 12:00 pm
- Tuition: Regular Hebrew School: \$800 + \$25 book fee
- Limited Scholarships available.

## *Class Schedule*

Our children will thrive on a structured day, following the same order of learning at every Hebrew School class. Below is an outline of our daily routine:

### **Regular Hebrew School:**

#### **40min: Aleph Champ**

**15 min** - Prayers (explaining the “Tefillah of the day” for the first 3 minutes)

**5 min** – break with light snack

**45 min:** Lesson according to each class’s curriculum

**10 min** -: school regroups for daily raffle, weekly Torah portion through art & Dram, Hebrew song of the month

### **Pre School classes:**

**10 min**–Welcome and art activity #1

**15 min**– Circle time #1: Prayers & songs through movement and music

**10 min**– Snack & bathroom break

**20 min**– Learning Activity #1: Alef Bet learning through games, manipulative, and sensory play

**15min**– Circle time #2: Stories and songs explaining the mitzvah of the week

**15 min**– Art activity #2

**15 min**– Learning Activity #2

**10min**– Jewish music and movement

**10min**– Story time & good bye circle time

\*\*\*Snack is at approximately 10:30am and is provided\*\*\*



## *Parent/School Communication*

Communication between parents and school is essential and ensures that Hebrew School is a meaningful and pleasant experience for your child. Your comments are always welcome, as we are always looking for new ideas and ways to improve our educational program. Please keep in touch with us via call/email, etc. Please ensure we have your proper email address, as all updates will be sent via email.

## *What to Bring*

The school provides all textbooks and workbooks for all grades. Students will have a designated folder which they may be asked to bring to and from school occasionally to bring home review sheets, mission activities and projects.

Out of respect for the Jewish tradition, boys are encouraged to wear a Kippah. If you do not have one and would like one, we can provide one for you. If not please have your son wear a baseball cap.

During Hebrew school time, the children will have time to eat snack. We provide a Kosher, NUT FREE snack for them to enjoy during school.

\* Please do not send your child with toys/new gifts, etc. Their excitement and enthusiasm to show it to their friends will affect the classroom atmosphere, making the children easily distracted and unable to stay focused on their learning. Exceptions can be made for younger children coming to school for the first time, etc.

## *Tzedakah*

Tzedaka (charity) is a basic value in Judaism. We attempt to develop commitment among our students to share with others less fortunate than ourselves by donating a few coins a day to charity. Please try to send some coins to school each Hebrew School day, to encourage your child to perform this Mitzvah.



## *Attendance*

Regular attendance is crucial in accomplishing the goals of our educational program. There is direct correlation between attendance and achievement, interest and attitude. Your support of our attendance policy will be greatly appreciated. Please notify the teacher if your child will be absent for any length of time due to illness or vacation, so she can plan accordingly.

## *Aleph Champ Hebrew Reading Program: Grades 2+*

Our Aleph Champ program is used from grade 2 and on. (See curriculum per grade for details.) Once a child has mastered the Alef Bet, in the white and red Aleph Champ levels, and they start reading with vowels, in orange, the child can quickly become an avid reader, with enough practice both in school and at home.

We will also start every class with reading. **If you, as a parent, would like to volunteer your time for the first 45 minutes of Hebrew School, we would be delighted to have you help us read with children.**

## *Curriculum*

Our Hebrew School curriculum is mapped out and divided into the grade levels that a child will go through from Kindergarten– Grade 6. We hope that by the time the child leaves Hebrew School, he/she will have really internalized all the fundamental parts of Judaism, be it in Jewish practice, tradition or history. In the following pages, you will read about each grade's curriculum. You will also be updated on our progress via emails, and our Facebook group.



## Curriculum Goals

- Attain a strong sense of love and pride in being Jewish.
- Learn all subjects in a creative, stimulating environment.
- Explore the Torah, Israel, and the history of the Jewish people and discover their relevance to today's day and age.
- Gain an understanding of holiday traditions and other Jewish practices.
- Study the morals, values and ethical behavior as taught in the Torah.
- Master the skills of Hebrew reading.
- Understand basic Hebrew words.
- Master basic Jewish and Hebrew songs.
- Learn basic prayers so that the students can feel comfortable in synagogue.
- Allow students to express their opinions and questions about G-d, Torah and religion.
- Impress upon the children their innate value and the importance of social responsibility.



## *Program: Kindergarten—Grade 1*

### **Aleph Bet**

Introduction to Hebrew alpha bet through art, drama and song. Each child will create their own Alef Bet scrapbook featuring an added page with each letter learned. Children will learn the shape of each letter, the Hebrew words it can say, and they will also do basic tracing of the letter. We will cover many Mitz-vot this year, as we study the one that starts with our letter each week. Of course, friendship (Love your fellow Jew) is a constant theme.

### **Tefillah, Music and Hebrew Songs**

Throughout the school session, children will use a picture-based 'Children's Siddur' to learn basic Tefillot (prayers), including Modeh Ani, Netillat Yadayim, Torah Tziva and Shema. In addition, there will be holiday and basic Jewish songs learned as well.

### **Hebrew Language & Israel**

Our students will attain recognition of the uniqueness of our homeland Israel. They will learn songs, dance and the culture through hands on program.

### **Holidays and Shabbat**

Holidays at the CHS are always fun, vibrant learning experiences. Through various mediums of art, dra-ma, music, cooking and more, students experience the full flavor of joyous Judaism. Chabad of Ridgefield will also host holiday celebrations for our students and their families.

### **Jewish History**

Using drama and puppets the children are introduced to the characters and stories of the Bible. Through the medium of art, students will actively participate in each lesson.

## *Program: Grade 2 & 3*

### **Aleph Champ**

Our individualized Hebrew reading curriculum - **Aleph Champ** - is the latest educational breakthrough in Hebrew reading, where children learn and grow at their own pace. Modeled after the Karate/Martial Arts motivational philosophy of color coded levels, it provides excitement and inspiration, leading the student into a winning cycle of learning. ***Another dimension added for the 2016-17 year is a Hebrew language program for students who are reading past yellow level. Each week they will be learning new words and phrases that are commonly used in Modern Hebrew.***

### **Jewish History**

Using drama, and creating their own book, children will continue where they left off, as they cover the important stories of Bereishit, meeting the founders of Judaism, and understanding where we all came from. Finishing Bereishit/Genesis and continuing with the Book of Shemot/Exodus, students will go back in time and actively explore the events of each Jewish character's life. They will follow our ancestors with the help of a life size family tree, to which they will add each person they meet.

### **Holidays**

Holidays at the CHS are always fun, vibrant learning experiences. Through various mediums of art, drama, cooking and more, students experience the full flavor of joyous Judaism. Each year taking on completely new dimensions, children will learn the "what, when and how" that will make Jewish holidays all the more meaningful, personal and enjoyable.

### **Tefillah, Music and Songs**

Each year, students add to their repertoire of Tefillot (prayers), using an actual Siddur. Every week, before starting to pray, students will talk about the meaning of one prayer that they say, thereby making their prayer time more meaningful. They will go back to the beginning once they covered all the prayers they say, thus reviewing and internalizing it, never to be forgotten. Our goal is for our students to receive the tools they need to comfortably participate in the service at synagogue, to understand some of the prayers and to appreciate attending Shul. In addition, there will be holiday and basic Jewish songs learned as well.

### **Hebrew Language & Israel**

Our students will attain recognition of the uniqueness of our homeland Israel. They will learn songs, dance and the culture through hands on program.



## *Program: Grade 4, 5 & 6*

### **Aleph Champ**

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### **Jewish History**

Children will study the lives, story and bravery of many important figures in history - Our Jewish Heroes! They will situate them on a life size timeline, going from the creation of the world until the destruction of the second temple. The story of Samson, David & Goliath, and many other historical events from our past, will come to life in the minds of our youngsters. Of course, every hero studied will bring with it an important life lesson to be learned and applied to our life.

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