

B"H



Parent Handbook

2019-20



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Hebrew School of the Arts!

Imagine a place where kids never want to miss a day? Imagine a place where children are too busy singing, doing, dancing, playing and creating, to realize they're even learning!

You've just imagined the **Olney Hebrew School of the Arts!** A place where Judaism is inspired through the Universal language of the Arts.

Our Hebrew School has a particular focus on educating children through art, music, culinary arts and Science enabling them to experience the ideas and ideals which are taught in a relevant and artistic manner. Additionally, we offer the Aleph Champ program, a detailed curriculum geared towards learning the Hebrew language.

As a trend setter in creative Jewish education, our innovative program will inspire a love for our rich ancient heritage, with the creativity and beauty of modern-day art.

Each week we are offering a highlight hands-on art experience to truly understand its depth, meaning, and connection to Judaism. We will be joined by visiting artists and specialists to share their journey, and bring out the potential and talent in each of our students.

Our incredible staff caters their individual attention to each and every student, each of who come from various affiliations and backgrounds.

I am looking forward to seeing your child grow this year!

Sincerely,

Devorah Stolik

Director

Hebrew School of the Arts



Hebrew School Facts

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| Ages: | Our program is for boys and girls Grades K-7th |
| Dates: | Hebrew School begins on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 |
| Hours: | Classes are held on Wednesdays 4:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. |
| Location: | Farquar Middle School 17017 Batchelors Forest Rd. Olney, MD 20832 |
| Tuition: | <p>\$1000 (Registration & book fee).</p> <p>\$350 Single Session (Fall, Winter, Spring)</p> <p>No Child will be turned away due to lack of funds.</p> |

Information

Attendance and Absences

Regular attendance is crucial in accomplishing the goals of our educational program. There is direct correlation between attendance and achievement, interest and attitude. We recognize that “things happen” but your support of our attendance policy is greatly appreciated. In the event that your child will be absent, please let us know in advance via email or phone.

Supplies:

All workbooks and art materials for all grades are provided by the school. The students will get a list of supplies that are needed for their class. All boys will receive a Kippah in the beginning of the year.

Tzedakah:

Tzedakah (charity) is a basic value in 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. Please try to send some coins to school each day to help encourage your child to perform this Mitzvah.

Arrival and Dismissal:

Arrival: Parents that are driving their children, should wait in line at the school, a staff will greet your child and usher them into the building. If you choose to walk your child into the building, please park in the parking lot

Dismissal: Students will be lined up in the hallway or outside weather permitting, parents please wait on the carpool lane as a staff member brings your child to the car.

Information Continued..

Promptness and early pick-up/late drop-off

We have so little time with the children, and the teachers work very hard in planning every moment of every lesson. When a child comes late or leaves early, it negatively impacts the flow of the class. In the event that a child is dropped off late, the parent must accompany the child into the building and to his/her class. If a child must be picked up early, please communicate with us in advance so that the classroom teacher can be prepared. Parent must pick up the child from the classroom. No child will be allowed to wait unaccompanied. If an alternate person is picking up, please let us know with a signed note or email.

Unexpected School Closings

In case of snow or other unexpected cancellations, expect a call (no later) than 1.5 hours before the starting time of Hebrew School. We typically follow Montgomery County for afternoon/evening activities

Behavioral Expectations

We strive to create a respectful and calm learning atmosphere. 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. Please share with us any information that would help us help your child. Please provide information about any conditions that may affect your child's ability to learn in a classroom setting in his/her registration form. Prior knowledge of any physical, social or psychological challenges can aid a teacher in planning instruction for each child. All such information will be kept confidential. Should a student's behavior be deemed inappropriate, it will be brought to the attention of the director. If the problem persists, communication with the parent will be initiated.

How to Help Your Child Succeed

In order for our Hebrew School program to be most effective, the home and school must work hand in hand and promote a close partnership. The following are a few suggestions:

- Set a reasonable bed time the night before
- Many of our students are involved in other extra curricular activities (e.g. sports, music, etc.). All these are Important however please make your child's Jewish education a priority. There is a direct correlation between a student's attendance, and his/her interest, achievement and attitude. Every time your child is absent or late, there is a loss of continuity to the program.
- Please Come to Hebrew School on time. Participation in the programming beyond school helps the child see the context of his Judaism. Please join in as many programs as you can!
- Ask your child about their day. Rather than yes Or no questions, try to ask open-ended questions.
- Remember that informal Jewish education is one of the best motivators for creating a positive Jewish identity!



Programing

Holiday Programs

Chabad hosts a multitude of exciting programs throughout the year, whether it's Chanukah, Purim, or Shavuot. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to these programs where the lessons they have learned in school are reinforced and where they are provided with an added Jewish social opportunity.

New for this year!

New for this year! Hebrew School Family Friday Night Dinner: Mark your calendars for this special event for all Hebrew school families. Your child will be learning and preparing prayers, food for the dinner, Centerpieces and more. We hope that you can put this in your calendar early enough so you won't miss it!

New for this year! Grandparents Day: In honor of Tu B'shvat all grandparents are encouraged to attend a special inter-generational program together with their grandchildren in celebration of their ROOTS on the Holiday of Tu B'shvat.

New for this year! Matzah Bakery. Students in the lower grades will bake their very own Matza from scratch before Passover.

Family Hamantash Bake- Sunday before Purim, all are invited to join with their families to learn the Art of Hamantashen Baking.



Programming continued

Dinner

A delicious pizza dinner will be served each week to our students. If your child has any allergies, please notify us.

Shabbat Service Club

An interactive, Bi -weekly Shabbat service for Hebrew School students enrich your child's involvement in their heritage by participating as much as you can. Shabbat Club takes place on the second and fourth Shabbat of every month.

Bar & Bat Mitzvah Prep

As your child nears Bar/Bat Mitzvah age, please set up a meeting with Rabbi Bentzy 18 months prior to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. (Boys/13 years old, Girls/12 years old)

Communications

Parent/School Communication

Effective communication between parents and school is very important to ensure that Hebrew School be a meaningful and pleasant experience for your child. You should feel free to contact the school with any matter that requires clarification.

- **Weekly Email:** Every Thursday morning, an email will be sent out with an update on your child's day in Hebrew School. The email will include progress, special events, pictures as well as important information.

Hebrew Reading and Vocabulary

Aleph Champ: Our Hebrew reading curriculum - **Aleph Champion** - is the latest educational breakthrough around. Modeled after the Karate/Martial Arts motivational philosophy of color coded levels and testing, it provides excitement and inspiration, leading the student into a winning cycle of learning. Learning is on an individual basis, and each child is encouraged at his/her level.