

# Chabad Hebrew School Cape Cod



**Parents Handbook  
2013-2014**

*"Excellence in Jewish Education"*

# **Welcome to Chabad Hebrew School**

## **Introduction**

This booklet is designed to encourage your input and participation in our program by sharing with you our goals and the steps we plan to take to meet them.

The Chabad Hebrew School offers a warm and lively atmosphere where children can attain a unique and exciting awareness of their Jewish identity.

Indeed, a child equipped with a Torah education and a feeling for Judaism's beautiful teachings, traditions and historical lessons, is a child better equipped to face the awesome moral challenges of today's society.

Our school's most underlying approach is for the children to enjoy the time spent at Hebrew School so that they are left with positive feelings and fond memories of their Jewish education. To achieve this goal, our program is carefully blended with songs, games, incentives, arts and crafts, audio-visual presentations, dramatics, field trips, family celebrations and other exciting extracurricular activities.

In order to successfully implement our goals, a home-school partnership is imperative. The old saying, that children learn what they live, is particularly true with regard to Jewish education. The attention and priority you give to Hebrew School will directly impact your child's responsibility relating to Hebrew School and his/her attitude toward Jewish study. As a parent, we would like you to ask questions and keep in touch with our school. You may very well discover that your child's Hebrew School education at Chabad will add an enriching spiritual dimension to the lives of your entire family.

## The Goals of our Program

- To attain a strong feeling of identity with their heritage and to develop a sense of *Love and Pride* in being Jewish.
- Gain Knowledge and Understanding of the Mitzvot, traditions and practices that Judaism stands for, study the morals, values and ethical behavior mandated by the Torah, and experience a hands-on approach to all holidays.
- Master the skills of Hebrew reading and gradually develop the ability to understand basic Hebrew words, emphasizing prayers so that the students will feel comfortable when attending services.
- Identify with the Land of Israel as their own land and develop an interest in issues relating to Israel and its inhabitants.
- Discover and explore the incredible history of the Jewish people and its relevance for all times.
- Allow students to express their opinions and questions about G-d, Torah, and religion and to have them understand the importance and relevance of Torah in today's day and age.
- Attain a "Jewish" perspective on life and maintain Jewish feelings and involvement beyond the years at Hebrew School and ultimately perpetuate this onto future generations.

## Programs and Fees

### **First Taste Program**

**Ages 3-5, Sunday, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

First Taste is designed to grab a child's attention with song, art, drama and games. By exposure to the aleph-bet, Torah tales, prayer through song and holiday studies, a child gains a sense of pride and love for Judaism. The teacher for this program is Mrs. Carolyn Bialow.

**Annual Tuition: \$750.00** includes supplies/book fee

### **Hebrew School**

**Ages 6-13, Sunday, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

This is the general program that the curriculum in this Handbook pertains to. Students learn to read and write Hebrew and gain an appreciation for the who, what, when and why of Jewish life. The program is divided into two levels and our teachers for this school year are Mrs. Devorah Alperowitz and Mrs. Betty Gladstein.

**Annual Tuition: \$750.00** includes supplies/book fee

### **Hebrew Language** (optional mid-week program)

This session focuses on the modern Hebrew Language. Students will learn basic Hebrew grammar and will develop conversational speaking skills.

**Annual Tuition: \$250.00** includes supplies/book fee

**Please contact the School office for more information.**

## General Information

**Location:** Chabad Jewish Center, 745 West Main St, Hyannis (across from Barnstable High School and behind Donut World).

**Registration:** To register, please complete the Application Form included in this booklet and deliver to our office along with payment of the first month's tuition in the amount of \$75.00. New students will be contacted to schedule an interview with the Director to discuss all the details of the Hebrew School.

**Tuition:** Our tuition for the school year can be paid in one sum or in ten monthly installments for your convenience. Please see the Tuition Agreement Form for available payment methods and discounts that may apply to your family.

**Refund Policy:** Registration fees are non-refundable. Should you decide to withdraw your child from Hebrew School, your refund will be pro-rated up to April 1, After that date no refund will be allowed for school tuition. There are no refunds or credits for days missed due to illness, holidays or family vacations.

**Scholarships:** Limited scholarships are available for needy families. Please call our office for scholarship requests.

**School Calendar:** A school calendar listing dates on which there will be no Hebrew School classes is included in this booklet. Please remove it and place it somewhere you can easily access it for year-round reference.

**Communication:** We strongly encourage close communication between school staff and parents. We are deeply concerned about the progress of each individual student and would be more than willing to spend time discussing your child's progress with you. Please don't hesitate to call us at (508) 775-2324 should any issue or question arise.

**Report Cards:** Your child will be receiving two progress report cards throughout the course of the year - December and June. You will be asked to sign and return them to his/her teacher.

**Dress Code:** All boys are required to wear a Kipah during class sessions. Hebrew School will initially provide one at no charge. It is the responsibility of the student to bring a Kipah with him to school each week. For your convenience, Kipahs may be purchased at the Chabad Center.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is crucial to 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.

**Punctuality:** Children are not to be dropped off more than 10 minutes before school. Be sure your child arrives to school on time. Children who arrive late miss the daily prayers. Please see to it that your child is picked up at dismissal time.

**Book Policy:** The Registration/Book Fee includes the students' workbooks, folders, and very own Prayer Book. Workbooks are the property of each student and they are responsible to bring their books and folders to school every week. If your child should lose any of his/her books, you will be charged our cost per book to have it replaced.

**Supplies:** The Hebrew School will supply the children with pencils, pens, erasers, paper, and two folders to be filled with worksheets and stencils throughout each semester. One folder will be for Torah, History, Holidays, and Jewish Values and Ethics. The second folder will be for Hebrew Language, and Prayer Book Hebrew. The children must bring both folders with them to every Hebrew School lesson.

**Illness:** Please notify us in case of contagious disease so that we may notify the parents of other children in the class to be aware of the symptoms. Please let us also know if there are any changes in your child's health during the year e.g. vision, hearing etc. This will help us understand and cater to his/her needs.

**First Aid:** The teacher will see to minor injuries. Should something more serious occur, G-d forbid, the parents will be contacted immediately. Should the parents be unavailable, the child will be taken to the nearest hospital.

**Tzedakah:** Tzedakah (charity) is a concept, which 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 young children with a coin for Tzedakah. Older children should give Tzedakah from their allowance money.

**Mitzvah Note:** For the younger classes teachers may ask to send in a Mitzvah note. This is a note that tells something special that the child has done. Children really look forward to hearing what their parents have to say. So please be sure to send one if it's requested.

**Snack:** Hebrew School has a fifteen minute recess in which time our students have a chance to catch a breather and enjoy a snack. We provide a kosher snack. We do not allow any outside foods. Please ensure that your children understand and respect this rule!

**How to help your Child get the most out of Hebrew School:** 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 practical suggestions:

1. A growing child needs plenty of rest. Teachers report that often a sluggish, indifferent child in the classroom on Sunday was up late the night before. Please set a reasonable bedtime for Saturday night and be consistent.
2. Please provide your child with breakfast and/or a light snack before Hebrew School begins.
3. Please check your child's book bag before going to school to make sure he or she has their workbooks, folders, or any other school supplies that belong in school. Upon returning home, it should be checked for any school notices or work that needs to be reviewed at home. It is very frustrating to teachers when children arrive without their books and your cooperation is requested to help ensure your child's responsibility.

4. Many of our students are involved in other extra curricular activities, i.e. sports, music lessons etc. All these are important, however, please place priority on your child's Jewish education.
5. There is a direct correlation between a student's attendance and their achievement, interest and attitude. Every time your child is absent, there is a loss of continuity to the program. Please keep your child in school regularly.
6. It is unfair to your child and classmates to always be late. Please help your child be on time for Hebrew School.
7. The place to voice your concerns regarding the school is with the teachers and School Director. Please do not discuss school issues in the presence of your child.
8. Participation in Synagogue services and celebration of Shabbat and Jewish Holidays will greatly enhance your child's interest in Judaism and strengthen his/her Jewish identity.
9. Show your child that you are interested in his/her Jewish education by making a habit of asking your children how their day was, what they learned, if they have any homework, or if you need to check and sign their Homework Book. This will greatly encourage and help foster a strong and positive attitude.
10. The greatest gift that you as a parent can give your child is constant encouragement. Too much is never enough!

**Behavioral Expectations:** At Chabad Hebrew School we strive to create an atmosphere that reflects our lofty Jewish values. We take pride in our student body that understands that respect for teachers, respect for each other and each other's property, and respect for ourselves are essential for a successful learning environment.



### **We expect the following from students:**

1. Every student to treat fellow students and staff members with courtesy.
2. That classroom directions be followed promptly and quietly.
3. Books and materials handed out to be handled with care and kept neatly organized.
4. Proper decorum to be maintained in the classroom.
5. Each student to cooperate at all times.
6. Homework and assignments to be completed, signed and submitted when due.
7. During school functions all rules and regulations for student behavior to be complied with.
8. Students to avoid loud, abusive or demeaning language.
9. All students to come to school prepared with folders, books, pen, note book and homework.
10. All students to act responsibly and with caution e.g. no running or jumping in the center or classroom, exercising care in the parking lot.

### **Parents have the responsibility to:**

1. Bring and pick up the children on time
2. Contact their teacher regarding a classroom concern
3. Be supportive and positive of Hebrew School programming
4. Take an active part in the child's Jewish Education
5. Attend parent meetings and conferences.
6. Never drop off and leave children unless certain their teacher is present.
7. Make certain children come to school prepared.
8. Regularly check children's homework book and school bags for important notices, missing supplies and neatness.

### **You should expect the School to fulfill the following:**

1. Provide a positive and warm environment for your child.
2. Give your child a viable knowledge of Hebrew, Jewish Holidays, History, Customs and Traditions, Torah, Israel and Jewish Heroes and Heroines.
3. Keep you informed of your child's progress and class activities.
4. Provide your child with a certified, knowledgeable teacher who is dedicated and concerned about your child's Jewish Education.
5. To provide your family with opportunities to learn experience and enjoy our Jewish Heritage

### **Disciplinary Action:**

1. Teacher will make all classroom rules clear to students.
2. Teacher will invoke disciplinary methods in classroom.
3. If a child continues to be disruptive, the teacher will ask the student to leave the classroom.
4. If a child continues to be disruptive, a conference will be set up between the child, parent and teacher.
5. If a child continues to be disruptive, the teacher in conjunction with advice from the Rabbi will suspend student. The child may only be readmitted by agreement of teacher and Rabbi.
6. Final step is expulsion. Appeals may be made to the Hebrew School by the parent and student. The school will make a final decision, after all sides have been represented.

**Student Absence:** Students are responsible for the material covered in class which can be obtained from a friend.

In case of a student's absence for any length of time due to illness or vacation, the teacher should be notified and arrangements should be made for obtaining the material covered in class as well as class homework.

**School Records:** Parents should notify the school promptly, in writing, of any change in address, telephone number, as well as any change regarding emergency situations. Promptness and accuracy are necessary to keep records up to date and to communicate with the home when necessary.

# **Curriculum**

## **Hebrew**

Beginning with letter recognition for our youngest children, this program leads them through phonetic decoding, reading comprehension, and grammar concepts until they reach Hebrew literacy. The older students will have a textbook and workbook that will be completed throughout the year. Our goal is that every child be comfortable with basic conversational Hebrew and be fluent and comfortable with the basic Prayers in the Prayer Book.

## **Alef Champion Program (Level 1 & 2)**

This year, we will be changing the course of Hebrew reading with a new innovative, cutting edge reading system. Based on the martial arts motivational philosophy of color coded levels and testing, the Aleph Champ program provides motivation and inspiration for Chabad Hebrew School students around the world.

Easily attainable levels and professional materials make Aleph Champ an incredible success. The Hebrew alphabet, the vowels, and word formations are divided into 10 colored levels. The students begin as “White Aleph Champs”, working their way up the colors of the rainbow to be a “Black Aleph” like their teachers.

## **Torah and Jewish History**

Our Torah class is a review of the weekly Torah portion. This subject will provide our students with an overview of each portion, its highlights, and practical lessons that apply to our daily life. Our History course will take the students from Creation to the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. The older classes will also be discussing the periods of the Spanish Inquisition and the Holocaust.

## **Holidays**

Lessons on each Jewish holiday will fill the calendar as we proceed from Rosh Hashana and the High Holidays through the holiday of Shavuot. The students will have a deeper understanding of each holiday and its traditions and customs. Chabad Hebrew School will also host holiday celebrations for our students and their families.

### **Mitzvot: Why We Do What We Do (Level 1)**

Why do women light Shabbat candles? Why is Shabbat such a special day in the week? Why do we have a Mezuzah on our doors? Why is the bride veiled at a Jewish wedding? This class will teach basic Mitzvot and provide insightful meaning of more complex Mitzvot.

### **TORAHpedia - Mitzvot are for Action! (Level 2)**

This new course, an 'encyclopedia' consisting of 22 mitzvot, in aleph-bet order, focuses on personalizing the message of each mizvah. Your child will be receiving an oversized activity book in which the lessons will be reinforced through creative writing, drawing exercises and activities. The children will *experience* what they're learning, using many of their senses.

### **Current Events and Israel**

The students of Chabad Hebrew School will follow current events concerning Jewish issues and Israel. Students are encouraged to bring in newspaper clippings, and discussions will follow. This will keep our students well informed of the world and its relationship to the Jewish people.

### **Arts and Crafts**

Art projects are incorporated into our curriculum to add excitement to the upcoming holidays and Mitzvot. Our projects will have Jewish holiday and Mitzvot themes and will add a taste of Jewish life to your home. The younger students will be doing art more often than the older grades.

## **Chabad Hebrew School Enhancements**

### **Bar and Bat Mitzvah**

As the students near the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Chabad offers special training to prepare them for the most important day of young adulthood. The training for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is not identical for each child and is not part of the regular Hebrew School program. To schedule a meeting with the Rabbi to discuss your needs and any options that are available to you, please call Rabbi Alperowitz at (508) 775-2324.

### **Tutorial Program**

We are proud to offer a new tutorial program for all Jewish children regardless of enrollment in the Hebrew School. Our one-on-one format allows your child to grow at their own pace and to receive the undivided attention of a skilled educator. This method of learning has proven to be very successful. Please call Mrs. Devorah Alperowitz at (508) 775-2324 to inquire about this program.

# CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL REGISTRATION APPLICATION

**Basic Information:**

Last Name _____		First Name _____	
Hebrew Name _____			
Age _____	Date of Birth _____	Grade Entering _____	
Address _____			
City _____	Zip Code _____	Home Phone _____	

**Previous Education:**

Hebrew School _____	
From _____	To: _____
Secular School _____	
From _____	To: _____

**Parent Information:**

Father's Name _____		Hebrew Name _____	
Business Address _____			
Business Phone _____		Occupation _____	
Email _____		Cell Phone _____	
Mother's Name _____		Hebrew Name _____	
Business Address _____			
Business Phone _____		Occupation _____	
Email _____		Cell Phone _____	

Synagogue Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child read basic Hebrew yet? No \_\_\_\_\_ Poor \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any special medical or other information regarding your child which our school should be aware of? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Were there any conversions or adoptions in your family? \_\_\_\_\_ If YES, please explain:  
\_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency: (please list numbers to contact other than your home or business)

Name _____	Relationship _____	Phone _____
Name _____	Relationship _____	Phone _____

I hereby permit my child to participate in all school activities, join in class and school trips on and beyond school properties. In case of emergency, I hereby authorize the school to have my child taken care of by a physician in any way the situation may call for.

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL TUITION AGREEMENT

The following document is a tuition agreement for the Chabad Hebrew School. The agreement explains the tuition fees and payments plans. Please read it carefully and sign it below on the line marked signature. The signed tuition agreement along with first month tuition payment must be submitted to the school office before any child will be permitted to attend classes.

The tuition for the Chabad Hebrew School is \$750.00 per year which includes the registration, book, and supplies fee. There is a 10% discount off of the tuition for each additional child of the same family.

You may choose from the following payment methods. **Please circle one plan.**

PLAN A: I will pay the entire amount in full.

PLAN B: I will pay the annual tuition on a monthly basis by submitting 10 checks of \$75.00 each, dated September through June. All checks will be submitted by the first day of Hebrew School.

PLAN C: I authorize the use of my Visa or Master Card to pay the monthly tuition of 75.00 from September through June. I will provide my credit card number and expiration date below.

\* For refund policy see the General Information section in this manual.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Credit Card Information: (Visa and Master Card only)

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Chabad Hebrew School Calendar

## 2013 - 2014

<b>Sunday, September 8</b>	First Day of Hebrew School Classes
<b>Sunday, September 22</b>	Special Schedule - 2nd Intermediate Day of Sukkot
<b>Sunday, November 3</b>	No School - Rabbinic Convention
<b>Sunday, December 29</b>	No School - Winter Recess
<b>Sunday, January 26</b>	No School - Teachers' Convention
<b>Sunday, February 16</b>	No School - Presidents' Day Weekend
<b>Sunday, March 16</b>	No School - Purim
<b>Sunday, April 13</b>	No School - Passover / Spring Recess
<b>Sunday, April 20</b>	No School - Passover / Spring Recess
<b>Sunday, May 18</b>	Lag B'omer - Special Program
<b>Sunday, May 25</b>	No School - Memorial Day Weekend
<b>Sunday, June 1</b>	Final Day of Hebrew School