



WEINSTEIN
**JEWISH
ENRICHMENT
PROGRAM**

AT CHABAD OF SARASOTA

WHERE JUDAISM IS FUN!

PARENT HANDBOOK 2019-20

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Welcome From the Director

Dear Parents:

We are excited about the upcoming year's religious school program, and the inclusion of culinary arts with a Jewish twist component, which is a 3-year curriculum. This handbook 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 goal for the JEP is for children to be left with deeply rooted feelings of pride and affection for their heritage, as well as to increase their identification with the Jewish people. **Being Jewish is fun at JEP.** The teachers work to provide children with the skills and knowledge they need for a vibrant Jewish life. By creating an environment that is both fun and educational, we hope that your child will never want to miss a day of religious school!

In order to successfully implement our goals, a strong partnership is imperative. The few hours that we have your children in our school every week can only give them an outline of their heritage. The rest is up to you. The old saying that children learn by what they live, is particularly true with regard to Jewish education. By working together, students will most definitely become caring, committed and knowledgeable Jews. As so much of what we do depends on you, please view this handbook as an ongoing invitation to actively pursue the goals we share, at home and within our congregational setting.

Our school is a traditional learning center that successfully caters to Jewish families from all walks of life. Indeed, everyone can feel comfortable with our style and approach. We welcome every Jew, regardless of religious background or level of observance.

Your involvement with your children's schoolwork, home review, school wide Shabbat dinner and special events will surely enhance your children's religious school experience. As you review the school calendar, please mark your calendar with all the events, and let me know if you can assist with one or more events.

As we embark on our twenty-fifth year of serving the community, I am sure that you and your child will benefit immensely from the warm and stimulating environment that the WRS cultivates.

Sincerely,

Sara Steinmetz
Religious School Director

Mission Statement

- We aim to provide a strong foundation of Jewish knowledge for your child in a warm and stimulating Jewish environment so that he or she will not only learn about life as a Jew but will learn to love it too!
- We provide an education that instills Jewish pride, a sense of history, and a genuine and meaningful understanding of Judaism. Through this knowledge, our students grow into informed adults who will shape our communities and lead vibrantly Jewish lives.

Our Goals For Participating Children at JEP

- Know that learning about Judaism can be fun and exciting at JEP
- Have a deep sense of Jewish pride & Jewish identity
- Broaden their commitment to an active Jewish life
- Develop strong Hebrew reading and language skills
- Develop a comfort with many of the Hebrew prayers
- Have an understanding of Shabbat & Jewish holidays and their observances and customs
- Foster a deep connection to the Holy Land and a love for every Jew
- Learn morals, values and ethical behavior that is transmitted to us in the Torah
- Be able to express their questions about G-d and religion

Ages & Hours

- Kindergarten – 6: Classes are held Wednesday afternoons from 4:45pm - 6:30pm
- Teens in grades 7 and up are welcome to serve as Hebrew reading mentors and assistants to the teacher and receive in service hours.
- CTEEN at JEP for teens in grades 7-12 is held -weekly from 5:30 – 6:15pm.
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah: Parents of boys & girls celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs should schedule a meeting with Rabbi Steinmetz 12 months prior to the date of celebration in order to select a date of celebration and set up a study schedule.

Dates To Remember

- First Day of School: Wednesday, September 11, 2019
- Last Day of School: Wednesday, May 6, 2020
- A school calendar is provided to parents with registration information

Curriculum & Learning Experience

Areas of Academic Emphasis Include:

- Hebrew Reading, Writing, and Vocabulary
- Jewish History - Heroes and Heroines
- Holidays and Traditions
- Jewish Culture, Culinary Arts With a Jewish Twist, Mitzvot and Middot (Jewish Ethics and Manners)
- Prayer and Synagogue Familiarity

Hebrew

- Students in the Kittah Aleph (K-1) class are introduced to the Hebrew letters in interactive and fun ways, including letter/sound games.
- For children joining our program when they are ages seven or older, a volunteer tutor will help children to recognize and identify the names of all Hebrew letters. They will begin reading simple words after learning how to blend the letter sounds and the vowels.
- Hebrew Aleph Champion Program
At JEP we use an innovative, cutting edge Hebrew reading system for children ages seven and older. Based on the martial arts motivational philosophy of color-coded levels and testing, the Aleph Champion program will provide our students with clear goals, motivation and a world of inspiration. Please note a brief description of

the ten color-coded levels implemented in the Aleph Champion program. Below are the 10 Aleph Champ Colors / Levels and what has to be accomplished to master a level.

- White Aleph Champion- Master first 18 letters of the Aleph Bet.
- Red Aleph Champion - Master all 32 letters of the Aleph Bet
- Orange Aleph Champion - Master first 3 vowels with letter combinations
- Yellow Aleph Champion - Master first 6 vowels with letter combinations
- Green Aleph Champion - Master 9 vowels with letter combinations
- Blue Aleph Champion Master vowels & exceptions & master reading 10 words per minute from a Siddur
- Purple Aleph Champion Master familiar Prayers & Brachot & master reading 20 words per minute from a Siddur
- Brown Aleph Champion Master reading important Tefillot & master reading 30 words per minute from a Siddur
- Gray Aleph Champion Master reading from Siddur at 40 words per minute from a Siddur
- Black Aleph Champion Master reading from Siddur at 50 words per minute from a Siddur

During each Aleph Champion session, children practice their Hebrew speed, Hebrew accuracy, work with flashcards and receive workbook reinforcement. Once students reach the Purple level each year there is a different focus rotating from Hebrew script, Hebrew vocabulary and Hebrew through prayer.

Jewish History

- Children will learn to view our Avot (patriarchs) and Imahot (matriarchs) and other Jewish heroic figures as role models. They will be taught morals and ethics from people highlighted in the Torah. The children will gain knowledge of and a love for the land of Israel and its people. Students in grades four and older will gain perception and knowledge of our prophets, kings, Holy Temples, Talmudic era, and the onset of Hassidism, which was initiated by the famous Rabbi Israel Ba'al Shem Tov.

Holidays & Traditions

- Children will learn to appreciate the special quality and holiness of Shabbat and Holidays. They will become familiar with the customs, traditions and observances of each festival throughout the year. We encourage students to attend the holiday junior congregation programs.

Jewish Culture, Culinary Arts With a Jewish Twist, Mitzvot and Middot (Jewish Values & Ethics)

- We emphasize Jewish heritage and culture in a creative fun way, putting the FUN in FUNdamentals. The focus at WRS is on not only accumulating knowledge, but also applying the lessons to every day life. The incorporation of culinary skills with a Jewish twist adds a fun and a hands-on approach that will combine discovery, creativity and education. Children will be taught the meaning of Mitzvot (Torah commandments), and will experience the pride that comes with the fulfillment of Mitzvot. Some of the Mitzvot that are emphasized are Tzedakah, love of a fellow Jew, kindness, hospitality, honoring parents, Mezuzah, and Brachot (blessings). The teachers will help each child develop a consciousness of proper Torah behavior towards others - Middot Tovot, which is the acquisition of desirable character traits.

Prayer & Synagogue Familiarity

• Children will learn simple, basic prayers and blessings. Over the years, students will gain familiarity with morning blessings and the Amida prayer, and the Friday evening service. Through our Aleph Champion program students will discover the meaning and translation of the basic prayers. Attending Friday night and Shabbat day services further encourages synagogue familiarity. We would like to implement a monthly Shabbat children's service during the Friday night & Shabbat morning service. In order for this to materialize interest needs to be shown from five WRS families. Please let the director know if your family would be interested in joining.

Class Schedule K-6

4:45	Aleph Bet Yoga, Prayer Familiarity, Tzedakah, Weekly Raffle
5:00	Hebrew
5:30	Snack & Time With Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz
5:40	Jewish History, Basic Judaism Concepts, Holidays
6:30	Dismissal

Policies

Registration & Tuition

Children must be registered through our office by completing the registration forms and submitting payment. New students and their families need to have a meeting with the director and/or rabbi prior to enrollment. Tuition is to be paid in full at the beginning of the year or can be paid in three equal installments. Limited scholarships are available. Anyone seeking a scholarship should set up an appointment to meet with Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz. No one will be turned away due to financial difficulty.

Supplies

The school will supply all textbooks and workbooks. All books are to be treated with care and respect. Students should always come to school with their Hebrew reading folders. To reinforce the concept of Tzedakah and making it real to the children, children should bring a few coins or a dollar for Tzedakah – to bring each week. Boys should wear Kippa & Tzitzit. Kippa and Tzitzit can be purchased through the school office; Kippa \$10, Tzitzit \$12. The school will give your child a WRS school shirt. To show school spirit, please encourage your child to wear it each week.

Attendance & Tardiness

Regular attendance is crucial in accomplishing the goal of our educational program. There is a great correlation between attendance, promptness, achievement, interest and attitude. Further, coming late and leaving early disrupts the entire class as well as your child's classroom routine. Your support of our attendance policy will be greatly appreciated. Parents of students who will miss a class should notify the religious school director via email or telephone.

Early Dismissal

If an instance arises when you must pick up your child early from school, please notify the school in advance. When you arrive, please enter the building to get your child from his/her classroom. No child will be permitted to wait in the hallway, youth lounge or outside.

Parents' Responsibilities

- Bring and pick up children on time.
- Contact child's teacher or Sara regarding a concern.
- Be supportive and positive toward JEP programming.

- Take an active part in your child's Jewish education by reading emails sent by the school and by setting aside a time each week to review and discuss material presently studied by your child.

Behavioral Expectations

WRS strives to create an atmosphere that reflects our lofty Jewish values. We take pride in our student body that understands respect for teachers, respect for each other and each other's property. We expect every student to treat fellow students and staff members with courtesy and respect. We expect that proper classroom decorum be maintained in the classrooms. We expect each student to cooperate at all times and to avoid loud, abusive or demeaning language.

Discipline

WRS strives to establish a respectful partnership between school and home where parents and staff, together with the student, seek to resolve a child's school problems. Students can and must learn to take responsibility for their own actions. Consequences for misbehavior will be logical, relevant, and designed to teach appropriate behavior, rather than to be merely punitive. Staff will strive to establish consequences that expect the student to reflect on his/her behavior and to make a plan for self-improvement.

At any time, if a child's behavior is determined to be unsafe or dangerous to another child or teacher, parents will be asked to pick up their child immediately. In case of vandalism or damage to school property, students and their families will assume the responsibility for repairs, replacement and/or clean up costs. The school upholds the right to suspend or require a child to be withdrawn from school for seriously inappropriate behavior.

Snack

Parents are encouraged to provide their child with a snack prior to their child's arrival at school. WRS will provide a snack for the children during a 10-minute break. NO snacks are to be brought to Chabad's WRS, unless in the case of a dietary requirement which will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Hebrew Home Review

Although we understand that students have homework, projects, and regular school tests, we request that students in grades 2-6 spend 10-15 minutes each week with Hebrew home review. It is a well-known fact that when parents take time to review or set up a special time each week for Hebrew home review, it goes a long way in establishing a positive attitude toward the student's acquisition of Hebrew reading skills.

Drop Off & Pick Up

Please understand that when many children need to get in and out of their vehicles at the same time there is a concern for safety. When dropping off and picking up your child/ren please park your vehicle in an appropriate parking space. Parking right beside the building is dangerous, as cars are constantly pulling in and out. Your attention to this safety matter will be most appreciated. When picking up try to have a quick chat with your child's teacher so that you're updated on the learning process, and can better help your child progress.

Illness

If your child will miss a class due to illness, please call the office and/or email your child's teacher. 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. Also, let us 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

Minor injuries will be seen to. Should something more serious occur, G-d forbid, the parents will be contacted. If parents are unavailable or the situation warrants it, an ambulance will be called. Please sign the emergency release form.

Security System / Entry Code

A security system is in place where staff and parents will receive a code to make building access safe and easy. If you do not have a code, please notify Sara Steinmetz. Transferring your code to anyone other than parents or legal guardian is strictly prohibited. A video is in place on the front and back of the building, creating a secure feeling, and, together with the intercom, the front desk can identify individuals before buzzing them in.

Messages / Alternative Telephone

The contact number for the religious school is 925-0770. If a situation arises and you need to leave a message for your child, you may call Sara Steinmetz's cell phone # 544-8770.

Helping Your Child Succeed at JEP

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

1. Please provide your child with a light snack before bringing him/her to religious school. This will help ease the transition from school to religious school.
2. There is a direct correlation between a student's attendance and his/her achievement, attitude and interest. Every time your child is absent there is a loss of continuity. Please keep your child in school regularly.
3. It is unfair to your child and classmates to always be late. Please help your child be on time for religious school.
4. Setting aside a specific time of the week to do Hebrew home review will set a routine and help your child progress and boost his/her confidence.
5. Show your child that you are genuinely interested.

Program Highlights**Torah Dollars**

As an incentive to our students, at the conclusion of each lesson the teacher awards Torah Dollars to each student. Teachers award Torah Dollars in recognition of the children's effort in completing homework assignments, class participation and conduct. Three times throughout the school year, students have the opportunity to exchange their Torah Dollars for prizes.

Shabbat Dinner

On January 24 at 5:30pm all JEP families are encouraged to participate in a family Shabbat Dinner. For the success of the Shabbat dinners, we need the assistance of parents to help out with shopping, cooking, set up and clean up. There will be a charge of \$36 per family. Sponsorship is \$72.

Special Holiday Celebrations

Prior to each Jewish holiday, we provide fun activities to further excite the children and strengthen the home-school partnership and further enhance the holiday celebration at home. In the school calendar the dates for this year's family celebrations are enumerated. Much effort goes into the preparation and planning of these events, and if you can assist with shopping, set up or clean up, please let Sara know.

Creating Community / Special Family Events

In the spirit of fostering and bolstering Jewish friendships several special events will be held throughout the year. Also, when dropping off or picking up your child, please try to get acquainted with parents. Perhaps you can invite a parent to take a walk together or go out for a cup of coffee while JEP is in session.

Ask Us About Camp Gan Israel Overnight Summer Camp & CTeen Summer Camp Experiences

Overnight camps have been proven to positively impact children's Jewish identity and bolster Jewish pride. For overnight camps, the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee offers generous scholarships. Forms must be completed by January 30th.

- Suggestion for boys: Camp L'man Achai
- Suggestion for girls: Camp Gan Israel of the Poconos
- Suggestion for teens: CTeen Heritage Quest (visit Poland and Israel) and CTeen Extreme (extreme sports and camping in the South Western part of the USA).

Shop & Support

We have teamed up with the following area businesses that have agreed to donate a percentage of their profits. While shopping for yourself or for gifts please support these businesses and simultaneously support Chabad's efforts to enhance Jewish education.

- Beneva Flowers Helping Hands is designed as a way to continuously give something back to the community. With each order Beneva Flowers will make a 5% donation to Chabad. When ordering on the phone, 923-7401, simply make mention of your Helping Hands contribution to benefit Chabad. When ordering online at Beneva.com select the "Helping Hands" pull down menu on the order form and choose an organization to receive your contribution.
- AmazonSmile.com Choose a charity to support: Chabad Lubavitch of Sarasota and Manatee Counties.