



PARENT HANDBOOK

Chabad Hebrew Community Centre
7770 Bathurst street

Chai Hebrew School

Mailing Address:
Chai Hebrew School
7770 Bathurst St.
Thornhill ON L4J 0H6

Phone: 905.709.7770 x 242 (Open daily 9am-4pm)

Email: info@ChaiHebrewSchool.ca

Website: www.ChaiHebrewSchool.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

❖ Letter from the Director.....	1
❖ CHS Goals.....	2
❖ Registration	3
❖ Scholarships.....	3
❖ Confidential Information.....	3
❖ Refund Policy	3
❖ School Records	3
❖ Attendance	4
❖ Punctuality.....	4
❖ Drop Off.....	4
❖ Pick Up.....	5
❖ Early Pickup.....	5
❖ Weather Related School Closing.....	5
❖ Health & Safety	5
❖ Minor Injuries & Illness	6
❖ Emergency Procedure	6
❖ Nut Free School.....	6
❖ Snack Time.....	7
❖ Parent Absence	7
❖ Our Program	7
❖ Kippah.....	7
❖ Supplies	8
❖ Homework.....	8
❖ Tzadakah.....	8

❖ Mitzvah Notes.....	9
❖ Incentive System.....	9
❖ Behavioural Expectations.....	9
❖ Aggressive Behaviour.....	10
❖ Electronics and Cell Phones.....	10
❖ Photography.....	10
❖ Lost and Found.....	10
❖ Parents & Family.....	11
❖ Email Updates.....	11
❖ Progress Reports.....	11
❖ Parents Involvement.....	11
❖ Family Events.....	11
❖ Friday Night Dinner & Awards Ceremony.....	12
❖ Parent Brunches.....	12
❖ Making it a Positive Experience.....	12

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

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 halls, you can hear the sounds of lively discussion, of singing, laughter and prayer...

Welcome to Chai Hebrew School! An exciting and innovative educational program run through the Chabad Hebrew Community. Our goal is to develop and nurture a pride and a love for our people, for our religion and for our land. We aim to bring the joys, values and traditions of our heritage vividly to life.

We offer a full Hebrew reading program and an advanced Hebrew language option. We explore Jewish holidays and themes through stories, craft, plays and hands-on projects. Our warm and dynamic teachers encourage our students to explore their Jewish identity in a meaningful and relevant way.

Our curriculum is designed to instill our students with a basic yet thorough understanding of our traditions and values, a strong sense of Jewish pride and a love for Israel. We firmly believe that the holistic approach we employ is the most effective way to educate children and ensure an enduring connection with our Heritage.

Chai Hebrew School is located in a brand new, child friendly and state-of-the-art facility situated within the Beth Chabad Hebrew Community Center.

Please make sure to mark your personal calendars with all the special Chai Hebrew School days and events to ensure that you and your family join.

We look forward to working together with you to educate and inspire your children. Should you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Rabbi Mendel & Libby Landa
Directors, Chai Hebrew School



CHS GOALS

AT CHAI HEBREW SCHOOL, WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO:

- Attain a strong sense of identity with our heritage and develop a love and pride in being Jewish.
- Gain knowledge and understanding of the Mitzvot, traditions and practices of Judaism and to study the morals, values and ethical behaviors of our Torah.
- Discover and explore the incredible history of the Jewish people and its relevance for all times, thereby developing an excitement toward Jewish Holidays. We also want our students to experience a hands-on appreciation for the Jewish holidays, customs and traditions.
- Master the skills of Hebrew reading and writing, thereby becoming familiar with the prayer services and laying the foundation for successful Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation.
- Advance in vocabulary and/or fluency in their conversational Hebrew, depending on their background and starting point.
- Identify with the land of Israel as our own land and develop an interest in issues relating to Israel and its people.
- Express their opinions and ask questions about G-d, Torah and religion in a non-judgmental setting, and to have him/her understand the importance and relevance of Torah in the 21st century.
- Achieve a Jewish perspective on life and maintain a Jewish connection and involvement beyond the years in Hebrew school and ultimately convey this to future generations.



REGISTRATION

Registration is done online at www.chaihebrewschool.ca. Alternatively, you can call the office 905.709.7770 and our staff will be happy to assist you in filling out the registration form over the phone. After completing your registration, you will be notified via email upon the acceptance of your child.



SCHOLARSHIPS

We pride ourselves in doing all that we can to make Jewish education affordable for all families. Besides for keeping tuition costs as low as viable, we are happy to offer scholarships to qualifying students. Upon acceptance please look out for an email with scholarship information. There will be a link to a form that will need to be submitted before the date marked on the email. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer scholarships to students who have not met the deadline for submitting forms. We would like to be able to assist you as much as possible so we ask that you pay attention to the deadlines.



CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

It is of great importance for the teacher to have any information that can provide for the optimum learning situation. Information of a physical, social, or psychological nature can aid a teacher in planning instruction for each child. Without this knowledge, teachers may be unable to provide the kind of support needed.

Such information should be transmitted either in writing to, or by a private conference with, the Director who will make it known to the appropriate teacher. The Chai Hebrew School registration information form has a section for such information.



REFUND POLICY

The registration fee is non-refundable. A 90% tuition refund will be given to students who are withdrawn from the school before October 3rd, 2019. A 50% tuition refund will be given to students who are withdrawn from the school before December 1, 2019. After that date no refund will be given for tuition. There are no refund credits for days missed due to illness, holidays, family vacations, school closures or such like.

SCHOOL RECORDS

Parents should notify the school promptly of any change of address or telephone number. Promptness and accuracy are necessary to keep records up to date and to communicate with the home when necessary.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is crucial in accomplishing the goals of our educational program. There is direct correlation between attendance and achievement, interest, and attitude at school. 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.

PUNCTUALITY

We respectfully request that you bring your child on time. Latecomers miss important parts of the lesson and often have difficulty adjusting to the rhythm of the class.

DROP OFF

Hebrew School starts at 9:30 am. Please do not bring your child earlier than 9:20 am.

The safety of your child is our prime concern. For this reason, every parent is required to sign their child in/out when dropping off and picking up their child from Chai Hebrew School. This ensures we are aware of who is in the building at all times, ensures that no child is outside the building without a parent and assists us with our attendance records. Please do not drop off small children in the parking lot but bring them inside the building, to their classroom. Please make sure that one of the staff members of CHS acknowledges your child's arrival before leaving.

PICK UP

Hebrew School ends at 12:30pm. Please ensure that your child is picked up on time and not early as it disrupts the learning atmosphere in the classroom.

If you will not be picking up your child, please send an email to info@chaihebrewschool.ca stating your child's name, the name of the adult who will be picking up your child and whether this is a one-time occurrence or if it will be an ongoing arrangement.

If you give your child permission to walk home alone, please send an email confirming that. **Please make sure to sign your child out before you leave the building.**

EARLY PICK UP

If, for any reason, your child must leave early, please send an email to info@chaihebrewschool.ca and include the time you will pick up your child. Please send this email as soon as you become aware of the necessity to pick up your child early, ideally no later than the Thursday before. Children are to be picked up from their classroom.

WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CLOSING

An email will be sent to all parents about school being canceled in the event of bad weather.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Chai Hebrew School is committed to providing a safe environment for the children in our care. We have security on premises during Hebrew School hours to ensure everyone's safety.

MINOR INJURIES AND ILLNESS

Needless to say, all appropriate measures will be taken to insure the safety of your child at all times. The school is equipped to handle minor injuries such as superficial cuts or bruises. If we have any question as to the severity of an injury, we will contact parents at the numbers we have on file.

If your child becomes sick during school hours, we will call you. In the meantime, we will set up a safe and comfortable area, under supervision, where your child can wait for you. If you cannot be reached, the emergency contact on your registration form will be called upon to pick up your child.

Please be advised that we are not permitted to administer any medication. As such, please do not send any medication to school.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, G-d forbid, the following procedure will be followed:

1. We will attempt to notify the parents.
2. Depending on the severity of the emergency, it may become necessary to call 911 or transport the child to an emergency facility
3. If they are unavailable, we will attempt to notify the person listed as your emergency backup.
4. If the emergency contact cannot be reached, an attempt will be made to contact the child's physician.

NUT-FREE SCHOOL

Chai Hebrew School is a nut-free school.

In any classroom in which there is a child with a severe food allergy, other than nuts and peanuts, please be aware that that specific food will also not be allowed into class at all. The school will notify the parents of that class via email of any such allergies.

Notwithstanding our best efforts, the school and families with allergies acknowledge that it is impossible to guarantee an absolute safe environment for those with life threatening allergies. We depend on the cooperation of parents in ensuring the safety of all children.

SNACK

We will be providing a Kosher and nut-free snack during the break. **Outside food may NOT be brought to school.** Please do not provide children with a snack during pick-up until they exit the school

PARENT ABSENCE

If, for any reason, a parent will be away for any length of time, please advise the school. This is especially important if the absence is due to special conditions, such as hospitalisation, which may be upsetting the child. When his/her teachers are aware of such circumstances, they can often be of great help in alleviating the child's distress.

OUR PROGRAM

We hope to engage your child's sense of identity by capturing his/her imagination and attention. So, we put a lot of effort into providing our students with substantive lessons and a positive atmosphere.

KIPPAH

New students will receive a White Chai Hebrew School Kippah in their welcome packages. Existing Chai Hebrew School students already have Chai Hebrew School Kippahs, the colour that they have depends on the level that they have reached in Aleph Champ. Please make sure your son comes to Hebrew School wearing his Kippah. Your child will automatically receive a Torah Token just for wearing his kippah so please encourage him to remember it. (Girls receive a Torah token for wearing their Chai Hebrew School wristbands). We will have extra Kippahs to lend in case children forget to bring their own.

SUPPLIES

All textbooks and workbooks will be provided by the school. These are to remain in school, copies will be sent home for homework. Our books are to be treated with care and respect. If your child loses or damages a book, you will be charged for a new one.

HOMEWORK

Hebrew reading homework is optional and available on our website at ChaiHebrewSchool.ca. Children receive a sticker indicating to their parents the colour and page number for them to practice. Homework reading practice reinforces what students have learned in school that week and enables children to progress more quickly. We see tremendous results from children who practice regularly at home. Students can complete their homework online up to five times each week and will be rewarded accordingly.

We encourage parents to listen to their child's songs, stories and Hebrew reading, as this will reinforce your involvement in your child's Jewish education.

TZEDAKAH

Tzedakah (charity) is a basic value in Judaism. We encourage our students to donate a few pennies each day to charity in order to develop their sense of sharing with those less fortunate than them.

Please try to send some coins to school each week to perform this Mitzvah. We suggest that older children give some Tzedakah from their personal money, as the positive impact is that much greater. We have extra Tzedakah coins for children to give incase they forget to bring their own.

Each year, parents have the opportunity to vote for a Charity that speaks to them. The entire school then raises money for the most voted cause. We keep track of each classes' totally sum individually as well as the school as a whole. This promotes a sense of unity and togetherness in helping those in need.

Each child receives his/her own Tzedaka box to take home and we encourage them to give charity throughout the week. When it fills up they can bring it into school and the amount will be added to their class' total.

MITZVAH NOTES

Teachers of the younger grades may ask parents to send Mitzvah notes to school. These notes should mention good deeds and specific Mitzvas which the child performed at home. Children really look forward to bringing Mitzvah notes and having them displayed in the classroom, so we encourage you to send them if requested.

INCENTIVE SYSTEM

We believe that children learn best in a joyous and positive atmosphere. Our teachers plan their lessons with this in mind, making it very interactive so the children feel excited about what they are learning.

At Chai Hebrew school, we will have an incentive system, promoting positive and respectful behavior and cooperation during class time.

When the students demonstrate good behaviour, they will receive special Torah Tokens. They will then be able to “purchase” small prizes at our weekly prize store or save up to buy a slightly larger prize at our periodical prize store.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

At Chai Hebrew School, we strive to create an environment that reflects our traditional Jewish values. Our students understand that respect for teachers, respect for each other and respect for each other’s property are essential for a successful learning environment. We expect our students to behave with respect and courtesy, and comply with all school rules during class as well as during school events.

We are confident that the children will behave in a proper manner. However, should a problem arise, misbehavior will not be tolerated in our school. Students will be given one warning in the event of disruptive behavior. Repeated disruption or disregard for the teacher and/or fellow classmates will result in removal from class and a call home. Parents will be asked to pick up students who have been behaving inappropriately and uncooperative in class.

If a child continuously misbehaves, a face to face meeting will need to take place with the child, a parent, the teacher and director before allowing the child to return. Together, we will try to resolve the behavioural issue in a positive manner.

AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

At Chai Hebrew School we maintain a Zero-Tolerance for violence policy. Absolutely no violent or aggressive behavior of any fashion will be tolerated in our school. Chai Hebrew School reserves the right to suspend any child that expresses violent or aggressive behavior in the classroom or in the school building.

ELECTRONICS AND CELL PHONES

We request that no valuables including iPods, toys or gadgets should be brought to school. They disrupt the lesson and can easily get lost or broken. No cell-phones or any electronic gadget are allowed to be turned on in class. Cell phones used in class will be held by the teacher. Parents will have to pick them up in person from the school office at the end of the day.

Students can always use the office phone to call home if necessary.

If there is an emergency and you need to contact your child during Hebrew School, please call our office at 905.709.7770 x2429 or the Hebrew School Director at 647.787.1284.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Chai Hebrew School reserves the right to take photographs of classrooms and students for educational, promotional, assessment and fundraising purposes.

LOST & FOUND

We recommend that parents attach name tags to all outer clothing. If your child is missing a personal item, please check the lost and found at the office. We will keep items that are brought to the lost and found for two weeks before disposing of them.



PARENTS & FAMILY

Communication between us and the parents is very important to ensure that CHS be a meaningful and pleasant experience for your child.

Please contact us if you have any concerns regarding your child's performance and/or progress.

Our website is constantly being updated with announcements and pictures. Please make sure to take a look at it every so often.



EMAIL UPDATES

Please note that CHS notices will be sent to you via email. Please ensure that you have given us a valid, current email address so we can keep you informed about what your child has learned and let you know about special events. Your comments are always welcome, as we are constantly looking for ways to improve our educational program.



PROGRESS REPORTS

A summary of your child's report will be emailed to you at the end of each semester: End of December & End of May.



PARENTS INVOLVMENT

Parent involvement increases the success of our Hebrew School. If you have a talent, skill, or can volunteer to read Hebrew with our children, please let us know.



FAMILY EVENTS

Our Hebrew School offers programs throughout the year for parents to participate in with their children. These programs include Chagim Celebrations and other meaningful activities. Events will be advertised through invitations and social media.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY

We are delighted to invite all walking distance Chai Hebrew School families to our annual Friday Night Dinner. This is one of the highlights of the school year, as the children will be performing, preparing centre pieces to decorate the tables etc. For the success of the evening as well as your child's experience, your family's participation for this evening is very much encouraged. Please check the date in the school calendar and mark it down in yours. There will be a minimal charge for this exciting event.

An End-of-the-Year Awards ceremony will take place the last week of school. The children will perform and receive their outstanding medallions. The graduating class will receive their Chai Hebrew School graduation certificates and we will be celebrating their advancement to Bar/Bat Mitzvah Club!

PARENT BRUNCHES

We offer & encourage the opportunity for parents to come in during the school year to join in our Parent Education Brunches. On these days, we will be running a series of lectures, particularly relevant to parents raising Jewish children today. A light brunch will be served.

MAKING IT A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

In order for our CHS program to be most effective, the home and CHS must work hand in hand and promote a close partnership. Here 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.
- Show your child that you are interested in his/her Jewish education by making 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 and positive attitude towards Judaism.
- Participation in Synagogue service and celebration of Jewish Holidays will enhance your child's interest in Judaism and strengthen his/her Jewish identity.