



**OHEV SHALOM OF BUCKS COUNTY
HEBREW SCHOOL and TICHON**
944 SECOND STREET PIKE
RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA 18954
(215) 322 – 9597
www.ohev.org

HEBREW SCHOOL and TICHON FAMILY HANDBOOK

5782-5783

2022-23



Barbara Glickman, Executive Director

Dr. Elliott N. Perlstein, Rabbi
Annelise Ocanto-Romo, Cantor

Lindsay Miller, Education Chair
Michael Goldstein, President

**OHEV SHALOM CELEBRATES THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY AND
CELEBRATES DIVERSITY WITHIN OUR SACRED COMMUNITY.**

WELCOME!

September 1, 2022

Dear Hebrew School, Tichon at Ohev and Confirmation families,

Welcome to our returning and new families. Thank you for choosing Ohev Shalom for your family's Jewish education. On behalf of the Ohev faculty, we are thrilled to welcome you back to in person learning this Fall. Plans have been made for enriching, meaningful and engaging curriculum, and programs. Our journey will be filled with Jewish culture, connections, Holiday celebrations, Hebrew literacy and most importantly community connections.

Our education coordinator, Shari Sabath, looks forward to meeting our families and students. We encourage you to stop into the social hall on Sunday September 18th for coffee, nosh and to say hello. Also, join us in welcoming Stacey Salsman, and Stacie Graff to our school team. Stacey will be teaching Gimel 5th grade Jewish studies and Stacie will be a guest educator for Tichon 7th grade.

We recognize the diversity of student learning styles and the varying needs of our students. Please take a few moments to visit <https://www.ohev.org/religious-schoolhebrew-high-school/> and click on the link to review the family handbook. Be sure to review the inclusion section of this handbook as we ensure that Ohev is a place that exemplifies the Jewish values of Kavod (respect) and Chesed (kindness).

I am excited to see everyone, spend time with you and your children as I oversee the growth and learning your children will experience while in Hebrew School. Please reach out to me, I welcome open communication.

Sincerely,
Barbara Glickman
Executive Director

Important Dates

Wednesday September 14th - the first day for Aleph through Daled (6th grade).

Wednesday September 14th - the first day for Tichon 7th and 8th/9th grades.

Sunday September 18th - the first day for PreGan (PreK) through Mechina (2nd grade).

2022/23 Fully In Person* Learning Model for Hebrew School and Tichon

- **Sundays:**
 - All classes PreGan through Daled 6th grade meet 9:00 – 11:30am.
 - **Wednesdays:**
 - Aleph 3rd grade through Daled 6th grade only, 4:30-6:45pm.
 - **Tichon 7th, 8th/9th grade** meets from 6:30-8:30 and includes a light dinner. (The calendar will be emailed prior to the start of school.)
- *Based on local guidelines, we may need to adjust our plans.**

A few health and safety reminders as we continue to teach our children the mitzvah of loving your neighbor as yourself:

- Only send your child to school when they are healthy.
- Notify us immediately if they have **been diagnosed with** Covid.
- Praise your children for being mindful of our safety protocols such as washing hands and distancing.
- Emphasize the need for kindness and respect (kavod) as some children may choose to wear a mask.

We continue to take these additional steps in the synagogue and school building:

- Air purifiers in each classroom.
- Classrooms set up to provide social distance between students.
- Hand washing protocols.
- Sanitization of surfaces between each classroom use.
- Personal books, supplies and materials for each student.
- Extra cleaning of bathrooms and high-touch surfaces.
- Masks optional.
- Outdoor class time and activities when possible.
- Drop off and pick up outside.

CHAMites for 2022/23

Continued individualized Hebrew instruction

Special programming:

Wellbeing

Holiday

Art and Music

WHO WE ARE

The Ohev faculty consists of:

- Knowledgeable, experienced, and passionate teachers who engage the students in enjoyable and enriching learning experiences.
- Teachers who know how to make Judaism come alive in the classroom.
- Teen assistants, *madrichim* (teen assistant teachers) who are knowledgeable and passionate about Judaism and are role models for students.
- *Ohev Shalom is committed to providing a high quality, meaningful Jewish education in a warm and nurturing environment.*

OUR VISION

The Ohev Shalom Hebrew School seeks to contribute to the formation of a positive Jewish identity within each child through imparting Jewish values, knowledge and skills while fostering a love of Israel and the Jewish people. The Hebrew School comprises a learning community that strives to be inclusive, warm, and affirming.

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Sunday School

PreGan (Prekindergarten), Gan (Kindergarten), Keshet (1st grade) and Mechina (2nd grade), Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Core Hebrew School Program

**Aleph (3rd grade), Bet (4th grade), Gimel (5th grade), Daled (6th grade)
Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays 4:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.**

Tichon at Ohev

7th through 9th grades

Wednesday evenings 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., includes a light dinner.

Confirmation 10th grade

5:30pm-6:30pm, participants invited to join Tichon for the first half of the evening and stay for dinner.

Our supplementary Hebrew/Religious School program provides Jewish education for children in Prekindergarten through tenth grade.

- The course of study offered delivers academic and experiential knowledge of Jewish tradition, culture, prayer, history, and Torah.
- Curriculum is designed to develop fluency in reading Hebrew, comfort and familiarity with the Siddur and Jewish liturgy, and a basic understanding of prayers
- **Special programming:**
 - Supplements and reinforces classroom learning.
 - Experiential and meaningful.
 - Encourages participation and involvement in the Jewish community.
 - Music and trope with Cantor Annelise Ocanto-Romo.
 - Examples include Hebrew Free Loan Society, Torah Yoga, Art in the Pod, Israeli Dancing, the Anti-Defamation League, Jewish Genealogical Society, and many others.
 - The entire school usually visits the Jewish Relief Agency warehouse in Philadelphia to pack and distribute food to those in need.
- Our Bmitzvah program usually begins in 6th grade and continues through the end of 7th grade. Our unique program includes Hebrew School/Tichon, Moving Traditions Workshops, BMitzvah training with Cantor Annelise, a D'var Torah Workshop with Rabbi, hessed project, service sign up and more. Tichon 7th grade attendance post Bmitzvah is expected.

OUR CURRICULUM

The school provides both formal and informal Jewish learning opportunities for children in kindergarten through seventh grade. We offer real-time Jewish experiences to supplement and reinforce classroom learning. The course of study offered at Ohev Shalom covers Jewish tradition, culture, prayer, history, Israel, and Torah/Bible. We teach basic Hebrew decoding and interpretative skills using leveled instruction so that students will become sufficiently comfortable and familiar with the *siddur* (prayer book) to be able to participate in synagogue worship and competently lead select prayers.

Curriculum Objectives

Grade level: **PreGan/Gan/Kesher (Prekindergarten, Kindergarten and 1st grade)**

<p><u>Holidays, Symbols and Traditions</u> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the stories associated with each holiday. • identify the Jewish symbols they see in the synagogue and at home. 	<p><u>Bible Stories and Torah Study</u> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discover stories from the bible. • recognize that there is a part of the Torah that is read and studied at every Shabbat service. (Overall understanding, not knowledge of weekly parshah)
<p><u>History, Israel and the Global Jewish Community</u> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe how Israel is a special place for Jewish people. • describe where Jewish people live around the world. 	<p><u>Jewish Values</u> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the values that make a home Jewish. • participate in giving <i>Tzedakah</i> (charity) and understanding what that means.
<p><u>T'fillah/Prayer Goals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candle Blessing • Wine Blessing • Motzi • Shema • Oseh Shalom • Pesach Questions • Chanukkah Blessings • Shehecheyanu 	

Grade level: **Mechina (2nd grade)**

<p><u>Holidays, Symbols and Traditions</u> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the Jewish symbols they see in the synagogue and at home. 	<p><u>Bible Stories and Torah Study</u> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respond to stories from the bible. • recognize that there is a part of the Torah that is read and studied at every Shabbat service.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe what a simcha is and how Jewish people celebrate. • describe the traditions associated with each holiday. 	
<p><u>History, Israel and the Global Jewish Community</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore what it means to grow up in Israel with a focus on language, flag, and culture. • describe the history of Judaism in their family. 	<p><u>Jewish Values</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain what <i>Derech Eretz</i> (work habits) means to someone growing up Jewish and why it is a <i>mitzvah</i> (good deed). • describe the traditions of giving <i>Tzedakah</i> and why it is a <i>mitzvah</i>.
	<p><u>T'fillah/Prayer Goals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candle Blessing • Wine Blessing • Motzi • Shema • Oseh Shalom • Pesach Questions • Chanukkah Blessings • Shehecheyanu
<p>Grade level: Aleph (3rd grade)</p>	
<p><u>Holidays, Symbols and Traditions</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain how holidays unite Jewish people around the world. • discuss the significance of the symbols of the Jewish holidays. • articulate the importance of their Aleph consecration and what it means to them. 	<p><u>Bible Stories and Torah Study</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tell stories from the bible in their own way. • explain the literal meaning of bible and Torah stories. • identify the part of the Torah that is read this week.
<p><u>History, Israel and the Global Jewish Community</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p>	<p><u>Jewish Values</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe how Jerusalem and the state of Israel unite all Jewish people. identify themes in Jewish history that unite us. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain how <i>Tikun Olam</i> (repair the world) unites Jewish people and how they can fulfill that mitzvah in their own way. discuss the ways in which <i>mitzvot</i> (good deeds) unite all Jewish people and how they bring us closer to G-d.
<p><u>T'fillah/Prayer Goals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shema Oseh Shalom Veshamru 	

Grade level: **Bet (4th grade)**

<p><u>Holidays, Symbols and Traditions</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> answer and ask questions about what make holidays holy. discuss the significance of Shabbat as the holy day. analyze what blessings mean and why they make holidays holy. 	<p><u>Bible Stories and Torah Study</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compare and contrast different versions of stories from the bible. explore other interpretations and meanings behind bible and Torah stories. ask and identify questions about the part of the Torah that is read this week.
<p><u>History, Israel and the Global Jewish Community</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain why Israel is The Holy Land, and express their feelings for Israel through song and prayer. identify major Torah events on a timeline. 	<p><u>Jewish Values</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> question the actions of themselves and others and use good judgment to make choices. discuss the levels of <i>Tzedakah</i> and what makes it holy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ask questions about the study of Torah and determine why it is a Jewish value.
	<p><u>T'fillah/Prayer Goals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> V'shamru Shema/V'ahavta Ma tovu

Grade level: **Gimel (5th grade)**

<p><u>Holidays, Symbols and Traditions</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compare and contrast holidays in Israel, America, and the Jewish diaspora. trace the changes of different stories and traditions over time and place. describe Jewish life cycle events from birth through death. 	<p><u>Bible Stories and Torah Study</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> find the lessons from bible stories and how scholars interpret them and apply them to contemporary life. explain other interpretations and meanings behind bible and Torah stories. identify the part of the Torah that is read this week and what it means. 
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<p><u>History, Israel and the Global Jewish Community</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> celebrate the successes of the modern state of Israel and discuss the diversity of the Israeli experience. 	<p><u>Jewish Values</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> connect the Jewish ideals of <i>Tzedakah</i> and <i>Tikun Olam</i> to actions they can perform themselves.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss the history of the Jewish community in the US. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compare and contrast specific ethical and ritual <i>mitzvot</i>.
<p><u>T'fillah/Prayer Goals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adon Olam • Lecha Dodi – 5 verses • Chatzi Kaddish • Friday Night Kiddush • Hatikvah 	

Grade level: **Daled (6th grade)**

<p><u>Holidays, Symbols and Traditions</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • connect the theme of freedom across all Jewish holidays. • describe the laws of <i>Kashrut</i> (keeping Kosher) and how they have informed Jewish life. • reflect on the value of perpetuating Jewish traditions and share the impact of these traditions on their lives. 	<p><u>Bible Stories and Torah Study</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyze stories from the bible and their connection to contemporary themes. • uncover the multiple levels of meaning in each story and its midrash connections. • identify the part of the Torah that is read this week and discuss why it matters.
<p><u>History, Israel and the Global Jewish Community</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe issues that impact Israel today and how individuals and countries play a role in supporting Israel. • describe how significant historical events shaped the Jewish diaspora. 	<p><u>Jewish Values</u></p> <p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify for whom they are responsible and how they can care for their world and their community. • cite evidence from Jewish history of how and why Jewish people continued to perform ethical and ritual <i>mitzvot</i> in the face of oppression.



T'fillah/Prayer Goals

- Haftorah Blessings – Before & After
- Torah Blessings
- Talit Blessing
- Ye'halelu
- Etz Chayim
- Shema/Echad/Gadlu
- Vay'hi Binsoa
- Ein Kamocho

INCLUSION AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Academic Support

Every child is unique, and we want to be prepared to meet the varied needs of our student population. If your child is differently abled (emotionally, academically, socially, or other) we would like to know so that we can be an informed education team. IEPs, 504s or any other information that you feel would be useful in the learning process is welcome. We will treat this information with great care and in the strictest of confidence.

Academic support is available at Ohev Shalom Hebrew School for remediation as well as enrichment. Students generally receive academic support if they have an accommodation in their secular school classroom or if Cantor Annelise Ocanto-Romo requests a BMitzvah student participates in this program. A family may also submit a request to have a child receive academic support. The Education Director, in consultation with the parties involved, will determine all final decisions for support and enrichment.

Inclusion Facilitator

Our learning community strives to be inclusive of all learners. Families of Hebrew School students are invited to meet with our **Inclusion Facilitator**, as well as the Education Director and their child's teachers to create a **Hebrew School Action Plan**, akin to IEPs and 504 programs in public school. A copy of the H.S.A.P. will be given to the family, the child's teachers, and kept in the student's files. We strive to give every student a successful learning environment.

We will work with all families to provide children with a quality Jewish education to the extent that our budget, staff resources and physical plant allow.

TICHON AT OHEV

Program at a Glance

- An interactive, experiential Hebrew /Middle High School program which is geared towards students in 7th through 10th grades.
- Classes for 7th through 9th grades meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30PM and ***includes dinner.***
- Ohev Shalom Confirmation Class for 10th grade attends a weekly session with Rabbi Perlstein and Cantor Annelise Ocanto-Romo Wednesday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30. Confirmation students are invited to join Tichon for dinner.



OUR PROGRAM

Tichon at Ohev is an exclusive program for students entering grades 7, 8, 9 and 10 (Confirmation). The High School program seeks to contribute to the formation of a positive Jewish identity within each child by imparting Jewish values, knowledge, and skills and by fostering a love of Israel and the Jewish people. Tichon, in collaboration with the Hebrew School, comprises a socially based learning community that strives to be inclusive, warm, and affirming. Our program is very age and developmentally appropriate, geared specifically for teens. The program combines an innovative and social curriculum with experiential learning. A strong focus on community, Israel, forming personal connections to strengthen Jewish identity. Weekly featured guest programs and trips experientially engage students while reinforcing learning.

The Tichon at Ohev calendars will be shared with all 7th and 8th/9th grade families prior to the first session.

7th grade – full year attendance required for Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Grade level: **Tichon (7th grade)**

<p><u>Holidays, Symbols and Traditions</u> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss the ways in which each Jewish holiday brings us closer to G-d. • articulate the importance of their <i>B'nai Mitzvot</i> to them and to Jewish tradition. • explain in detail the sacred objects and symbols on the <i>Bima</i> (pulpit). 	<p><u>Bible Stories and Torah Study</u> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write a <i>D'Var Torah</i> (interpretation) that connects the meaning of the story to what they believe. • articulate how understanding Torah stories brings one closer to G-d.
<p><u>History, Israel and the Global Jewish Community</u> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain the history of Zionism and how notable individuals-built Israel to be a place that is central to Jewish identity today. • discuss the events of the Holocaust in detail and how it has impacted Jews and the world. 	<p><u>Jewish Values</u> Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss their Mitzvah project and its impact on themselves and others. • take a stand for their beliefs by finding opportunities in their lives to model Jewish values and lead for change. 

Tichon at Ohev 8th/9th grade is designed to promote socialization and a continued connection to Judaism. Various programs, both secular and those based on Judaism are presented to the students, with rich discussions and activities following.

2022/23 HEBREW SCHOOL AND TICHON AT OHEV POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Student and Family Information

Registration is automatic each year. An enrollment confirmation email was sent to all families. If there are any demographic changes, please let us know as soon as possible. In addition, please provide information about individual learning styles as well as secular school IEPs where applicable. ***All information is held in the strictest confidence.*** If any information changes during the year, please notify the Education Director.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO FAMILIES: If you need to be in touch with your student, please call the school office 215-322-9597. Calling and texting your students during Hebrew School is a distraction and a disruption to the continuity of the class. For safety and security of early dismissals, please also call the office and refrain from texting or calling your student.

Attendance Policy

Our school cannot function without students! Please have your child here for all scheduled classes and events. Students **must attend 75% of classes during the school year**. An important note, students who miss an excessive number of class sessions may not receive a progress report as teachers may not have enough information to accurately evaluate progress.

We recognize the educational, social, and physical value of sports, dance, music and other activities in which our students participate. Our children's lives are very full and scheduling conflicts often arise. We honor family' efforts to balance their children's Hebrew School attendance with their participation in extra-curricular activities.

Because we are building a community of learners and regular school attendance is necessary for long-term growth and positive identify formation, we do ask that families make Hebrew School a top priority whenever possible. However, when conflicts arise that cannot be easily reconciled, students are welcome to attend as much of Hebrew School as possible on a particular day, even if it means coming dressed in a team uniform or practice attire.

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

Our goal throughout the pandemic has been to adapt to the changing circumstances to keep our community consistently connected and as healthy and safe as possible. One of the best mitigation strategies to keeping us all protected is to recommend vaccinations for all eligible students. Although not a requirement, Ohev Shalom of Bucks County and our Hebrew School strongly recommends that all students who are eligible are fully vaccinated, including boosters when applicable. All our staff and faculty at Ohev Shalom of Bucks County must be able to demonstrate that they are fully vaccinated. Proof of full vaccination is required of our faculty and is maintained on file in the synagogue office.

The CDC guidelines for school as well as the Ohev building guidelines will be followed for the most part. The following additional guidelines and protocols are in place for in person learning for all grades PreGan through Tichon:

- As is our practice, classroom doors will remain closed. All classrooms have functioning windows, which will be open to promote ventilation.
- Each classroom is equipped with an air purifier.
- Table spacing with kids will promote social distancing.
- Each classroom will have hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. For those classrooms with sinks, hand washing will be encouraged.
- Teachers and students will be required to sanitize their hands throughout the day.
- Classrooms, tables, furniture, etc. will be cleaned and disinfected immediately after each session by the maintenance staff.
- Classes will utilize the outdoor space as much as possible remaining socially distant.
- ***Bathroom:***
 - A member of the maintenance staff will be on site to disinfect the bathrooms during the Hebrew School Day
 - Disinfectant wipes will also be always left in the bathroom.
 - Gan/Keshet will use the bathroom in their classroom. Maintenance staff will follow the same protocol and disinfect hourly.
 - Hand washing protocols and visual guidelines will be followed.
- ***Personal Supplies:***

- Backpacks are permitted for students to transport their textbooks and personal snacks and should be placed under the chair or in their assigned cubby.
- Each student will receive individual supplies and textbooks/materials.
- We ask that all student cell phones be left at home or remain in a student's personal bag.
- PreGan and Gan/Kesher students are asked to send in an extra change of clothing in a clearly labeled ziplock bag, to be kept in their personal bag.
- ***Snacks:***
 - Students can bring their own drinks and Kosher nut free food for snacks in disposable containers. No sharing permitted.
 - Students will be required to use hand sanitizer before and after snack.
 - A student can purchase an individual snack from the PTO snack sale.
 - Classes will be encouraged to have snack outdoors.
- ***Dismissal Procedures***
 - Classes will be dismissed one class at a time using a staggered schedule starting at 11:25.
 - Families are instructed to wait for their child outside or in the grand hall remaining socially distant.
- ***Early dismissal procedures:***
 - We ask that you refrain from picking up your child early.
 - Please prearrange, hand us a note at drop off or send an email.
 - If you may need to pick your child up early at the last minute, please call 215-322-9597.
- Please call us (*not your child*) when you arrive so we can escort your child out for dismissal. Please wait under the overhang or in the grand hall.
- ***Late arrival procedures:***
 - Please call 215-322-9597 if you are running late. We will meet you at the Grand Hall door so we can follow the same protocols as outlined above for drop off.
- ***If a student is sick and/or not attending, the following protocols must be followed:***

- When possible, the family should email the teacher or call 215-322-9597 if a student will not be attending.
- Families must inform us if a child has diagnosed with Covid 19.
- We follow the CDC guidelines for isolation – 5 days isolation and the student may return on day 6 if the symptoms resolve but must wear a mask through day 10.
- *If we learn that a family or staff member has contracted Covid 19:*
 - We will send notification to anyone who came in close contact with that child or staff member.
 - Those who came in close contact may be asked to mask.
- *If a child becomes ill during Hebrew School:*
 - The Education Coordinator and/or Executive Director will immediately be informed and isolate the child and call the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian does not answer, we will call the emergency contact. Immediate pick up must be arranged.
 - The child's temperature will be taken and noted.
 - Enhanced cleaning will take place.
 - To return to Hebrew School please follow the CDC guidelines.

We must be informed of any allergies and pertinent health information – including learning, emotional or psychological differences -- so that we can best accommodate your child's needs.

Kashrut/Food in School/Snack Time

All food brought into Ohev Shalom must be **Kosher Dairy or Parve**. This means it must be in a sealed package marked with a registered trademark Kosher insignia or in its natural state (e.g., apples, oranges, etc.).

Ohev Shalom is a NUT FREE SCHOOL. Some classrooms may have other special restrictions to accommodate students' allergies or other dietary needs. All families will be advised of these restrictions when asked to contribute food items to the class. If a particular item is not in accordance with a class's restrictions, it will be sent home with whomever brought it in and not served to the students. Your cooperation is important and greatly appreciated in this regard.

Books and Materials for Class

Textbooks and supplies will be distributed at the beginning of the year. The cost of these books is included in the school tuition. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to bring these books to class each session.

Service Attendance

Our Hebrew School utilizes a prayer-based curriculum, and attendance at Shabbat, holiday and weekday services helps to enhance and reinforce what is taught in class. Service attendance is an integral part of our academic program.

High Holiday Services

Students who attend their respective grades' Youth Congregation services at any time during Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur may receive service credits for those services or activities.

Student Assessments

Once a year usually in February, the Hebrew school emails assessments for all students in PreGan (Prekindergarten) through Daled (Sixth Grade). Assessments feature a description of the curriculum covered as well as a brief narrative regarding your child's progress. Families are encouraged to discuss their child's progress at any time during the year with their child's teacher or the Education Director.

At any time during the school year, in-person, zoom or telephone conferences may be requested either by a family or by a teacher and will be scheduled on an individual basis as needed.

Service Attendance

Service attendance is intended to ensure that by the time they become BMitzvah our students will have become intimately familiar with the Friday night and Shabbat morning services in which they will participate. The requirements further serve to deepen our students' sense of community and their connection with worship in our congregation and with the joy of our family-friendly Friday night services. For now, families may send an email or note to the teachers that their child has attended services. PreGan (PreK) through Daled (6th grade), Service Award Students are required to attend a minimum of 5 Shabbat (either Friday night or Shabbat morning) services at Ohev Shalom the first half of the year and 10 total services for the entire year.

Special Recognition

Because students in the Ohev Shalom Hebrew School may excel in many ways, our community seeks to honor all students. At our end of year assembly, we will present certificates to students who demonstrate the following: outstanding attendance at school and/or exemplary attendance at services.

COMMUNICATION

The Family-School Connection

We actively encourage families to become involved in their child's Hebrew education. Teachers of students in grades 3 through 6 will send email communications at least, while our younger classes communicate weekly or bi-monthly. Be sure to check your inbox.

"Chai Lites" Weekly E-newsletter

To help families, stay engaged with their child(ren)'s Jewish education, each week the school sends an email newsletter on the previous week's activities, thanks volunteers, provides important information including **IMPORTANT DATES**, and announces upcoming events.

- PLEASE BE SURE TO OPEN ALL EMAIL THAT COMES FROM THE HEBREW SCHOOL AND OHEV SHALOM SO THAT YOU DON'T MISS IMPORTANT INFORMATION.
- DO NOT UNSUBSCRIBE TO ANY SYNAGOGUE EMAILS, AS IT AUTOMATICALLY UNSUBSCRIBES YOU FROM ALL COMMUNICATION FROM THE HEBREW SCHOOL.
- WE ARE COMMITTED TO REDUCING OUR USE OF PAPER, MAKING EMAIL AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH YOU.

Family-Teacher-Organization (P.T.O)

The P.T.O is the fundraising and family-education arm of our Hebrew School. Rachel Betesh is the P.T.O. chairperson. Once your children are registered you are automatically members of the P.T.O. Through the efforts of this group, greatly needed funds are raised to purchase special equipment and to enhance school programming, such as providing additional supplies for workshops and special snacks for the students. We urge you to help when you are called upon and to support the P.T.O.'s programs. Therefore, please watch out for P.T.O. information and help when you can!

DERECH ERETZ

Derech Eretz literally means “the way of the world” and connotes the proper way to behave as individuals and as Jews. This includes good manners, respect for people, and norms of good behavior.

At Ohev Shalom we expect our students to behave with a strong sense of Derech Eretz:

- ✧ Treating one another with *KAVOD* (respect) and kindness.
- ✧ Treating our teachers and staff with respect.
- ✧ Respecting sacred texts that we will be studying.
- ✧ Maintaining the property and physical space in as good or better condition than when it was entered; and
- ✧ Being prepared for class out of respect for the learning environment in which we immerse ourselves.

Our School is a Jewish school that upholds Jewish values. The school must be a place where students, teachers and families feel safe and supported. We expect that students, teachers and families will always honor each other and act with dignity and respect.

BULLYING IN ALL ITS FORMS – PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, VERBAL, EMOTIONAL -- IS UNACCEPTABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND WILL BE TREATED WITH UTMOST SERIOUSNESS. CONSEQUENCES RANGE FROM A CONVERSATION WITH THE OFFENDING CHILD UP TO EXPULSION.

Teachers and students will work at the beginning of the year to create a *Kavod Code*, a classroom code of conduct that will serve as the guiding principles for conduct in the classroom. A student who is unable to abide by their classroom rules will be asked to meet with the teacher and discuss solutions for any problems or issues that might arise. If the situation continues, the Education Director will meet with the student and family.

The Hebrew School is eager to involve families in all stages of the disciplinary process and to understand any special educational needs or developmental challenges that children have. We hope that families will join us as partners in their child’s education!

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