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CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL

KEY WEST

**PARENT – STUDENT – SCHOOL
HANDBOOK**

2015-2016

CHABAD OF KEY WEST

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Welcome

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 Torah discussion, of joyous singing, happy laughter and meaningful prayer. Imagine a child who feels the warmth and spirit of Judaism. And then imagine your pride as a parent.

Welcome to Chabad Hebrew School, an exciting and innovative Hebrew School program in Key West, Florida. At Chabad, families of all backgrounds, affiliations, and levels of observances feel comfortable and welcomed. Now in its Twentieth year, our school enjoys a well-earned reputation as a trendsetter in Jewish education, and is proud of its achievements in this field. We think that our program is the best Jewish experience your child can have in a Sunday & Hebrew School setting.

This booklet is designed to encourage your input and participation in our program by sharing with you our goals, policies, and procedures, and the steps we plan to take to meet them. So much of what we do depends on you. Please view it as an ongoing invitation to pursue actively the goals we share, at home and within your home.

We encourage you as a parent to get involved, ask questions and keep in touch with our school.

We look forward to a wonderful year together!

Chanie Zucker, Director
Chabad Hebrew School

Fact Sheet

Ages: 4-13

Time: Wednesdays, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Hebrew School, Ages 4-13

Start Date: September 9, 2015

Yearly Tuition: A. \$550 – Complete Year of Hebrew School.
Includes Registration, and Book Fee

Snack: There will be a 10 min. break during school which the children will get snack.

Location: Chabad Jewish Center, 906 Trinity Drive – Key West

Note:

We welcome students from all Jewish families regardless of level of religious practice or observance. Synagogue membership or affiliation is not required.

Confidential Information & General Concerns

It is of great importance for your child's teachers and director to have any information which can provide for the optimum learning situation for your child. Information of a physical, social and psychological nature can aid a teacher in planning instruction for each child. Without this knowledge, teachers are handicapped and 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 teacher.

Parent/School Communication

Communication between parents and school is very important to ensure that Hebrew School be a meaningful and pleasant experience for your child. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's class, we expect that you will contact your child's teacher.

Please note that some of our school notices will be sent home with your child. Please check his/her school bag for these notices, and call us if you have any concerns regarding your child's performance and/or progress.

Homework

Students are encouraged to practice what they have learned in school, at home, in order to review, and to include their parents in their Jewish education.

Parents are to check the student's folder on a regular basis. Teachers will request the homework be signed by a parent after each assignment is completed. Homework will only consist of review, reinforcement or completion of classroom assignments, when given. Exceptions will be with assigned projects. Your positive reinforcement will be of great assistance in making the homework experience a positive one.

Extracurricular Activities

Chabad Hebrew School is about more than the basic classroom experience. In addition to our classroom curriculum, Chabad Hebrew school hosts a number of programs for students, their parents, and the community. These events will allow our students to enjoy the wide spectrum of Jewish experiences.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents have the responsibility to:

1. Bring and pick up the children on time.
2. Contact the teacher regarding a classroom concern.
3. Be supportive and positive of Hebrew School programming.
4. Take an active part in your child's Jewish Education.
5. Attend parent meetings and conferences.
6. Make sure children come to school prepared.
7. Regularly check children's school bags for important notices, missing supplies and neatness.

Hebrew School Responsibilities

You should expect the School to fulfill the following:

1. Provide a positive and warm environment for your child.
2. Meet the curriculum goals and map for his/her age.
3. Keep you informed of your child's progress and class activities.
4. Provide your child with a knowledgeable and caring teacher who is dedicated and committed to your child's Jewish Education.
5. Provide your family with opportunities to learn, experience, & enjoy our Jewish Heritage.

Behavioral Expectations

At Chabad Hebrew School we strive to create an atmosphere that reflects Jewish values. We take pride in a student body who 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:

1. Every student to treat fellow students and staff members with courtesy.
2. Classroom directions are 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 Synagogue.
5. 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 not nice language.
9. Students to come to school prepared with folders, books, pen, notebook and homework.

10. Students to act responsibly and with caution. i.e. No running/jumping in the center or Synagogue, exercising care in the parking lot.

Supplies

All textbooks and workbooks will be supplied by the school at the beginning of the school year. All books are to be treated with care and respect. Textbooks are to be returned at the end of the school year in good condition. Students may keep their completed workbooks.

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 by donating a few pennies a day to charity. Please try to provide young children with a coin for Tzedakah each day, so that they may perform this Mitzvah. Older children should give Tzedakah from their allowance money.

Mitzvah Note

For the younger children 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

A Kosher snack is provided. We request that you do not send any additional snacks or drinks due to Kashrut and health reasons. If your child is allergic to any food or beverages, please be sure that it is written on his/her registration form.

School Calendar

A school year calendar listing dates on which there will be no Hebrew School classes has been inserted into this booklet. Please remove it and place it somewhere you can easily refer to it during the year.

Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial in 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.

Student Absence

Students are responsible for the material covered in class which can be obtained from a friend or the teacher.

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.

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 i.e. 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.

Parents Absence / School Records

If, for any reason, parents will be away from home for any length of time, please let the school know. This is especially important if the absence is due to special conditions, such as hospitalization, which may be upsetting to the child. When teachers are aware of such conditions, they often can be of great help in alleviating the child's distress.

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 Goals: Our Vision ~ Our Promise...For Every Student

- To Provide a genuine and meaningful understanding of what Judaism is all about.
- To Deepen Jewish knowledge by providing the hands-on experience.
- To Attain a strong sense of *Love* and *Pride* in being Jewish.
- To Explore the Torah (Bible), the history of the Jewish people, and discover its relevance to today's day and age.
- To Develop a relationship with G-d that is always present.
- To Realize the importance of unity among all Jews.
- To Experience the value of each Mitzvah, and its effect on their personal lives and on the world around them.
- To Study the morals, values and ethical behavior as taught in the Torah.
- To Master the skills of Hebrew reading and writing.
- To Increase their level of comfort and proficiency in a synagogue and services.
- To Nurture an unconditional love for and connection to the land of Israel and its People.
- To Strengthen their determination to live as committed Jews.

➤ To Foster a passion for lifelong Jewish Learning and Living.