

LEARN IT! LIVE IT! LOVE IT!



**CHABAD OF MID HUDSON VALLEY**  
**5772-5773 / 2012-2013**  
**PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK**



A Division of Chabad of Mid Hudson Valley  
845-462-8470~[chabadmidhudsonvly@prodigy.net](mailto:chabadmidhudsonvly@prodigy.net)  
[www.ChabadMidHudsonValley.com](http://www.ChabadMidHudsonValley.com)

**LEARN IT! LIVE IT! LOVE IT!**

Educate your child, Educate a generation!



Dear Parents,

## Welcome to Chabad Hebrew School!

This booklet is designed to help maximize your child's Hebrew School experience. We are pleased that you have chosen our school for your child's education. Welcome back to all of the students who attended last year – we missed you over the summer! We are thrilled that our school has expanded with so many new students. We are committed to providing your child with a Hebrew School experience that will be enjoyable, inspiring, and provide warm memories for a lifetime. Our innovative methods are geared to foster creativity and support your child's personal style of learning. The year ahead promises to be full of exciting learning; highlighted with arts and crafts, drama, stories, games, and special extra-curricular activities.

### Hebrew School Hours



The Hebrew classes meet on Sunday from 10:00am-12:15pm. Please refer to our Hebrew School Calendar for dates of classes, and

additional programs and events.

We will be adding additional events throughout the year and will notify you accordingly.

We urge you to arrange for your children to be prompt and arrive on time. We ask that conversations with teachers be reserved for before or after school hours, except in case of emergency.



### Attendance & Punctuality

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.



**NEW\*\*** In order to encourage excellent attendance, we will be rewarding all the children who maintain a good attendance record with a trip

once a semester! The dates are noted on your calendar.

MISS  
YOU!

### Absence

It is important that you contact us if your child will be absent or late. You may do so either by calling 845-463-5801 or emailing [chabadmidhudsonvly@prodigy.net](mailto:chabadmidhudsonvly@prodigy.net). In case of a student's absence for any length of time due to illness or vacation, arrangements should be made for obtaining the material covered in class as well as assigned homework.

### Parent/School Communication



Communication between parents and teaching staff is very important to ensure that your child's Hebrew School experience continues to be a pleasant and positive one. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's class or progress, we encourage you to contact your child's teacher.





LEARN IT! LIVE IT! LOVE IT!



### Hebrew School Email List & Updates

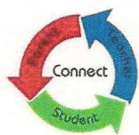
**NEW\*\*** To enhance our parent/school communication, notices regarding Hebrew School updates, cancellations, reminders and events etc. will be via e-mail as well as bi-weekly newsletters. Please make sure that we have your email address on file. Also, kindly make sure that our emails do not go to your spam folder. (For those who do not have email or wish to use email, please let us know your preferred method of communication.)

Updates will be posted online and communicated by email. Please check our website periodically. Also, enjoy viewing your children in Hebrew School on our newsletter photo gallery.



### Behavioral In School

At Chabad Hebrew School we strive to create an atmosphere that reflects our traditional Jewish values. Our students understand that respect for teachers, respect for each other and each other's property is essential for a successful learning environment. We expect all rules for student behavior to be complied with in class as well as during school events.



### Parent Involvement

We believe that parents should take an active part in their child's Jewish education. Volunteering to help organize extra-curricular activities, encouraging your child to complete homework and bringing your child to Chabad's enriching holiday events will enhance your child's Jewish education. If you have a special talent you would like to share with your child's class, please notify the teacher or director.

**NEW\*\*** We will be scheduling several interactive events during the year. They are noted on the calendar. Please make a note of them on your personal calendars.

### Extra Curricular Activities

Several times a year Chabad Hebrew School will enjoy special extracurricular events. While these events are meant to be fun, they are part of the curriculum and are designed to enhance the classroom learning. Parental involvement is important for the success of these programs.

**New\*\*** Hebrew School Family Holiday Events- Interactive family holiday activities prior to several of the Jewish holidays are geared to educating Hebrew School Families in a hands on and creative manner.

These events are marked on your calendar.



### Staff

Chabad Hebrew School is directed by Mrs. Hindy Borenstein & Mrs. Rivka Serebryanski who have many years of experience in childhood education. Hindy and Rivka will be conducting special activities for the students throughout the year and will be available to answer questions or discuss issues pertaining to your child. The teachers are handpicked for their warmth and dedication to provide your child with a creative and exciting Jewish experience.



### Tzedakah

Tzedakah (charity) is a concept that is basic to Judaism. Our school attempts to develop a commitment among our students to share with others less fortunate than they are by donating a few pennies a day to charity. Parents are asked to provide children with a coin for Tzedakah each Sunday.



### Snacks

A snack and drink is provided for your child during Hebrew School hours. If your child is allergic to any food or beverages, please be sure to indicate it on his/her medical form.

Educate your child, Educate a generation!





### Homework (AKA Funwork)

Our teachers will be sending home light and fun homework assignments. Students are expected to complete all homework assignments accurately and promptly and have a parent sign their homework, which is to be brought in the following session. Students should practice reading on a regular basis from texts or other material used in class. It is of utmost importance that you encourage your child to complete his/her homework assignments. Your positive reinforcement is of great assistance in making the Hebrew School experience work for your child. Please send in a folder that will be used to keep all homework assignments.



### Curriculum

We put a lot of effort into providing our students with substantive lessons and a positive atmosphere. The lessons are multi-sensory and hands-on, ensuring that the students truly experience what they are being taught and that the information truly becomes the student's own. Each lesson is structured with discussion-starters to create a lively, interactive classroom experience.



### Special Events

**NEW\*\*** Chabad Hebrew School will be having a few special events throughout the year, for which we will bring in talented people to do hands-on, creative, delightful and fun activities with your child, such as: Some but not all: Judaic Art, a Sofer (Scribe) demonstration, cake decorating, and more.



### Bringing a Friend

Students who wish to bring a guest/friend to school can do so gladly, provided that you give the school advance notice and that the guest understands that he/she must respect the school's system and regulations. Chabad offers significant referral discounts for encouraging a new student to register.

### Contacting Hebrew School

Should you need to contact the school during Hebrew School hours please call 845-462-4870. Otherwise, you can reach Hindy on her cell at 917-468-6131 or Rivka at 845-224-5530.



The following is a typical Sunday morning schedule:

|             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 10:00-10:20 | Tefillah-Prayer                 |
| 10:20-11:05 | Hebrew Reading/Writing/Language |
| 11:05-11:20 | Snack & Recess                  |
| 11:20-12:15 | Curriculum/Holidays             |

### Hebrew Reading

Our Hebrew Reading curriculum, "Aleph Champ," is the latest educational breakthrough! Based on the martial arts motivational philosophy of color-coded levels and testing, it provides excitement and inspiration, leading the students into a winning cycle of learning. For each color level completed, students receive a special medallion, an Aleph Champ collector's item. Our interactive Aleph Champ stations of reading, writing and games make learning Hebrew fun. Textbooks will remain in Hebrew School and each student will be receiving a homework booklet which they will complete at home.



### Snow Cancellations

For information on snow cancellations, an email will be sent out, as well as a notice will be posted on Chabad's





website (no later than) two hours before the starting time of Hebrew School. Please contact us at 463-5801 if you need to receive a personal phone call. Please note: We do **not** follow the public school cancellation schedule.



#### **Torah Tokens**

This year, students of all ages will earn "Torah Tokens" for completing homework, excellent class participation and attentive listening. Monthly, they will shop at Chabad Hebrew School's exclusive Torah Token Store. The oldest students will have special opportunities to use their tokens earned towards trips and pizza parties as well as really great prizes.

#### **Birthday Bash**

If your child is celebrating his/her birthday please notify us and we will have a special birthday bash! You may sponsor a special treat that we will purchase.



#### **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparations & Celebrations**

Chabad will prepare your child and your family for a most meaningful and enjoyable Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience!

We provide tutoring and personalized preparation.

Chabad offers various Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebration options to choose from.

To inquire and to book dates, please contact us.



### **HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED**

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

- Many of our students are involved in other extracurricular activities, i.e. sports, music lessons, etc. While all of these are important, let your child know that his/her Jewish education takes priority.
- Participation in Synagogue services and celebration of Jewish Holidays will greatly enhance your child's interest in Judaism and strengthen his/her Jewish identity. We invite all Hebrew School families to join us at Chabad for Shabbat and holiday services and programs. You belong--no membership needed!
- Show your child that you are interested in his/her Jewish education. Make 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 Jewish identity and positive attitude.
- Parents should go through their child/ren's book bag on a regular basis to find important notices.
- Always remember that informal Jewish education is one of the best motivators for creating a positive Jewish identity!

Please log onto **[www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com](http://www.chabadmidhudsonvalley.com)** for continual photo updates of Hebrew School. You may contact Hindy Borenstein at 463-5801 or [chabadmidhudsonvly@prodigy.net](mailto:chabadmidhudsonvly@prodigy.net) with any questions or special concerns. Wishing you all a wonderful school year!

**Hindy Borenstein, Director**

**Rivka Serebryanski, Assistant Director**





## **CHABAD HEBREW SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS**

**Please partner with us to enhance your child's Jewish education.  
Please check off the area of volunteer work in which you would like to  
be involved:**

- ☐ 1) Aleph Champ Hebrew Reading Volunteer:  
Sunday mornings: 10:30-11:00

Volunteer Options:

- ☐ I would like to test students in Hebrew reading.  
☐ I would like to work one on one with a child who needs personal coaching.
- ☐ 2) Planning Extra Curricular Events  
Hebrew School Holiday Parties, Interactive Parent-Child Events, Graduation,  
etc...
- ☐ 3) Special talents: Art, Music, Cooking, etc.  
I would like to share my talents with the students at Chabad Hebrew School.  
I can offer the following talents: \_\_\_\_\_