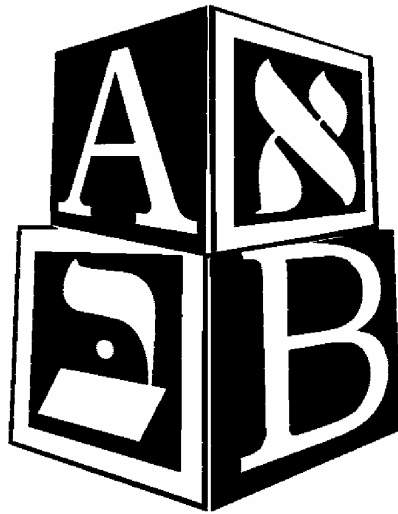


# WILMETTE COMMUNITY HEBREW SCHOOL

Handbook  
**2006 – 2007**



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2904 Old Glenview Rd. • Wilmette, IL 60094

Tel: 847.251.7707 • Fax: 847.251.5495  
Email: [hebrewschool@chaicenter.com](mailto:hebrewschool@chaicenter.com)  
Web Site: [www.chaicenter.com](http://www.chaicenter.com)

## **Introduction**

This booklet 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.

Our Hebrew School is part of Chabad of Wilmette and thus utilizes some of the very positive points of the Chabad ideology in educating your child. A fresh and positive approach and lots of enthusiasm is the hallmark of Chabad and will be prevalent in our school.

The goal of the Wilmette Community Hebrew School is to deepen Jewish experience and knowledge so as to strengthen our children's understanding of G-d's works and wonders, their identification with the Jewish People, their involvement in the synagogue, their participation in Jewish life and their determination to live as Jews.

Our Hebrew School is dedicated to providing a Jewish education, which will enable our children to secure the knowledge and understanding to permit them to be Jews who are proud of their Jewish identity.

So much of what we do depends on you. Please view this booklet as an ongoing invitation to pursue actively the goals we share, at home and within your congregational setting.

**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.

**Confidential Information**

It is of great importance for the teacher to have any information, which can provide for the optimum learning situation. 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 insure that Hebrew School be a meaningful and pleasant experience for your child. 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.

**General Concerns**

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's class, we expect that you will contact your child's teacher.

**Behavioral Expectations**

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

**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.

**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 less fortunate than themselves by donating a few pennies a day to charity. Parents are asked to provide young children with a coin for Tzedakah. 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.

**Homework**

Students are encouraged to practice their reading at home. Parents should listen to their child's songs, stories and Hebrew reading, as this will reinforce your involvement in your child's Jewish education.

**Field Trips**

The Hebrew School program includes several exciting and educational field trips. For school trips, transportation arrangements will be made. We may ask parents to help carpool and accompany us on these trips.

**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. 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 e.g. 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.

**Parent Absence**

If, for any reason, parents will be away from home for any length of time, please advise the school. 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.

**School Records**

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.

## How to help your Child

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

1. A growing child needs plenty of rest. Teachers report that often a sluggish, indifferent child in the classroom on Sunday will have been up late the night before. Please set a reasonable bedtime for Saturday night and be consistent.
2. Please provide your child with breakfast and/or a light snack before Hebrew School begins.
3. Many of our students are involved in other extra curricular activities, i.e. sports, music lessons etc. All these are important, however, please place priority on your child's Jewish education.
4. There is a direct correlation between a student's attendance and their achievement, interest and attitude. Every time your child is absent, there is a loss of continuity to the program. Please keep your child in school regularly.
5. Please help your child be on time for Hebrew School. It is unfair to your child and classmates to be late.
6. Participation in Synagogue service and celebration of Jewish Holidays will greatly enhance your child's interest in Judaism and strengthen the Jewish identity.
7. Attend our monthly Hebrew School for Parents. The benefits are tremendous:
  - a. It gives you an opportunity to learn and become more familiar with what your children are learning.
  - b. Join your children in a fun hands-on learning activity.
  - c. You send a very powerful message to your children; Hebrew School is not just for kids, it's important enough that grown-ups also continue their Jewish education.
8. Show your child/ren that you are interested in his/her Jewish education by making a habit of asking your children how their day was, what they have learnt, have they any homework. This will greatly encourage and help foster a strong and positive attitude.
9. Parents should certainly go through their child/ren's folder on a regular basis to:
  - Find important notices
  - Check if supplies are low or missing, i.e.: pens, pencils, Tzedakah, etc.
  - Ensure that they keep it neat and tidy.