



Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to another wonderful year at Chabad Hebrew School. We are anticipating a year full of enjoyable learning and engaging activities.

We are thrilled to be in our own facility this year, the newly renovated Chabad Center of Sudbury. Our new location, will provide a beautiful outdoor area, a fully functional kitchen, and ample space for classes and extracurricular programming.

This handbook is designed to encourage your participation in our program by sharing our goals with you, and the steps we plan to take to meet them.

A fresh, positive approach and lots of enthusiasm is the hallmark of Chabad and will be prevalent in our school.

The goal of Sudbury Chabad Hebrew School is to provide the students with a foundational Jewish education, many positive Hebrew School experiences and memories that will inspire them for a lifetime. The Hebrew School atmosphere encourages Jewish pride, a feeling for caring and sharing with one another, a love of the Land of Israel, and a genuine understanding of the spirit of Judaism.

Please view this booklet as an ongoing invitation to actively pursue the goals we share, at home and within your environment.

We are so excited for a great 2017-18 year at Hebrew School!

Sincerely,

Shayna Freeman  
Chabad Hebrew School Director

**Chabad Hebrew School of Sudbury Contact Info**

**Website:** [chabadsudbury.com](http://chabadsudbury.com) **Email:** [shayna@chabadsudbury.com](mailto:shayna@chabadsudbury.com) **Phone:** 978-443-0110



## New Changes this Year

- **Location**: Chabad Hebrew School of Sudbury will finally have its own home – at the newly renovated Chabad Center of Sudbury at 100 Horse Pond Road, Sudbury, MA 01776
- **Updates**: Detailed updates notifying you of upcoming events, important information, and what your child has covered in class that week. These notices will be sent home with your child and emailed weekly. We strongly encourage you to read them.
- **Cubbies**: Every student will receive a cubby drawer to store their schoolwork materials and personal belongings inside.
- **Sign In**: Every parent is required to come inside to sign in/ sign out their son/ daughter for safety reasons.
- **Merchandise**: We will be selling different types of Chabad Hebrew School merchandise at various times through the year, to help fundraise for supplies and Hebrew School related activities. Keep a look out for the front table in the entrance for more information.
- **Extra Classes**: We are now offering optional extra classes for students to help them improve their Aleph Bet knowledge, Hebrew language, learn more about Jewish history, and participate in extra activities that are not included in the normal Hebrew School Curriculum. Email [shayna@chabadsudbury.com](mailto:shayna@chabadsudbury.com) for more information.

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## **School Program & Curriculum**

We are enthusiastic about the beautiful lessons and values that Judaism provides, and we hope to transmit that excitement to the children through the excellent Hebrew School program at Chabad. We have prepared an outstanding curriculum that will give your child a solid foundation in the fundamentals of Judaism, and will instill in your child the faith, beauty and values of our heritage. All lessons will be taught in a manner that will give the children a great appreciation of our rich Jewish heritage. Role-playing, arts & crafts, and songs will be incorporated to help make the lessons enjoyable. We are planning special programs which will take place at different times throughout the year, such as Shabbat experiences, Chanukah Party, Purim Fun, Passover Matzah Baking, Model Seder, and more. We believe that the joy and pride in Judaism that will be experienced at the Chabad Hebrew School will make an indelible impression upon the children.

### **Hebrew Language**

Your child will learn to recognize and identify all of the Hebrew letters and vowels. As he/she progresses, they will climb the ladder of Hebrew reading at their own pace, using the Aleph Champ reading program (please see attached for more information about the Aleph Champ program). Additionally, they will begin to learn how to write some of the letters. Conversational Hebrew is a basic part of our program - Children will gain a baseline of the Hebrew language and they will learn Hebrew words related to current themes.

### **Mitzvot**

Children will be taught the meaning of Mitzvot - Torah commandments - and will be encouraged to enjoy the experience of doing mitzvot (good deeds). Some mitzvot emphasized are Charity, loving one another, kindness to living creatures, hospitality, honoring parents, and mezuzah.

### **Jewish Holidays**

Children will learn to appreciate the special quality and holiness of Shabbat and Holidays. They will become familiar with the historical background, customs, and observances of each festival throughout the year.

### **Prayers**

Children will become familiar with basic prayers and blessings, as well as the reasons and meanings behind them.

### **Jewish History and Tradition**

Over the year the children will learn about many of the important events and lessons which have helped shape Jewish History. Each year we incorporate a central theme into our weekly lessons.

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## The Aleph Champ Reading Program

The Aleph Champion Program is a program based on the karate motivational system of colors and levels. The entire reading system was divided into levels of different colors. This arrangement ensures that students learn to read Hebrew at their own pace in an efficient, well-organized method.

Children begin with the white level, practicing the first half of the aleph-bet and move through the ten levels, ending with reading fluently. Children will receive an Aleph Champ home kit so they can practice their level at home, and move ahead. Home kit items are to be returned to the school as the child moves ahead and are replaced with the next level items. Children will be tested throughout the year and can move up a level at any time. Awards are given throughout the year as well.

### How does it work?

**Step 1:** Students are tested for their level using the aleph champ quiz book.

**Step 2:** Once placed in a level, the children receive a colored aleph champ reading primer depending on which color they passed.

**Step 3:** When a student progresses to the point of advancing a level, a testing date is set. The child is tested and receives an Aleph Champ Medallion as well as a new color book.

**Step 4:** Teachers are designated for the different color reading groups. Aleph Champ Centers are set up for reading, writing, games and flashcard review. The centers help to break up the teaching time and when short-staffed, even act as substitute teachers.

**Step 5:** Students are motivated and excited. The Aleph Champion Program is a success.

### Aleph Champ Levels

1. **White Aleph Champion** – Master the first 18 letters of the Aleph Bet.
2. **Red Aleph Champion** – Master all 32 letters of the Aleph Bet.
3. **Orange Aleph Champion** – Master the first 3 vowels with letter combinations.
4. **Yellow Aleph Champion** – Master the first 6 vowels with letter combinations.
5. **Green Aleph Champion** – Master the first 9 vowels with letter combinations.
6. **Blue Aleph Champion** – Master all the vowels and exceptions to the rules.
7. **Purple Aleph Champion** – Master reading familiar Prayers and Brachot.
8. **Brown Aleph Champion** – Master reading important Tefillot.
9. **Grey Aleph Champion** – Master reading from the Siddur in a timed fashion.
10. **Black Aleph Champion** – Master reading over 100 words in a minute

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## **Important Notes & Information**

### **Personal Belongings**

Students are not permitted to bring cell phones, iPods, or any other electronic devices because they are a distraction to the student and to their class. If a student does bring an electronic, he or she will be asked to put it away. Students are discouraged from bringing toys, knickknacks and collectibles from home because they may get damaged or misplaced during Hebrew School and they can be a distraction to the student or to the classroom atmosphere. There will be opportunities for Show and tell when students will be encouraged to show and share their special personal belongings from home. For example, we may ask students to bring a Menorah from home in anticipation of the holiday of Chanukah.

### **Snacks**

Kosher and nutritious snacks are provided; we request that you do not send any additional snacks or drinks. If your child is allergic to any food or beverages, please be sure that it is written on his/ her registration form.

### **Workbooks/ Reading Books**

All supplies, workbooks and other materials, will be provided by the school.

### **Tzedakah**

Tzedaka (charity) is a basic value in Judaism. We attempt to develop commitment among our students to share with others less fortunate than ourselves by donating a few coins a day to charity. Please try to send some coins to school each Hebrew School day, to encourage your child to perform this Mitzvah.

### **Attendance/ Dismissal**

Students are dropped off and picked up at the Chabad Center of Sudbury Entrance. Parents are required to come inside to sign in and sign out when you are dropping off/ picking up your child. Regular Attendance is crucial in order to accomplish the goals of our program. There is direct correlation between attendance and achievement. We recognize that there will times when students are unable to attend, but your support of consistent attendance is greatly appreciated. In the event that your child will be absent or picked up early, please notify us via email or phone.

### **Communication**

Our primary mode of communication is via email. We send out a weekly email with academic reports and program summaries of the previous week. The email will also have important notices and reminders. Please make sure to read the weekly emails and make note of important dates and times.

### **Volunteering Opportunities**

If you are interested in volunteering at a Hebrew School Event or joining the parent fundraising team please email Chloe Meyer at [meyerc58@gmail.com](mailto:meyerc58@gmail.com).

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## Payment and Registration

All payment and registration information and forms are on our website. The registration process is conducted online only.

The Tuition rate for 2017/18 is \$850 + \$25 Registration & Book Fee. The tuition may be paid at the beginning of the school year or it can be divided into 3 installments.

## Sample Schedule of a typical day at Hebrew School

9:30	Prayers / Class Time
10:45	Recess/ Snack
11:00	School Assembly
11:15	Aleph Champ
12:00	Dismissal

## Behavioral Expectations

We strive to create a respectful and calm learning atmosphere. Our students understand that respect for teachers, respect for each other, and each other's property is essential for a successful learning environment. Students are expected to be courteous to fellow students and staff members and to follow classroom directions promptly. Please share with us any information that would help us help your child. Please provide information about any conditions that may affect your child's ability to learn in a classroom setting in his/her registration form. Prior knowledge of any physical, social or psychological challenges can aid a teacher in planning instruction for each child. All such information will be kept confidential. Should a student's behavior be deemed inappropriate, it will be brought to the attention of the director. If the problem persists, communication with the parent will be initiated.

## First Aid

In case of a minor injury during Hebrew School hours, the teacher will attend to minor injuries using the onsite first aid kit. 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.

## School Closings

In case of snow or other unexpected cancellations or schedule changes, expect an email no later than 1.5 hours before the starting time of Hebrew School.

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## 2017/ 18 School Calendar

Below is the Hebrew School calendar dates for the 2017/18 school year. Please make a note of all the dates below in your calendar ahead of time to avoid any schedule conflicts.

9-17	Rosh Hashanah Lesson / Orientation
9-24	Yom Kippur Lesson
10-1	Sukkot Lesson
10-8	Simchat Torah Lesson and Sukkot Party
10-15	Regular Hebrew school
10-22	Regular Hebrew school
10-29	Regular Hebrew school
11-5	Regular Hebrew school
11-12	Regular Hebrew school
11-19	Regular Hebrew school
11-26	No Hebrew school
12-3	Chanukah Lesson
12-10	Chanukah Lesson & Chanukah party
12-17	Regular Hebrew school
12-24	No Hebrew school
12-31	No Hebrew school
1-7	Regular Hebrew school
1-14	Regular Hebrew school

1-21	Regular Hebrew school
1-28	Regular Hebrew school
2-4	Regular Hebrew school
2-11	Regular Hebrew school
2-18	No Hebrew school
2-25	Regular Hebrew school
3-4	Regular Hebrew school
3-11	Passover Lesson
3-18	Model Matzah Bakery
3-25	Model Passover Seder
4-1	No Hebrew School
4-8	Regular Hebrew school
4-15	No Hebrew school
4-22	Regular Hebrew school
4-29	Regular Hebrew school
5-6	Regular Hebrew school
5-13	Regular Hebrew school
5-20	No Hebrew School
5-27	No Hebrew School
6-3	Regular Hebrew School
6-10	Hebrew School Graduation

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## How to Help Your Child Succeed

In order for our Hebrew School program to be most effective, it is best if the home and school work hand in hand and foster a partnership. The following are a few suggestions although we understand that not always do circumstances allow for this to be 100% as planned.

- Set a reasonable bed time on Saturday nights so that your child wakes up feeling well rested for Hebrew School
- Ensure that your child had a nutritious and full breakfast before Hebrew School.
- Many of our students are involved in other extra-curricular activities (e.g. sports, music, etc.). All these are important, however please make your child's Jewish education is at the top of the list.
- For a child to fully enjoy and appreciate what they gain out of Hebrew School, consistent attendance is one of the most helpful factors. Please try your best to maintain consistent Hebrew School attendance.
- Timely arrival for students helps for a good transition for learning in Hebrew School.
- Participation in the programming beyond school helps the child see the context of his Judaism. Please join in as many programs as you can! For example, a Purim celebration, the large Menorah lighting in the Sudbury town center, or the Passover Seder or Community Shabbat Dinners. If you would like ideas for what you can incorporate into your own family life and would like to discuss it, we would be happy to help.
- Ask your child about their day. Rather than yes-or-no questions, try to ask open-ended questions. Review the weekly newsletter and pictures so you can be familiar with what your child is learning.
- Remember that informal Jewish education is one of the best motivators for creating a positive Jewish identity!

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