



# HEBREW SCHOOL HANDBOOK 2017-2018



*Prepared By  
Rabbi Michael Klayman*



### ***Bruchim Haba'im – Welcome to another year of Jewish learning!***

This year we are trying something new. Our younger students will continue with their Wednesday class learning Hebrew prayers, Bible stories and Jewish holidays on a more advanced level from last year. Our older students (Daled/Hay) however, will enjoy a new format. Wednesdays will represent an encounter with LIVING TORAH, when we will devote most of our class to hands on, experiential (mostly social action) activities linked to the weekly Torah portions. Each week we will focus on one theme from the portion and transform that theme into action. Although the Torah details the history of ancient Israel, its primary purpose is to introduce the *mitzvot* (commandments) by which the people will live. Our goal is to make connections between the ancient Torah texts and contemporary action. As Wednesdays are long days for them, our students will spend most of class not confined to their desks. In addition, since each week represents a self contained unit, students who miss a class will not have to catch up from the week before.

One Wednesday per month will be devoted to various kinds of Jewish experiences. For example: Jewish living includes food. We will bake hallah, make hamentashen and devote some time to Jewish food and to the spiritual and ritual connections between food and Jewish holidays. We are also planning for speakers and for special programs connected to Israel and to other unique aspects of Jewish life and community. Along the way, we hope to take a few trips to places of Jewish interest.

On Sundays we will begin with a brief discussion (over bagels and juice) on topics which arise each week. At the end of the discussion we will gradually teach our students the Hebrew *Grace After Meals*. The rest of Sunday we will devote to Hebrew: Focusing on the Torah Service, *Amidah*, *Kaddish* and other prayers which our students will lead at their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We will break up into smaller groups in order to learn as much as possible. All of this will be, of course, in addition to our individual Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons.

Through all of our experiences together we will encourage every student to appreciate why being Jewish is so important. We will share a tradition that is alive and meaningful. During the year we will try as much as possible to communicate with you, the parents, about the Jewish journey we are taking with our students. We hope you will come along for the journey.

***Barukh Atah Adonay Elohaynu Melekh Ha'olam Asher Keedshanu B'metz'vo'tav  
V'tzee'va'nu Lah'ah'soke B'deevray Torah***

***Beloved are You, Adonay our God, Who makes us sacred through the  
commandments; commanding us to engage in Torah study.***

***Rabbi Michael Klayman***

# CLASS HOURS AND SCHEDULE

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>
Daled/Hay (grades 6-7)	Sunday	10:00 am -12 noon
	Wednesday	4:15-6:15 pm
Gozaaleem (younger students)	Wednesday	4:15-6:15 pm

***Next year, Mrs. Brown will teach the Gozaaleem and Morah Cheryl will teach Daled/Hay on Wednesdays. Sundays, they will team teach the Daled and Hay. Rabbi Klayman will also work with individual students on Hebrew.***

## SCHOOL PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

### I. Class Attendance

We expect all students to attend class on a regular basis and to be on time. Excessive absence, tardiness or early dismissal is not only difficult for our students, but places a heavier burden on our faculty. If you request that your student be excused early from school on a particular day, call Rabbi Klayman on his cell phone (908-380-9318) ahead of time. *Please do not enter the classroom.*

***We do hope that when scheduling conflicts arise with extra-curricular activities (sports, for example), coaches and other personnel are made aware that Jewish learning takes precedence.***

### II. Attendance at Holiday/Special Programs

Creative family and holiday activities are vital to our educational experience. Along with special class programs, they are essential to a meaningful curriculum. We ask for your cooperation: *Only with your partnership can we genuinely succeed as a school.*

“Specials” throughout the year include:

Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Family Services  
Mitzvah/Social Action Projects  
Simhat Torah Celebration  
Community Hanukkah Candle Lighting  
Tu B'Shvat Seder

Designated Shabbat/Holiday Programs  
Sukkah Decorating/Dinner  
Purim Meal and Megillah  
Yom HaShoah Commemoration

*Please remember: The more experiences you share as a family now, the more we can ensure that when our students leave for college, they will be well-equipped to make intelligent decisions about living adult Jewish lives.*

### III. Behavior

Although we are a small (and more informal) school, we do expect our students to behave during class time. If a student does not cooperate, we will contact you to resolve the situation. Since our program allows for greater movement we do not anticipate any major disciplinary problems. We ask however, that when a problem arises, we resolve the problem together.

#### IV. End of Class Pick Up

At dismissal time, please either park in the synagogue parking lot, or pull your car around to the front of the building (as long as our students do not have to cross the path in front of other cars). *Please be prompt. It is not fair for any teacher to wait fifteen or twenty additional minutes for carpools to arrive.* If you are going to be late, please arrange for someone else to pick up your student or notify us so that we are well informed of any delay. For safety and security reasons, if a student needs to leave early, please come into the building and wait for your child.

#### V. Weather Cancellations

In case of inclement weather, we will notify you by phone and through email as soon as possible. Our policy is to follow the public school cancellation practice. When public school is cancelled or on early dismissal, we will cancel as well.

#### VI. Parental Assistance

During the year, we schedule several dinners, lunches and other programs, which require family volunteers. Please let us know if you wish to serve. We look for your support, as it will not only ease the burden on our staff, but will ensure that each special program receives a personal touch!

#### VII. Classrooms

As many of you know, our classrooms are occupied during the day by the Montessori School. Please remind your student not to touch any of the Montessori materials. We also insist that students using the restrooms do so in a respectful manner. Our school supplies and books will be stored in a closet next to the synagogue office, and in a large cabinet downstairs.

#### VIII. Communication with Rabbi Klayman

We can only be aware of your personal concerns if you speak with us. Rabbi Klayman will be available for discussion and consultation before and following most class sessions. His door is generally open. If you would like to speak with him in a more relaxed atmosphere, please contact him either by cell phone (908-380-9318) or by email at [mklayman@lakesuccessjc.org](mailto:mklayman@lakesuccessjc.org).

#### IX. Snacks

We know that our students are often hungry after a full day in school. As we are a kosher synagogue, we ask that whenever possible, you provide your student with a snack *prior* to class. Although snacks are not our responsibility we recognize that many students have little time to snack between Public School and Hebrew School. As much as possible, we will provide snacks at the beginning of class.

#### X. Cell Phones

Cell phones have become a central feature in our lives. However, with the exception of true emergencies, students have no need to use them during class time. On this matter we are firm: We will insist that all cell phones be put away in backpacks or in coat pockets. If you need to contact your student during class hours, call Rabbi Klayman's cell phone (908-380-9318). If your student needs to contact you unexpectedly, we will oversee that call.



# CURRICULUM GUIDE

**As you read, please bear in mind that we cannot teach Judaism in just a few hours per week. To truly appreciate Shabbat, prayer, holiday celebrations, tzedakah etc., we count on your partnership with us outside class as well.**



**Gozaleem (young birds) is the name for our younger students.**

**I. Hebrew:** We will re-enforce the Hebrew reading from last year and teach various Hebrew blessings and designated Hebrew prayers. Now that our students read Hebrew, we will learn selected prayers such as the *Barchu*, the *Shma/V'Ahavta* and *Alenu*.

**II. Jewish Holidays:** Our students will learn more about the history, ritual and customs for each holiday. As the Jewish holidays help connect us with special values important for our everyday lives, we will learn some special values linked to each holiday.

**III. Jewish Values:** On their specific level, students will address core values of *Torah*, *Avodah* (service to God and to ourselves) and *G'milut Hasadim* (responsibility to help make the world a better and holier place). Our students will explore the meaning of *K'dushah*: Understanding and observing how Judaism can make our lives more special and will help make the world a better, holier place.

**IV. Bible Stories:** We will continue to explore the many personalities introduced throughout the Bible. Our stories will not be limited to the Torah, but will include some of the kings, prophets and important individuals who helped to shape Jewish life.



**I. Hebrew:** Our students will learn several prayers, including the *Sabbath Torah Service*, the *Amidah*, the *Ashray* and the *Kaddish*. As mentioned, following our brief bagels and discussion on Sunday, we will gradually introduce the *Grace After Meals*.

**II. Putting Torah into Action:** With a book designed for pre-B'nai Mitzvah students, we will examine weekly Torah readings by transforming the text into social action.

**III. Special Monthly Programs:** Once a month we will provide a different Jewish experience; from cooking to speakers to activities connected with becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.



# OUR FACULTY

## Cheryl Sandler (Daled/Hay)

**Morah Cheryl** has taught at various schools on Long Island. She has worked extensively with children ranging from pre-school on up. Morah Cheryl brings many years of experience, along with enthusiasm and passion for teaching.

## Meredith Brown (Gozaleem and Daled/Hay)

**Mrs. Brown** continues to share her passion for teaching and for inspiring much discussion in the classroom. Her prior teaching experience included several years at Long Island synagogues. Mrs. Brown is a nutritionist by profession and a Hebrew School teacher by choice!



# LSJC School Calendar 2017-18

Wednesday, September 27	Class Begins (Open Orientation for Parents)
Wednesday, September 27	Rosh Hashanah Day (General Class)
Thursday, September 28	Family Rosh Hashanah Program 1 <sup>st</sup> Day
Friday, September 29	Family Rosh Hashanah Program 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day
Saturday, September 30	Family Yom Kippur Program 1 <sup>st</sup> Day
Sunday, October 1	Sukkot Opening/Decorating (General Class/Parents)
Friday, October 6	Family/Synagogue Sukkot Minyan 1 <sup>st</sup> Day
Sunday, October 8	Yom Simchat Torah Weekend (General Class)
Wednesday, October 11	Simchat Torah
	2:30-3:00 <i>Class activity</i>
	3:30-4:00 <i>Officer and sundress</i>
	6:00-6:30 <i>Simchat Torah celebration</i>
Sunday, November 12	Veterans Day Weekend (General Class)
Wed. Nov 22/Sun. Nov 26	Thanksgiving Break (General Class)
Saturday, December 2	Havdalah Program (instead of Sunday class)
Sunday, December 3	Noon class
Wednesday, December 6	Community Hanukkah Lighting 5:30pm (General Class)
Sun. Dec 24/Sun. Dec 25	Sector Vacation (General Class)
Sunday, January 7	Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> Weekend (General Class)
Wednesday, January 10	Sector 1 <sup>st</sup> Shiva Sefer (family welcome)
Sunday, Jan 14	Family Cemetery Service and Break 10:00am Noon Class for students with parents...
Sun. Jan 23/Sun. Jan 25	Sector Vacation (General Class)

(cont.)

<b>Wednesday, February 23</b>	<b>Special Purim Program (regular class)</b> <i>Parat Mithavanti Meghla Bagn</i>
<b>Wednesday, March 23</b>	<b>Social Action/Student Sefer (regular class)</b>
<b>Sun/April 17/Wed/Apr 21</b>	<b>Pasover Sefer (Torah class)</b>
<b>Wednesday/April 27</b>	<b>Yom Hashoah Observance (Claring class)</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 2</b>	<b>Students Preparation Day/Claring</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 9</b>	<b>Ag Shomer Pivni/Hatzeva Relay</b>
<b>Sunday, May 13</b>	<b>Mother's Day (Torah class)</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 16</b>	<b>Students Preparation Day/Claring</b>
<b>Sunday, May 20</b>	<b>Shavot Celebration Honoring Day Class</b> Program begins at 10am <i>And Chovotabunda will follow</i>

**Limud B'Yahad: Families Together**  
**Together, as parents, teachers and students we**  
**will share creative ways to enhance the Jewish holidays**

- Sunday, October 14: Sukkot (10am)**
- Sunday, December 17: Hanukkah (10am)**
- Wednesday, February 23: Purim (4pm)**
- Sunday, March 25: Pasover (10am)**

