

# Hebrew School Handbook



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# Welcome

Welcome to Chabad Hebrew School, the newest and most innovative Hebrew School in Lamorinda CA. Our School is a trendsetter in creative Jewish education for children ages six to thirteen. The Chabad Hebrew School offers an outstanding program 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.

Chabad Hebrew School begins on September 11.

Our student body is made up of children from various backgrounds and affiliations. We encourage you, as a parent to get involved, ask questions and keep in touch with our school. You may very well discover that your child's Hebrew School education at Chabad Hebrew School will add an enriching spiritual dimension to the lives of your entire family.

*We are enthusiastic about the beautiful lessons that Judaism has to offer, and we hope to transmit that excitement to the children through the excellent Hebrew School program at Chabad.*

## The Goals of our Program

- To attain a strong feeling of identity with their heritage and to develop a sense of Love and Pride in being Jewish.
- Discover and explore the Torah (Bible), the incredible history of the Jewish people and see its relevance for all times.
- Gain an understanding of the practices and traditions of Judaism.
- Know the morals, values and ethical behavior mandated by the Torah.
- Hands-on experience and appreciation for all holidays.
- Master the skills of Hebrew reading and writing through a new and creative program "Aleph Champ."
- Understand basic Hebrew words, emphasizing prayers so that the students will feel comfortable when attending services.
- Identify with the land of Israel as their own land and its inhabitants.
- Allow students to express their opinions and questions about G-d, Torah and religion.
- Attain a "Jewish" perspective on life and maintain Jewish feelings and involvement beyond the years at Hebrew School and ultimately perpetuate this onto future generations.



## Information

- Ages:** Our program is for boys and girls ages 6-13
- Dates:** Hebrew School begins September 11. See the Hebrew School Calendar for exact dates.
- Hours:** Classes are held: Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Address:** 790 Solana Drive, Lafayette CA 94549
- Registration:** Fill out an application and mail it to our office or you can sign up online at [www.chabadoflamorinda.com/Hebrewschool](http://www.chabadoflamorinda.com/Hebrewschool).
- Important #'s:** Administrator: Rabbi Yisroel Labkowski  
Director: Mrs. Tzipora Labkowski 925-384-7241  
In case of emergency or during school hours: 925-384-7242

## Curriculum

### Hebrew

Have you ever heard “but Hebrew reading is boring”? Move over and make room for Aleph Champ, modeled after the Karate/Martial Arts system. Aleph Champ motivates students as they advance in rank from White to Red and all the way to Black Belt, as they learn to read Hebrew in an efficient, well-orchestrated and fun manner.

### Torah (Bible) and Jewish History

Throughout the year your children will be learning Jewish History to give them a sense of Jewish pride and identity. Your children can expect to cover from the creation of the world until the Jewish Exodus from Egypt. History will be taught in a story form as well through games, projects, dramatizations and contests.

### Holidays

Hands-on lessons on each Jewish holiday will fill the calendar as we proceed from Rosh Hashanah and the High Holidays through the holiday of Shavuot. Expect your children to learn in depth about the following holidays; Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanuka, Tu Bishvat, Purim, Pesach, Lag B’omer, and Shavuot. The students will have a deeper understanding of each holiday and its traditions and customs. Chabad Hebrew School will also host holiday celebrations for our students and their families.

### Jewish Values and Ethics

Using the various textbooks the students will read and discuss stories and case scenarios that have practical application to our everyday life. They will understand that our religion is based on a G-d given set of values and morals and that the “norm” is not always in the right.



## Mitzvot: Why We Do What We Do

Why do women light Shabbat candles? Why is Shabbat such a special day in the week? Why do we have a Mezuzah on our doors? This class will teach basic Mitzvot to the younger grades and provide insightful meaning of more complex Mitzvot to the older grades.

## Arts and Crafts

Art projects are incorporated into our curriculum to add to the excitement of the upcoming holidays and Mitzvot. Our projects will have Jewish holiday and Mitzvot themes and will add a taste of Jewish life at home.

## Extra Curricular

Chabad Hebrew School will offer a variety of extra curricular activities such as Friday night dinners, family fun days and contests. These events will allow our students to experience Judaism in its entirety. A point system based on in-class and out-of-class participation will allow students to reach different award levels.

## Parent/School Communication

If your child is not able to attend class for any reason, please notify in advance. Parents should arrange for their children to arrive on time. To maximize our learning time and to avoid distractions to the class, your cooperation is appreciated. Incentives and rewards are given out daily to those who arrive on time.

## Supplies

Textbooks and workbooks will be provided for each student. The students will get a list of supplies that are needed for their class. All boys are encouraged to bring and wear a Kipah and Tzitzit for all classes. If you do not have a Kipa or Tzitzit, Hebrew School will provide one for you.

## Tzedakah

Tzedakah (charity) is a basic value in 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. Please try to send some coins to school each day to help encourage your child to perform this Mitzvah.

## Snack

During Hebrew School there will be a 15 minute break during which the children will get a snack. In the event of a birthday party, parents are asked that arrangements should be made in advance with your child's Hebrew studies teacher.

