

CHABAD OF THE CENTRAL CASCADES

YACHDAV

5783-5784 / 2023-2024

PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK



yachdav

Israeli and American Jewish Children's Club

A Division of Chabad of the Central Cascades

425-427-1654 ♦ nsfarkash@gmail.com

www.Chabadissaquah.com



LEARN IT. LIVE IT. LOVE IT.

Imagine a Hebrew School where kids don't want to miss a day. They come in with a smile and leave humming a Hebrew song. Walking through the halls, you can hear the sounds of lively discussion, of singing, laughter and prayer.

Welcome to Yachdav community, an exciting and innovative educational program in Issaquah. Our program enjoys a well-earned reputation as a trend setter in creative Jewish education for children in Kindergarten through Grade 7, and for making every Jewish child feel welcome, regardless of knowledge or affiliation. Yachdav is where Judaism and community comes alive and children are encouraged to ask and explore. Our experienced staff, hands-on curriculum, and holiday workshops are sure to make this year both educational and enjoyable for our students.

Our curriculum is designed to instill our students with a basic yet thorough understanding of our traditions and values, a strong sense of Jewish pride and a love of Jewish life. Our exclusive Mavo Lekriah reading program has been uniquely successful in motivating the students toward Hebrew fluency. We firmly believe that the holistic approach we employ is the most effective way to educate children and ensure an enduring connection with our Heritage.

Special Events at Hebrew School:

- 1) October 4th – Special Sukkot community program @4pm**
- 2) October 7th – Family Hakafot**
- 3) Annual Chanukah celebration** Sunday December 10th
- 4) Annual Purim Celebration** Sunday March 24th
- 5) April 17th Passover Model Seder:** You are invited to join a special interactive Model Seder lead by our very own Hebrew School students
- 6) Friday May 17th – Hebrew School Friday Night Dinner**
- 7) Sunday May 26th: Lag Baomer Bon Fire**
- 8) Wednesday May 29th End of Year Ceremony**
- 9) Monday June 12th Shavuot Ice cream Party**

Please make sure to mark your personal calendars with all the special Hebrew School days and events to ensure that you are there.

We look forward to working together with you to educate and inspire your children. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me any time at 425-985-8996 or email nsfarkash@gmail.com.

Looking forward to a wonderful year!

Yours sincerely,

Nechama Farkash, Director

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

Yachdav meets on Wednesday beginning September 6th and ending May 29th.
From 4:00pm-6:00pm.

Please check out the Chabad of the Central Cascades Calendar you can easily refer to it during the year for full schedule. See Page 7 Full Calendar for 2023-24

COMMUNICATION

Should you need to contact our staff during hours, please call our director Nechama Farkash on her cell phone at 425-985-8996 Email: nsfarkash@gmail.com or Rabbi Berry Farkash at 425-985-7639 rabbifarkash@gmail.com

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, parents will be notified via **email and whatsapp** whether Yachdav has been canceled.

CURRICULUM

At Yachdav, 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.

The following is a sample of a typical Wednesday schedule:

4:00pm-4:10pm	Line up, Hebrew School spirit and Tzedakah
4:10pm-5:00pm	Hebrew reading-Aleph Champ/Hebrew Writing/Hebrew language (American and Israeli track)
5:00pm-5:10pm	Recess & Snack
5:10pm-6:00pm	Individual Class Curriculum/Holidays, History Jewish Values

WORKBOOKS/SUPPLIES

All workbooks and supplies for all grades are provided by Yachdav. All books are to be treated with care and respect. Text books are to be returned at the end of the HS school year in good condition.

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Boys are encouraged to bring and wear a *Kipah & Tzitzit*. If you would like, Yachdav can provide one for you.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Consistent and timely attendance is vital! Consistent attendance is key to a successful year at Yachdav and crucial in accomplishing the goals of our educational program. There is a direct correlation between a student's attendance, and his/her interest, achievement and attitude. For the benefit of your child and all students, it is imperative that your child arrives on time and remains in school until the end of the session. Your support of our attendance policy is greatly appreciated.

If for any reason your child must leave early, please send a note with an explanation and the time you will pick up your child. This note must be given to your child's teacher. Please pick up your child from his/her classroom.

DISMISSAL

Parents are asked to park at the bottom of the driveway. Children will not be released to anyone other than a parent or regular carpool driver without permission from the parent. Please send a note with your child or call us if someone other than the parent will be picking up your child. Please help us keep our students safe by following our dismissal policy.

PAYMENT & REFUND POLICY

Tuition fees can be paid by check or credit card payments. Credit card payments incur a 3% service charge. Payments should be given to the director only and not to other staff members. Monthly and quarterly payment schedules are available upon request please contact our office. **Tuition fees are non-refundable.** Should you decide to withdraw your child from HS, your refund will be pro-rated up to February 1. After that date no refund will be allowed for HS tuition. There are no refunds or credits for days missed due to illness, holidays, or family vacations.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Students are not permitted to bring cell phones, iPads or other electronic devices, all of which serve as a distraction for the student and the class. In the event that a student brings these items, the teacher will hold it for safekeeping and return it to the student at the end of the day. We respectfully request that parents take the lead in reinforcing this important rule.

WEEKLY HOMEWORK

Children will receive weekly Hebrew Homework. Homework is not mandatory; however we strongly encourage children to complete it by giving out tokens for raffles. Reviewing at home what they learned will help reinforce the material and enable them to progress at a faster pace.

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TZEDAKAH

Tzedakah (charity) is a concept that is basic to Judaism. HS strives 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 send your child with some coins for Tzedakah to encourage them to perform this Mitzvah. Older children should be encouraged to give Tzedakah from their own allowance money. Each class will have the opportunity to discuss and decide where to allocate the money they collect throughout the year.

SNACKS

Please send an afternoon snack. Please remember to pack an extra snack on Wednesdays. It's a long day and the kids get hungry

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We believe in a strong parent/teacher partnership. Communication between parents and our Yachdav staff is very important to ensure a meaningful and pleasant experience for your child.

We will be sending out emails notifying you of upcoming events, important notices. Twice a year you will receive a progress report of their Hebrew language progress and a detailed report what your child has covered in class.

Photos of Chabad Hebrew School in action will be posted on our website-make sure to view them at www.ChabadIssaquah.com/chs

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's performance and/or progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, call our director Nechama Farkash at 425-427-1654, or email nsfarkash@gmail.com

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

When a parent is involved in their child's educational experience, the child's schooling is far more effective. When enrolling your child at Yachdav you demonstrate to your child that their Judaism is an integral part of your life, and you want it to be an integral part of theirs.

Yachdav offers many venues for parental involvement. We invite our parents to take advantage of our many adult education classes, our innovative and unique women's classes and programs, the wealth of information located on our website www.ChabadIssaquah.com, as well as our Shabbat and Holiday services/events.

Please note and mark down the following opportunities for parental involvement in Hebrew School:

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Yachdav Shabbat Services:

We will host a special Friday night service. Designated for them to come to Shul and enjoy a kid friendly Kabbalat Shabbat. Special celebration Kiddush to follow!

Holiday Programs at Yachdav:

Families are invited to participate in Hebrew School Holiday Activities-for a Sukkot party, to join in Hamentash baking prior to Purim, take part in our community Chanukah Celebration, and for a Model Passover Seder.

Parental involvement in Hebrew School is crucial, so please make every effort to take part in these Hebrew School activities. The best way to teach and support your child is by personal participation.

Updates are emailed regularly and we encourage you to read them over and discuss them with your children as you embark on their Hebrew School journey. Additionally, we welcome parent volunteers at our extra-curricular Hebrew school events and holiday programming.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED

In order for our program to be most effective, we 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. All these are important; however, please place priority on your child's Jewish education.
- 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 Yachdav 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.
- Always remember that informal Jewish education is one of the best motivators for creating a positive Jewish identity!



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**FULL CALENDAR AND YACHDAV SCHEDULE
2023 – 2024**

September: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

October: 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

November: 1st, 8th, 15th, 29th

December: 6th, 13th

January: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

February: 7th, 14th, 28th

March: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

April: 3rd, 17th

May: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

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