

ב"ה

TALMUD TORAH



OF CHARLOTTE

**5769-5770 / 2009-2010
PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK**

Congregation Ohr HaTorah • Lubavitch of North Carolina
704-366-3984 • info@talmudtorah.net • www.talmudtorah.net

Dear Parents,

Imagine a 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, of laughter and of prayer. Imagine a child who feels the warmth and spirit of Judaism. Imagine the pride of his/her parents.

Welcome to Talmud Torah at Ohr HaTorah, an exciting and innovative educational program in Charlotte, where we instill within our youngsters a love for Judaism, the Torah and the Jewish people. Our school is founded on the principle that, while Jews embrace many levels of observance in their personal lives, there should be a place for all Jews - without labels or affiliations - to develop a sense of community, to enhance the experience of being Jewish, to learn and to have fun. Our student body is made up of children from various backgrounds and affiliations and we celebrate the special sense of community each of our students adds to our school.

Talmud Torah has exciting new programs planned for this year and an expanded, dynamic, staff who focuses on each child's relationship to Judaism. Children are encouraged to learn at their own pace in a nurturing environment led by teachers who love and live what they teach.

We encourage you as a parent to get involved, ask questions and keep in touch with our school.

We look forward to a Happy, Healthy, and Successful Year.

Sincerely,

Channie Weiss – Director

Bentzion Groner – Administrator

Teachers: Devorah Gordon, Rochel Groner, Pessie and Mushka Weiss.

General

Our Goals

- To **instill** our students with a strong sense of *Love* and *Pride* in being Jewish.
- To **facilitate** the exploration of the Torah (Bible) and the history of the Jewish people to discover their relevance to our daily lives.
- To **present** an understanding of holiday traditions and other Jewish practices.
- To **communicate** the morals, values and ethical behaviors taught in the Torah.
- To **master** the skills of Hebrew reading so our students feel comfortable using a prayer book. (Age appropriate)
- To **help** our students build a repertoire of basic prayer words they understand.
- To **encourage** students to express their opinions and questions about G-d, Torah, and religion.

Information

Ages: Our program is for boys and girls grades K-7

Hours: Grades K-7: Sundays 10:00 – 12:00pm
Grades 5-7: Tuesdays: 4:15 -5:45pm

Tuition: Grades K-4: \$400
Grades 5-7: \$700

Location: All classes will be held at Ohr HaTorah – 6619 Sardis Rd.

Parent/School Communication

In order to successfully achieve our goals, a home-school partnership is imperative and we genuinely seek your co-operation and active participation. Please provide your child's teacher with any information you feel would assist us in providing the optimum learning situation for your child. Information of a physical, social and psychological nature which can aid the teacher in planning instruction for your child will remain in strict confidence.

Please note: From time to time notices will be sent home with your child. Please check for these notices.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call us at 704-366-3984 or info@talmudtorah.net.

Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial in accomplishing the goals of our educational program. There is direct correlation between attendance and achievement, interest, and attitude.

If your child is not able to attend class for any reason, you are required to notify the office administration in advance. Classes start promptly, Sundays at 10:00 AM and Wednesdays at 4:15 PM. 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

The school provides all textbooks and supplies for all grades. Out of respect for the Torah we study and the Brachot we recite, the boys are encouraged to wear a Kippah. If you do not have one and would like one, we can provide one for you.

Tzedakah

Tzedakah (charity) is a basic value in Judaism. We strive to develop a commitment amongst our students to share with others less fortunate than ourselves by donating a few pennies each day to charity. Please try to send some coins to school to enable your child to perform this Mitzvah.

Snack

A Kosher snack is provided; we request that you do not send any additional snacks or drinks due to Kashrut and health reasons. If your child is allergic to any food or beverages, please be sure that it is written clearly on his/her form and we will be in touch with you to figure out an alternative snack.

Participation Expectations

We take pride in educating students who understand that respect for teachers, respect for peers, and self-respect are essential in building a successful learning environment.

We expect:

- Every student to treat fellow students and staff members with courtesy.
- That classroom instructions will be followed promptly and respectfully.
- Books and all classroom materials to be handled with care and kept organized.
- Proper decorum to be maintained in each classroom.

Curriculum

Hebrew Bit by Bit

Beginning with letter recognition, for our youngest children, this program leads them through basic phonetic decoding, and writing. Age appropriate activities and projects will be completed throughout the year to prepare them for the programs implemented in the higher grades.

Aleph Champ®

Our Hebrew reading curriculum uses the latest educational breakthrough. Based on the martial arts motivational philosophy of color-coded levels and testing, Aleph Champ provides excitement and inspiration, leading the students into a winning cycle of learning.

The Hebrew alphabet as well as the vowels and word formations are divided into 10 colored levels. The students start out as "White Aleph Champs", working their way up the colors of the rainbow to be a "Black Aleph Champ" like their teachers. Games, cards, logs and rewards make every step along this remarkable journey a fun and educational success.

Torah (Bible) and Jewish History

The children are introduced to the characters and stories of the Torah. They are given an overview of Jewish history beginning with creation until modern day Israel.

Jewish Values & Ethics

Using 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" according to society is not always in the right.

Holidays

Through hands-on lessons, the students will have a deeper understanding of our holidays, traditions and customs. Talmud Torah will also host holiday celebrations for our students and their families and many of them will be eligible for ***Discover Judaism*** points.

Mitzvot: Why-We-Do-What-We-Do

Why do women light Shabbat candles? Why is Shabbat the most special day in the week? Why do we have a Mezuzah on our doors? This class will introduce many of the basic and familiar Mitzvot while providing insightful meaning relevant to our children and their daily lives.

Jewish Music, Arts and Crafts

Jewish Music and Art projects are incorporated into our curriculum for Jewish holidays and Mitzvot themes and will bring an artful taste of Jewish life into your home.

See the attached printout for our new curriculum map

Special Events

Shabbatons

Throughout the year we will have special Shabbatons for Talmud Torah students and their families to come together for a Shabbat evening of fun, friendship and *nachat - pride*. This wonderful opportunity to bond with the entire Talmud Torah family is a highlight of our year and we've received requests by many students for more! Stay tuned for details.

Award Ceremonies

On the last Sunday of each month, parents are invited to join us in "Room 8" for a mini-achievement ceremony, right before dismissal, when our students will receive their stripes, belts, and certificates for their Aleph Champ and Discover accomplishments throughout the month.

Friday Night Shabbat Dinners

Friday night Shabbat dinners, held several times throughout the year, at Ohr HaTorah are a great time to get to know other families & enjoy the warmth & beauty of Shabbat. The dinners feature traditional Shabbat food, stories, songs, & lots of fun for the children.

Shabbat Youth Groups

The old saying, that children learn what they live, is particularly true with regard to Jewish education. With this in mind, children are encouraged to attend and participate in our regular Shabbat Services with their families. We offer simultaneous children's programs that are very "user-friendly" and interactive. By making them comfortable in a synagogue setting, this becomes a wonderful opportunity which helps in their Talmud Torah learning as well as in their future Jewish experiences.

Talmud Torah Families

Nicky Berzack	704-366-0775
David and Suzy Catenazzo	704 844 8594
Scott and Laurie Dolgoff	704 554 5008
David and Sheryl Gerrard	704-335-7388
Daniel and Brodie Gold	704 841 4286
Bruce and Laurie Good	704 341 8989
Michael and Risa Kudeviz	704 573 2110
Jonathan and Jennifer Lahn	704 643 0018
Howard and Julie Levine	704 442 1669
David and Penny Lipsitz	704 542 8546
Don and Amy Mullen	704 759 9775
Yossi and Jessica Pries	704 301 7268
Garry and Stacy Schuler	704 844 6808
Jeffrey and Aviva Stein	704-554-1837