

Cheder Chabad of Monsey Preschool

Parent Handbook

תשפ"ד
2023-2024

תשפ"ד Year at a glance

September

Monday, September 4 - Preschool orientation including Pre-1A Boys
 Tuesday, September 5 - First day of school - Friday dismissal
 Wednesday, September 6 - First full day of school
 Friday, September 15 - Erev Rosh Hashana - No School
 Monday, September 18 - Tzom Gedalia- Friday dismissal
 Thursday September 21 - Back to school night 8:00-9:30pm
 Tuesday September 26 - Late start 10am
 Thursday September 28 - Friday dismissal
 Friday September 29- Monday October 9 - Sukkos Break

October-November

Tuesday October 10 - School resumes
 Tuesday November 7 - PTC @7:45 excluding UPK Alef
 Wednesday November - 8 PTC UPK Alef
 Thursday November 9 - In service day - No classes

December-January

Friday December 8- Tuesday December 12 - Chanukah Break
 Wednesday December 13 - School resumes
 Thursday December 14 - Nursery & UPK Mommy & Me
 Friday December 15 - Pre-1A Tatty & Me & Pre-Nursery Mommy & Me
 Tuesday January 30- Friday February 2 - Winter Break

February-March

Monday February 5 - School resumes
 Monday February 19 - In service day - No classes
 Thursday March 21 - Taanis Esther - Friday Dismissal
 Monday March 25 - Shushan Purim - No classes

April-May

Tuesday April 16- Wednesday May 1 Pesach Break
 Thursday May 2 - School resumes
 Tuesday May 14 - PTC excluding UPK Alef
 Wednesday May 15 - PTC UPK Alef

June

Tuesday June 11 - Friday June 14 Shavuot Break
 Sunday June 16 - Pre-1A Boys Siddur Party Monday
 June 17 School resumes
 Friday June 21 - Pre-Nursery Mommy & Me 10:45
 Monday June 24 - Nursery Mommy & Me 1:45
 Tuesday June 25 - UPK Mommy & Me & Preschool last day of school

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School Contact Information

Preschool Director	Morah Chaya Light	4001	clight@chedermonsey.org
Preschool Administrative Director	Morah Yehudice Bialestock	4002	ybialestock@chedermonesy.org
Secretary	Miss Leah Fischer	4000	preschool@chedermonsey.org
Executive Assistant	Mrs. Suri Roth	2104	sroth@chedermonsey.org
Registrar	Mrs. Trannie Mendlowitz	2121	tmendlowitz@chedermonsey. org

Our Address:
228 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956

About our School

Our Mission

Cheder Chabad's Preschool mission is to create an environment in which children are happy, feel safe and loved. We strive to create an atmosphere that empowers our students to explore, become independent learners and have a love for Hashem and Yiddishkeit.

We address children's needs in all areas of social, emotional and academic development through hands on play and modeling.

Cheder Chabad strives to educate our children with proper middos, dedicated to Torah and Mitzvos in a Chassidishe environment. This obviously requires a strong partnership between home and school. It is therefore our goal to uphold a respectful and cooperative relationship between both. It is imperative that our children receive a clear and unified message. We trust that the standards and expectations in the home reflect that of a Chabad moisad.

PARENT DRESS CODE

All parents are expected to adhere to the following Halachic standards.

1. Necklines need to cover the collarbone.
2. Sleeves need to be covering the elbow.
3. Skirts needs to cover the knee at all times.
4. Stockings or tights need to be worn.
5. Leggings and socks are not acceptable with gaps.
6. Married women must have their hair completely covered.
7. Men must wear *yarmulkas*, a shirt and pants.

All parents participating in any school function, including carpool, must be properly dressed according to *our Cheder guidelines*. Please do not enter Cheder if you do not adhere to the standards outlined above.

VISITOR DRESS CODE Friends or relatives who wish to participate in school functions should respectfully comply with our school dress code.

Curriculum

Following, is a list of our curricular goals and Curriculum academic content areas.

At "Back-to-School Night" your child's teacher will give you more detailed information.

ACADEMIC CONTENT AREAS:

Prenursery

Aleph Bais א-א

Parsha

Yomim Tovim

Chassidishe Yomim Tovim Niggunim

Tefilla Middos

Thematic units- ie community helpers, seasons etc.

Nursery

Aleph Bais א-א (Sensory exposure to all letters)

Parsha

Yomim Tovim

Chassidishe Yomim Tovim

Niggunim

Tefilla Middos

Feelings

Thematic units- ie community helpers, seasons etc.

UPK

Aleph Bais א-א

Parsha Yomim Tovim

Chassidishe Yomim Tovim

Niggunim

Tefilla Middos

Complete UPK curriculum- Creative Curriculum

Curriculum

Following, is a list of our curricular goals and Curriculum academic content areas.

At "Back-to-School Night" your child's teacher will give you more detailed information.

ACADEMIC CONTENT AREAS:

Pre-1A Boys

- Kriah
- Parsha
- Yomim Tovim
- Chassidische Yomim Tovim
- Niggunim
- Tefila
- Middos Mentch Program
- Alphabet/Handwriting -based on ReadRight Curriculum
- Math -based on the Spots Curriculum
- Journal -phonetic journal writing

Specialties throughout the year

- Yom Tov Workshops
- Rallies for Chassidische Yomom Tovim
- Rosh Chodesh Pesukim gatherings
- Weekly hands-on science lessons
- Stretch N' Grow
- Weekly Niggun Farbrengen
- Middos Mentch- social skills program
- Trips for special units ie. Apple Picking

School Hours

Monday - Thursday

Pre- Nursery – UPK 9:00- 2:45

Pre-1A Boys - 9:00- 3:45

Friday All Grades 9:00-12:00

Please note that there is a 15-minute window for drop off and pickup times. Please drop off by 9:15 and pickup before 3:00. Dismissal begins at 2:45 each day. Thank you for helping us run the school in an organized and timely fashion. We know that being on time can be very challenging when dealing with young children especially in the morning, we appreciate your efforts!

Please pull your car up behind the building of 228 New Hempstead Road and wait by your car. Your child will be escorted by a staff member to the building and by dismissal to your car.

Arrival- Parents that arrive late to school (past 9:15am), should park their cars in the parking lot and walk to their child to the office. Please do not park in our safety box marked outside, or in the handicap spots.

Cheder Chabad Preschool cannot take responsibility for students before 9:00 am unless it is prearranged.

Dismissal - Dismissal begins at 2:45 p.m. for Pre-nursery - UPK (3:45 for Pre-1A). Your child will be escorted to your car once you arrive. Parents arriving before or after these times for dismissal must park in the parking lot and walk into the school at which point your child will be brought out by our secretary. Parents will be charged a \$10 fee for late pickup per occurrence after 3:05 pm and your child will be sent to aftercare.

Extended Day Option We will be providing an extended day option for those who need. It will run from 3:00-4:00. To participate in the extended day option, ten head checks of \$100 for each month of school will be required in advance. The fee for a one-time use of the extended day option is \$10 per day.

Please contact Leah Fischer at preschool@chedermonsey.org, with any questions and to sign up.

Dismissal changes

When calling during the day to leave change of dismissal information please do not leave a message on the school office machine. If there is no answer, please email preschool@chedermonsey.org to ensure that we get the information promptly.

Security

Cheder Chabad preschool takes security concerns very seriously. All visitors must be buzzed in to enter the building. We have set security checks as well as direct contact with the Clarkstown Police Department. We will keep parents up to date if/when chas v'shalom concerns arise. We have evacuation and emergency response plans in place to best protect the children and staff in our school. We conduct fire and lockdown drills throughout the year so our staff and children are familiar with where to go and what to do in the event of an emergency chas v'shalom.

Communication

Whatsapp groups can be an accessible means for parents to stay updated on happenings and events in your child's classroom. Beyond that, a public WhatsApp group is not the forum to resolve a personal issue or air a grievance. It causes unnecessary loshon hora and damage that could have otherwise been dealt with in an appropriate manner.

A whatsapp group will be created for your child's class by the teacher. The teacher will post a good time to reach out to her during evening hours when necessary.

Please do not contact your child's teacher during school hours. If you need to send a message for any reason, please contact the office, Morah Yehudice or Morah Chaya.

Weather

In case of severe or hazardous weather, we may have to close or delay school opening hours. If the local school district announces a delay or closing, we may or may not follow their lead. We notify parents of any schedule change by email and broadcast as early as possible, usually by 7:30am.

In the event of severe weather or other emergencies during the school day, it may be necessary to close school early. We will notify parents by phone, email and/or whatsapp to pick up their child before the designated emergency closing time.

Absences

Please let the office know via email if your child will be absent any day. We are always concerned about our little students and if your child is unwell his/her classmates will call your child to cheer them up. If you are away or your child is out for another reason, letting us know will be helpful so that the class doesn't make an unnecessary "Get Well" call.


Meals & Snacks

Hot Lunch

We serve hot lunch to our students Monday through Thursday. Our food service ensures that all children are served nutritious foods in appropriate amounts. Sample menus are available on the school website. Children will be encouraged, but never forced to try each food item. Fresh Fruit and vegetables are served daily with lunch. We ask that you do not send in lunch from home.

Tuesday is Fleishig lunch so please do not send in any milchig snack.

Kashrus

All food sent to school must have a chassidische hechsher or an  Snacks need to be Pas Yisroel, Bishul Yisroel, and Cholov Yisroel. Home baked goods may never be shared with classmates.

Snack/Lunch

Our preschool encourages healthy eating habits. We allow only healthy snacks to be brought to school. A list of some healthy snack ideas follows. This list is not exhaustive- it is meant to give you ideas.

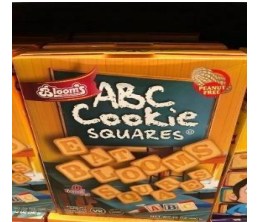
All preschool classes should bring a Ha'etz or Ha'adoma snack for the morning and a monthly healthy snack for the afternoon. Any unhealthy snack will be sent back home with a note, and replaced with a healthy snack.

Approved Allergy Friendly snack list:

Morning snacks are fruits, vegetables, yogurt, applesauce, or cheese sticks.

For the afternoon snack each month every child in the class will bring in one large Heimische Brand snack bag from the approved allergy list- it should be enough for the whole class. Each day the teacher will use one of those bags to give out to all the children. You will not need to send an afternoon snack on a daily basis, only the morning snack (please do not send in popcorn for the pre nursery class).

Please see the attached pictures of approved snack choices. You may also send in rice cakes, corn cakes, dried fruit, raisin boxes, and breadsticks. If you have another suggestion, please reach out to us.



Clothing

When choosing your child's school clothes please keep in mind that easy, comfortable and washable clothing is best. Choose simple and practical clothing that is free of complicated fastenings, and easy to handle in the bathroom. Washable paints, art projects and materials can be very messy, even for those children who wear smocks. Beautiful clothing can get in the way of fun exploration.

Outdoor Play

School policy is that the children play outdoors if the weather is 32 degrees and above. Please make sure to send in weather appropriate clothing (snow pants if snowing, rain boots etc). Parents are responsible for applying sunscreen to their child prior to arrival at school when necessary.

Toys from home

Please do not send in any toys from home. We welcome soft dolls and blankets needed for comfort or as a sleep aid for napping prenursery children .

Birthday Celebrations Mazal Tov!

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please adhere to the following preschool birthday party guidelines.

- Please reserve the date with the classroom Morah at least one week in advance.
- The celebration takes place for about twenty minutes, during a time arranged with the classroom Morah. Parties are for Morahs and students only.
- Please send in nut free mini cupcakes, and grape juice for L'chaim. For everyone's kashrus comfort, home baked goods should not be brought in. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call the preschool director Mrs. Light.
- "Peklach" are not distributed in our preschool at birthday celebrations. In lieu of "peklach" and excessive snack foods, you may donate a book or educational game/toy to the class in honor of your child's birthday. Please reach out to your child's Morah to inquire about the classroom wish list.

Shabbos Party

Congratulations, your child was chosen to be the Shabbos Mommy or Shabbos Tatty this week. You will receive a list from your child's Morah with the designated dates ahead of time. The week it is your child's turn they may want to come dressed up like their mommy or tatty. It is also special that they get to bring in a special Shabbos treat. Please make sure to send in the requested Grape Juice, cut up fruit or Challah.

You may also sign up for the Friday mystery reader program. More details will follow.

Sick Policy

Please do not send your child to school if they are ill. If they have fever of 99 degrees or above, if they are vomiting, have diarrhea, or have any contagious condition (conjunctivitis, strep etc.) they must be kept home for a minimum of 24 hours AFTER the symptoms abate (without the aid of medication).

Medication

Several staff members at Cheder Chabad preschool are certified in CPR and first aid. Our staff is not permitted to dispense medication, with the exception of antihistamines for allergic reaction (in the form of Children's Benadryl or a child specific Epipen- with a doctors note). If your child has any allergies that may require use of an Epipen, please be sure to provide the medication and review its proper usage with your child's teacher.

Allergies

If your child has any allergies (food or other) or other medical needs, it is imperative to let us know before school starts. The more information we have about your child, the better ability we will have to meet their needs. Please note that Cheder Chabad is a NUT FREE FACILITY, please do not send any food or snacks that can put a child with a food allergy in danger.

Biting

Biting can be a normal stage of development for young children who are teething and still developing their language skills. It is usually seen between 13 and 24 months of age. If this behavior develops into a repeated pattern that endangers other children, we may have to take action to protect the other children in our care. Corrective action may include having the child professionally evaluated to see if therapeutic services are needed to resolve the issue. The parents may be required to hire a "shadow" at their own expense until other therapeutic services are provided in order for the child to remain in school, or by purchasing a "chewy" necklace to help with oral stimulation.

Paras

Cheder Chabad welcomes students with diverse needs. If your child has the benefit of attending school with a Para, it will remain the discretion of Cheder Chabad staff to decide if the child will be allowed to attend school on days that a Para is absent.

Destructive Behaviors

Our preschool methodology is geared to helping our students learn and thrive in a safe environment. However, there are times when additional interventions are needed.

1. When a child is in danger of hurting him/herself.
2. When a child is hurting others.
3. When a child is being destructive to school property.

For any child who struggles with the above, the following system will be put into place.

1. The teacher will redirect the child's behavior.
2. The child may need to be removed from the activity/classroom
3. The child's parent will be called to pick up the child.

If such behavior continues on in person team meeting with the teachers, parents and directors may be needed to implement a behavior plan.

All disciplinary actions will be done with the utmost sensitivity and care for your child. In order to remain aligned with our methodology, Cheder Chabad reserves the right to exclude from our preschool program any child who's behaviors significantly disrupts the program and is a danger to himself/herself or others.

Student Evaluations

It is the policy of the school that we reserve the right to require an evaluation of any child whom we believe is having significant difficulties functioning in the classroom. We also reserve the right to require additional support if we are unable to meet any child's special needs in the classroom. Additional support may include occupational, physical and/or speech therapy, and/or shadows, at the parents' own expense or by the parent's arranging services through CPSE. The school may require the parents to cover additional services as needed until CPSE services are given. Please note we work with multiple agencies in Rockland County such as Achieve, Encore and Kids First. These agencies do provide services which are generally covered by insurance.

Toilet Training

A toilet trained child is a child who can do the following:

1. Be able to TELL the adult they have to go to the bathroom BEFORE they have to go. They must be able to say the words "I have to go to the bathroom", or any variation conveying that fact, BEFORE they have to go.
2. Be able to pull down their underwear and pants and get them back up without assistance.
3. Be able to wipe themselves after using the toilet.
4. Be able to get off the toilet by themselves.
5. Be able to wash and dry hands.

A child is considered trained if he or she is dry with no accidents for 48 hours (not including naps and nights). If your child has more than 3 accidents in one day or an accident 3 days in a row, he or she are not fully trained, and the teacher will put them back in a diaper. The parent will be asked to retrain their child. All children need to be fully trained to be in nursery.

If your child was trained, please share this exciting news with the classroom teachers they would love to help the process. Please send your child with at least 3 sets of change of clothing, and make sure to tell the teachers if your child is trained for naps or will be using a diaper for that time.

All children coming into Nursery must be completely toilet trained before the start of the school year. If your child is not trained, we will hold his/her spot until after Succos.

School Supply List Pre-Nursery

1	Pacifier, security item(s) (if needed) All items should be labeled
2	Spill proof sippy cups - labeled
1	Blanket
1	Toddler size sleeping bag
2	Packs of wipes
1	Box of diapers
3	Change of clothing suitable for all seasons, in a 6qt clear container with cover each item labeled separately.
1	Long sleeve smock-labeled
2	Boxes of tissue
1	Box of challah bags
1	Large package of communal snack with Heimish Hechsher (Enough for 12 children) - nut free

A \$50 school supply fee will be collected by the teachers at orientation. Sponsorship opportunities will be available for special events throughout the year.
A \$20 lice checking fee per child or \$50 per family fee will be collected via cash or check made out to Mrs. Gold at orientation.

Dress Code

Prenursery, Nursery and UPK do not have an official school uniform. Please ensure your child's clothing reflects the Cheder Chabad tznius standards.

For girls age 3 and above, skirts that cover the knees, tights, and shirts that cover elbows must be worn at all times.

For boys age three and above, a yarmulka and tzitzis must be worn.

All students must wear closed-toe shoes (no crocs or sandals) to ensure maximum enjoyment on the playground.

We enjoy spending time outdoors on a daily basis with the exception of rain/below 30 degree weather. Please make sure to send your child dressed accordingly. Please label all winter gear.



School Supply List Nursery

1	Long sleeved smock-labeled
1	Change of clothing-shirt and pants/skirt suitable for all seasons, in a 6qt clear container with cover, each item labeled separately.
2	Pairs of underwear and tights or socks (for boys only)- labeled
4	Jumbo glue sticks
1	Box of sandwich sized Ziploc bags
2	Box of challah bags
1	Box of tissues
1	Package of wipes
1	Large package of communal snack with Heimish Hechsher (Enough for a16 children)

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For boys age three and above, a yarmulka and tzitzis must be worn.

All students must wear closed-toe shoes (no crocs or sandals) to ensure maximum enjoyment on the playground.

We enjoy spending time outdoors daily with the exception of rain/below 30-degree weather. Please make sure to send your child dressed accordingly. Please label all winter gear.

School Supply List

UPK

1	Long sleeved smock- labeled
1	Change of Clothing - Shirt and pants/skirt for suitable all seasons, in a 6 qt clear container with cover, each item labeled separately.
2	pairs of underwear and tights or socks (for boys only)- labeled
1	Box of tissues and wipes
2	Two pocket plastic folders (red, blue)
1	Composition notebook
1	white 1 inch binder- with clear pocket insert on the cover 60 sheet protectors inside with 10 plastic dividers
4	Jumbo glue sticks
2	Large glue bottles
1	Box of sandwich bags
1	box of challah bags
1	Large package of communal snack with Heimish Hechsher (Enough for 18 children)

A \$50 school supply will be collected by the teachers at orientation. Sponsorship opportunities will be available for special events throughout the year. A \$20 lice checking fee per child or \$50 per family fee will be collected via cash or check made out to Mrs. Gold at orientation.

Dress Code

Prenursery, Nursery and UPK do not have an official school uniform. Please ensure your child's clothing reflects the Cheder Chabad tznius standards.

For girls age 3 and above, skirts that cover the knees, tights, and shirts that cover elbows must be worn at all times. For boys age three and above, a yarmulka and tzitzis must be worn. All students must wear closed-toe shoes (no crocs or sandals) to ensure maximum enjoyment on the playground.

We enjoy spending time outdoors on a daily basis with the exception of rain/below 30-degree weather. Please make sure to send your child dressed accordingly. Please label all winter gear.

School Supply List Pre-1A Boys

1	Backpack/briefcase large enough to hold a binder
2	pairs of underwear, shirts, and pants suitable for all seasons labeled
2	Box of tissues and wipes
2	Two pocket plastic folders (red, blue)
5	Jumbo glue sticks
2	Large glue bottles
2	Boxes of sandwich size ziploc bags
1	box of challah bags
1	Large package of communal snack with Heimish Hechsher (Enough for 18 children)

A \$65 school supply will be collected by the teachers at orientation. This amount will cover all regular supplies, folders, and materials for projects and Kriah workbooks.

A \$20 lice checking fee per child or \$50 per family fee will be collected via cash or check made out to Mrs. Gold at orientation.

Signature/Acknowledgement Page

This statement acknowledges that I received a copy of the Cheder Chabad
Preschool Parent handbook.

I read the book, and I understand its contents. I fully understand it is my
responsibility to be familiar and comply with these policies.

Parents Name Print _____

Parents Signature _____

Date _____

We hope that this booklet has proven informative. If you have any further
questions, please call the Cheder office. Once again, we look forward to a
wonderful year together!

Chaya Light-Preschool Director

Yehudice Bialestock- Preschool Administrative Director