



Columbia Jewish Community School Parent/Student/Teacher Handbook 2016-2017

Parents, students and teachers are encouraged to read through this information to familiarize themselves with our practices and procedures and ensure a successful year at CJCS!

Dear Parents,

Shalom and welcome to a new year at the Columbia Jewish Community School! It is our fervent hope that, by working together we will be able to provide you and your child(ren) with a quality Jewish experience. We hope to see you at school programs and encourage you to be involved by communicating with your child(ren)'s teacher(s), attending CJC/S activities, volunteering in the classroom, and discussing your child(ren)'s experiences at CJC/S.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or additional suggestions to make, please don't hesitate to be in touch!

Jerry Kiewe, M.A.J.E.
CJCS Educational Director
JKiewe@aol.com

Cindy Rhodes Myles
CJCS Board President
RhodesRunners3@gmail.com

About the Columbia Jewish Community School

The Columbia Jewish Community School (CJCS), founded in 1971, is the first Jewish religious school established in Howard County, Maryland. The mission of CJCS is to provide Jewish education to children ages 4 – 18 and their families that leads to a lifelong love of Judaism. We teach Jewish beliefs and practices in an accepting and positive manner, emphasizing community, culture and spirituality in a Reconstructionist context.

CJCS is formally affiliated with the Columbia Jewish Congregation and with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF). Reconstructionist Judaism is a contemporary, progressive approach to Jewish life that emphasizes community, culture and spirituality. It is respectful of Jewish text and tradition, but is also open to modern interpretations and embraces new and innovative religious practices.

CJCS welcomes students from unaffiliated families and strives to be sensitive to and accommodating of, interfaith families, non-traditional family structures, students with special needs and other challenges that may be presented to us.

Our Approach:

- We strive, at all times, to maintain a positive and safe environment for our students, parents and staff.
- We believe that the educational process is a partnership between teachers and students; towards that end, we emphasize mutual respect, open-mindedness, and tolerance of other people and ideas.
- We strive to expose our students – through our curriculum, faculty and activities - to diverse perspectives on Jewish history, religion and culture - and to do so in a positive manner. We believe that this approach enables our students to develop awareness and appreciation for the full scope of Jewish values, beliefs and practices and best equips make informed decisions of their own when faced with the many monumental choices of life in general and of Jewish life in particular.
- We strive to give our students an understanding of Jewish history and the ways in which it has shaped Jewish life and thought, while reaffirming a contemporary, progressive approach to modern life.
- We affirm that Hebrew is an essential element of Jewish education.
- We believe it is important to motivate students to make Judaism a way of life and to maintain membership in the Jewish community.
- We believe Jews should be encouraged to continue their Jewish learning throughout their life.

The CJCS office is located at:

The Oakland Mills Interfaith Center, a.k.a., The Meeting House
5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045

410-730-9040 Direct: 443-319-8112 Fax: 410-740-9323 Web site: www.columbiajewish.org

- **CJCS conducts classes and activities for Pre-Kindergarten thru 12th grades on Sunday mornings at the Oakland Mills High School** (9410 Kilimanjaro Road in Columbia; see directions inside)
- **CJCS conducts classes and activities for 8th thru 12th grade students on Thursday evenings at The Meeting House.** For additional information, contact Jerry Kiewe.

Core Jewish Values

Traditional Jewish Values and Ethics that are taught at CJCS:

Our existing curriculum is inclusive of many Jewish values and the emphasis is in keeping with the prioritization above. *Tzedakah* is, of course, a consistent theme and an entire day is now devoted to a “*Tzedakah* Fair.” The training program for our incoming Student Aides was set up to devote 50% of the time to social action and community service projects and we hope to expand this service learning component in future years. Other Jewish values are revisited periodically in Primary and Secondary grades, and even again in the teen classes, with significant efforts made to ensure that activities and lessons are age appropriate.

***Am Echad* (One People) or *Shalom Bayit* (Preservation of Peace in Home and Community)**

- Maintaining a positive and safe environment for students, parents, and staff.
- Preparing students to feel comfortable in the Jewish community.
- Exposing our students, through our curriculum, faculty, and activities, to diverse perspectives on Jewish history, religion, and culture.

***B'Tzelem Elohim* (In G-d's Image)**

- Welcoming students from unaffiliated families, striving to be sensitive to and accommodating of interfaith families, non-traditional family structures, students with special needs, and other challenges that may be presented to us.

***Ahavat Torah* (Love of Torah/Judaism)**

- Presenting Judaism as a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional complex contemporary religion.
- Connecting families to Judaism via the Columbia Jewish Congregation.
- Motivating students to make Judaism a way of life and maintain their membership in the Jewish community.
- Encouraging students to continue their Jewish learning throughout their lifetime.

***Derek Eretz* (Way of the Land/Thoughtful Conduct)**

- The educational process as a partnership between teachers and students; towards that end we emphasize mutual respect, open-mindedness, and tolerance of other people and ideas.

***Gemilut Chasidim* (Acts of Loving Kindness)**

- Helping students to realize the importance of proactively assisting others and to appreciate that seemingly minor acts can have great impact.

***Talmud Torah* (Study of Torah)**

- Striving to give our students an understanding of Jewish history and the ways in which it has shaped Jewish life and thought, while reaffirming a contemporary, progressive approach to modern life.

***Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World)**

- Educating students about the importance of individual and collective social action, responsibility, generosity, and the pursuit of justice. Aiding students in exploring such opportunities for themselves.

***Tzedakah* (Justice/Charity)**

- Developing a habit of giving to philanthropic causes. *Tzedakah* is collected by all of our classes and an entire day is devoted to an annual *Tzedakah* Fair, coordinated by our 8th Grade students, which seeks to make students and parents aware of a variety of worthwhile causes.

Others:

- *Ahavat Ger* (Love of the Stranger)
- *Ahavat Zion* (Love for the Land of Israel)
- *Bakesh Shalom* (Obligation to Pursue Peace)
- *Bal Tasheet* (Preservation of God's Creations)
- *Bikkur Cholim* (Visiting the Sick)
- *Chesed Shel Emet* (Respect for the Dead)
- *Chiddur P'nai Zaken* (Respect for the Elderly)
- *Hachnasat Ohrim* (Hospitality)
- *Hocheach Tocheach* (Obligation to Speak Out vs. Injustice)
- *Kevod Av V'Aym* (Honor Your Father & Mother)
- *Kevod Nashim* (Honor of Women)
- *Lashon Ha-Rah* (Avoidance of Gossip & Slander)
- *Pidyon Shevuyim* (Obligation to Redeem Captives)
- *Pikuach Nefesh* (Preservation of Life)
- *Shalom Bayit* (Preservation of Peace in Home & Community)
- *Tsa'ar Ba'alei Chayim* (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)
- *Ushemartem Et Nafshotechem* (Obligation to Protect Health)

Information for Opening Sunday – Sunday, September 11, 2016:

(Note: All Sunday activities take place at the Oakland Mills High School - 9410 Kilimanjaro Road in Columbia.)

- 9:00 AM Arrival and **Opening Day Assembly** in the Auditorium – for all students AND parents
 Introduction of CJC/S staff
- 9:30 AM Students depart for AM classes – escorted by teachers and student aides
- 9:35 AM **Parent Brunch** in the Cafeteria; opportunity to hear from CJC/S Board and staff

Where Do I Go to on the First Day?

Don't worry, you won't get lost! Upon arrival at the Oakland Mills High School, go in the front entrance doors on the left.

- 1st Stop:** **Check for your name and class assignment(s) on the lists posted on the wall**
When you arrive there is likely to be a large crowd of CJC/S students and parents. On the wall will be a list of all the students and their classroom/teacher assignments. You can find your name on an alphabetical list and list by class assignment. If you need help looking for your name or finding your classroom, student aides and staff will be on hand to help.
But WAIT! Don't go to your classroom yet! Next...
- 2nd Stop:** **Proceed to the Auditorium for our Opening Day Assembly (9:00 – 9:30 AM). (Student aides will point out the way.)** Look for your teacher who will be holding up a sign with her/his name and grade/class. We ask that you sit with your teacher and fellow students from your *morning* class.
- 3rd Stop:** **Your morning class. (Parents are invited to a bagel breakfast in the main cafeteria.)** Teachers and students will be dismissed as a class and walk to their rooms together.

4th thru 7th Grades: How Will I Know Which Hebrew Class I Belong In?

All 4th thru 7th grade students will be grouped by Judaica grade level for the first several weeks of school. We will then review Hebrew skills from last year and make a more comprehensive assessment of which skills each of our students have learned; ability to recognize Hebrew letters and vowels, combine syllables, and read fluently.

Once that process is completed has been completed, we will make more definitive class assignments to designated Hebrew classes, which are named after Israeli cities and typically follow the progression below

- 4th grade = Beersheva
- 5th grade = Tel Aviv
- 6th grade = Haifa
- 7th grade = Jerusalem
- Resource Room = Netanya (Individual tutoring, provided to students on a short or long-term basis as deemed appropriate.

There are, of course, individual exceptions. If the class we have assigned a student to does not seem to be the best "fit" (either too difficult or not advanced enough) we will be happy to reassess skills and help determine how to put him/her in a class – or arrange other assistance – that will prove more effective. We want to make sure that all of our students succeed! If you or your parents are concerned about your learning pace, you should bring it to our attention quickly.

What Should I Bring to School?

Each student is expected to come to school each week with the following:

1. **3-Ring Binder with paper and a side pocket for homework assignment forms** and school notices that are distributed in class
2. **Gluestick, Pencils and/or pens**
3. **Tzedakah money:** It is customary that students bring a small amount of *tzedakah* money to class each week. (Periodically students decide as a group which worthy organization will receive the class' contribution.)
4. **Lunch or snack money**
5. **Book bag with name:** We strongly suggest that each student have a special **book bag** designated for Hebrew School only. That way text books, notebooks, assignments, etc. have less of a chance of becoming scattered and disappearing. Please write the student's name somewhere on the bag in case the student and bag become separated!

Tzedakah

Tzedakah (facilitation of social justice and welfare through charitable giving) is a Jewish value that we strive to instill in our children. Each class collects *tzedakah* money each week, so you are encouraged to send your child with some extra change Sundays so he/she can participate in this *mitzvah*. Each class collectively determines the recipients of its collections, which are distributed by the school at the conclusion of the school year. If your family would like to carry out this practice at home, CJC/S can provide you with a "Blue and White" *tzedakah* box.

CURRICULUM

The CJCS utilizes a "spiral curriculum" designed to have students revisit key subjects during the course of their education in varied, age-appropriate ways. Our various grade levels focus on specific areas of instruction, as indicated below. Additional details related to the curricular goals are available on our website.

Pre-Kindergarten thru 3rd Grades

Beginning Hebrew Reading and Prayers

Jewish Holidays

Jewish Folk Tales and Jewish Music

Jewish Arts & Crafts

4th thru 7th Grades

Hebrew Reading Skills and Prayers

Jewish Life Cycle Events

Bible and History

Jewish Values & *Mitzvot*

Standard schedule of Sunday class times at CJCS:

- 9:00 AM – 10:50 AM
 - Hebrew & Judaics for Pre-K through 3rd Grade students
 - Hebrew Classes for 4th – 7th grade students
 - Student Aide Training/Jewish Service Learning for 8th grade students
- 10:50 AM – 11:10 AM Break Time
 - Pizza and bagels available from CJCS "Snack Shack"
 - Redemption of homework and service attendance stickers at CJCS "*Shuk of Tchochkes & Treasures*"
 - CJCS library books available
 - Various enrichment activities may be available
 - "Fun Club" for Pre-K through 3rd grade students begins
- 11:10 AM – 1:00 PM
 - "Fun Club" for Pre-K through 3rd grade students continues
 - Judaics classes for 4th – 7th Grade

Textbooks: Teachers will distribute textbooks during the first few weeks of school. Every Hebrew class and Kindergarten through 3rd grade will receive a textbook. We use the Behrman House produced "*Hineini* texts" and our "CJCS Sings!" as our main sources for the Hebrew School.

CJCSings!

CJCS developed its "CJCSings!" with both students and parents in mind; "CJCSings!" consists of a CD that is distributed to all of our families and an accompanying Student Guide. Students and parents can listen together to the reading of each prayer, first slowly and then in song. We hope that the CD, along with copies of the prayers, will make our prayer program clearer and easier for both parents and students to use. We also provide each family with a Parent's Guide, which includes an English transliteration (not available in the Student Guide) to enable anyone to read along, whether or not they know Hebrew. "CJCSings!" CDs, Student Guides and Parents' Guides will be distributed at the CJCS Opening Sunday and subsequent weeks.

Homework: Homework is a vital aid to the learning process! Each teacher determines how much homework to assign, but expect some assignment in *every* Hebrew class. Typically, this will involve a modest written assignment that should require no more than 15 to 20 minutes to complete. Since the real key to learning Hebrew (and any foreign language) is practice and repetition, we highly recommend that each student try to practice reading aloud for 5 minutes each day.

Homework from afternoon Judaics classes will typically consist of a question pertaining to that week's class lesson that students should discuss with their parents.

Students will receive homework assignments in class from their teacher and teachers will also send them via e-mail each week. Parents are asked to ensure that homework assignments are completed. **CJCS offers an additional incentive for the completion of weekly homework assignments in the form of "*Shuk* stickers" that can be redeemed each Sunday at the CJCS *Shuk* (market) for prizes and at our Snack Shack for pizza, snacks and drinks!**

CJCS Staff

Jerome Kiewe has served as the Education Director of CJCS since January, 1995. Jerry holds Masters Degrees in Social Work, Jewish Studies and Jewish Education. Simultaneously with his role as a Jewish educator, Jerry has served in executive level positions with the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO), PANIM, the Baltimore Zionist District, and the JCC of Greater Baltimore and is a past President of KEHILLAH: The Association of Jewish Communal Professionals of Greater Baltimore. He currently serves as Executive Director of Ohr Kodesh Congregation in Chevy Chase. He has led numerous overseas trips to the former USSR, Poland and Israel and domestic Judaic programs in the U.S. and has served as an adjunct instructor for the Baltimore Hebrew University. Jerry resides in Pikesville with his wife, Suzanne; they have three children, Zephan, Micah and Tamar, and two cats, Priscilla and Bella.

CJCS Teachers for 2016-17

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Kindergarten thru 3rd grades

- Pre-K, Kindergarten + 1st Gr.: Roxanne Gordon
- 2nd Grade: Fern Cohen
- 3rd Grade: Leslie Wasserman + Steve Kittner

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Hebrew Class Designations for 4th thru 7th graders

- Beersheva (4th) Allison Sokoll
- Tel Aviv (5th) Mark Shimshak
- Haifa (6th) Caitlin Pomerantz
- Jerusalem (7th) Jon Blankman
- Netanya (Resource Room) Judy Young
- Music: Cantor Jan Morrison
- Storytelling: Marc Young
- 8th Grade Student Aide Training/ Jewish Service Learning: Stephanie Gurwitz

11:10 AM – 1:00 PM Afternoon Judaics Classes

- 4th Grade Judaics Caitlin Pomerantz
- 5th Grade Judaics Jon Blankman
- 6th Grade Judaics - Fern Cohen
- 7th Grade Judaics - Stephanie Gurwitz

Thursday Night Teen Class: 8th -12th Grades: Stephanie Gurwitz

Teachers will be sending letters via email within the first weeks of school to tell about themselves, their expectations of students and curriculum plans.

Student Aides

CJCS deploys a corps of exceptionally motivated and talented teens who assist our teachers and students in many ways. Our Student Aides help with various activities in the classrooms, help to run our "Snack Shack" and "Shuk", help facilitate our Student Council, operate the "Fun Club" program, etc. Their efforts are of immense benefit to CJCS!

Involvement by our Spiritual Leadership

All classes at CJCS receive periodic visits by the **Rabbi Sonya Starr** and **Cantor Jan Morrison**. Rabbi Starr typically schedules two visits per year to each grade, with focus on teaching Reconstructionist Jewish perspectives on various age-appropriate issues. She also encourages students to submit questions of their own in an "Ask the Rabbi" format. "Cantor Jan" is typically scheduled to meet with each class monthly, teaching music and prayers that have been designated for each grade level.

Jewish Storytelling

CJCS is blessed with the ability to draw from many talented members of our congregation. One such is **Marc Young**, a trained Jewish Storyteller, who is available for presentations to our classes, offering an engaging approach to various Biblical stories, historical events, or themes in our curriculum.

Hebrew Reading Assistance for Students

We realize that, for various reasons, many students will encounter difficulties learning to read Hebrew. CJCS maintains a Resource Room that conducts initial assessments of student learning needs and provides both short and long-term assistance. We specialize in addressing dyslexia and employ the Orton-Gillingham method. **The services of our Resource Room are offered at no additional cost to families.** (Parent volunteers with good Hebrew skills are especially helpful in enabling us to maintain this standard.)

Progress Reports

Progress reports are issued at mid-year and at the end of the school year. These progress reports serve as yet another means of communication between our teachers and parents. Please take time to read them and contact the teacher if you have any questions about your child's progress.

Hebrew Reading Assistance for Parents:

We realize that, for various reasons, some of our parents may not be able to read Hebrew. For this reason, CJC periodically offers Beginner's Hebrew classes for parents and our staff will be happy to refer interested parents to other opportunities that may be available.

CJCS Library Ladder

Earn CJCS shuk stickers by reading Jewish-themed books, CDs and DVDs borrowed from our library. We periodically add new items to our collection over the summer, so check it out – then check one out!

If you have any books of Jewish interest that are gathering dust on your shelves, please let us find a new home for them. We can use them in the CJC/S Library!

Shabbat at Home

At CJC/S we strive to foster a strong partnership between your family, the religious school and the congregation. Our collective goal is to teach our children how to live meaningfully as Jews. We can teach children about prayer and about belonging to a community in our classrooms, but in order for these lessons to have intrinsic meaning for your child(ren), they must be reinforced by the active participation of your family.

Observance of *Shabbat* rituals at home is strongly encouraged. **If your family would like a "Shabbat Kit" that contains easy-to-follow instructions and some ritual objects, please let us know and we will make one available to you.** Use of these kits may also be incorporated into the standard curriculum of particular grades at CJC/S.

Shabbat Services at CJC

It is our hope that our students will regularly attend *Shabbat* services either Friday night or Saturday morning with an adult family member. Regular attendance will reinforce the Hebrew that your child learns in class. **Teachers will provide students with an opportunity to self-report their attendance, and will award "CJCS Shuk stickers" that are redeemable on Sundays at the CJCS Shuk for prizes and at our Snack Shack.**

We wish to especially encourage attendance at the special "L'Dor V'Dor" Shabbat Services that will take place periodically during the year ahead. Some will take place on Friday nights at 7:00 PM, others on Saturday morning at 10:00 AM a few at special times for Jewish holidays. All are held at the Meeting House/Oakland Mills Interfaith Center.

- Friday, September 30, 2016
- Fri., Oct. 21- 6:00 PM (*Sukkot*)
- Friday, November 11, 2016
- Saturday, December 17, 2016
- Saturday, January 21, 2017
- Fri. Feb 10- 6:30 pm (*TuB'Shevat*)
- Sat., Mar. 11- 6:30 pm (*Purim*)
- Friday, April 21, 2017
- Saturday, May 6, 2017

Tot Shabbat Services

CJC also holds monthly Tot *Shabbat* services that will take place on the dates below. Tot Shabbat services typically begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday mornings. On certain Jewish holidays there are also Tot Shabbat services on Friday Nights that begin at 6:30 PM.

- Saturday, August 6, 2016
- Saturday, September 10, 2016
- Fri., Oct. 21- 6:30 PM (*Sukkot*)
- Saturday, November 19, 2016
- Saturday, December 17, 2016
- Saturday, January 21, 2017
- Saturday, February 18, 2017
- Fri., March 11- 6:30 PM (*Purim*)
- Saturday, April 15, 2017
- Saturday, May 6, 2017

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Opening Day Parent Brunch

On Opening Sunday (August 30), CJCS will sponsor a "Parent Brunch" in the Main cafeteria that will begin immediately after our initial orientation (which will conclude with students being escorted to classrooms by their teachers). This will provide opportunities for both our newer and "veteran" parents to meet one and another and hear from board members and staff.

CJCS will offer additional opportunities to enable parents to meet their children's teachers, hear from CJCS board members and staff and become better informed of what to expect in the year ahead.

Parent Volunteers

CJCS has come to rely upon the talents of many parents who have made a variety of valuable contributions to our school. Helping to give individualized attention to students, teaching a particular subject in the classroom, operating our "Snack Shack", giving tennis or chess lessons during the mid-morning "break time" or facilitating Israeli dance sessions are all examples of ways that parents have helped to enhance the atmosphere at CJCS.

If you have a particular interest or skill – especially Hebrew reading ability – we would love to provide you with an opportunity to become involved. Our "volunteer corps" includes plenty of parents who are only able to volunteer for one or two specific activities each year – so you needn't feel overburdened.

If you are willing to help out, contact Marcy Quill.

School Board

Of course, for anyone who wishes to go the extra mile, we will welcome your interest in becoming active on our board, which oversees the operation of the entire school and coordinates a number of major holiday celebrations and other special activities that the school offers.

The 2015-16 CJCS Board:

President:	Marcy Quill	Member at Large:	Laura Janis
Vice President:	Laura Knox	Member at Large:	Elena Lozovatsky
Treasurer:	Mark Steinhorn	Member at Large:	Karen Russell
Secretary:	Cindy Myles	Member at Large:	Beth Safeer
Immed. Past Pres.	Eileen Singleton	Member at Large:	Ilene Toller
Member at Large:	Julie Cooper	CJC President	Stuart Berlin
Member at Large:	Jamie Goldstein	Youth Rep.	
Member at Large:	Darrell Greenlee	Educational Director	Jerry Kiewe
Member at Large:	Wendy Hall	CJC/S Rabbi	Rabbi Sonya Starr

Parent Communications

The CJCS staff maintains regular correspondence with parents via e-mail. Teachers send weekly reminders and the administrative staff sends periodic school-wide communications regarding upcoming programs. CJCS also maintains a web site: www.ColumbiaJewish.org/religious.ed.shtml and occasionally we even resort to old-fashioned telephone calls! Of course, any time that you are seeking additional information, please don't hesitate to contact our staff or board members.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available from CJCS each year on the basis of demonstrated financial need. (This is separate from the financial assistance process of the Columbia Jewish Congregation.) Scholarship requests must be re-submitted each school year. Forms are available from the office and should preferably be submitted by mid-August, though they will be accepted and considered at any time. Families are encouraged to make us aware of any changes in their financial status.

All information will be kept in the strictest of confidence and applicants will be notified promptly of the scholarship committee's decision.

CJC Men's Club: Monthly Brunch & Speaker programs on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM; **Schedule for 2016-17**

Sept. 18 - Intro. Ethical Wills	Jan. 8 - Jews & African-Americans and Civil Rights (probably off site)	April 2 - Seeds of Peace
Oct. 9 - College Athletics	Feb. 5 - Presidential History	May 14 - (Mother's Day) Women's Roller Derby
Nov. 13 - The Casino Business	March 5 - Future of Space Travel	
Dec. 4 - The Election Results		

A tasty breakfast will be available (donations accepted). For more info. contact [Alex Ross](#), [Gary Toller](#) or [Fred Thomsen](#)

CJCS Student Council

In 2015-16, CJCS will continue its Student Council, comprised of elected representatives from each of its 4th thru 7th grade Judaics classes. The goals of the Student Council are:

- To provide CJCS students with an opportunity to create programs and engage in activities that will be of interest to them and are in keeping with the values and purposes of CJC/S;
- To provide CJCS students with greater familiarity with, and appreciation for, the democratic process; and
- To provide CJCS students with an understanding of how Jewish values can inform and influence their decision-making and the use of their leadership skills.

For 2015-2016, voting is scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 25. The procedures by which representatives from each class are elected will be communicated to all students during the initial weeks of classes.

Guidance and direction for the Student Council in 2015-16 will be provided by Jerry Kiewe, with assistance by a designated student aide.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

CJCS is formally affiliated with the Columbia Jewish Congregation (CJC), which will determine appropriate *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* dates and facilitate the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony of its member children. **It is the policy of the congregation that families who wish their children to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah at CJC must become members and begin attending classes at CJCS by their child's 3rd grade year.**

The preparation provided at CJCS will satisfy the general Judaic educational requirements of CJC. Along with Jewish values, history and holidays, Hebrew language and prayers are progressively taught at each grade level. Our 6th and 7th graders are introduced to *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* prayers and rituals. The congregation will arrange for additional tutoring specific to your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah portion.

"Fun Club": Mid-morning activities for Pre-K thru 3 students

Please be aware that CJC/S offers an OPTIONAL "Fun Club" program from 10:50 AM – 1:00 PM for Pre-K through 3rd grade students. Operated by veteran student aides, they will meet your child at the end of his/her morning class and provide snacks and activities for the remainder of our day at Oakland Mills. Cost is \$5/hour/child with advance reservation (by 7 PM Friday); \$6/child/hour at the door (sign up by 9:30 AM); there is also a sibling discount for a 2nd child. Contact: Riley.Sherwin@gmail.com or 443-538-3141

General Information and Expectations

Attendance

Regular and consistent attendance is vital to the progress of your child's progress and that of his/her class. Facilitating regular attendance at religious school makes a positive statement to your child about the importance of Jewish education. The school's expectation is that that each child will attend all sessions. If parents know that their child will be unable to meet this standard, they should contact the Principal to discuss their particular circumstances. If you need to pick your child up earlier than the scheduled ending time of class, please notify the teacher and Principal in advance.

Behavior

CJCS is a school with a well-deserved reputation for maintaining an educational environment that is positive and productive. We credit the caring attitude of our staff and the constructive enthusiasm of our students and parents.

We expect our teachers to create lessons and activities that will engage our students, our students to participate enthusiastically, and our parents to be supportive of our efforts. Teachers and parents are encouraged to contact one another directly to discuss methods and strategies that will work best for each student.

In the unfortunate event that a student displays disruptive behavior, our staff will attempt to explore additional means of engaging him/her. We will also encourage him/her to regain the self-control necessary to remain a full participant in the classroom. Should in-class efforts prove unsuccessful and the misbehavior continue, the Principal will meet with the child and parents will be notified and consulted.

Maintaining Safety

In the Classroom

Children who display destructive or harmful behavior to themselves or others may be removed from class immediately. If necessary, the school may require a parent to accompany their child as a condition for his/her return.

In the Parking Lot

In order to help ensure everyone's safety, we are requesting that you help exercise caution in our parking lot. If you park in the lot for drop off in the morning, please accompany your child(ren) to the front entrance of the school. For pickup, please park your car, come inside to meet your child(ren), and walk back together to your car. Children darting in between cars that slow down for pick up is a potentially dangerous situation. Help keep all of our students safe!

Fire Drills

The CJCS staff will conduct a fire drill during the early weeks of school. All CJCS staff, students and other occupants will be asked to exit from the facility through the closest exit doors to and gather at the front of the building.

Foods and Snacks

CJCS operates a "very popular "Snack Shack" which sells pizza, drinks and other food items during our mid-morning break (10:50 – 11:10 AM). The Snack Shack is run by volunteers with assistance from student aides.

On a different note, please be aware that there are a number of students at CJCS who have serious, in some instances, life-threatening allergies most typically to peanuts and other types of nuts. Though CJCS cannot maintain a fully controlled environment at the High School and cannot guarantee that these children will not be exposed, we strive to make reasonable efforts to reduce the chances. We therefore request that our parents:

1. **Avoid sending food and snacks that contain peanut products to our school;**
2. Be aware of and respectful of tables that may, at times, be marked as "peanut-free" (as a preventative measure, parents whose children are especially sensitive may clean a particular table to remove any residual food remains);
3. Discourage your child from the practice of sharing food with other students (a wise precaution in any event);
4. Attempt to help explain and impress the need for extra sensitivity to this growing problem with your child.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation with the above and reassure you that the CJCS staff is also fully prepared to follow-up in the event that a medical emergency occurs.

Preventing the Spread of Infections:

The following are steps that CJCS will be taking – or will ask that parents take - to help prevent the spread of illnesses, and infections:

- Parents are, of course, asked to be cautious about sending students to school who show signs or symptoms of illness.
- As always, students are expected to wash their hands thoroughly when using restrooms and when handling any materials that might carry germs or viruses. This would be especially applicable for certain field trip or special programs (e.g. – "pet day")
- To prevent the spread of head lice via use of CJCS-provided *kippot*, it is best if each student brings his/her own *kippah* each Sunday. CJCS does, however, have a supply on hand. To ensure against repeat use of the same *kippot*, students should be forewarned to use only 1 *kippah*; if it accidentally falls off of a student's head, it should return to the head of only that student. (Sharing can be a wonderful thing, but protecting one's own health and that of others is also a *mitzvah!*). Note that our research and consultation with medical professionals informed us that no lice infestation - neither live lice nor their "nits" (eggs) - can survive for more than a day or two without a host, let alone a full week in our storage closet, where our supply of *kippot* resides in between class sessions. This ensures against transmittal of lice from one week to the next.

Staff + Room Assignments: 2016-2017

9:00 AM-10:50 AM	Class Size	Staff/Teacher	Student Aide	Room
Administration		Jerry Kiewe	Janis Niv	Caf.
Pre-K, K, 1st Grade	9	Roxanne Gordon	Ben Germroth, Shaina Knox	108
2nd Grade	9	Fern Cohen	Frances Kramer	203
3rd Grade	12	Leslie Wasserman, Steve Kittner	Riley Sherwin	105
Beersheva (4th Grade Hebrew)	11	Allison Sokoll	Amy Steinhorn	207
Tel Aviv (5th Grade Hebrew)	17	Mark Shimshak	Mark Thomsen	204
Haifa (6th Grade Hebrew)	20	Caitlin Pomerantz	Max Quill	208
Jerusalem (7th Grade Hebrew)	21	Jon Blankman	Sam Levine	212
Netanya - Resource Room	TBD	Judy Young	Lexi Croft, Yael Isaacs, Robby Taylor	211
Student Aide Training/ Jewish Service Learning (8th Grade)	6	Stephanie Gurwitz	Naomi Marin	209
Available for General Use/Meetings				106, 210
10:50 AM - 11:10 AM		Staff/Teacher	Student Aide	
Administration		Jerry Kiewe	Janis Niv	Caf.
Fun Club		xx	Riley Sherwin (Yael Isaacs)	204
Snack Shack		(Joe Quill)	Sam Levine, Naomi Marin, Max Quill	Caf.
Shuk		xx	Frances Kramer (Yael Isaacs)	Caf.
11:10 AM - 1:00 PM	Class Size	Staff/Teacher	Student Aide	
Administration		Jerry Kiewe		Caf.
Fun Club	TBD	xx	Riley Sherwin (+ Yael Isaacs)	204
4th Grade	11	Caitlin Pomerantz		208
5th Grade	18	Jon Blankman		212
6th Grade	19	Fern Cohen	Max Quill	203
7th Grade	21	Stephanie Gurwitz		209
Available for General Use/Meetings				210, 211, 207, 106

Columbia Jewish Community School

SUNDAY SCHEDULE for 2016-2017

SUNDAY (Pre-Kindergarten --> 7th grades)

Aug. 28 **CJCS Staff Orientation - 5:30 PM Dinner; Staff Meeting to follow** [Note: HCPS begin on Mon., Aug. 29]

Sept. 4 **NO CLASSES - (Labor Day Weekend)** HCPS closed on Mon., Sept. 5)

11 CJCS in Session - **Opening Sunday**

18 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

25 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

Oct. 2 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Rosh HaShanah** - begins Sun. PM, Oct. 2 thru Tues., Oct. 4)
(HCPS closed on Mon., Oct. 3)

9 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Yom Kippur** - Tues. PM, Wed. AM, Oct. 11/12)

16 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Sukkot** begins evening of Sun., Oct. 16)

23 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Simchat Torah** on Mon. PM, Oct. 24)

30 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

Nov. 6 CJCS in Session - **Community-Wide Service/Regular Classes** (End DST- set clocks back 1 hr.-Sat. 11/6)

13 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

20 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

27 **NO CLASSES - (Thanksgiving Weekend)** (HCPS closed Wed., Nov. 23 thru Fri., Nov. 25)

Dec. 4 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

11 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

18 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (1st night of **Chanukah** is Sat., Dec. 24; ends Sun., Jan. 1)

25 **NO CLASSES - (Winter Break)** (HCPS closed Fri. Dec. 23 thru Sun., Jan. 1; reopen Mon., Jan. 2)

Jan. 1 **NO CLASSES - (Winter Break)** (Public schools reopen on Mon., Jan. 2)

8 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

15 CJCS in Session - **Community-Wide Service/Regular Classes** (HCPS close Mon, Jan. 16 - MLK Day)

22 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

29 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

Feb. 5 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

12 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Tu B'Shevat**; Fri., 2/10//Sat. 2/11)

19 **NO CLASSES - (Presidents Day Weekend)** (HCPS close Mon. Feb. 20);

26 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (Annual CJCS *Tzedakah* Fair)

Mar. 5 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Purim Megillah Reading** is Sat., Mar. 11)

12 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes **Purim!** (Begin Daylight Savings Time - set clocks ahead 1 hr, Sat. 3/11)

19 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes

26 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (Presentation by Rabbi Sandy Sasso)

Apr. 2 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes **Open House**

9 **NO CLASSES - (Passover/Spring Break)** HCPS closed from Mon., Apr. 10 thru Mon., Apr. 17
(1st Seder is Mon. PM, Apr. 10; *Passover* ends Tues., Apr. 18)

16 **NO CLASSES - (Passover/Spring Break)**

23 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Yom HaShoah**-Holocaust Remembrance Day; Sun., 4/23-Mon., 4/24)

30 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Yom Ha'atzmaut** – Israel Independence Day, is Mon., 5/1-Tues., 5/2)

May 7 CJCS in Session - **Community-Wide Service /Regular Classes** (CJC Annual Meeting)

14 CJCS in Session - **Final Sunday Lag B'Omer!** (Mother's Day)

21 **Contingency Day - Use only if needed for earlier cancellation** (HCPS Closed Fri, 5/20 – Prof. Day)

28 **NO CLASSES - (Memorial Day Weekend)** (**Lag B'Omer** – Wed., May 25/Th., May 26)

(Last Day of Public School – Th., June 9)

Sunday Emergency Contact Phone: 410-370-2520

Sunday Inclement Weather Hotline: 410-313-6827

Columbia Jewish Community School

THURSDAY SCHEDULE for 2016-2017

THURSDAY "Teen Night": 8th thru 12th Grades

TEACHER: Stephanie Gurwitz

7:00 – 7:30 PM – Nightly "Pizza & Social Time"

7:30 – 9:00 PM – "Mini-mesters"

- Sept. 1 7:00 - 7:30 PM - **Student Aides ONLY** – Prep. For Opening Sunday (Sunday, Spt. 11)
 7:30 - 9:00 PM - **Opening Introductory Thursday Session**
- Sept. 8 Class is IN Session **Mini-mester #1 Begins: "Topic TBD"**
 15 Class is IN Session " Know your Rights" Program
 22 Class is IN Session
 29 Class is IN Session (**Rosh HaShanah** - begins Sun. PM, Oct. 2 thru Tues., Oct. 4) (HCPS closed Mon., 10/3)
- Oct. 6 Class is IN Session
 13 Class is IN Session (**Yom Kippur** - Tues. PM, Wed. AM, Oct. 11/12)
 20 Class is IN Session (**Simchat Torah** on Mon. PM, Oct. 24)
 27 Class is IN Session **Mini-mester #2 Begins: "Topic TBD"**
- Nov. 3 Class is IN Session
 10 Class is IN Session
 17 Class is IN Session
 24 **NO CLASSES - (Thanksgiving)** (HCPS closed Wed., Nov. 23 thru Fri., Nov. 25)
- Dec. 1 Class is IN Session **Mini-mester #3 Begins: Topic: TBD" Shaliach at CJCS - TBD**
 8 Class is IN Session
 15 Class is IN Session
 22 **NO CLASSES – (Winter Break)** (HCPS closed Fri. Dec. 23 thru Sun., Jan. 1; reopen Mon., Jan. 2)
 29 **NO CLASSES – (Winter Break)** (1st night of **Chanukah** is Sat., Dec. 24; ends Sun., Jan. 1)
- Jan. 5 Class is IN Session
 12 Class is IN Session
 19 **NO CLASSES - (Mid-Terms)** (HCPS close early Wed., 1/18 & Th., 1/19; close Fri. 1/20)
 26 Class is IN Session **Mini-mester #4 Begins: "Topic TBD"**
- Feb. 2 **NO CLASSES - (Long Weekend)** (HCPS close early Th, Feb. 2, close Fri., Feb. 3 and Mon, Feb. 6 – Prof. Day)
 9 Class is IN Session **Shaliach at CJCS - TBD** (**Tu B'Shevat**; Fri., 2/10//Sat. 2/11)
 16 Class is IN Session
 23 Class is IN Session
- Mar. 2 Class is IN Session
 9 Class is IN Session (**Purim Megillah Reading** is Sat., Mar. 11)
 16 Class is IN Session
 23 Class is IN Session **Mini-mester #5 Begins: "Topic TBD"**
 30 Class is IN Session
- Apr. 6 Class is IN Session (1st **Seder** is Mon. PM, Apr. 10; **Passover ends Tues., Apr. 18)**
 13 **NO CLASSES - (Passover/Spring Break)** (HCPS close Fri., Apr. 7 thru Fri, April 14)
 20 Class is IN Session
 27 Class is IN Session
- May 4 Class is IN Session
 11 Class is IN Session
 18 **Final Thursday Session**
 25 **Contingency Day**

Inclement Weather Procedures - Sundays

The Howard County Public School system maintains an "inclement weather phone line" which provides information about the decision of the County to open/close its facilities. **That number is 410-313-6827.** This is the best way for you to find out about school closings.

Generally speaking, if a Snow Emergency Plan is in effect **for Howard County** as of **7:00 AM** on Sunday morning, Howard County will NOT open any school facilities and CJCS classes will be automatically canceled. **Please wait until after 7:15 AM to call this number;** decisions to lift the Snow Emergency Plan are often made early in the morning.

If there is any question, call the CJCS office **after 7:15 AM** at: 410-730-9355

If you need further clarification, you may call Jerry Kiewe directly via cell: 410-294-3205.

Also, between 8:45 AM and 1:15 PM (Sunday AM only!), you can reach CJCS staff at the high school: **410-370-2520**

Inclement Weather Procedures - Thursdays

If the Howard County Public School system closes for the day or closes early, CJCS Thursday night classes will automatically be canceled. For all weather-related matters that occur or may occur after regular public school hours, teachers will make a decision by at least 6:00 PM and will send out an email notification.

IMPORTANT: EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM:

CJCS has established an account with "Call Em All" that will serve as an "emergency notification system" - it will rapidly send out phone messages to all of our families in the event of a significant emergency need. **It will also text alerts to those who opt in to this secondary notification.** To sign up for texts: **send a text that says "cjcsalert" to 292929.**

If you want to opt in and receive text alerts in ADDITION to a phone call, you'll have to opt in (again) as per the above. Note that this system will only be used in the event of significant and unforeseen circumstances; it will NOT be used for more routine matters, inclement weather closings, etc.

Directions to: OAKLAND MILLS HIGH SCHOOL 9410 Kilimanjaro Road in Columbia, MD

FROM BALTIMORE

Via Route 29 South

1. Take Route 29 South; just after the exit for the Town Center, take the exit for Route 175 **East towards Jessup**
2. Take 175 East to the first traffic light; bear right onto Thunder Hill Road
3. At the third Stop sign the road will dead end; turn left here onto Santiago Road
4. Follow the road around to the right. Go **past** the entrance to the Meeting House/Inter-Faith Center and the stop sign turn left onto Stevens Forest Road
5. Go a **very** short distance, then turn left at the first traffic light onto Kilimanjaro Road
6. The first school on your left is the Oakland Mills **Middle** School; go about 1/2 mile **past** this - the Oakland Mills **High** School will also be on your left

Via Route 95 South

1. Take Route 95 South to Route 175 **West**, towards Columbia
2. Go about 2-3 miles and turn left onto Thunder Hill Road
3. Follow directions above (FROM Baltimore, via Rte. 29) from #3

FROM WASHINGTON

Via Route 29 North

1. Take Route 29 North; just after the exit for Route 32, take the exit for Broken Lands Parkway; once on the exit ramp, bear right, headed **East**, towards Oakland Mills
2. Once on Broken Lands Parkway, get over to the left; at the first traffic light turn left onto Stevens Forest Road
3. At the first traffic light turn right onto Kilimanjaro Road
4. The first school on your left is the Oakland Mills **Middle** School; go about 1/2 mile **past** this and the Oakland Mills **High** School will also be on your left

Via Route 95 North

1. Take Route 95 North; take the exit for Route 32 **West**
2. Take Route 32 West to Broken Lands Parkway (this is a major intersection); turn right
3. Take Broken Lands Parkway to the traffic light for Stevens Forest Road; turn right
4. Follow the directions above (FROM WASH., via Rte. 29) from #3

FROM ANNAPOLIS

1. Take Route 32 West; go **past** Route 95 to Broken Lands Parkway (this is a major intersection); turn right
2. Take Broken Lands Parkway to the traffic light for Stevens Forest Road; turn right
3. At the first traffic light turn right onto Kilimanjaro Road
4. The first school on your left is the Oakland Mills **Middle** School; go about 1/2 mile **past** this and the Oakland Mills **High** School will also be on your left

CJCS Board of Directors: 2016-2017 (as of: 8/30/16)

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CJC REP:

TBD

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CJCS Staff: 2016-2017

As of: 9/6/2016

Position	Sun 9 AM	Sun 11 AM	Wkday	Last Name	First Name	Address	City	ST	Zip	Phone 1	Phone 2	E-mail
*Educ. Dir.	Educ. Director	Aides		Kiewe	Jerome	2033 Jolly Road	Baltimore	MD	21209	410-294-3205-c	240-450-3486-w	JKiewe@aol.com, JKiewe@OhrKodesh.org,
*Rabbi	Rabbi			Starr	Sonya	5885 Robert Oliver Place	Columbia	MD	21045	410-730-6044-w		,
Teacher	Jerusalem (7th)	5th grade		Blankman	Jon	9421 Merryrest Road	Columbia	MD	21045	443-520-2674-c		JonBShellB@gmail.com,
Teacher	2nd Grade	6th grade		Cohen	Fern	6416 Misty Top Pass	Columbia	MD	21044	410-531-2422	443-794-1763-c	FernLCohen@verizon.net,
Teacher	Kind.+1st Gr.	xxx		Gordon	Roxanne	6234 Woodcrest Drive	Ellicott City	MD	21043	443-472-5611-c	410 799-7758-h	Roxanne.Gordon@comcast.net,
Teacher	8th-SAT/JSL	7th grade	Th. PM	Gurwitz	Stephanie	6246 Deep River Canyon	Columbia	MD	21045	443-414-3510-c		SGurwitz1@verizon.net,
Teacher	3rd Gr.-Hebrew	xxx		Kittner	Steve	10312 Paddington Court	Ellicott City	MD	21042	410-465-2636	410-371-3742-c	SKittner@UMaryland.edu,
Teacher	Haifa (6th)	4th grade		Pomerantz	Caitlin	8732 Cedar Post	Ellicott City	MD	21043	443-668-4126-c	410 465-8250-h	Sing7eleven@gmail.com,
Teacher	Tel Aviv (5th)	xxx		Shimshak	Mark	2898 Country Lane	Ellicott City	MD	21042	410-750-8691-h		lagniappeb@aol.com,
Teacher	Beersheva (4th)	xxx		Sokoll	Allison	7525 Midas Touch	Columbia	MD	21046	410-381-7618	443-722-7101-c	AlliMusic@hotmail.com,
Teacher	3rd Grade	xxx		Wasserman	Leslie	6317 Park Hghts Ave. T-4	Baltimore	MD	21215	410-400-2488	410-984-8748-c	LBWass@yahoo.com,
Teacher	Resource Room			Young	Judy	5477 Bright Hawk Court	Columbia	MD	21045	443-280-2030-c		JYoung11650@gmail.com,
Cantor	Music			Morrison	Jan	10358 College Square	Columbia	MD	21044	443-319-8111-w	410-599-4901-c	CantorJan@gmail.com,
Consultant	Special Needs			Berlin	Sara	73 Walden Mill Way	Catonsville	MD	21228	410-744-8113	410-245-2237-c	SPrymas@bcps.org,
Specialist	Library											
Specialist	Storytelling			Young	Marc	5477 Bright Hawk Court	Columbia	MD	21045	443 280-2030	443 538-7899-c	bshert951@hotmail.com,