



# Columbia Jewish Community School Parent/Student/Teacher Handbook 2017-2018

**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!

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CJCS Educational Director  
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Cindy Rhodes Myles  
CJCS Board President  
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## **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](http://www.columbiajewish.org)

- **CJCS conducts classes and activities for Pre-Kindergarten thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades on Sunday mornings at the Oakland Mills High School** (9410 Kilimanjaro Road in Columbia; see directions inside)
- **CJCS conducts classes and activities for 8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Oshrim* (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 10, 2017:**

(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.

- 1<sup>st</sup> 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...
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **4<sup>th</sup> thru 7<sup>th</sup> Grades: How Will I Know Which Hebrew Class I Belong In?**

All 4<sup>th</sup> thru 7<sup>th</sup> 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

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade = Beersheva
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade = Tel Aviv
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade = Haifa
- 7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

Beginning Hebrew Reading and Prayers

Jewish Holidays

Jewish Folk Tales and Jewish Music

Jewish Arts & Crafts

### 4<sup>th</sup> thru 7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students
  - Hebrew Classes for 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - Student Aide Training/Jewish Service Learning for 8<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students begins
- 11:10 AM – 1:00 PM
  - "Fun Club" for Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students continues
  - Judaics classes for 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Textbooks:** Teachers will distribute textbooks during the first few weeks of school. Every Hebrew class and Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2017-18**

### **9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Pre-K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grades**

- Pre-K + Kindergarten + 1st Gr.: Stephanie Gurwitz (will include hands-on 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Aide Training)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade + 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades: Allison Sokoll + Steve Kittner (+ Ethel Brandt, Parent volunteer)

### **9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Hebrew Class Designations for 4<sup>th</sup> thru 7<sup>th</sup> graders**

- Beersheva (4<sup>th</sup>) David Toller
- Tel Aviv (5<sup>th</sup>) Mark Shimshak
- Haifa (6<sup>th</sup>) Fern Cohen
- Jerusalem (7<sup>th</sup>) Jon Blankman
- Netanya (Resource Room) Judy Young
- Music: Cantor Ben Kintisch
- Storytelling: Marc Young

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

- 4th Grade Judaics Fern Cohen
- 5th Grade Judaics Jon Blankman
- 6th Grade Judaics - David Toller
- 7th Grade Judaics - Stephanie Gurwitz

**Thursday Night Teen Class:** 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> 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 Ben Kintisch**. 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 Kintisch 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, Oct. 6- 7:00 PM (*Sukkot*)
- Friday, November 17- 7:00 PM
- Saturday, Dec. 2- 10:00 AM
- Saturday, Jan. 20- 10:00 AM
- Wed, Feb. 28- 6:30 pm (*Purim*)
- Friday, Mar. 16- 7:00 PM
- Friday, April 20- 7:00 PM
- Friday, May 18- 7:00 PM

### **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, Aug. 26- 9:00 AM
- Wed., Sept. 21- 6:30 PM (*R. Hash*)
- Sat., Sept. 30- 9:00 AM (*Y. Kippur*)
- Friday, Oct. 6- 6:30 PM (*Sukkot*)
- Saturday, Nov. 11- 9:00 AM
- Saturday, Dec. 9- 9:00 AM
- Saturday, Jan. 6- 9:00 AM
- Wed, Feb. 28- 6:30 pm (*Purim*)
- Saturday, Mar. 24- 9:00 AM
- Saturday, April 28- 9:00 AM
- Saturday, May 12- 9:00 AM

## 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:	Cindy Myles	Member at Large:	Diane Levy
Vice President:	Laura Knox	Member at Large:	Dan Shernicoff
Treasurer:	Elena Lozovatsky	Member at Large:	Ilene Toller
Secretary:	Deb Hennessy	CJC President	Fred Thomsen & Steve Kramer
Immed. Past Pres.	Marcy Quill	Youth Rep.	Noah Safeer
Member at Large:	Darrell Greenlee	CJCS Rep. to J. Fed.	Mark Steinhorn
Member at Large:	Wendy Hall	Educational Director	Jerry Kiewe
Member at Large:	Ben Holgate	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](http://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 2017-18**

<b>Sept. 17</b> - Kickoff; HC Fire & Rescue	<b>Jan. 7</b> - Whistleblowers	April 29 – Bike/Hike to Brewery - TBD
<b>Oct. 1</b> - <i>Sukkah</i> Prep + Brunch	<b>Feb. 4</b> - "Seeds of Peace"	<b>May 13</b> - Annual Mother's Day
<b>Nov. 5</b> - MD Legislative Issues	<b>March 4</b> - History of Klezmer	Brunch/ Research in Antarctica
<b>Dec. 3</b> - Community Service Project	<b>April 15</b> - Preview: Election Primary	

A tasty breakfast will be available (donations accepted). For more info. contact: [Alexande\\_Ross@comcast.net](mailto:Alexande_Ross@comcast.net)



## **CJCS Student Council**

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 typically 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: 2017-2018**

<b>9:00 AM-10:50 AM</b>	<b>Class Size</b>	<b>Staff/Teacher</b>	<b>Student Aide</b>	<b>Room</b>
Administration		Jerry Kiewe	Hannah Treger	Caf.
Pre-K, K, 1st Grade	3 + 7	Stephanie Gurwitz + Aides	Tyler Knox + TBD	108 + 106/203
2nd Grade + 3rd Grade	6 + 8	Allison Sokoll + Steve Kittner	Riley Sherwin, Alyssa Steinhorn	105 + 106/203
Beersheva (4th Grade Hebrew)	14	David Toller	TBD	207
Tel Aviv (5th Grade Hebrew)	11	Mark Shimshak	TBD	204
Haifa (6th Grade Hebrew)	17	Fern Cohen	TBD	208
Jerusalem (7th Grade Hebrew)	15	Jon Blankman	TBD	212
Netanya - Resource Room	TBD	Judy Young	Connor Croft, Janis Niv	211
Available for General Use/Meetings				210
<b>10:50 AM - 11:10 AM</b>		<b>Staff/Teacher</b>	<b>Student Aide</b>	
Administration		Jerry Kiewe	Hannah Treger	Caf.
Fun Club		xx	Riley Sherwin	204
Snack Shack		(Joe Quill)		Caf.
Shuk		xx	TBD	Caf.
<b>11:10 AM - 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Class Size</b>	<b>Staff/Teacher</b>	<b>Student Aide</b>	
Administration		Jerry Kiewe	Hannah Treger	Caf.
Fun Club	TBD	xx	Riley Sherwin	204
4th Grade	14	Fern Cohen		208
5th Grade	11	Jon Blankman		212
6th Grade	18	David Toller	Max Quill	207
7th Grade	14	Stephanie Gurwitz	Janis Niv	108
Available for General Use/Meetings				210, 106

# Columbia Jewish Community School

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE for 2017-2018

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

- Sept. 3 **NO CLASSES - (Labor Day Weekend)** HCPS closed on Mon., Sept. 4; Open on Tues., Sept. 5)  
 (Thursday, Sept. 7 - CJCS Staff Orientation - 5:30 PM Dinner; Staff Meeting to follow  
 10 CJCS in Session - **Opening Sunday**  
 17 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Rosh HaShanah** - begins Wed. PM, Sept. 20 thru Fri., Sept. 22)  
 24 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Yom Kippur** - Fri. PM, Sat. AM, Sept. 29/30)
- Oct. 1 CJCS in Session - **School-Wide Service**/Regular Classes (**Sukkot** begins evening of Wed., Oct. 4)  
 8 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Simchat Torah** on Thurs. PM, Oct. 12)  
 15 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes  
 22 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes  
 29 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes
- Nov. 5 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (End DST- set clocks back 1 hr.-Sat. 11/4)  
 12 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes  
 19 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes  
 26 **NO CLASSES - (Thanksgiving Weekend)** (HCPS closed Wed., Nov. 22 thru Fri., Nov. 24)
- Dec. 3 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes  
 10 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (1<sup>st</sup> night of **Chanukah** is Tues., Dec. 12; ends Tues. Dec. 19)  
 17 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes/ **Special Chanukah Program**  
 24 **NO CLASSES - (Winter Break)** (HCPS closed Dec. 24 thru Mon., Jan. 1; reopen Tues., Jan. 2)  
 31 **NO CLASSES - (Winter Break)** (Public schools reopen on Tues., Jan. 2)
- Jan. 7 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes  
 14 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (HCPS close Mon, Jan. 15 - MLK Day)  
 21 CJCS in Session - **School-Wide Service**/Regular Classes  
 28 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes/ **Special Tu B'Shevat Program** (**Tu B'Shevat**; Tues./Wed. Jan. 30/31)
- Feb. 4 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes **Annual CJCS Tzedakah Fair**  
 11 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes  
 18 **NO CLASSES - (Presidents Day Weekend)** (HCPS close Mon. Feb. 19);  
 25 CJCS in Session - **Special Program** (**Purim Megillah Reading** is Wed. PM, Feb. 28)
- Mar. 4 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes  
 11 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (Begin Daylight Savings Time - set clocks ahead 1 hr, Sat. Mar. 10)  
 18 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes  
 25 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes **Open House** (1<sup>st</sup> **Seder** is Fri. PM, Mar. 30; **Pesach** ends Sat., Apr. 7)
- Apr. 1 **NO CLASSES - (Passover/Spring Break)** HCPS closed from Fri., Mar. 30 thru Fri., Apr. 6  
 8 **NO CLASSES - (Passover/Spring Break)** (**Yom HaShoah** - Holocaust Memorial Day; Tues., 4/10-Wed., 4/11)  
 15 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Yom Ha'atzmaut** - Israel Independence Day is Th., 4/19-Fri., 4/20)  
 22 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes  
 29 CJCS in Session - Regular Classes (**Lag B'Omer** is Wed., May 2 - Th., May 3)
- May 6 CJCS in Session - **Community-Wide Service** /Regular Classes (CJC Annual Meeting - **Tentative**)  
 13 CJCS in Session - **Final Sunday** (Mother's Day)  
 20 **NO CLASSES - (Shavuot)** (**Shavuot** is Sat. PM, May 19 - Mon., May 21)  
 27 **NO CLASSES - (Memorial Day Weekend)** (**Last Day of Public School - Wed., June 14**)

Sunday Emergency Contact Phone: **Jerry Kiewe: 410-294-3205** [or 410-370-2520 - Sun. AM only!]  
 Sunday Inclement Weather Hotline: **410-313-6827**

### We wish to especially encourage attendance at the special "L'Dor V'Dor" Services:

- Friday, Oct. 6- 7:00 PM (**Sukkot**)
- Friday, November 17- 7:00 PM
- Saturday, Dec. 2- 10:00 AM
- Saturday, Jan. 20- 10:00 AM
- Wed, Feb. 28- 6:30 pm (**Purim**)
- Friday, Mar. 16- 7:00 PM
- Friday, April 20- 7:00 PM
- Friday, May 18- 7:00 PM

### & Tot (Shabbat & Holiday) Services:

- Saturday, Aug. 26- 9:00 AM
- Wed., Sept. 21- 6:30 PM (**R. Hash**)
- Sat., Sept. 30- 9:00 AM (**Y. Kippur**)
- Friday, Oct. 6- 6:30 PM (**Sukkot**)
- Saturday, Nov. 11- 9:00 AM
- Saturday, Dec. 9- 9:00 AM
- Saturday, Jan. 6- 9:00 AM
- Wed, Feb. 28- 6:30 pm (**Purim**)
- Saturday, Mar. 24- 9:00 AM
- Saturday, April 28- 9:00 AM
- Saturday, May 12- 9:00 AM

# Columbia Jewish Community School

## THURSDAY SCHEDULE for 2017-2018

**THURSDAY "Teen Night": 8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> Grades TEACHER: Stephanie Gurwitz**

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

**7:30 – 9:00 PM – "Mini-mesters" [Note: Howard County Public Schools will open on Tuesday, Sept. 5]**

Sept. 7 Class is IN Session 7:00 - 7:30 PM - **Student Aides ONLY** – Prep. for Opening Sunday (Sunday, Sept. 10)  
7:30 - 9:00 PM - **Opening Introductory Thursday Session**

14 Class is IN Session **Mini-mester #1 Begins: "Topic TBD"**

21 **NO CLASSES - (Rosh HaShanah)** (*Rosh HaShanah* - begins Wed. PM, Sept. 20 thru Fri., Sept. 22)

28 Class is IN Session (*Yom Kippur* - Fri. PM, Sat. AM, Sept. 29/30)

Oct. 5 **Teen participation in Sukkot** (*Sukkot* begins evening of Wed., Oct. 4)

**Saturday, October 7 - Teen participation in "Card Board City" - overnight to promote awareness of Homelessness**

12 **Teen participation in Simchat Torah** (*Simchat Torah* on Thurs. PM, Oct. 12)

19 Class is IN Session

26 Class is IN Session

Nov. 2 Class is IN Session

9 Class is IN Session **Mini-mester #2 Begins: Topic: TBD"**

16 Class is IN Session

23 **NO CLASSES - (Thanksgiving)** (HCPS closed Wed., Nov. 22 thru Fri., Nov. 24)

30 Class is IN Session

**Shaliach at CJCS - TBD**

Dec. 7 Class is IN Session

14 Class is IN Session (1<sup>st</sup> night of *Chanukah* is Tues., Dec. 12; ends Tues. Dec. 19)

21 Class is IN Session (HCPS closed Mon., Dec. 25 thru Mon. Jan. 1; reopen Tues., Jan. 2)

28 **NO CLASSES – (Winter Break)** (Public schools reopen on Tues., Jan. 2)

Jan. 4 Class is IN Session **Mini-mester #3 Begins: "Topic TBD"**

11 Class is IN Session

18 Class is IN Session

25 **NO CLASSES - (Mid-Terms)** (HCPS close early Wed., 1/24 & Th., 1/25; close Fri. 1/26)

(*Tu B'Shevat*; Tues./Wed. Jan. 30/31)

Feb. 1 **NO CLASSES - (Long Weekend)** (HCPS close early Th, Feb. 1, close Fri., Feb. 2 and Mon, Feb. 5 – Prof. Day)

8 Class is IN Session

15 Class is IN Session

22 Class is IN Session **Mini-mester #4 Begins: "Topic TBD"**

(*Purim Megillah* Reading is Wed. PM, Feb. 28)

**Shaliach at CJCS - TBD**

Mar. 1 Class is IN Session

8 Class is IN Session

15 Class is IN Session

22 Class is IN Session

29 Class is IN Session (1<sup>st</sup> *Seder* is Fri. PM, Mar. 30; *Pesach* ends Sat., Apr. 7)

Apr. 5 **NO CLASSES - (Passover/Spring Break)** HCPS closed from Fri., Mar. 30 thru Fri., Apr. 6

12 Class is IN Session **Mini-mester #5 Begins: "Topic TBD"**

19 Class is IN Session

26 Class is IN Session

May 3 Class is IN Session

10 Class is IN Session

17 Class is IN Session

(*Shavuot* is Sat. PM, May 19 - Mon., May 21)

24 **Final Thursday Session**

## **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