

THE COLUMBIA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Information & Registration 2017-2018

This booklet contains school information, projected class schedules, tuition rates and registration forms for the 2017-2018 school year.

Early Registration will be accepted until May 30, 2017.

For effective planning, it is essential that we have enrollment information for the coming year as soon as possible. For this reason, re-registration from returning families is subject to a \$50 late fee after May 30, 2017. (This does not apply to new students.)

Changes are made to this booklet each year, so please review the information carefully. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Kiewe, Educational Director, at: 410-294-3205 (c) or JKiewe@aol.com.

CJCS info. is also available at:

<http://dev.columbiajewish.org/content/columbia-jewish-community-school-religious-education>

CJCS is an affiliate of the Columbia Jewish Congregation, the Jewish Reconstructionist movement and the Center for Jewish Education of Greater Baltimore and is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Howard County.

Program & 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.

Pre-Kindergarten thru 3rd Grades

Beginning Hebrew Reading and Prayers

Jewish Holidays

Jewish Folk Tales, Music, Arts & Crafts

4th thru 7th Grades

Hebrew Reading Skills and Prayers

Jewish Life Cycle Events

Bible and History

Jewish Values & *Mitzvot*

Additional details related to the curricular goals will be sent separately to parents in each grade level during the initial weeks of school.

CJCS uses the Behrman House "*Hineni* text series" and our own "CJCS Sings!" as our main sources for the Hebrew portion of the curriculum.

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 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 for 4th - 7th Grade Judaics classes is typically limited; e.g. - a question pertaining to that week's class lesson that students should discuss with their parents. Each grade also has a book reading assignment that parents and students should both read to later discuss together, and some grades may also have a project.

Students should receive homework assignments *in class* from their teacher and it will also typically also be sent via e-mail each week. Parents are asked to help see that homework assignments are completed.

Prayer Services: The congregation conducts regular services each Shabbat, some specially designated for Tots or families (*L'Dor va Dor* services), services on Jewish holidays, and periodically on Sunday mornings.

For service attendance AND for the completion of weekly homework assignments, **CJCS offers an additional incentives 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!

ABOUT CJCS AND ITS PHILOSOPHY:

The Columbia Jewish Community School (CJCS), founded in 1971, is the first religious school established in Howard County, Maryland. Through its curriculum, faculty and activities, CJCS strives to expose its students to diverse Jewish perspectives- historic, religious and cultural - and to do so in a positive manner. We believe that this approach best equips students to make informed decisions of their own when faced with the many monumental choices of life in general and Jewish life in particular.

CJCS is formally affiliated with the Columbia Jewish Congregation and the Jewish Reconstructionist movement. We therefore make a concerted effort to present the beliefs and practices of Reconstructionist Judaism, which 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 embraces students from interfaith families and non-traditional family structures. We also strive to be sensitive to and accommodating of, students with special needs and other challenges that may be presented to us. In short, we welcome all who seek to expand their Jewish awareness and involvement in the community.

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, students and parents; towards that end, we emphasize mutual respect, open-mindedness, and acceptance of other people and ideas.
- We seek to develop awareness and appreciation for the full scope of Jewish values, beliefs and practices.
- 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.

Educational Director

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.

Additional Features of CJCS

Student Aides:

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

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 policy.)

Fun Club:

CJC/S offers a popular 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); sibling discount for 2nd child.

CJCSings!

“CJCSings!” was designed to help students and parents in their effort to learn Hebrew and prayers. It consists of a CD that is distributed to all of our families. Students and parents can listen together to the reading of each prayer, first slowly and then in song. English transliteration is also available to help enable anyone to read along, whether or not they know Hebrew.

CJCS Lending Library

CJCS now has an extensive collection of Jewish books and we add new books and CDs to our collection each year, so check it out – then check one out! (We also welcome suitable donations of Jewish themed books.)

Tzedakah

Tzedakah (facilitation of social justice and welfare through charitable giving) is a Jewish value that we strive to instill in our students. Each class collects *tzedakah* money weekly and collectively determines the recipients, which are distributed by the school at the conclusion of the school year. We also conduct an annual “*Tzedakah* Fair” that enables students and parents alike to learn about some lesser known but very worthwhile causes.

Parent Orientation:

CJCS distributes an updated “Back to School” manual each fall that provides comprehensive information about the school’s operation, an updated schedule and teacher assignments for the year ahead. We also provide means to enable parents to meet their children’s teachers 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. Providing individualized assistance to students, teaching a particular subject in the classroom, operating our “Snack Shack”, helping to provide transportation and supervision for field trips or even giving tennis lessons during the mid-morning break time are all ways that our parents have helped to enhance the atmosphere at CJCS.

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. **In order to encourage this, teachers will award students who attend services with “CJCS *Shuk* stickers” that are redeemable at the CJCS *Shuk* on Sundays for prizes.** We especially encourage attendance at the special *L’Dor V’Dor* (“from generation to generation”) that take place monthly. These are variously held on Friday nights at 7 PM and Saturday mornings beginning at 10 AM at the Meeting House.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

The staff of the Columbia Jewish Congregation (CJC) will arrange appropriate *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* dates and facilitate the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony for 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 the beginning of their child’s 3rd grade year.** If a family arrives at CJC/S after children are older, the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremony may be delayed while added Judaic education is arranged.

The standard curriculum offered by 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 also arrange for supplementary tutoring specific to each child’s *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* portion.

2017-2018 Schedule of Activities

Below is a list of times and locations for activities that we expect will be offered by CJCS in 2017-18.

Pre-Kindergarten thru Grade 7 – Sundays at Oakland Mills High School

Sunday Morning: 9:00 AM – 10:50 AM:

- ___ Combined Hebrew & Judaics for Pre-K thru 3rd Grades
- ___ Hebrew Reading & Prayer for Grades 4 thru 7

Sunday Morning: 10:50 AM – 11:10 AM: (Mid-Morning Break Time)

- ___ CJCS Snack Shack – opportunity to purchase pizza + snacks
- ___ CJCS *Shuk* (“Market”) – students redeem stickers for prizes
- ___ CJCS Lending Library - borrow books & CDs of Jewish interest

Sunday Morning: 10:50 AM – 1:00 PM:

- ___ Fun Club for Pre-K thru 3rd Grades

Sunday Morning: 11:10 AM – 1:00 PM:

- ___ Judaics for Grades 4 thru 7

Grades 8 thru 12:

Sunday Morning at Oakland Mills High School

- ___ 9:00 – 10:50 AM - Student Aide Training/Jewish Service Learning – for Grade 8 (**Required course for all aspiring Student Aides**)

- ___ 9:00 – 10:50 AM - Student Aide service for 9th thru 12th grades
Aides receive a modest pay for their service. **All Student Aides must also be enrolled in the CJCS Thursday night teen class or be actively involved in an alternative form of Jewish education - formal or informal - e.g. - BBYO.)**

Thursday Evening: at The Meeting House

- ___ 7:00 – 7:30 PM - Pizza & Social Time
- ___ 7:30 – 9:00 PM - Contemporary Jewish Issues for Grades 8 – 12

Independent Study:

Post-B’nei Mitzvah students may opt to engage in an independent course of study. CJCS staff will assist in identifying a suitable topic and a plan of study and will periodically review the student’s progress.

FEEES for 2017-2018

REGISTRATION FEE: A registration fee of \$80 is charged for all students. After May 30, an additional late registration fee of \$50 is charged for any returning students. (This late fee does not apply to NEW families.)

TUITION FEES: For 2017-18, tuition fees have been set as follows:

	CJC Members	Non-Members
Pre-Kindergarten	\$220	\$ 295
Kindergarten thru 3 rd grades.	\$685	\$ 925
4 th - 7 th Grades (4 hrs Hebrew)	\$1,095	\$1,335
2-hour only for 4 th thru 7 th grades	\$810.	\$1,050
Note: This option is only available to those not seeking a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at CJC and/or by special arrangement.		
For Teens (8 th thru 12 th grades):		
Sunday AM – Student Aide Training		
+ Jewish Service Learning	\$220	\$295
Thursday PM classes	\$490	\$690

BOOKS & MATERIALS:

- For Pre-K thru 7th Grades \$45
- For 8th thru 12th Grades \$25

SPECIAL NEEDS: CJCS is committed to educating Jewish children with varied learning needs, including children with disabilities. We currently provide, at no added charge, Resource Room services to students who need additional assistance learning Hebrew. The school otherwise operates on the premise that its students can function unassisted in a classroom environment. Parents should alert us if a child has additional learning needs that cannot be met solely through the Resource Room. CJCS will work with parents to create a collaborative plan to accommodate each child’s unique learning needs, however, families may be required to pay for services that entail additional costs, and help the school locate appropriate service providers.

STANDARD PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Option A – Payment in full by Aug. 15 – receive \$25 discount *per child*
- Option B – 3 payments; 1/3 due on 15th of August, October + December.
- Option C – 10 monthly payments – add \$30 service charge.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Financial assistance is available from CJCS on the basis of demonstrated financial need. Scholarship forms are available upon request and must be re-submitted each school year, preferably by early August. They will, however, be accepted at any time and 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.