



## PROVIDENCE HEBREW DAY SCHOOL

450 Elmgrove Avenue \* Providence, RI 02906 \* 401-331-5327 \* Fax: 401-331-0030

# Kindergarten Handbook



Updated Summer 2023



Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you and your child to Kindergarten at Providence Hebrew Day School. We consider you as important as your child in this program. It will be an exciting year filled with wonder and learning experiences. These new beginnings will open doors of learning for the future.

We hope that these new learning experiences will be as rewarding and stimulating for your child as they are for us.

This handbook has been prepared for you. Its goal is to answer some of your questions and give insight into the unique Kindergarten program of PHDS. For more information, please refer to the Parent Handbook.

## THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

*Mrs. Miriam Klein*  
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347-820-8661 (preferred)

*Mrs. Lynn Jakubowicz*  
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# CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

BY Dorothy Law Nolte

If a child lives with criticism,  
He learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility,  
He learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule,  
He learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame,  
He learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance,  
He learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement,  
He learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise,  
He learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with firmness,  
He learns justice.

If a child lives with security,  
He learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval,  
He learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,  
He learns to find love in the world.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## SCHOOL HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:15-3:15  
Friday 8:15-1:00/3:00

## GOALS FOR THE KINDERGARTEN CHILD



While it is commonly and correctly believed that children come to school to learn “academic subjects,” at PHDS we endeavor to help your child grow in every way. Our goal is to facilitate each individual’s potential for growth academically, emotionally, physically, socially, and spiritually. We want your child to be happy in school because a happy child will want to come to school to learn, play with peers, positively interact with the world around him, and strive to use his strengths to reach his potential as a Jew and as a citizen. “I am capable, and I can contribute” will be his inner voice.

## COMMUNICATION/WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Open communication between home and school is a pivotal part of your child’s education. Feel free to share any particulars from your child’s life that may impact him/her. The best ways to reach the teachers are indicated under their signatures above. You may also send a note with your child asking a teacher to

contact you; if doing so please indicate which number she should call and what time of day is best, and she will call you. Both teachers send home weekly news bulletins, typically on Fridays. The goal of these bulletins is to briefly share both what transpired in the classroom during the previous week and to inform you of upcoming events. Please read these notices weekly. If you have any questions about anything in the bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact the teachers as indicated above. While the teachers love to schmooze with you, please be reminded that, during school time, they are supposed to be with the students, so anything that requires more than a short answer is best asked as detailed above. If you leave a message for a teacher or send an email, she will endeavor to get back to you as quickly as



possible. As with any other relationship, the clearer the communication, the more enhanced will be the teacher-parent partnership.

In particular, please inform us of any significant change in your child's life so that we can be sensitive to your child's behavior.

### ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL



Upon arrival, all Kindergarten students are to report to room 14. Please do not bring children to school before 8:00 a.m. Remember that we start school at 8:15 a.m. Children who arrive late disrupt the morning group. Often, the "late child" is also upset that s/he has missed something. If it does happen that you must be late, please be fair to the rest of the class and do not enter the classroom with your child. The children are all capable of organizing themselves for the beginning of the school day. Thank you very much for your support.

Kindergarten children will be dismissed from the front door of the school at the end of the school day. Additional information about dismissal procedures is available in the Parent Handbook and is in your school packet. If there is any change from your written dismissal plans already submitted to the office, you must inform the office and the Kindergarten teachers in writing. Do not arrive during the school day to pick up your child without notifying us beforehand. Please understand that no exceptions can be made.

### ILLNESS

When your child is ill, please keep him/her home! Send a note when your child returns and include reasons for the absence. If your child has an infectious illness, please call the school so that we may alert other parents. School policy is that children who have vomited or had a fever need to stay home for 24 hours. Children may not return to school until they are fever-free, without the use of fever reducing medications, for 24 hours. The same is true for contagious illnesses being treated by antibiotics, as per doctor's instructions.



If your child needs to take medication in school, we require a doctor's note.

If we become aware of multiple children in the class with the same infectious illness, we will make every effort to notify all parents.



## CLOTHING

Kindergarten students, both boys and girls, may wear pants, shorts in warm weather, and T-shirts. Girls may also wear skirts, dresses, or jumpers. Boys must wear tzitzis and a yarmulka.

Please send your child to school in comfortable, casual clothing that can be easily put on and taken off in the bathroom. Clothing should be appropriate for messy art activities.



Your child should dress appropriately for the weather. S/he will be going out to the playground daily, except during inclement weather. Closed shoes are most comfortable for the children to wear on the playground.

It will be most helpful if your child has an easy-to-fasten coat, jacket, and raincoat. S/he will also need boots and snowsuits that are easy to put on. Your child may need to practice dressing during the winter, as s/he will need to dress him/herself three times each day (for morning recess, afternoon recess, and dismissal). When your child wears snow boots to school, please make sure s/he brings a pair of shoes or rubber-soled slippers to wear in school. If you prefer, these may remain in your child's cubby during the winter months.

## LABELS

Be sure to clearly label each article of clothing your child wears to school.



## NECESSITIES

Your child will need a complete set of clothing to be left in the classroom. This should include shirt and pants or dress, underwear, and socks. Please put these items in a clearly labeled bag.



## LUNCH AND SNACK

Drinks should be sent from home. No soda or glass containers of any kind, please! Please include bread as part of your child's lunch so that we may enjoy the *mitzvah* of washing hands and making *brachos* together. We ask that

you include healthy morning and afternoon snacks in your child's lunch box (at least two snacks). Please make sure your child brings a plastic spoon or fork to school should his/her food require it. Clearly label your child's lunch box or bag. Disposable lunch bags must be labeled every day to avoid confusion. If we find that your child seems to need additional snacks, we will send home a note to notify you.

## BIRTHDAY PARTIES

We welcome you to celebrate your child's birthday in school but can only do so when proper procedures are followed. One of the teachers must be notified in advance. All food must be packaged, have a *hechsher* that is approved by the school (please contact Mrs. Weiner for further details), and be approved by a member of the Judaic Studies staff. If you are planning an out-of-school party including all of the children, we will gladly send home party invitations.



## REPORT CARDS

We send home formal reports twice during the school year. However, if at any time you have concerns, please contact us as indicated above.

## SHOW & TELL

There is a designated "Show and Tell Day" for each child and this is the only day children may bring in toys from home. More information will follow.

## TZEDAKAH



We ask that you send a penny a day so that we can give *tzedakah* (charity). The children may bring a *mitzvah* note telling about anything good they have done at home. A separate note detailing this project will be sent home. We will keep a "mitzvah bulletin board" to display these notes.

## SUPPLIES

Please send in two boxes of tissues to begin the school year. Should we find a need to replenish, we will let you know.



## HYGIENE

As part of our discussions about various topics, we will be reviewing some hygiene rules with the children. This includes talking about our obligation to make a *kiddush Hashem* with a clean and neat appearance. As parents, it is important to recognize that a first view of you and your family can be through your child(ren). Some reminders for parents include:



- Have your child shower or bathe with warm water, soap, and shampoo several times a week.
- Change all clothes every day.
- Brush teeth at least twice a day.
- Keep nails short and make sure they are clean.
- If night dryness is an issue for your child, please be sure your child is clean for school, and does not smell. A helpful hint is to use wipes in the morning for a quick fix. If the pull-up did not contain the wetness, a short bath may be in order and fresh bed linen will be necessary. Be sure to change pajamas every day if your child requires a pull-up.
- Children's faces and hands should be washed frequently and be checked for cleanliness after meals and before leaving the house.
- Hair should be brushed every morning and be tidy for school.

The development of a concept of personal hygiene is a process that begins with very young children. With your guidance, as your child matures, s/he can begin to take increasing responsibility for the above tasks. Another notion that can be presented to children is that it is necessary to approach school showing *kavod haTorah* (respect for Torah). This can even be used as a prompt to help them sit properly while learning. We want to educate them to plan thoughtfully for school. They need a healthy lunch and snacks, a backpack, appropriate and clean clothes, etc. A clean body is a part of this mindset of showing respect for the learning environment.

## ORIENTATION

Open School Night, as indicated on the school calendar, allows parents to learn even more about our program. In addition, you will receive an invitation over the summer to a short orientation for Kindergarten students and their parents before the start of school. We look forward to seeing you at these programs.

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL CHECKLIST

- Backpack or tote bag that is large enough to hold big projects, with your child's name on it
- Change of clothes to leave at school in a labeled bag
- One box of tissues
- You may choose to send in a Ziploc bag of spoons for snack or lunch use as needed. Your child can also bring a bag or purse of coins (pennies) for tzedakah. Both of these items are stored in his/her cubby to be used as needed.
- Pareve or dairy lunch, including bread
- A morning and afternoon snack
- A written note informing us of any known allergies
- Please check and empty your child's backpack daily. This is one way for you to know more about your child's day and for the teachers and administration to communicate effectively with parents.

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

We enjoy and encourage parent participation in our program. If you have a special talent (e.g., playing a musical instrument), we would love to invite you to the classroom.



Arts and crafts materials that you no longer need at home, such as cloth, wallpaper, yarn, and old magazines, are always welcome in Kindergarten!

We consider it a privilege to have your child with us each day. Working together, we can make the Providence Hebrew Day School Kindergarten experience meaningful and enjoyable for both you and your child. We hope this handbook has answered many of your questions. If you have any other concerns, please feel free to contact us.



