

# THE COLUMBIA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL



## Information & Registration 2011-2012

This booklet contains school information, projected class schedules, tuition rates and registration forms for the 2011-2012 school year.

**Early Registration will be accepted until May 30, 2011.**

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 \$40 late fee after May 30, 2011. (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: [www.columbiajewish.org/religious\\_ed/shtml](http://www.columbiajewish.org/religious_ed/shtml)

CJCS is an affiliate of the Columbia Jewish Congregation, the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades**

Beginning Hebrew Reading and Prayers  
Jewish Holidays  
Jewish Folk Tales, Music, 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*

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 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 the homework assignment will typically also be sent via e-mail each week. Parents are asked to help see 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 at the CJCS *Shuk* (market) each Sunday for prizes!**

## 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 with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF). 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 at CJCS, Jerry has served in executive level positions with the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO), the Baltimore Zionist District, the JCC of Greater Baltimore and PANIM 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, three children, Zephan, Micah and Tamar, and two cats, Priscilla and Bella. ☺

## Additional Features of CJCS

### Student Aides:

CJCS employs 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 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); sibling discount for 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 will also hold a series of “Parent Brunches” in the fall for each grade level that will 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 2011-2012 Schedule of Activities

Below is a list of times and locations for activities that will be offered by CJCS in 2011-12.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades
- \_\_\_ Hebrew Reading & Prayer for Grades 4 thru 7

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

- \_\_\_ CJCS *Shuk* (“Market”) – Redeem stickers for prizes
- \_\_\_ CJCS Lending Library
- \_\_\_ CJCS Snack Shack – purchase pizza + snacks
- \_\_\_ Other: Tennis lessons (seasonal)

**Sunday Morning: 10:50 AM – 1:00 PM:**

- \_\_\_ Fun Club for Pre-K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
(**Note: all Student Aides must also be enrolled in a CJCS class or an alternative form of Jewish education!**)
- \_\_\_ 10:50 AM – 1:00 PM – Continuation of Jewish Service Learning projects and opportunities for Grades 8 – 12, TBD

**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. CJC/S staff will assist in identifying a suitable topic and a plan of study and will periodically review the student's progress.

## FEEES for 2011-2012

**REGISTRATION FEE:** A registration fee of \$80 is charged for all students. After May 30, an additional late registration fee of \$40 is charged for any returning students. (This late fee does not apply to NEW families.)

**TUITION FEES:** For 2011-12, tuition fees have been set as follows:

	CJC Members	Non-Members
Pre-Kindergarten . . . . .	\$175	\$ 225
Kindergarten thru 3 <sup>rd</sup> grades. . . . .	\$540	\$ 740
4 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> Grades (4 hrs Hebrew) . . . . .	\$870	\$1,070
2-hour only for 4 <sup>th</sup> thru 7 <sup>th</sup> grades . . . . .	\$630	\$ 830

Note: This option is only available to those not seeking a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at CJC and/or by special arrangement.

For Teens (8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades):

Sunday AM – Student Aide Training + Jewish Service Learning . . . . .	\$175	\$225
Thursday PM classes . . . . .	\$385	\$535

**BOOKS & MATERIALS:**

- For Pre-K thru 7<sup>th</sup> Grades . . . . . \$40
- For 8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> Grades . . . . . \$20

**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. 31 – receive \$25 discount *per child*
- Option B – 3 payments; 1/3 due on 15<sup>th</sup> 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.