

THE COLUMBIA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Information & Registration 2008-09

This booklet contains school information, projected class schedules, tuition rates and registration forms for the 2008-09 school year.

Early Registration will be accepted until May 30, 2008.

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 \$35 late fee after May 30, 2008. (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 feel free to contact the school office at: 410-730-9355, or e-mail us at: cjcs@columbiajewish.org.

CJCS info. is also available at: 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 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 "*Hineni* texts" and our "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. A copy of the homework assignment will 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, its faculty and its activities, CJCS strives to expose its students to diverse Jewish perspectives – historical, religious and cultural - and to do so in a positive manner. We believe that this approach best equips our students to make informed decisions of their own when faced with the many monumental choices of life in general and of Jewish life in particular.

CJCS is formally affiliated with the Columbia Jewish Congregation and with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) and therefore makes a concerted effort to teach Reconstructionist Jewish beliefs and practices. 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 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 and as an adjunct instructor for the Baltimore Hebrew University. He has led numerous trips to the former USSR, Poland and Israel. Jerry resides in Pikesville with his wife, Suzanne, three children, Zephaniah, Micah and Tamar, and two cats, Priscilla and Bela.

Additional Features of CJCS

Student Aides

CJCS employs 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!

“Fun Club”

CJC/S offers a “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.

Help for Parents Who Can’t Read Hebrew

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.

CJCSings!

“CJCSings!” is a program that 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 and an accompanying guide for each grade level. Students and parents can listen together to the reading of each prayer, first slowly and then in song. English transliteration is provided to accompany the CDs to 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 are adding new books to our collection over the summer, so check it out – then check one out! (We will 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 children. Each class collects *tzedakah* money each week and then collectively determines the recipients of its collections, which are distributed by the school at the conclusion of the school year. We also have an annual “*Tzedakah* Fair” that enables students and parents alike to learn more about some worthwhile causes.

Parent Brunches

CJCS will sponsor a series of “Parent Brunches” during the first weeks of school 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. Providing individualized assistance to students, teaching a particular subject in the classroom, operating our “Snack Shack”, or even giving tennis lessons during the mid-morning break time, 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, *Shabbat* Service, attendance lists are on hand at each service. They provide students with an opportunity to self-report their attendance and earn “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*” Saturday morning *Shabbat* Services that takes place monthly. All begin at 10 AM at the Meeting House.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

The staff of the Columbia Jewish Congregation (CJC) 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 each child’s *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* portion.

2008-09 Schedule of Activities

Below is a list of times and locations for activities that will be offered by CJCS in 2008-09.

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 Shuk – 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 3rd Grades

Sunday Morning: 11:10 AM – 1:00 PM:

- ___ Judaics for Grades 4 thru 7

Grades 8 thru 12 – Sunday Mornings at Oakland Mills High School

Sunday Morning: 9:00 AM – 10:50 AM + 10:50 AM – 1:00 PM:

- ___ Student Aide Training/Jewish Service Learning for 8th grade
- ___ Student Aide service for 9th thru 12th grades

Grades 8 thru 12 – Thursday Evening at The Meeting House

Thursday Evening:

- ___ Pizza & Social Time: 7:00 – 7:30 PM
- ___ Contemporary Judaism for 8th & 9th grades; 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- ___ Comparative Religions for 10th thru 12th grades; 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Independent Study Project

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.

FEES for 2008-2009

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

TUITION FEES: For 2008-09, tuition fees have been set as follows:

	CJC	
	Members	Non-Members
Pre-Kindergarten	\$135	\$170
Kindergarten thru 3 rd grades.	\$475	\$645
4 th - 7 th Grades (4 hrs Hebrew)	\$755	\$930
2-hour only for 4 th thru 7 th grades	\$545	\$720
Note: This option is only available to those not seeking a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at CJC and/or by special arrangement.		
Teens (8 th thru 12 th grades) Sunday AM – Student Aide Training + Jewish Service Learning	\$135	\$170
Thursday PM classes	\$330	\$440

BOOKS & MATERIALS:

- For Pre-K thru 7th Grades \$35
- For 8th thru 12th Grades \$15

STANDARD PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Option A – Payment in full by Aug. 31 – 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 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.