

THE COLUMBIA JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Information & Registration 2020-2021

This booklet contains school information, projected class schedules, tuition rates and registration forms for the 2020-21 school year.

Changes have been made to our program, so please review the information carefully.

Early Registration will be accepted until July 17, 2020.

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 July 17, 2020.** (This does not apply to new students.)

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:
<https://www.columbiajewish.org/cjc-school/>

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

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 that Jewish education is a lifelong endeavor; we strive to provide a foundation and encouragement to continue learning after departure from CJCS.

Educational Director

Jerome Kiewe has served as the part-time 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. Since 2007, he has been the full-time 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 served as an adjunct instructor for the Baltimore Hebrew University. Jerry resides in Pikesville with his wife, Suzanne. They have three adult children, Zephan, Micah and Tamar.

Program & Curriculum - There are two overall components to the CJCS program; **Hebrew** and **Judaics**; revisions have been made to both.

For **Hebrew**, CJCS places emphasis on teaching its students how to read Hebrew, how to achieve proficiency in the recital of a series of core Hebrew prayers, and to grapple with their meaning.

The forced shutdown that began in March of 2020 spurred a re-formulation of our approach to Hebrew teaching. Beginning in the fall of 2020, our Hebrew learning will be conducted as follows:

For Pre-K thru 3rd grades,

- Hebrew instruction for our youngest grades will be integrated into the weekly class sessions described in the Judaics section further below.
- Note: these will be conducted **virtually** through December, 2020. We will assess the feasibility of resuming in-person sessions in 2021.
- We will aim to teach, progressively, Hebrew letter recognition and “de-coding”, beginning Hebrew reading skills, initial blessings and prayers, and popular Hebrew songs.
- We will provide age-appropriate textbooks, CJCSings! materials (as described below), and song sheets and You-tube links for Hebrew songs.
- Each Pre-K thru 3rd grade student will be assigned a Student Aide who will help oversee and augment the individual progression of the students’ Hebrew learning to ensure Hebrew reading proficiency by 3rd grade.

For 4th thru 7th Grades

- While we will use some class time to prepare and ensure that our students are ready to lead prayers at *L’Dor v’Dor* services, the primary method of Hebrew instruction will be one-on-one tutoring.
- Each CJCS student will be assigned a Hebrew tutor. Tutors will provide **30 weekly Hebrew tutor sessions of 20 minutes in duration that will be conducted *virtually*.**
- These will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time for teachers and students/families. Where possible and mutually desirable, tutor-student matches will be maintained over the course of multiple years at CJCS.
- Additional Hebrew tutor sessions may be provided by student aides, either upon advance indication of a special learning need, or upon the recommendation of the Hebrew tutor. These may be utilized to provide both short and long-term assistance.
- We also have consultants available who specialize in addressing dyslexia via the Orton-Gillingham method.
- We note that, as students approach their *bar/bat mitzvah*, additional tutor sessions tailored for that purpose will be provided by the cantor.
- Each student will be equipped with a copy of the Behrman House-produced “*Hineni*” textbook (a series that focuses on Hebrew prayers) that is appropriate for their current age/Hebrew reading level.

- Each student will receive access to self-guided Hebrew lessons and **weekly homework assignments** that will correspond to the above.
- Each student will be equipped with a “student edition” of our own **“CJCSings!”** The student edition includes the Hebrew prayers used in CJC services and their English *translation*.
- Each parent will be equipped with a “parent edition” of CJCSings! that also includes English *transliteration*; that enables parents who may not know Hebrew themselves to read along.
- Each family will be provided an accompanying CJCSings! CD that offers students and parents an opportunity to listen (together) to the reading of each prayer, first slowly and then in song. (The recordings are also available on our website.)
- There will be periodic virtual Hebrew song sessions led by the CJC cantor, and virtual sessions offered by the rabbi that will offer instruction of particular songs, prayers and practices of the Columbia Jewish Congregation.
- **IMPORTANT:** In keeping with our desire to tie learning to real-life experiences, CJCS students are expected to participate in monthly *L’Dor va Dor* prayer services – a Shabbat or holiday service that is specially tailored for participation by students and families. A schedule is below.

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 educational program offered by CJCS will satisfy the educational requirements of CJC. Along with Jewish values, history and holidays, Hebrew language and prayers are progressively taught to each student. 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.**

Student Aides:

CJCS utilizes a corps of exceptionally motivated and talented teens who assist teachers and students in many ways. In the year ahead, Student Aides will help provide one-on-one tutoring to individual students, help facilitate virtual learning sessions, and assist with activities in classrooms and at special programs. Their efforts are of immense benefit to CJCS!

For **Judaics**, CJCS places emphasis on exposing students to key subjects during the course of their education in varied, age-appropriate ways. To avoid repetition, our school will institute a cyclical curriculum. We will continue to offer **field trips and** special school-wide programs.

*Each year, 4th – 7th grade students will be asked to read TWO Jewish books related to our curriculum. CJCS also has an extensive collection of Jewish books, along with some videos and Jewish songs on CDs. When we return in-person, we encourage students to check it out – then check one out!

From September thru December of 2020, class sessions will be conducted VIRTUALLY, in the groupings below.

1:00 – 2:00 PM: Reserved for any PERIODIC school-wide sessions (Prayer instruction by the rabbi. song sessions by the cantor, holiday-related presentations, etc.)

2:00 – 3:00 PM: Pre-Kindergarten thru 3rd Grades *

Each year we will designate different particulars of the following elements to focus on: Bible stories (Genesis), Jewish Folk Tales, Jewish Values & *Mitzvot*, Jewish songs, Jewish holidays, plus age-appropriate Hebrew learning

3:00 – 4:00 PM: 4th & 5th Grades

Year 1: Bible (Exodus thru Deuteronomy); Israel (Geography & Culture)

*Books: "Alan & Naomi" + "Sarah's Journey"

Year 2: Bible (Joshua, Prophets & Kings); American Jewish History

*Books: "Letters From Rifka" + "Number the Stars"

4:00 – 5:00 PM: 6th & 7th Grades

Year 1: Jewish Values-Based Decision-Making, Origins of Anti-Semitism & The Holocaust, The American Jewish Community of Today

*Books: "MAUS" & "The Wave"

Year 2: Life Cycle Events, Israel (History & Politics), Jewish Communities around the World,

*Books: "Gideon's People" + "TBD"

We will potentially resume in-person classes in January 2021 and then continue thru May, 2021. Simultaneous classes, in the groupings above, will be conducted on Sunday afternoons, all from 2:00–3:45 PM at CJC/OMI.

Tzedakah

Tzedakah (facilitation of social justice and welfare through charitable giving) is a Jewish value that we strive to instill in our students. When we return in-person, we will resume our weekly class collection of *tzedakah* money. Each year, our classes also collectively determine the recipients, and funds are thereby distributed by the school at the conclusion of the year. In the meantime, we will encourage our families to facilitate this important learning goal.

2020-2021 Schedule

Pre-Kindergarten thru Grade 7 – Overview

--22 Sunday afternoon class sessions

Thru December, 2020, these sessions will be conducted virtually:

2:00 – 3:00 PM: Pre-K thru 3rd Grades Combined Hebrew & Judaics

3:00 – 4:00 PM: 4th & 5th Grades – Judaics! (Hebrew will be via tutors)

4:00 – 5:00 PM: 6th & 7th Grades – Judaics! (Hebrew will be via tutors)

We will assess the feasibility of resuming in-person sessions at The Meeting House beginning in January 2021. If/when we do so,

classes will be held: 2:00 PM – 3:45 PM @ CJC/OMI

Combined Hebrew & Judaics for Pre-K thru 3rd Grades;

Judaics class for Grades 4-7 (Hebrew instruction primarily via tutors)

--9 Friday PM or Saturday AM *L'Dor Va Dor* services, with additional instructional activities.

--5 programs associated with Jewish holidays (*Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Purim & Shavuot*)

Sunday Classroom Sessions: (22)

Sunday, August 30 - Opening Sunday; Virtual School-wide session at 1 PM, followed by Virtual Class Sessions 2–5 PM

Sunday, September 6 - **NO CLASSES** – Labor Day Weekend

Sunday, September 13 - Virtual Class Sessions 2–5 PM

Sunday, Sept. 20 & 27 - **NO CLASSES** – *Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur*

Sunday, October 4 - **NO CLASSES** (*Sukkot*)

Sunday, October 11 - **NO CLASSES** (*Simchat Torah*)

Sunday, October 18 - Virtual Class Sessions 2–5 PM

Sunday, October 25 - Virtual Class Sessions 2–5 PM

Sunday, November 1 - Virtual Class Sessions 2–5 PM

Sunday, November 8 - Virtual Class Sessions 2–5 PM

Sunday, November 15 - Virtual Class Sessions 2–5 PM

Sunday, Nov. 22 & 29 - **NO CLASSES** - Professional Study Day/Thanksgiving

Sunday, December 6 - Virtual Class Sessions 2–5 PM

Sunday, December 13 - Virtual Class Sessions 2–5 PM

Sunday, December 20 - Virtual Class Sessions 2–5 PM

Sunday, Dec. 27 & Jan. 3 - **NO CLASSES** – Winter Break

Sunday, January 10 – Possibly simultaneous In-person Classes 2-3:45 PM

Sunday, Jan. 17 - **NO CLASSES** – MLK Jr. Weekend

Sunday, January 24 - Possibly simultaneous In-person Classes 2-3:45 PM

Sunday, January 31 - Possibly simultaneous In-person Classes 2-3:45 PM

Sunday, February 7 - Possibly simultaneous In-person Classes 2-3:45 PM
Sunday, Feb. 14 & 21 - **NO CLASSES** – Pres. Day Weekend + Purim Palooza
Sunday, February 28 - Possibly simultaneous In-person Classes 2-3:45 PM
Sunday, March 7 - Possibly simultaneous In-person Classes 2-3:45 PM
Sunday, March 14 - Possibly simultaneous In-person Classes 2-3:45 PM
Sunday, March 21 - Possibly simultaneous In-person Classes 2-3:45 PM
Sunday, March 28 & April 4 - **NO CLASSES** – Passover/Spring Break
Sunday, April 11 - Possibly simultaneous In-person Classes 2-3:45 PM
Sunday, April 18 – Possible In-person Classes 2-3:45 PM ([possible field trip\(s\)](#))
Sunday, May 2 - Possibly simultaneous In-person Classes 2-3:45 PM
Sunday, May 9 - **NO CLASSES** – Mother’s Day
Sunday, May 23 - Final Sunday – Program TBD

Special “L’Dor V’Dor” Services (9)
& Jewish Holiday Programs (5) for ALL Grades

Friday PM, October 2 - 6:30/7 PM - *Sukkot/L’Dor VaDor Service*
Saturday PM, October 10 - 6:30/7 PM - *Simchat Torah/L’Dor VaDor Service*
Saturday AM, November 21 - 10 AM - *L’Dor VaDor Service + Instruction*
Friday PM, December 11 - *L’Dor VaDor Service + CJC Chanukah Program*
Saturday AM, January 16 - 10 AM - *L’Dor VaDor Service + Instruction*
Thursday PM, February 25 – *L’Dor VaDor Service/PURIM Megillah Reading*
Saturday AM, April 24 - 10 AM - *L’Dor VaDor Service + Instruction*
Saturday AM, May 8 - 10 AM - *L’Dor VaDor Service + Instruction*
Sunday PM, May 16 - *Shavuot Program* (*Shavuot* begins Sun. PM, May 16)

For Teens (Grades 8 thru 12)

Sundays – Student Aides assist teachers and students in many ways. They will help provide one-on-one tutoring to individual students, help facilitate virtual learning sessions, and assist with activities in classrooms and at special programs. **Aides receive modest pay for their service.** All Student Aides must also be enrolled in the CJC Thursday night teen class or be actively involved in an alternative form of Jewish education - formal or informal - e.g. - BBYO.)

Thursday Evening Teen Class: will be conducted virtually thru December. In January, we may return to in-person sessions at CJC/OMI.
 ___ 7:00 – 7:30 PM - Pizza & Social Time (** only when in-person!)
 ___ 7:30 – 9:00 PM - Contemporary Jewish Issues for Grades 8 – 12

Independent Study: *Post-b’nei mitzvah* students may opt for an independent course of study. CJC/S staff will assist in identifying a suitable topic and a plan of study and will review each student’s progress.

FEES for 2020-2021

REGISTRATION FEE: A registration fee of \$80 is charged for ALL students. After July 17, an additional \$50 late registration fee (total of \$130) is charged for returning students. (The late fee is *not* applied to new students.)

TUITION FEES:

	<u>CJC Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
• Pre-Kindergarten (Hebrew/Judaics)	\$160	\$ 160
• Kind. thru 3 rd Grade (Hebrew/Judaics) . .	\$775	\$1,000
• 4 th - 7 th Grade (Hebrew + Judaics)	\$1,225	\$1,450
• Judaics-only for 4 th thru 7 th grades	\$925	\$1,150

Note: The Judaics-only option for 4th-7th grades is only available to those not seeking a *bar/bat mitzvah* at CJC or by special arrangement.

Teen (8th thru 12th grades):

- Student Aides: pay registration fees only!
- Thursday PM Teens \$525 \$750

BOOKS & MATERIALS:

For Pre-K thru 7th Grades \$45

For 8th thru 12th Grades \$25

SPECIAL NEEDS: CJCS is committed to educating ALL Jewish children with varied learning needs, including children with disabilities. We will generally provide additional tutoring services to students who need added assistance learning Hebrew.

We operate on the premise that students can function in both a virtual and in-person classroom environment. Parents should alert us if this is not the case, and/or if a child has additional learning needs.

CJCS will work with parents to create a collaborative plan to accommodate each child's unique learning needs and reserve the right to ask families to help pay for services that entail additional costs.

STANDARD PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Option A – Payment in full by Aug. 30 – receive \$25 discount *per child*

Option B – 3 payments; 1/3 due on 30^h 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.