



JCFS Yeshiva Manual 2018-19

The JCFS Therapeutic Yeshiva

Joy Faith Knapp Children’s Center

3145 West Pratt Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60645

(773) 467-3900 (Information, Absences, Late Arrival, etc.)

August 2018

This document is a supplement to the JCFS School Guide for Parents and Guardians and Guide for Student Success for students in the Yeshiva.

Students and parents/guardians must sign the accompanying receipt of this Manual, including an acknowledgment of their commitment to abide by the terms of this Manual.

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Introduction: JCFS Therapeutic Day School & Yeshiva

The JCFS Therapeutic Yeshiva, part of the JCFS Therapeutic Day School (TDS) is a **therapeutic Jewish day school** for students who require a therapeutic education and who are **committed to their ongoing Jewish studies**. A therapeutic education is provided for both secular and Judaic studies. A dedicated faculty provides an individualized program of study. For **2018-19**, the JCFS Yeshiva will accommodate boys and girls in grades K-8, depending on date of birth.

The Yeshiva was established in 1991. It is recognized as a Jewish day school by the JUF Jewish Day School Guaranty Fund and is a member school of the Kehillah Jewish Education Fund.

Students are referred by Chicago Public Schools, suburban school districts, or Jewish community educators and rabbis. They may participate as public or private students. The Yeshiva collaborates with the Associated Talmud Torahs (ATT) and with several ATT schools in establishing and maintaining partnership arrangements for some students.

The Yeshiva provides dedicated classrooms and the Okner Beit Midrash (study hall). Special events bring the Yeshiva classes together for celebration, learning, and commemoration.

TDS assists its students, where appropriate, in the goal of reintegrating to a less restrictive educational environment. As a program within TDS, the Yeshiva encourages partial or full reintegration as appropriate to mainstream Jewish elementary and high schools.

This Manual establishes standards to foster in our Yeshiva school community **an atmosphere of learning and Torah.**

Mission, Vision, Values, Commitments

Mission

Creating opportunities for students' academic, social-emotional, and Jewish success

Vision

Reintegration for all Jewish students with emotional and behavioral disabilities

Values

The Yeshiva upholds several values, including the following:

- The study of Torah, prayer and religious observance, and the performance of acts of loving kindness (וגמילות חסדים, עבודה, תורה/Torah, avodah, gemilut chasadim, as in Avot 1:2)
- Ethical and kind behavior (מידות טובות/middot tovot and דרך ארץ / derech erez)
- Healthy personal interactions (חברותא/chavruta) and community (קהילה/kehilah)
- Respect for others and what belongs to them as shown in word, gesture, and action (כבוד / kevod chavercha; כבוד רבך/kevod rabcha)
- Love of G-d (אהבת ה' / Ahavat Hashem)
- Concern for the welfare of the Jewish People, including Medinat Yisrael (אהבת ישראל / Ahavat Yisrael)
- Modesty of dress (צניעות/tzniyut)
- Kashrut of food; care with use of media such as music and video (קדושה / Kedushah / holiness)

Commitments

The Yeshiva upholds some special commitments:

- As stated above, the Yeshiva is intended for students who, in addition to requiring a therapeutic education, are **committed to their ongoing Jewish studies**. We understand that such students may have conflicted religious feelings.
- **Prayer and Jewish Studies are integral parts** of the academic program of every student, whether full-day or partnership.
- We welcome students from **a broad spectrum of Jewish families**, all of whom have chosen to have their children educated in a program where elements such as prayer and kashrut (kosher dietary laws) are defined according to **Orthodox Jewish standards**.
- Our **partnership arrangements** preserve partnership students' affiliation with their home Jewish day school. We are committed to understanding and supporting, to the extent possible, the **religious expectations** of our partner schools as part of our work to help students integrate more fully in day-school education.
- We strive to foster the **connections** of all of the Yeshiva students **with Jewish life and community** through links with Jewish peers (such as in youth groups), community service organizations, and schools, as well as through intramural programming that celebrates and nurtures Jewish religious life. The Yeshiva helps to **preserve and strengthen Jewish belonging** for students who, because of their social and emotional disabilities, may feel separated from their Jewish community.

Faculty and Administration

Yeshiva Faculty, Clinicians, and Ancillary

Rabbi David M. Rosenberg, Coordinator of Jewish Educational Services, Director
(773) 467-3926

Mr. Alexander Lavin, Room 133 Teacher
(773) 467-3948

Rabbi Neil Brill, Room 133 Aide and Jewish Studies Teacher

Mr. Michael Caplan, Room 130 Teacher
(773) 467-3943

Ms. Alice Hoffmann, Room 130 Aide

Ms. Samantha Armes, Clinician
(773) 467-3934

Ms. Jacqueline Biere, Clinician

(773) 467-3908

Ms. Orli Ginsburg, Clinician & Intake Clinician
(773) 467-3766

Ms. Alexandra Joseph, Clinician
(773) 467-3911

Ms. Alexis Linn, Clinician
(773) 467-3931

Ms. Jane Mathewson, Clinician
(773) 467-3909

Ms. Alyssa Horing, Social Work Intern

Ms. Denise Bloom, Speech-Language Therapist

Ms. Carolyn England, Occupational Therapist

Ms. Susan Nowinski, Transition Specialist

JCFS Therapeutic Day School Administration (773) 467-3900

Ms. Sandra P. Spicher, Principal

Ms. Indira Buzaljko, Assistant Principal

Ms. Allison Stevens, Clinical Director

Ms. Lisa Haber, Clinical Coordinator

Ms. Elizabeth Mullen, Director of Student Support Services

Ms. Tracey Lewis, Student Support Services

Schedule, Attendance, Transportation

Daily Schedule

The schedule for full-time students follows.

Fall and Spring Semesters

| Younger Students (Room 130) | Older Students (Room 133) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monday-Thursday | |
| 7:45 am – 2:45 pm | 7:30 am – 3:00 pm |
| Friday | |
| 8:00 am – 1:45 pm | 8:00 am – 1:45 pm |

Extended School Year / ESY (Summer School) (if offered)

8:00 AM – 1:30 PM (subject to change)

Schedule for Jewish Holidays

As part of the Yeshiva education, students are encouraged to participate in home preparations for festivals. Consequently, the school schedule is adjusted for the eve of certain holidays and for Chol HaMoed (the intermediate days of Sukkot and Pesach), as presented in the separate [Yeshiva Calendar](#).

If the JCFS School is in session, the Yeshiva will meet during Chol HaMoed. The school program during these days is adjusted as appropriate for Chol HaMoed. If school is in session during Chol HaMoed Pesach, kosher for Passover food will be provided by the Yeshiva.

Reporting Absences, Late Arrival, Early Departure, etc.

Students are expected to arrive on time and to be present at school according to their schedules. In case of absences, late arrival, or early departure please call the front office at **(773) 467-3900**.

Occasionally, the Yeshiva may be able to accommodate a partnership student during a portion of the school day when that student would not normally be in attendance. If a family would like their partnership student to come early or stay later than indicated in the partnership agreement on a particular day, they must make the request by email to their child's teacher at least 2 school days in advance. (Example: For an adjustment of the schedule on the Tuesday following a three-day weekend, the family should make the request by email by the preceding Thursday.) The teacher will inform the parent whether the request can be honored.

Transportation

Full-day Public Students

CPS Students CPS provides transportation to CPS-tuitioned JCFS students based on the "CPS" day. In other words, they provide transportation to school for an **8:00 AM** arrival and transportation from school for a **1:45 PM** departure. Since Yeshiva students have a longer day from Monday through

Thursday, the student's family will have to make independent arrangements for transportation on those days.

Suburban Students Suburban school districts may provide transportation to and from school for tuitioned Yeshiva students according to the Yeshiva schedule. This must be confirmed for each student.

Private / Partnership Students

For Yeshiva students who are enrolled under either a full-time private arrangement or a partial-day partnership with a local Jewish day school, transportation is the responsibility of the family/guardians.

Many partnership parents have arranged transportation between a Jewish day school and the JCFS Yeshiva through **Chicago Mitzvah Campaign, (773) 764-8872 or (866) 697-2224.**

Reintegrating Students

Families of students who are partially reintegrating to a Jewish school are responsible for their child's transportation between the JCFS School and the reintegrating school, regardless whether the child is a public or private student.

Academic Program

The Yeshiva's academic program is carefully designed by professionals who are entrusted to satisfy the general education requirements of our students.

General Studies

Our general studies curriculum meets the requirements of the Illinois State Board of Education and Chicago Public Schools.

Jewish Studies

The Yeshiva's Jewish Studies program for full-time students, depending on the needs of each student, includes: Kriah (Hebrew Reading), Chumash (Bible), Mishnah/Talmud, Halachah/Jewish Law, Weekly Torah portion, and Prophets.

Life and Values Education (LIVE)

As part of its therapeutic education, the Yeshiva conducts discussions for older elementary (typically 5th grade and up) and high school students entitled "Life and Values Education (LIVE)." LIVE is a positive, Torah-based, and modesty-centered program about physiological and emotional changes in adolescence and appropriate behavior.

Service Learning

Service Learning is an integral part of the experience of Yeshiva students.

Academic Credits

Public Students: Credits are awarded by the student's home school district and the JCFS School

Private Students: Credits are awarded by the JCFS School

Partnership Students: As appropriate, credits are awarded by the student's partner school

Reintegration

The JCFS Therapeutic Day School encourages students to reintegrate into mainstream schools as appropriate and supports them in partial or full reintegration. The Yeshiva has helped reintegrate students on a part- or full-time basis to the Cheder Lubavitch, Ida Crown Jewish Academy (ICJA), Fasman Yeshiva High School (Hebrew Theological College), Joan Dachs Bais Yaakov, Lubavitch Mesivta, Yeshiva Ohr Boruch, Yeshiva of South Bend, and Arie Crown Hebrew Day School, as well as to public school. Please note that **Partnership students are considered to be reintegrating students from the outset.**

In particular, the Yeshiva cooperates closely with ICJA in assisting students to take one or more courses at that school. When indicated, the Yeshiva staff presents a formal application to ICJA requesting that a particular student be granted permission to take a certain course or courses. A successful application depends on the support of a student's parents or guardians.

The Yeshiva staff maintain close contact with the reintegrating school to ensure a successful experience for the Yeshiva student.

Reintegrating students participate in Reintegration Group at TDS when indicated. Shared discussions and activities with reintegrating peers can help improve educational skills including social interactions, appropriate teacher relationships, study responsibilities, and parental support.

Transition

The JCFS Therapeutic Day School provides transition and vocational services to Yeshiva students as indicated. These services help students prepare for post-secondary education, employment and career preparation, adult services, etc.

Fostering a Positive Culture of Learning & Living

Behavioral & Academic Expectations of the Therapeutic Day School

The Yeshiva, as part of the JCFS School, **upholds the behavioral and academic expectations of the School.** These expectations are sometimes epitomized as

Be safe

Be responsible

Be respectful

Be engaged in learning

The same **positive behavior level system** is used in Yeshiva classrooms as in other School classrooms. As students move up in the level system, they can gain privileges, depending, of course, on their current behavior and the judgment of the faculty, and demonstrate their readiness for consideration for reintegration.

Yeshiva students are expected to respect the **dress code and other policies** that govern student comportment and behavior.

Fostering a Positive Jewish Culture: Behavioral & Academic Expectations of the Yeshiva

In addition to the basic expectations of the JCFS School, the Yeshiva establishes **additional standards** that are consistent with its mission, for the sake of nurturing a particular **culture that supports partnership with or reintegration into mainstream Jewish day schools/ yeshivot** and that **nurtures connections with Jewish life and community**, as stated above.

The following paragraphs elaborate on several of the Values of the Yeshiva articulated above.

על התורה / Study of Torah

Jewish studies classes are central parts of the curriculum of Yeshiva students.

- The same behavioral standards and behavior management system applies in this part of the program as in every other.
- Students shall receive grades and credits for prayer and for their Jewish studies classes.

ועל העבודה / Prayer and Observance

Students are expected to participate in daily tefillah (prayer) in the morning (Shacharit) and afternoon (Minchah), depending on the schedule of their class. At the parents' formal request, a full-day student may be given permission to participate in an outside minyan (prayer group) at a home synagogue, for example. Students' behavior during prayer will be factored into their grade for Tefillah.

Students who participate in an outside minyan should arrive at the JCFS School by **8:15 AM**.

At every appropriate opportunity, students are **invited to take part in observances** (such as reciting grace after meals, reciting blessings, etc.).

ועל גמילות חסדים / Acts of Loving kindness

As appropriate, Yeshiva students will have **opportunities for volunteering**, sharing joy, etc., and in particular for service learning that allow them to assist the community at such organizations as The Ark and the Chicago Chesed Fund.

חברותא / Healthy personal interactions and קהילה / Community

To the fullest extent possible, the Yeshiva sets standards that foster students' success not only *personally* but also *interpersonally*. Whenever possible, the Yeshiva favors **activities that strengthen collaboration and interpersonal connections** among groups of students, within the classroom, among our student population as a whole, and between our students and their familiar, social, academic, and religious settings outside of school, as opposed to activities that isolate students from each other.

כבוד וצניעות / Respect and Modesty

Yeshiva students are expected to be respectful and modest in their clothing as in their behavior.

- Yeshiva boys must wear a **yarmulke (kippa)** throughout the school day and throughout the school. Caps and hoods are not permitted. (See below re Gym, specified school trips).
- Yeshiva boys are **encouraged to wear tzitzit**.
- Shirts must **cover the shoulder**
- Students must wear **long pants** during the school day. (See below re Gym).

- **Tefillot:** Students of bar mitzvah age are expected to put on tefillin and, depending on family practice, tallit. Students may wear a Jewish hat during tefillot if that is their custom.
- **Gym:** Students may wear a cap instead of a yarmulke. Students may wear shorts.
- **Specified school trips:** Student may be permitted to wear a cap instead of a yarmulke.
- **Rosh Chodesh (New Moon):** Students are encouraged to dress in a button-down shirt.

Food and Entertainment

Food

Students may eat their own food in the classroom during meal times. During transitions between classes, students may eat a snack at the discretion of staff. Students may not eat during class time, although they may enjoy kosher drinks during class at the discretion of staff.

Students may not bring their own food into the Beit Midrash.

The Yeshiva provides kosher cereal and cRc-supervised (non-Cholov Yisroel) milk for breakfast. Students' families are responsible to send lunch with their child other than on occasions that the Yeshiva provides a meal (such as Pizza Lunch). In consideration of the fact that different students maintain different levels of kashrut, students may not share food items unless they come in a closed package marked with a hechsher (kosher symbol) that meets the family standards of the recipient.

Under no circumstances should students take or eat non-kosher food intended for Therapeutic Day School students who are not in the Yeshiva.

Yeshiva classroom microwaves may be used when all the following conditions are met:

- Student has **explicit permission from staff** to use the microwave at that time
- Student affirms **that food is pareve (including neither dairy nor meat ingredients) or dairy (not meat) and made with products under the supervision of cRc-approved hechsherim** (see <http://www.crcweb.org/kashruscard.pdf>).
- Food is double wrapped
- If students do not abide by these expectations, they will lose the privilege

If school is in session during Pesach (Passover),

- The school cart will not sell to Yeshiva students
- Staff will provide kosher for Passover food for students
- Students will be asked not to bring food

The Yeshiva has the use of a separate **kosher pantry** for staging kosher food for school or Knapp Center programs.

Recreational Use of School Computers/Devices (Revised for Fall 2015)

Recreational use of School computers/Devices is a privilege that may be granted at the discretion of staff when the student:

- Has earned the privilege by being on level and displaying appropriate behavior

- Requests permission
- Makes safe use of the computers/devices
- Leaves or logs off when instructed to do so

A student who does not abide by these expectations will lose the privilege.

Students may not listen to music or watch music videos that do not meet the standards of the Yeshiva. Students may not play games or visit websites that include violent, drug-related, or sexual material

Personal Electronic Devices (including but not limited to tablets, netbooks, laptops, iPods, mp3 players, gaming devices, speakers, routers, modems, smart watches, and electronic wristbands)

Personal electronic devices may not be used at any time during the school day. Parents are asked not to send such devices with their child to school. Mobile phones of any sort must be turned off and handed over for storage with the Deans.

Public Recorded Music

Music that meets all the following conditions may be played publicly (that is, for more than one person to enjoy), at the discretion of staff:

- The music is instrumental or features male singers
- It avoids such subjects as violence, sex, and drugs
- It has been reviewed by Yeshiva staff in advance of being played publicly

During Sefirah (starting after Passover and continuing through the day before Lag BaOmer) and during the “Three Weeks” (from 17 Tammuz through 10 Av, inclusive), when an atmosphere of semi-mourning is observed, only a cappella music may be played publicly in the Yeshiva.

Video (Movies, television, etc.)

Appropriate video may be used as a group activity, whether curricular or recreational, at the selection and under the supervision of staff.

School Supplies; Acknowledgment of Receipt

Students should bring the following supplies with them at the beginning of school. Numbers in parentheses apply to Partnership students. (*Please label with student’s name.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Pencils (16) and Pens* – 1 pkg. | • Dividers, set of 6 – 1 |
| • Index cards, lined* – 2 pkg. | • Supply box/pencil case* – 1 |
| • 2-pocket folders, 3-hole punched – 6 (4) | • Flashdrive* – 1 |
| • Spiral notebooks, 3-hole* – 6 (4) | • Backpack* |
| • 3” binder* – 1 | • Tissues (for classroom use)– 4 boxes |

Acknowledgment of Receipt is on the following sheet.

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JCFS Yeshiva: Receipt of Manual and Acknowledgement

Annual verification of receipt of JCFS Yeshiva Manual, Including Values and Academic & Behavioral Expectations

Student Name: _____
 First Middle Last

Date of Birth _____
 Month Day Year

School Year: 20__ - 20__ Grade: _____

I/we have read the JCFS Yeshiva Manual, including Values and Academic & Behavioral Expectations.

I/we understand the contents and agree to abide by the terms of the JCFS Yeshiva Manual.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Witness Signature _____ Date _____