



## Knapp Yeshiva Guide 2025-26

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Joy Faith Knapp Children's Center

3145 West Pratt Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60645

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

Fall 2025

For students in Knapp Yeshiva classrooms, this Guide supplements the JCFS Chicago Knapp School & Yeshiva Guide for Parents and Guardians and Guide for Student Success. It is subject to revision.

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

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### ***Introduction: JCFS Chicago Knapp Yeshiva***

Knapp Yeshiva, part of the Knapp School & Yeshiva, is a **therapeutic Jewish day school** for observant Jewish students who require a therapeutic education and who are **committed to their ongoing Jewish studies**. A therapeutic education is provided for both general and Judaic studies, based on the needs and schedules of students. A dedicated faculty provides an individualized program of study. The Knapp Yeshiva serves elementary and middle-school children depending on staffing, ages of students, and available placements. For **2025-26**, Knapp Yeshiva can accommodate boys and girls in **middle school** depending on date of birth.

**History.** Knapp 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.

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

**School house.** Knapp Yeshiva provides dedicated classrooms and the Okner Beit Midrash (study hall) in addition to the many resources of the Knapp School & Yeshiva as a whole. Special events bring students together for celebration, learning, and commemoration.

**Reintegration.** Knapp Yeshiva assists its students, where appropriate, in the goal of reintegrating into a less restrictive educational environment. Knapp Yeshiva encourages partial or full reintegration as appropriate to mainstream Jewish schools. **Please note that a new psychological evaluation may be required to support reintegration to a mainstream Jewish school. It is up to the family to arrange updated testing. Families are encouraged to do so.**

For observant **Jewish students in secular Knapp School classrooms** (e.g., high school students), certain Knapp Yeshiva services are still available, depending on scheduling.

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

### ***Values and Commitments***

Knapp Yeshiva creates opportunities for students' academic, social-emotional, and Jewish success. We seek reintegration for all Jewish students with emotional and behavioral disabilities.

Knapp Yeshiva supports:

- 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 /derech eretz)
- 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 חברך/kevod chavercha; ואהבת לרעך כמוך/ve'ahavta lereicha kamocho)
- Respect for teachers (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)

Knapp Yeshiva upholds some special commitments:

- **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 into day-school education.
- We foster the **connections** of all Knapp 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.
- Knapp 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***

#### **Knapp Yeshiva**

Rabbi David M. Rosenberg, Director,  
Jewish Educational Studies

(773) 467-3926  
[davidrosenberg@jcfs.org](mailto:davidrosenberg@jcfs.org)

#### **Knapp School & Yeshiva Administration (773) 467-3900**

Dr. Diona Lewis, Principal

Ms. Lisa Haber, Clinical Coordinator

Ms. Indira Buzaljko, Assistant  
Principal

Mr. Armon Beladi, Director of  
Instruction

Ms. Allison Stevens, Clinical Director

### ***Schedule, Attendance, Transportation***

#### **Daily Schedule for Yeshiva classes**

**Regular Academic Year (August 13, 2025 through June 19, 2026)**

School day begins: **7:45 am**

School day concludes:

Mondays-Thursdays: **2:25 pm**

Fridays:

Long Fridays (8/15 – 10/3; 3/13 onward) **2:45 pm**  
Short Fridays (10/24 – 3/6) **1:55 pm**

**ESY (Extended School Year, June 29 – July 28, 2026)** (for participating students)  
Mondays-Fridays: **8:00 am – 1:40 pm**

## **Calendar**

**The Knapp Yeshiva Calendar** follows the calendar of Knapp School & Yeshiva, which generally follows the calendar of Chicago Public Schools. The Yeshiva calendar is available at <https://www.jcfs.org/tds/knapp-yeshiva/yeshiva-forms-documents>. Occasionally, Knapp Yeshiva dismisses earlier than 2:25 pm.

## **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**.

## **Special Accommodation of Partnership Students**

Occasionally, Knapp 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 may make the request by email to their child's teacher at least 2 school days in advance. The family will be informed 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 1:55 PM departure. Since Yeshiva students have a longer day, 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 Knapp 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.

### ***Reintegrating Students***

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

### ***Self-Transportation***

Families may choose to allow their child to self-transport.

If a child chooses to ride a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, hoverboard, etc., to school, he/she may be asked to secure it at the bicycle rack in front of the Knapp Center before entering the building.

### ***Academic Program & Reintegration***

Knapp 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 (ISBE) and Chicago Public Schools.

### ***Jewish Studies***

Knapp Yeshiva's Jewish Studies program, depending on the needs and schedule of each student, includes: Kriah (Hebrew Reading), Chumash (Bible), Mishnah/Talmud, Halachah (Jewish Law), Parashat HaShavua (Weekly Torah portion), Chagim (Holidays), and Navi (Prophets).

## Life and Values Education (LIVE)

As part of its therapeutic education, the Yeshiva occasionally conducts discussions for older elementary (typically 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up) school students entitled “Life and Values Education (LIVE),” with separate discussions for boys and girls. LIVE is a positive, Torah-based, and modesty-centered program about physiological and emotional changes in adolescence and appropriate behavior.

## Academic Credits

Public Students: Credits are awarded by the student’s home school district and the Knapp School & Yeshiva

Private Students: Credits are awarded by Knapp School & Yeshiva.

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

## Reintegration for Knapp Yeshiva students

JCFS Knapp School & Yeshiva encourages students to reintegrate into mainstream schools as appropriate and supports them in partial or full reintegration. Knapp Yeshiva has supported student reintegration on a part- or full-time basis to Akiba Schechter Jewish Day School, Arie Crown Hebrew Day School, Cheder Lubavitch, Fasman Yeshiva High School (Hebrew Theological College), Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School, Ida Crown Jewish Academy (ICJA), Joan Dachs Bais Yaakov, Lubavitch Mesivta, Yeshiva Ohr Boruch, Yeshiva of South Bend, and Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi, as well as to public school. Please note that **partnership students are considered reintegrating students.**

When the Therapeutic Team concludes that reintegration should be pursued, Knapp Yeshiva makes a formal request to a mainstream Jewish school requesting that a student begin the process of reintegration. Usually, reintegration begins with one or two classes at the mainstream school. A successful application depends on several factors:

- The student’s readiness for reintegration. The student meets the criteria of the Knapp School & Yeshiva reintegration readiness checklist.

- The student voices an interest in reintegration
- Parents express support for reintegration and submit a consent for release of PHI.
- As stated above, a current psychological evaluation may be required by the mainstream school.

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

Reintegrating students participate in a Knapp School reintegration group 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.

### ***Fostering a Positive Culture of Learning & Living***

Knapp Yeshiva establishes **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 Knapp Yeshiva articulated above.

### ***על התורה / Study of Torah***

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

### ***ועל העבודה / Prayer and Observance***

Students are invited to participate in daily tefillah (prayer), depending on the schedule of their class. Students who participate in an outside minyan should arrive at the Knapp Center by 8:15 AM.

At appropriate opportunities, 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, Knapp Yeshiva students will have **opportunities for volunteering**.

### *קהילה / Healthy personal interactions and Community*

To the fullest extent possible, Knapp 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, 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. A useful frame of reference is the expectation for dress at the school which a student might attend as a partnership/reintegrating student.

- Yeshiva boys should wear a **yarmulke (kippa)** throughout the school day and throughout the school.
- Yeshiva boys are **encouraged to wear tzitzit**.
- Shirts/tops must **cover the shoulder**.
- Boys should wear **long pants** during the school day. (See below re Gym).
- Girls are expected to wear **skirts**
- Students may wear a Jewish hat during tefillot.
- **Gym**: Students may wear a cap instead of a yarmulke. Boys may wear shorts for Gym.
- **Specified school trips**: Student may be permitted to wear a cap instead of a yarmulke.
- **Rosh Chodesh** (New Moon): Boys are encouraged to dress in a button-down shirt.

## *Food and Entertainment*

### *Food*

Students may eat their own food in the classroom during mealtimes. 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.

Knapp 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 Knapp School students who are not in Knapp Yeshiva.

Knapp 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 made with products under the supervision of cRc-approved hechsherim** (see <https://consumer.crckosher.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Kashrus-Card-2022.pdf> )
- **Dairy or Meat** food may only be heated in the appropriate microwave.
- Food is covered.

If school is in session during Pesach (Passover),

- The school cart will not sell to Yeshiva students
- Families should provide kosher for Passover food for students

Knapp Yeshiva has the use of a separate **kosher pantry** for staging kosher food.

### *Recreational Use of School Computers/Devices*

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

Students may not listen to music or watch music videos that do not meet the standards of Knapp 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, laptops, mp3 players, gaming devices, speakers, cell phones, 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 must be turned off and handed over for storage on entry to the school.

### *Publicly Played Music*

Instrumental music or music with male singers that avoids references to violence, drugs, and sex and that has been reviewed by Yeshiva staff in advance may be played publicly (that is, for more than one person to enjoy), at the discretion of staff.

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***

School supplies are provided by Knapp Yeshiva.

## *Acknowledgment of Receipt*



### Knapp Yeshiva: Receipt of Guide and Acknowledgement

Annual verification of receipt of JCFS Chicago Knapp Yeshiva Guide

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

School Year: **2025-2026** Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

We have read the Knapp Yeshiva Guide. We understand the contents and agree to abide by the terms of the Guide.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_