



Knapp Yeshiva Manual 2021 Spring

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(773) 467-3900 (Information, Absences, Late Arrival, etc.)
February 2021

This document is a supplement to the JCFS Chicago Knapp School & Yeshiva Guide for Parents and Guardians and Guide for Student Success for students in the Knapp Yeshiva. It is subject to revision.

Covid-19 times: This Manual also supplements the JCFS Knapp School & Yeshiva Return to School Guide and policies, which takes precedence.

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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* Reporting Absences, Late Arrivals, Early Dismissal, etc.: **(773) 467-3900** *

Introduction: JCFS Chicago Knapp School & Yeshiva

Knapp Yeshiva, part of the Knapp School & Yeshiva, 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 **2021**, Knapp Yeshiva can accommodate boys and girls in grades K-8, depending on date of birth.

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.

Students are referred by Chicago Public Schools, suburban school districts, or Jewish community educators and rabbis. 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.

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

Knapp Yeshiva assists its students, where appropriate, in the goal of reintegrating to a less restrictive educational environment. Knapp 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**.

Tagline, Mission, Vision, Values, Commitments

Tagline

Creating opportunities for success

Mission

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

Vision

Reintegration for all Jewish students with emotional and behavioral disabilities

Values

Knapp 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 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)

Commitments

Knapp Yeshiva upholds some special commitments:

- As stated above, Knapp 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 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.

Elements of our Therapeutic Education

- Therapeutic Schoolhouse
- Credentialed faculty who approach students with empathy and are trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention and Collaborative Problem Solving
- Therapeutic Team, including the student, family, Knapp Yeshiva professionals (teacher, deaclinician, administrators, and ancillary staff as indicated), and other educational and clinical professionals as appropriate.
- Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Therapeutic Education Plan (TEP) developed by the Therapeutic Team
- Teaching, social work and ancillary services appropriate to meet students' needs
- Tracking student progress

A student's program is informed by his/her psychoeducational testing ('psych eval') at the time of the beginning of service. An evaluation is considered current for 2 or 3 years. **Please note that current 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.**

Faculty and Administration

Knapp Yeshiva Faculty, Clinicians, and Ancillary (current as of 2/16/2021)

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

(773) 467-3934

Mrs. Randi Loskove, REACH Volunteer

Mr. Alexander Lavin, Room 133 Teacher
Rabbi Neil Brill, Room 133 Aide and Jewish Studies Teacher

Ms. Alexis Lloyd, Clinician & Intake Coordinator

(773) 467-3766

Mr. Michael Caplan, Room 130 Teacher

Ms. Denise Bloom, Speech-Language Therapist

Ms. Quincy Cadena, Room 130 Aide

Ms. Carolyn England, Occupational Therapist

Ms. Chana Zakroff, Room 130 1:1

Ms. Susan Nowinski, Transition Specialist

Ms. Rebecca Bromberg, Clinician

Knapp School & Yeshiva Administration (773) 467-3900

Ms. Sandra P. Spicher, Principal

Ms. Elizabeth Mullen, Director of Student Support Services

Ms. Indira Buzaljko, Assistant Principal

Ms. Tracey Lewis, Student Support Services

Ms. Allison Stevens, Clinical Director

Ms. Lisa Haber, Clinical Coordinator



Schedule, Attendance, Transportation

Daily Schedule (current as of 2020- 2021)

The schedule for full-time students follows.

Mondays-Thursdays: 8:00 am – 2:25 pm

Fridays: 8:00 am – 1:50 pm

Schedule for Jewish Holidays

As part of Knapp 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](#).

The school program during these days is adjusted as appropriate during Chol HaMoed. If school is in session during Chol HaMoed Pesach, kosher for Passover food will be provided by Knapp 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, 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 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 **1:50 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 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, we ask that he/she secure it at the bicycle rack in front of the Knapp Center before entering the building. Students may not bring these devices into the Knapp Center for safekeeping.

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 and Chicago Public Schools.

Jewish Studies

Knapp 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.

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

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 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.
- Please bear in mind, as stated above, that 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 the 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.

Transition

Knapp School & Yeshiva provides transition and vocational services 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

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 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 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**, sharing joy, etc.

קהילה / Healthy personal interactions and חברותא / 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.

- 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 encouraged to put on tefillin.
- Students may wear a Jewish hat during tefillot.
- **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 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.

The following highlighted sections are inapplicable during the Covid-19 pandemic

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 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

Knapp 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.

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, 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 on entry to the school.

Public Recorded 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. Manual 2020-1 including Values and Academic & Behavioral Expectations



