



Hillel Torah

NORTH SUBURBAN DAY SCHOOL

בית ספר הלל תורה

123



Welcome to the Alana Beth Stein Preschool!

2020-2021

As your child enters the exciting new world of Preschool, we are sure you will have many questions about processes and policies. We have provided you with answers to various questions that may arise as you prepare for this wonderful year of growth!



ABC



Join our Facebook group today!
[Hillel Torah PTA & Parents](#)

Don't forget to like our main school
[Facebook Page](#) and [Instagram Account](#)
to stay updated with special news,
livestreams and pictures – all
happening in real time!

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Welcome to Preschool!

We are excited to meet you!

The first day is coming and it is a big day for all of us! We want this to be the first of many warm, engaging and exciting school days.

Every child is special and your child will receive the nurturing and attention needed for a positive preschool experience.

We look forward to working with you and hope this handbook helps answer some of your questions and concerns.



Important Dates

Aug 24-25

Preschool orientation by appointment

Aug 26-27

Early drop off begins. Shortened school day, no lunch in school, 11:30 dismissal. Students will be divided in to two alternating groups so that only half of the students will attend each day. Students in the same family will be in the same group and attend school on the same days.

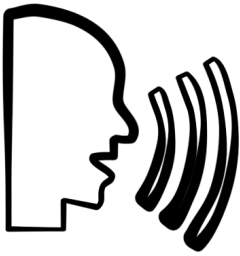
Aug 28

All students attend

Aug 31-Sept 4

Early drop off available. Mon, all students attend, shortened school day, no lunch in school, 11:30 dismissal. Tues and Wed alternating groups of students attend, regular 1:00 dismissal. Thursday and Friday all students attend, regular 1:00 dismissal.

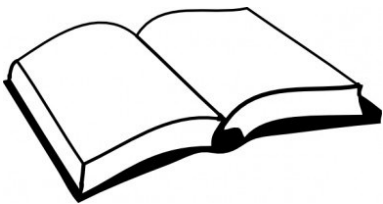
At-Home Activities to Help Your Child Transition into Preschool



- Practice wearing a mask for extended periods of time.
- Allow your child to practice dressing independently by pulling up pants/skirts and putting on shirts/jackets.
- Review bathroom procedures and etiquette (such as washing hands with soap and water after using the bathroom).



- Encourage consistent activities (such as putting away toys or setting the table).
- Have set times for wakeup and bedtime, playtime and rest time.



- Invite an adult to read with your child daily.
- Discuss your child's experiences with him/her (such as your trips to the zoo, museums, shopping, etc.)

Help Your Child Prepare for the School Day

- Ensure s/he is rested and well nourished.
- Wake him/her early enough to get dressed in clean clothes, eat a leisurely breakfast (there is no breakfast in school), and arrive at school on time.
- Please discourage bringing any toys from home - our classrooms have so many!
- Please remember to take your child to the bathroom before drop-off.

Children who arrive late miss important social and learning activities.

Some of the Things Your Child Will Learn at Hillel Torah



Fostering a love for Eretz Yisrael Building classroom communities

Middot and Chesed **Getting Along with Others**

Playing cooperatively Exploring the world

Trying new things **Sharing and taking turns**

Recognizing and labeling feelings

Actively participating in conversations Following multi-step directions
Recognizing colors, sizes and shapes

Understanding concepts of print

Number concepts

Recognizing letters

Problem solving skills Developing fine and gross motor skills

Demonstrating personal care and hygiene **STEM**

Torah and Parshat Hashavua **Interest in reading and writing**

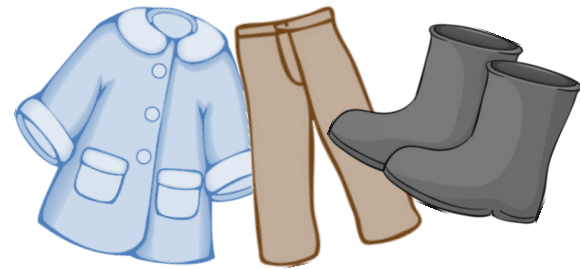
Parshat Hashavua Understanding Hebrew language

Expanding **Art expression** Identifying **Demonstrating self-confidence**
critical thinking skills patterns

Sharing new ideas **Tefilot and Brachot** Working and learning collaboratively

We make every effort to keep parents up to date about their children's school activities.

- Preschool weekly newsletters and important information will be sent out through Kaymbu, our online Early Childhood communication tool.
- Shared moments and pictures will be emailed periodically through the Kaymbu system.
- The weekly Hillel Torah Highlights (all-school newsletter) reviews major events of the week and announces upcoming events.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled twice a year, and online progress reports are emailed home at the end of the year in June.
- Your child's progress report, school directory and other announcements can be found on [Parents Web](#). Please sign up if you are new to the school.
- Join our [Hillel Torah PTA and Parents](#) Facebook group and like our main school [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram account](#) for real time pictures, livestreams, daily happenings and latest announcements.
- If you'd like to speak to a teacher, please call the Preschool office at 847.677.1021 or send an email.
- Please note that teachers do not check their email during the school day. For time sensitive matters, please call the office or email htearlychildhood@hilleltorah.org.



Clothing

- All clothing (including outerwear like coats and boots) should be washable and clearly labeled.
- Clothing should be simple, sturdy, not too tight, safe and easy to manage.
- Boys are to wear *tzitzit* and a *kippah* (no caps, please).
- Pants/shorts are required for girls and boys on gym day.
- Masks must be worn while in the building.

Shoes

- Shoes must have backs and be appropriate for outdoor play (no sandals).
- Please only send shoes with shoelaces if your child can tie independently.
- Boots should be large enough so your child can put them on independently.
- Snow/rain boots may not be worn in class - an extra pair of shoes may be kept at school.

Please make sure to label all your child's clothing (including outerwear).

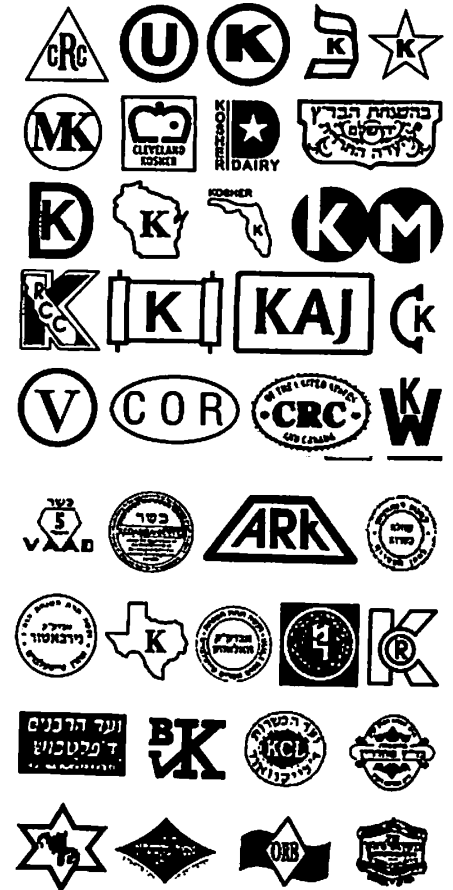
Food Guidelines

Please provide your child with a nutritious kosher lunch, snack and water bottle daily.

- Please send in a reusable already filled water bottle each day. All water bottles should be clearly labeled with your child's name. Water bottles will be sent home daily to be washed and should be returned to school filled each morning.
- On Monday-Thursday, please provide a healthy snack for your child - either a fresh fruit, vegetable, cheese stick, or yogurt. Please do not send foods such as crackers (those items will be saved for lunch time). Snacks should be sent in a separate bag from lunch, clearly labeled with your child's name. If a utensil is needed, please provide one with your child's snack.
- Children may not share or trade lunch or snack items.
- Eating utensils and drinks will not be provided by the school. Please do not send soda pop as a beverage. Water is preferred.
- Please do not send more food than your child can eat during our 30 minute lunch time. One dessert is sufficient.
- Preschool hot lunch may be offered after the chagim, details to follow.
- The Preschool adheres to Hillel Torah's "No-Nut Policy." All foods with nut ingredients should not be brought to school and should be kept out of lunches and snacks (see [Parent Handbook](#) for more info).

Please be sure to send in a reusable already filled water bottle each day.

Acceptable Kosher Symbols



Birthday Celebrations at School



The school welcomes you to celebrate your child's birthday! If you would like, you may provide a special, individually packaged, birthday snack for the class. Please contact your child's teacher to coordinate a day and time, and to check if there are any allergies in the class. Unfortunately this year we cannot allow parents to attend in-class birthday celebrations.

If you would like to donate a book or gift in honor of your child's birthday, please ask your child's teacher for suggestions.

To learn more about birthday celebrations and kashrut requirements, please refer to our [Parent Handbook](#).

Illness, Absence & Medical Information

Illness

Please see our [Responsible Reopening](#) document for details on what to do if your child is ill or displays any symptoms of illness.

Absence

- Please call the school office between 8:15-9:00 am if your child will be tardy or absent for the day, or if your child will be leaving school before dismissal.
- Please inform your child's teachers in advance if your child will miss a few days of school (ex. for vacation, family simcha, etc).

Medical Information

- Please fill out the proper form with our office if your child takes any medications or has allergies.
- There are separate forms that will be provided for an Allergy or Asthma Action Plan if your child has allergies or asthma.
- Our office staff is trained to administer medicines and asthma inhalers as needed. Staff can only do so with a consent form on file with our office.
- In case of an emergency, the school will always call 911 and then notify the parent immediately.



Arrival Procedures

- Out of an abundance of caution, parents will be unable to enter the Preschool building for any reason, including during arrival and dismissal times.



- We will provide curbside drop off beginning at 8:50 am and lasting until 9:05 am.
- All adults and children over the age of two coming through the drop off line will need to wear a mask at all times.
- A teacher will greet you at your car, confirm your self-assessment symptom screening, take your child's temperature while still in the car, and then walk your child to their classroom where a teacher will be waiting to greet them.
- Please help unbuckle your child so that he or she can get out of the car as easily as possible once the temperature check and screenings are complete. Teachers will be available to help open car doors, but will not be physically removing children from the cars.

- For the safety of all of our families and staff, we kindly ask that you remain in your car at all times unless it is physically impossible for you to reach your child's car seat from inside your vehicle. Our goal is to move through the line as quickly and safely as possible.

If your child is registered for Early Drop Off

We will have two curbside drop off options, one at 8:00 am and a second one at 8:30 am.

All Early Drop Off will be at the Monticello school doors.

Due to our new structure, we will be unable to accommodate drop offs other than at these two scheduled times.

- Given this new protocol, we respectfully ask that you arrive within the drop off window. If you do not arrive prior to 9:05 am, you will need to park and walk your child to the school entrance. Once a teacher becomes available, she will come to the entrance to bring your child into the building. Please understand that once our school day has begun it is difficult for teachers to leave the classroom, so you may be waiting outside the building for a few minutes until someone is able to leave the classroom to get your child. We appreciate your partnership in getting to school on time, especially given our circumstances this year!
- We recognize that some children may have difficulty transitioning to school and separating from parents. If your child is refusing to exit your car, we will ask you to pull out of the drop off line so that you can take more time to help your child have a smoother transition to a teacher. Our goal is to make this process go as smoothly as possible and we look forward to partnering with you both prior to the start of school as well as once the year begins. We will do our best to support you during drop off, however, please understand that if your child is unable to come into school safely with a teacher, we will not be able to have him or her at school that day.

8:50am - 9:05am Arrival Locations

Pre Nursery- Please join the drop off line on Monticello. There will be an area near the school door for you to pull up to drop off next to the sidewalk closest to the school.

Nursery- Please pull into the alley behind our building off of Monticello. From the alley you can turn right into the circular drive on East Prairie in front of the shul. We will provide you with a sign for your car, which indicates which class your child is in and we ask that you leave this on the passenger side of the window or on the passenger side dashboard.

Dismissal Procedures

- All dismissal times (1:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm) will follow the same procedures.
- All children will wait indoors until a parent/caregiver arrives.
- Parents and caregivers will need to park their cars and walk up to the building to get their children, there is no curbside pick-up during dismissal.
- Teachers will be posted at designated doors and the parent/caregiver will come to the door, check in with a teacher and the children will be dismissed one at a time to each caregiver.
- Double parking is not allowed.
- All parents/caregivers should be maintaining appropriate distance while waiting.
- All adults and children over the age of two waiting outside the building for pick up will need to wear a mask at all times.



1:00pm, 2:30pm, & 4:30pm Dismissal Locations

Pre-Nursery children will be dismissed from the Monticello Entrance.

Nursery children will be dismissed from the East Prairie Entrance.

All parents waiting on the East Prairie side will need to wait at the bottom of the steps outside to alleviate congestion near the doors.

A Note from the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Getting More Involved at Hillel Torah

The Hillel Torah Parent Teacher Association (HT PTA) supports many projects benefitting students, teachers and parents, with the goal of enriching and enhancing each child's experience at Hillel Torah. Programs are held during the school year where you can get acquainted with other parents, discuss common challenges and hear from speakers.

It is important to take an active part in school life and we welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please contact the PTA Co-Presidents by emailing ptapresidents@hilleltorah.org for more information regarding membership and opportunities to serve.

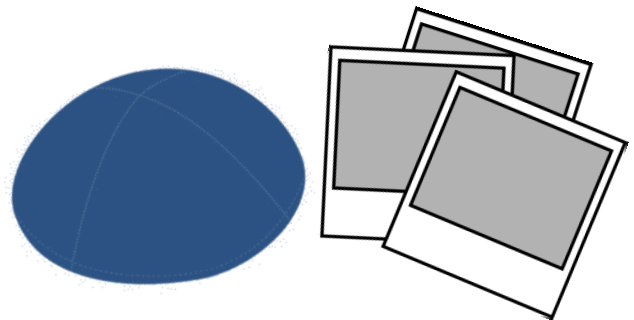
Hillary Rosenthal and Rachael Gelman
PTA Presidents

Preschool Supply List (2020-2021)

Below are the supplies your child will need to bring to school on orientation day.

A one-time \$75 fee will be collected to cover the cost of special events and all field trips for the entire year. No other requests for funds will be asked of you during the year.

If there is a financial hardship, please contact our Business Administrator, Dov Shandalov, in the main office building at 847.674.6533 or through email at dov.shandalov@hilleltorah.org. Cash or checks are accepted, or you may [pay by credit card](#).



Supplies

- A shoe box with a complete change of clothing (boys - please include an extra kippah and clips). Please label everything in the box and check clothing periodically for changes in size and season.
- 2-3 extra masks to keep at school.
- One digital photo of your child and one digital family photo emailed to htearlychildhood@hilleltorah.org

Every day, your child should bring the following items to school:

- A **large** backpack with a wide opening (minimum opening 9"x12") to accommodate school projects (no wheelies, please).
- A fresh fruit or vegetable, cheese stick, or yogurt for snack time and a kosher lunch including a beverage and cutlery (refrigeration is not available). Please do not send soda pop, hard candies, lollipops or gum.
- Tzedaka - a penny a day is suggested. A two week's supply of pennies should be kept at school in a bag or closed container.
- Reusable already filled water bottle
- Mask