



Hillel Torah

בית ספר הלל תורה



welcome to Kindergarten!

As your child transitions into the exciting new world of Kindergarten, we are sure you will have many questions about processes and policies. We have created this handbook to provide you with answers to popular questions that may arise as you prepare for this wonderful year of growth!

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

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

Table of Contents

Kindergarten Q & A	3
What time does Kindergarten start?	3
How does morning drop-off work?	3
Who should I inform if my child will be late for school?	3
What should my child wear to school?	3
What do I pack my child for lunch and snack?	4
My child's birthday is coming up! What can I do to celebrate in school and/or at home?	4
Can you tell me more about Hot Lunch?	4
What specials will my child participate in weekly?	5
How does dismissal work?	5
How does busing work? Who can I call with questions?	5
What if I need to take my child out of school early?	5
What should I do if my child is ill?	5
If my child has allergies or asthma, or takes medication during the day, what do I do?	6
I feel my child excels in math or reading or could use some extra help. Who do I contact?	6
How can I find out more about what my child learns about during the day?	7
I would love to get more involved at Hillel Torah! How?	7
Who to Call for What	8
Kindergarten School Supply List	9

Kindergarten Q & A

What time does Kindergarten start?

- **Class begins at 8:20 am.**
- **It's only Kindergarten – why the big rush?** Hillel Torah's dual curriculum includes designated circle times, group projects, and Hebrew and English language immersion activities. It requires careful time management to allow for appropriate socialization and individual interests and talents. Our minutes are precious and filled with enriching experiences. Maximize your child's day by arriving on time, ready for school.

How does morning drop-off work?

- Early drop-off begins at 7:30 am in the auditorium. Children will be supervised and then brought to their Kindergarten classroom at 8:00 am.
- Regular drop-off for Kindergarten will take place beginning at 8:00 am and children will go directly to their classrooms.
- If you arrive after 8:20 am, please park and walk your child to the office.



Who should I inform if my child will be late for school?

- If arriving late, please call the school office at 847-674-6533 to notify your child's teachers. Once you arrive, please walk your child to the office to check-in.

What should my child wear to school?

Clothing

- All clothing (including outerwear such as coats and boots) must be washable and clearly labeled.
- Clothing should be simple, not too tight, safe, and easy to manage.
- Boys are to wear tzitzit and a kippah (no caps).
- Pants/shorts are required for girls on gym day.
- All children must wear a mask.

Shoes

- Shoes must have backs and be appropriate for outdoor play (no crocs, flip-flops, or thonged sandals).
- Sneakers are required for everyone on gym days.
- 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.

What do I pack my child for lunch and snack?

- Please provide your child with two healthy snacks Monday through Thursday (and one snack once long Fridays begin). The morning snack should be a healthy fresh fruit or vegetable or a protein such as a cheese stick, yogurt, or hardboiled egg. The afternoon snack can be a healthy food item as well. Some suggestions include cheese sticks, pretzels, granola bars, crackers, etc. Snacks should be sent in separate bags from lunch and clearly labeled with your child's name. If a utensil is needed, please be sure to include one.
- Lunch should contain healthy foods to be eaten during our lunchtime. We recommend one main and one side. Dessert is optional. There is no refrigeration available, so please keep this in mind as you prepare. It is helpful to indicate on the bag if an item is vegetarian or parve (such as veggie burgers, tofu dogs, etc.).
- All food brought into the building must bear an approved Kashrut symbol. More information on Kashrut and lunches can be found in our Parent Handbook.
- **Kindergarten adheres to the school's No-Nut Policy** (see the Parent Handbook for more info).
- 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 each morning.



My child's birthday is coming up! What can I do to celebrate in school and/or at home?

- If you would like, you may provide a special birthday snack for your child to celebrate with his or her classmates at school. Please contact your child's teacher to coordinate a day and time, and to check if there are any allergies in the class.
- If you would like to donate a book 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. Out-of-school party invitations can be distributed if Parent Handbook guidelines are followed.

Can you tell me more about Hot Lunch?

- Hot lunch is available for purchase through the PTA on a pre-order basis. Menus along with signup instructions will be sent via email.

What specials will my child participate in weekly?

Gym • Art • Digital Literacy • Library • Ivrit
Music with Morah Linda • Sing-a-Long with Rabbi Linzer
Fine/Gross Motor Work with Rachel Morris



How does dismissal work?

- **Dismissal will be at 3:50 pm.**
- If your child is going home with another student for a playdate, please let your child's teachers know by sending a note or calling the office.
- Students will be dismissed from classrooms and sent to their bus or car in the carpool line at the appropriate time. We will have systems in place to ensure Kindergarten children are dismissed safely. Carpool and busing procedures will be communicated in an email to parents prior to the start of school.
- Early dismissal begins on Fridays at the start of the school year and continues until Friday, April 29, 2022, when we follow our regular dismissal time at 3:50 pm.

How does busing work? Who can I call with questions?

- Busing is a prepaid service provided for our students.
- Busing information with routes and stops will be provided at the beginning of the school year.
- Each bus will have an adult monitor to ensure each child gets off at the correct stop.
- All busing questions including lost items, incident reports, or other concerns can be directed to Dov Shandalov, dov.shandalov@hilleltorah.org.



What if I need to take my child out of school early or if my child will be away for a few days?

- Please send a note if your child will be leaving school before dismissal. Children must be signed out from the school office when leaving early.
- If you will be taking your child out of school (ex. vacation, family *simcha*, etc.), please inform your child's teachers in advance.
- Please send a written note to school with your child if there will be any changes to your child's usual pick-up routine. Teachers may not see email during the school day.

What should I do if my child is ill?

- Please call the school nurse at 847.674.6533 to report any illness.
- Contagious diseases must be reported to the nurse immediately so notices can be sent to all the parents of the children in the class.
- If the school calls to inform you that your child is ill, please make arrangements for pick up as quickly as possible. Please keep him/her home from school until Covid 19 has been ruled out and until symptom-free for 24 hours.

- Children who are unwell and unable to participate in our activities at school need to stay home.
- Children with fever must be fever-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

We strive to maintain the wellness of the Hillel Torah community, which requires consideration and care from each family. If your child is unable to participate in all activities due to illness, fever, extreme coughing, diarrhea, vomiting, or fatigue, you will be asked to keep your child at home.

Children should remain at home if they have any of the following symptoms:

- They have nasal discharge that is excessive, with or without fever.
- They vomited or have diarrhea. After vomiting, a child should remain home for 24 hours, with or without fever.
- A fever of 100 degrees or more. Children should be fever-free without medication for 24 hours before they return to school.
- Parents are required to notify the school if their child has a diagnosis of strep throat or any other infectious illness or disease including conjunctivitis and lice. We notify parents of infectious diseases in the class. A child with diagnosed strep throat should not return to school until the child has been on the antibiotic for 24 hours.
- Children who have been given a prescription for an antibiotic require 2 doses of the antibiotic after the start of the treatment before returning to school.

***Due to the concern for Covid 19, at this time we ask that all illnesses be discussed with our school nurse so that it can be determined when children are safe to return to school.**

***Please see our Hillel Torah Safety Policies, which you'll receive by email before the beginning of the school year for what to do if your child is ill or displays any symptoms of illness during the current pandemic.**

If my child has allergies or asthma, or takes medication during the day, what do I do?

- Please fill out the proper form with our office if your child takes any medications or has allergies.
- There are separate forms that have been provided for an Allergy or Asthma Action Plan if your child has allergies or asthma.
- Our school nurse 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.

All forms can be found on the [Parent Resources page](#) of our website.

I feel my child excels in math or reading or could use some extra help. Who do I contact?

- Our teachers are always the first in line to aid students in both enrichment and extra support. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you feel there is anything you would like to address with his/her educational or emotional development.

My child doesn't tell me everything s/he learns about during the day. How can I find out more?

- Kindergarten “catch ups” and important information are sent out regularly through an online platform called Seesaw.
- Pictures will be emailed periodically in addition to regular catch-ups.
- The weekly Hillel Torah Highlights all-school email newsletter reviews major events of the week and announces upcoming events.
- At the beginning of the year, your child will make a special “mailbag.” Your child will bring this bag to and from school each day – please make sure to empty it and/or put in any notes for the teachers.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled twice a year, with online progress reports emailed home in January and in June.
- Your child’s academic information, school directory, and other announcements can be found on our [FACTS Family Portal](#) (formerly ParentsWeb). Please sign up if you are new to the school.
- Join our [Hillel Torah PTA and Parents Facebook group](#) and like and follow our main school [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram account](#) for exclusive pictures, live streams, daily happenings, and latest announcements.

I would love to get more involved at Hillel Torah! How?

- Hillel Torah offers many exciting opportunities for parent involvement. Below are a variety of ways to become part of our family!



- **Give/Get** – Many opportunities to earn Give/Get credit will be announced throughout the year. Volunteering at lice checks, library, or office help are just a few ways you can earn credit and become involved. Please contact Dov Shandalov if you have questions about our Give/Get program.

- **Parent Teacher Association** – Our very active PTA offers numerous options for parent involvement throughout the year. Volunteering at Book Fair, running and/or helping coordinate an event – there is no shortage of opportunities. Please contact Rachael Gelman or Neeli Sudin with questions at PTApresidents@hilleltorah.org.

- **Classroom Parents** – Each year, a parent volunteer per class is selected to coordinate different programs and aid our teachers wherever they may be needed.

Who to Call for What



Below is a brief list of primary contact information for school matters. Please allow for a 24 hour response time on all communication during the school week. For time-sensitive matters please call the school office.

- **School Website:** www.hilleltorah.org
All aspects of our school, including information, calendars, forms, announcements, and staff/faculty contact information.
- **Main Building School Office:**
Phone (847) 674-6533 | Fax (847) 674-8313 | hoffice@hilleltorah.org
- **Preschool (Skokie Valley) Office:** Phone (847) 677-1021
htearlychildhood@hilleltorah.org | ilene.cutler@hilleltorah.org
- **Teachers:** Your child's teacher should be the first stop for any questions about your child including questions regarding remediation, enrichment, social or emotional issues. The primary and most efficient way for parents to contact teachers to discuss an issue or set up a time to talk is via email. Teacher's emails are listed on the school website. Please allow for a 24 hour response time. In case of a time-sensitive matter, parents can call the school office and the office will relay the message to the teacher.
- **Administration:** After you have contacted your child's teacher, if you need further assistance, feel free to contact an academic administrator:
 - Principal:** Rabbi Menachem Linzer, menachem.linzer@hilleltorah.org
 - Early Childhood:** Mrs. Jennifer Wasserman, jennifer.wasserman@hilleltorah.org
 - Judaic Studies:** Rav Natan Brownstein, natan.brownstein@hilleltorah.org
 - General Studies:** Mrs. Miriam Kopelow, miriam.kopelow@hilleltorah.org
- **Student Services Department:** For more information regarding our Student Services Program, after you have contacted your child's teacher, please contact the appropriate Student Services Staff Member:
 - Director of Student Services:** Rabbi Aron Wolgel, aron.wolgel@hilleltorah.org
 - School Social Worker:** Ms. Carly Krawetz, carly.krawetz@hilleltorah.org
- **Admissions:** Mrs. Karin Felix - Director of Admissions, karin.felix@hilleltorah.org
- **Financial, Busing & Building:** Mr. Dov Shandalov - Business Administrator
dov.shandalov@hilleltorah.org
- **Development:** Mr. Ed Plotkin - Director of Development, ed.plotkin@hilleltorah.org
- **PTA:** PTA Co-Presidents: Mrs. Rachael Gelman and Mrs. Neeli Sudin
PTApresidents@hilleltorah.org

Kindergarten School Supply List

A one-time \$100 fee will be collected to cover the cost of special events and any 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 by [clicking here](#).

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

- A shoebox with a **complete change of clothing** (an extra kippah and clips should also be kept at school). Please label everything in the box
- A sweater or light jacket to keep in school
- Two clean and empty large Pringles cans with lids
- One **large** backpack to accommodate school projects
No wheelies please
- Headphones
- 2-3 extra masks



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

- Mask
- Reusable already filled water bottle
- Tzedaka – a penny a day is suggested. A supply of pennies may be kept at school in a bag or closed container
- Boys – a kippah and tzitzit
- Device
 - o iPad (**strongly preferred**)
 - Must have iOS 13.1 or higher (iPad (2019 or newer), iPad Pro (2020 or newer), iPad Air (2020 or newer))
 - Must have a 10 inch screen or larger
 - o Android (acceptable but not preferred)
 - Must have a 10 inch screen or larger
- Two kosher snacks, including at least one healthy fresh fruit, vegetable, or protein snack, and a kosher lunch including a beverage and cutlery (refrigeration is not available). Please do not send soda pop, hard candies, lollipops, or gum.

Home items to send in for projects:

- Clean Pringle cans with lids (large and/or small). Other cans from Rice Noodles, Crystal Light, International Coffee cans are suggested, as well.
- Clean plastic tubs with lids
- Clean styrofoam trays and containers

ADMINISTRATION

Rabbi Menachem Linzer, Principal

Rav Natan Brownstein, Director of Judaic Studies

Karin Felix, Director of Admissions

Miriam Kopelow, Director of General Studies

Ed Plotkin, Director of Development

Dov Shandalov, Business Administrator

Jennifer Wasserman, Director of Early Childhood

Aron Wolgel, Director of Student Services

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