



Hillel Torah

בית ספר הלל תורה



Welcome to Kindergarten!

As your child transitions into the exciting new world of Kindergarten, we are sure you have many questions about processes and policies.

We have created this handbook to provide you with the answers to popular questions as you prepare for this wonderful year of growth!

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

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Kindergarten Q & A

What time does Kindergarten start?

- **Class begins at 8:20 am.**
- **It's only Kindergarten – why the big rush?** Our minutes are precious and filled with enriching experiences. Maximize your child's day by arriving on time and 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 brought to their classroom at 8:00 am.
- Regular drop-off begins at 8:00 am. Children go directly to their classrooms.
- If you arrive after 8:20 am, please park and walk your child to the office, not to their classroom



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

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

What should my child wear to school?

Clothing

- Clothing should be simple, not too tight, safe, and easy to manage.
- Boys should wear tzitzit and a kippah (no hats).
- On gym days, girls are required to wear pants/shorts.
- All clothing (including outerwear such as coats and boots) must be washable and clearly labeled.

Shoes

- Shoes must have backs and be appropriate for outdoor play (no Crocs, flip-flops, Ugg slippers, or thonged sandals).
- On gym days, sneakers are required.
- Boots should be large enough to be put 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 for lunch and snack?

- Please provide two healthy snacks Monday through Thursday (and one snack once long Fridays begin). Suggestions include fresh fruit, yogurt, cheese sticks, pretzels, granola bars, crackers, etc. Snacks should be sent in separate bags from lunch and clearly labeled with your child's name. Include utensils as needed.
- Refrigeration is not available for student lunches or snacks; keep this in mind as you prepare.
- All food brought into the building must be Kosher, and all packaged food must have an approved kashrut symbol.



- **Kindergarten adheres to the school's No-Nut Policy** (see the Parent Handbook for more information).
- Teachers will partner with parents of students who have food-related allergies to ensure safety and provide alternative options for special events, Shabbat snacks, etc.
- Please send in a reusable, filled water bottle each day. All water bottles should be clearly labeled with your child's name.

Can you tell me more about Hot Lunch?

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

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

- You may provide a special birthday snack for your child to celebrate with classmates at school. Contact your child's teacher to coordinate.
- You can donate a book to the classroom in honor of your child's birthday, ask your child's teacher for suggestions.
- Refer to our Parent Handbook for more information on birthday celebrations and kashrut requirements. Out-of-school party invitations can be distributed according to the Parent Handbook guidelines.

What specials will my child participate in weekly?

Gym • Art • Digital Literacy • Library • Ivrit
Music with Morah Linda • Sing-a-Long with Rabbi Linzer



How does dismissal work?

- **Dismissal begins at 3:50 pm.**
- If your child is going home with another student, send an email to dismissal@hilleltorah.org before 3:00 pm (or before 12:30 pm on early Fridays).
- Students are safely dismissed from classrooms and sent to their bus or car in the carpool line at the appropriate time. Carpool and busing procedures will be communicated to parents in an email before the start of school.
- Early dismissal begins on Fridays at the start of the school year and continues until Friday, Friday, May 7, 2027, when we transition to 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.
- Each bus has an adult monitor.
- All bus-related questions, including lost items, incident reports, or other concerns, should 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?

- All end-of-day pick-up changes must be submitted by email to dismissal@hilleltorah.org before 3:00 pm (or before 12:30 pm on early Fridays). 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.

What should I do if my child is ill?

- 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. Children who are unwell and unable to participate in school activities need to stay home.

We strive to maintain the wellness of the Hillel Torah community, which requires consideration and care from each family. If your child can't 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:

- Excessive nasal discharge, with or without fever.
- Vomiting or 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 returning to school.
- Parents are required to notify the school if their child has a diagnosis of COVID, strep throat, or any other infectious illness or disease, including conjunctivitis and lice.

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

- Fill out the proper form with the school office if your child takes any medications or has allergies.
- There is a specific form 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 and can only do so with a consent form on file with our office.
- In the event of an emergency, the school will always call 911 and then notify the parent immediately.

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 there is anything you would like to address regarding educational or emotional development.

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

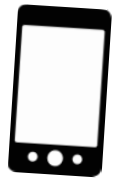
- Kindergarten “curriculum catch-ups” and important information are sent out regularly.
- The weekly Hillel Torah Highlights all-school email newsletter reviews major events of the week and announces upcoming events.
- Your child will bring a folder to and from school each day – please empty it and/or 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.
- Like and follow our [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram account](#) for pictures, daily happenings, and the latest announcements.

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

- Hillel Torah offers many exciting opportunities for parent involvement. See the Parent Handbook for all the ways you can get involved!

Who to Call for What

Below is a brief list of primary contact information for school matters. Please allow a response time of 1-2 school days during regular work weeks. For anything time-sensitive, call the school office.



- **School Website:** www.hilleltorah.org
All aspects of our school, including calendars, forms, and staff/faculty contact information.
- **Main Building School Office:**
Phone (847) 674-6533 | Fax (847) 674-8313 | htoffice@hilleltorah.org
- **Teachers:** Your child's teacher is your primary contact for any questions about your child, including remediation, enrichment, and social or emotional issues. The best way to contact teachers is via email. Teachers' emails are listed on the school website. Please allow a response time of 1-2 school days during regular work weeks. For 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](#).

Kindergarten School Supply List

Bring these supplies to school on orientation day.

- ☐ A shoebox with a **complete change of clothing**, including underwear and socks (an extra kippah and clips for boys). Label everything in the box
- ☐ One **large** backpack to accommodate school projects, no wheelies, please
- ☐ Headphones



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

- ☐ Reusable, filled water bottle (preferably with a straw and non-spillable)
- ☐ Tzedaka – A roll of pennies should be kept at school in a bag or closed container
- ☐ Boys – a kippah and tzitzit
- ☐ Two kosher snacks, and a lunch including a beverage and cutlery (refrigeration is not available).