



JCFS Yeshiva Manual 2015-16

The JCFS Therapeutic Day School Yeshiva

Joy Faith Knapp Children’s Center

3145 West Pratt Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60645

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

Fall 2015

This document is a supplement to the JCFS School Guide for Parents and Guardians and Guide for Student Success for students in the Yeshiva Program.

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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Introduction: JCFS Therapeutic Day School & Yeshiva

The Yeshiva Program of the JCFS Therapeutic Day School (TDS) is a **therapeutic Jewish day school for students** up to grade 12 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.

The Yeshiva Program 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. The Yeshiva Program collaborates with the Associated Talmud Torahs (ATT) and with several ATT schools in establishing and maintaining partnership arrangements for some students.

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

TDS assists its students, where appropriate, in the goal of reintegrating to a less restrictive educational environment. As a program within TDS, the Yeshiva Program encourages partial or full reintegration as appropriate to mainstream Jewish elementary and high schools.

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

Mission, Vision, Values, Commitments

Mission

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

Vision

Reintegration for all Jewish students with emotional and behavioral disabilities

Values

The Yeshiva Program 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 erez)
- 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 / 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

The Yeshiva Program upholds some special commitments:

- As stated above, the Yeshiva Program 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 of the Yeshiva Program 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. The Yeshiva Program 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

Yeshiva Faculty, Clinicians, and Ancillary

Rabbi David M. Rosenberg, Coordinator of Jewish Educational Services, Director
 Mr. Alexander Lavin, High School Teacher
 Rabbi Neil Brill, High School Teacher's Aide and Jewish Studies Teacher
 Mrs. Lauren Furlong, Middle School Teacher
 Ms. Alice Hoffman, Middle School Teacher's Aide
 Ms. Orli Ginsburg, Clinician

Ms. Rachel Minzer, Clinician
 Mrs. Christie Ochoa, Clinician
 Mr. Martin Ozima, Social Work Intern
 Ms. Denise Bloom, Speech-Language Therapist
 Mrs. Chana Isenberg, Occupational Therapist
 Mr. Thomas Albrecht, Reintegration Specialist
 Ms. Susan Nowinski, Transition Specialist
 Ms. Susan Wagman, JVS Vocational Counselor

JCFS Therapeutic Day School Administration

Ms. Sandra P. Spicher, Principal
 Ms. Katie Fiore, Assistant Principal
 Ms. Michelle Paris, Clinical Director
 Ms. Lisa Haber, Clinical Coordinator

Ms. Allison Stevens, Clinical Coordinator and Intake Coordinator
 Mr. Daniel Nilson, Dean
 Ms. Tracey Lewis, Assistant Dean

JCFS Yeshiva Calendar 2015-2016 / 5776

Boldface= school not in session Underlined = adjusted schedule. *Italics* = special programming
Holidays occurring on weekends are not included Subject to **change** **Current as of 7/24/2015**

Academic Year 2015-2016 / 5776

September 2015

7 Mon **Labor Day**
8 Tues First day of Fall Semester
9 Weds *Back-to-School Open House for Parents of Students, 4:00 – 6:00 PM*

TBD *Picture day*
14-15 Mon & Tues **Rosh Hashanah 5776**
16 Weds Tzom Gedalia (Fast day) Dismissal: 2:00 PM
22 Tues Erev Yom Kippur Dismissal: 11:30 AM
23 Weds **Yom Kippur**
28-29 Mon & Tues **Sukkot I & II**
30 Weds Chol HaMoed Sukkot Dismissal: 12:30 PM

October

1-2 Thurs & Fri Chol HaMoed Sukkot Dismissal: 12:30 PM
5-6 Mon & Tues **Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah**
12 Mon **Columbus Day**
20 Tues *Pizza Lunch for Eligible Students*

November

11 Weds **Veteran's Day**
18 Weds *Parent Teacher Conferences in evening*
25-27 Weds - Fri **Thanksgiving Break**

December

7 Mon *First Day of Chanukah*
10 Thurs Dismissal: 1:45 PM
15 Tues *Pizza Lunch for Eligible Students*
21 Mon - **Winter Vacation**

January 2016

- 1 Fri **Winter Vacation**
4 Mon Classes Resume
18 Mon **Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday**
25 Weds *Tu biShvat*

February

12 Fri **Lincoln's Birthday**
15 Mon **Presidents Day**
16 Tues *Pizza Lunch for Eligible Students*

March

11 Fri **Faculty In-Service**
23 Weds Fast of Esther Dismissal: 2:00 PM
24 Thurs *Purim* Dismissal: 2:00 PM
25 Fri *Shushan Purim*

April

12 Tues *Pizza Lunch for Eligible Students*
12 Tues *JCFS Feast of Freedom, Knapp Center, 5:30*
13 Weds *Parent Teacher Conferences in evening*
18-22 Mon-Fri **Spring Break**
22 Fri **Erev Pesach**
25-27 Mon-Weds Chol HaMoed Pesach Dismissal: 12:30 PM
28 Thurs Erev Pesach VII Dismissal: 11:30 AM
29 Fri **Pesach VII**

May

5 Thurs *Yom HaShoah (27 Nisan)*
11 Weds *Yom HaZikaron (3 Iyyar)*
12 Thurs *Yom HaAtzma'ut (4 Iyyar)*
26 Thurs *Lag BaOmer*
27 Fri **No School** (Memorial Day Weekend)
30 Mon **Memorial Day**

June

6 Mon *Day after Yom Yerushalayim*
13 Mon **Shavuot II**
21 Tues *Pizza Lunch for Eligible Students*
22 Weds *Graduation rehearsal, 9:30 AM*
 Graduation, 12:00 PM Dismissal: 1:45 PM
23 Thurs – 27 Mon Dismissal: 1:45 PM
28 Tues Last day of School Dismissal: 1:45 PM

Extended School Year (Summer School) 2016

July

5 Tues First day of Summer School
15 Fri **Faculty In-Service**
29 Fri **Faculty In-Service**

August

5 Fri Last day of Summer School

Daily Schedule

Please note an earlier school start for 2015-2016. As a result of this change, the school day on Fridays will not be affected by the time of year. The following outlines the schedule for full-time (as opposed to partnership or reintegrating) students.

Fall and Spring Semesters for Full-Day students

Monday – Thursday 7:30 AM – 3:00 PM

The day begins with tefillah.

Friday 8:00 AM – 1:45 PM

Students are expected to daven/pray before arriving at School

Extended School Year / ESY (Summer School)

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM (subject to change)

Schedule for Jewish Holidays

As part of the Yeshiva Program education, students are encouraged to participate in home preparations for festivals. Consequently, the school schedule is adjusted for the eve of certain holidays and Chol HaMoed (the intermediate days of Sukkot and Pesach), as presented in the calendar above. On those days, accommodation will be made for students who will stay until the end of the regular JCFS school day.

If the JCFS School is in session, the Yeshiva Program will meet during Chol HaMoed. The school program during these days is adjusted as appropriate for Chol HaMoed. If school is in session during Chol HaMoed Pesach, kosher for Passover food will be provided by the Yeshiva Program.

On Fast Days, Yeshiva Program students are generally dismissed at 2:00 PM.

Attendance and Transportation

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**.

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 **1:45 PM** departure. Since Yeshiva Program students have a longer day from Monday through Thursday, the student’s family will have to make independent arrangements for transportation from school on those days.

Suburban Students Suburban school districts may provide transportation to and from school for tuitioned Yeshiva program students according to the Yeshiva Program schedule. This must be confirmed for each student.

Private / Partnership Students

For Yeshiva Program 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.

Many partnership parents have arranged transportation between a Jewish day school and the JCFS Yeshiva through **Chicago Mitzvah Campaign, (773) 764-8872 or (866) 697-2224.**

Reintegrating Students

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

Academic Program

The Yeshiva Program's academic program is carefully designed by professional staff that 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

The Yeshiva Program's Jewish Studies program for full-time students includes: Mishnah/Talmud (4 sessions per week), Halachah/Jewish Law (2 sessions per week), Weekly Torah portion (2 sessions per week), and Prophets (Joshua) (1 session per week)

Life and Values Education (LIVE)

As part of its therapeutic education, the Yeshiva Program conducts discussions for 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

Service Learning

Service Learning is an integral part of the experience of Yeshiva Program students.

Academic Credits

Public Students: Credits are awarded by the student's home school district and the JCFS School

Private Students: Credits are awarded by the JCFS School

Partnership Students: Credits are awarded by the student's partner school

Reintegration

The JCFS Therapeutic Day School encourages students to reintegrate into mainstream schools as appropriate and supports them in partial or full reintegration. The Yeshiva Program has helped reintegrate students on a part- or full-time basis to the Cheder Lubavitch, Ida Crown Jewish Academy

(ICJA), Fasman Yeshiva High School (Hebrew Theological College), Lubavitch Mesivta, Yeshiva of South Bend, and Arie Crown Hebrew Day School, as well as to public school. Please note that **Partnership students are considered to be reintegrating students from the outset.**

In particular, the Yeshiva Program cooperates closely with ICJA in assisting students to take one or more courses at that school. When indicated, the Yeshiva Program staff presents a formal application to ICJA requesting that a particular student be granted permission to take a certain course or courses. A successful application depends on the support of a student's parents or guardians.

The Yeshiva Program staff and the TDS Reintegration Coordinator maintain close contact with the reintegrating school to ensure a successful experience for the Yeshiva Program student.

Reintegrating students participate in Reintegration Group at TDS. Shared discussions and activities with reintegrating peers can help improve educational skills including social interactions, appropriate teacher relationships, study responsibilities, and parental support.

Transition

The JCFS Therapeutic Day School provides transition and vocational services to Yeshiva Program students 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

Behavioral & Academic Expectations of the Therapeutic Day School

The Yeshiva Program, as part of the JCFS School, **upholds the behavioral and academic expectations of the School.** These expectations are sometimes epitomized as

- Be safe
- Be responsible
- Be respectful
- Be engaged in learning

The same **positive behavior level system** is used in Yeshiva classrooms as in other School classrooms. As students move up in the level system, they can gain privileges, depending, of course, on their current behavior and the judgment of the faculty, and demonstrate their readiness for consideration for reintegration.

Yeshiva students are expected to respect the **dress code and other policies** that govern student comportment and behavior.

Fostering a Positive Jewish Culture: Behavioral & Academic Expectations of the Yeshiva Program

In addition to the basic expectations of the JCFS School, the Yeshiva Program establishes **additional 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 the Yeshiva Program articulated above.

על התורה / Study of Torah

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

- The same behavioral standards and behavior management system applies in this part of the program as in every other.
- Students shall receive grades and credits for prayer and for their Jewish studies classes.

ועל העבודה / Prayer and Observance

Students are expected to participate in daily tefillah (prayer) in the morning (Shacharit) and afternoon (Minchah). 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' behavior during prayer will be factored into their grade for Tefillah.

Students who participate in an outside minyan should arrive at the JCFS School by **8:15 AM**.

At every appropriate opportunity, students are **invited to take part in observances** (such as reciting grace after meals, reciting blessings, etc.).

ועל גמילות חסדים / Acts of Loving kindness

Yeshiva students will have **opportunities for volunteering**, sharing joy, etc., and in particular for service learning that allow them to assist the community at such organizations as The Ark and the Chicago Chesed Fund.

קהילה / Healthy personal interactions and חברותא / Community

To the fullest extent possible, the Yeshiva Program sets standards that foster students' success not only *personally* but also *interpersonally*. Whenever possible, the Yeshiva Program favors **activities that strengthen collaboration and interpersonal connections** among groups of students, within the classroom, among our student population as a whole, 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 students 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).
- Students 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 expected to put on tefillin and, depending on family practice, tallit. Students may wear a Jewish hat during tefillot if that is their custom.

- **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

Kashrut of Food

Students may eat kosher food in the classroom during breakfast and lunch. 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.

Students may not bring their own food into the Beit Midrash.

Students in the Yeshiva Program are expected to **bring a kosher lunch** from home. 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.

Only kosher food may be brought into and eaten at the Yeshiva Program. Food items, including baked goods, cheese, meat, oils, sauces, juices, snacks, and other processed foods require **kosher certification** from kashrut agencies approved of by the Chicago Rabbinical Council. Common examples are the OU (U in a circle), cRc (in a triangle), OK (K in a circle), Kaf-K (K in the Hebrew letter "kaf"/"כ"), and Star-K (K in a star). For additional information, you may visit the current list of recommended kosher agencies at http://www.crcweb.org/agency_list.php. A list of common approved hechsherim (kosher certifications) is posted in the Yeshiva Program classrooms.

Under no circumstances should students take or eat non-kosher food intended for Therapeutic Day School students who are not in the Yeshiva Program.

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
- 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 Program students
- Staff will provide kosher for Passover food for students
- Students will be asked not to bring food

The Yeshiva Program has the use of a separate **kosher kitchen** 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 when the student:

- Has earned the privilege by being on level and displaying appropriate behavior
- Requests permission
- Leaves or logs off when instructed to do so

If a student does not abide by these expectations, he will lose the privilege.

Students may not listen to music or watch music videos that do not meet the standards of the Yeshiva Program. 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) (Revised for Fall 2015)

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 with the Deans.

Public Recorded Music

Music that meets all the following conditions may be played publicly (that is, for more than one person to enjoy), at the discretion of staff:

- The music is instrumental or features male singers
- It avoids such subjects as violence, sex, and drugs
- It has been reviewed by Yeshiva staff in advance of being played publicly

During Sefirah (starting after Passover and continuing through the day before Lag BaOmer) and during the “Three Weeks” (from 17 Tamuz through 10 Av, inclusive), when an atmosphere of semi-mourning is observed, only a cappella music may be played publicly in the Yeshiva Program”

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

Students should bring the following supplies with them at the beginning of school. Numbers in parentheses apply to Partnership students. (*Please label with student’s name.)

- Pencils* – 24 (16)
- Pens (blue/black)* – 1 pkg.
- Index cards, lined* – 2 pkg.
- 2-pocket folders (various colors), 3-hole punched – 6 (4)
- Spiral notebooks, 3-hole* – 6 (4)
- 3” binder* – 1
- Dividers, set of 6 – 1
- Supply box/pencil case* – 1
- Flashdrive* – 1
- Backpack*
- Tissues (for classroom use)– 4 boxes

Forms

Yeshiva Program forms may be found on the following sheets.

Manual 2014-2015 including Values and Academic & Behavioral Expectations.docx

JCFS Yeshiva Program: Receipt of Manual and Acknowledgement

Annual verification of receipt of JCFS Yeshiva Program Manual, Including Values and Academic & Behavioral Expectations

Student Name: _____
 First Middle Last

Date of Birth _____
 Month Day Year

School Year: 20__ - 20__ Grade: _____

I/we have read the JCFS Yeshiva Program Manual, including Values and Academic & Behavioral Expectations.

I/we understand the contents and agree to abide by the terms of the JCFS Yeshiva Program Manual.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Witness Signature _____ Date _____

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JCFS Yeshiva Program: Form regarding Transportation

My child _____ will be transported from school on any particular day as follows (check all that apply):

- ___ By automobile (parental pick-up)
- ___ Bicycle
- ___ By foot ('self-transport')
- ___ Other _____

Please indicate the names and cell-phone numbers of individuals who are authorized to pick up your child after school:

Name _____	Cell _____
Name _____	Cell _____
Name _____	Cell _____
Name _____	Cell _____

I understand that, if my child will be driven home after school, his ride should be ready 5 minutes before dismissal.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

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JCFS Yeshiva Program: Form for Praying with Outside Minyan

In accordance with the Yeshiva Program Manual discussion of prayer at the Yeshiva Program, I affirm that my child, _____, will participate at the following synagogue for daily Shacharit services:

Name of synagogue: _____

Address of synagogue: _____

I understand that my child must arrive at the JCFS School by **8:15 AM**.

If I elect to have my child participate in an outside minyan and find it necessary to have him participate at JCFS instead, I will communicate that change to my child’s teacher or social worker by email.

Parent/Guardian Name & Signature

Date