

Kleinlife

Jewish Sunday Children's School Family Handbook

2019-2020

KleinLife

10100 Jamison Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19116

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the **KleinLife Jewish Children's Sunday School**! We are excited to begin the fifth year of our school, designed to expose school-age children and their families to the rich traditions of Jewish life. We are so excited to welcome your family! Your child will be learning so much every session, and we invite parents to get as involved in the learning as they are able. This will happen through participation in family programs, trips, and through sitting with your child each week as they review what they have learned and prepare for the next session. We will also hold monthly “coffee talk” sessions, featuring speakers and a variety of themed discussions.

Please take time to read through the following pages to see what is in store for your children in the coming year.

KleinLife Sunday School Administration

Victoria Faykin, VP of KleinLife	x175	vfaykin@kleinlife.org	267-738-2501
Andre Krug, President & CEO	x154		

Office

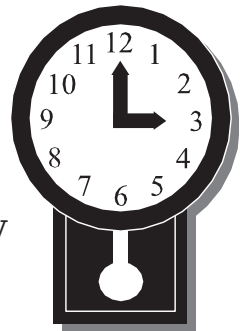
The KleinLife office is open during the day in addition to Sunday School hours. Victoria is in during regular business hours. Messages and emails are returned within 48 hours - generally faster.

KleinLife Phone Number: 215-698-7300 x0

website: www.kleinlife.org • Victoria Faykin's Phone Number: 267-738-2501

Schedule

Sunday school starts at 10:00am and ends at 12:30pm each Sunday. A complete calendar of school sessions and special programs is included in this booklet. To support a conducive learning environment, we ask that children arrive on time and not leave early outside unusual situations. Please schedule other activities at different times. Please see the section below regarding early dismissal. Regular dismissal takes place in the KleinLife lobby. Please plan to meet your children there. Teachers will stay with children until they are picked up. Do not ask your children to come out to the parking lot without you- it is not safe, and their safety is our primary concern!



Attendance

Regular and prompt attendance is essential for successful work in school. Please use the school calendar so that vacations, medical appointments, and other activities are not scheduled on school days. If your child will be absent for a week or more, please contact the office to make arrangements to help your child keep up with the class.



Early Dismissal

Students who need to leave early for special circumstances should bring a written note, signed by the parent, to the teacher at the beginning of school, indicating the dismissal time. The teacher will send the child to the school office, where the parent can meet them and sign them out. Children should not be instructed to meet parents anywhere but the school office. If a note is forgotten, or in the event of an unusual situation, the parent may request the child be called by the office when no note has been given.

Inclement Weather

In the case of a weather or other emergency related to needing to close the KleinLife building, we will make every effort to email parents by 8:00am. Additionally, there will be an outgoing message on the main phone number (215-698-7300) and on the website at www.kleinlife.org. The decision to close the school will be based on the status of the parking lot, roads, and our staff's ability to get here.



Textbooks

Hebrew language workbooks and other texts will be provided by the school as needed. Sometimes they will be kept in the classroom and at other times sent home.

Homework

Our expectation is that children will come each Sunday and will learn a lot. In order to reinforce and retain Hebrew reading skills, teachers may assign online games and activities or short worksheets as enrichment work to be done in between class meetings.

Use of Hebrew

As the historical and universal language of the Jewish People, Hebrew plays a very prominent role in our school. We teach decoding skills, reading and simple modern Hebrew vocabulary in our school.



Many Jewish children have a Hebrew name in addition to a secular name (some even have English and Russian names!). If you would like to select a Hebrew name for your child and aren't sure, feel free to ask Victoria.

Snacks

Snacks will be provided each week, and there will be a designated snack break during school. At other times, special food will be provided as a part of a lesson or celebration. If your child has a food allergy please be sure to indicate this on his/her registration, or in a written communication to Victoria.



Behavior

Behavior in school should reflect the Jewish values we are teaching and imparting to our youngsters. It says in the Talmud “Where there is no Derech Eretz, there is no Torah.” “Derech (path) Eretz (land)” usually refers to good manners and proper behavior towards others. “K’vod HaB’riot” (respect for all human beings) refers to not being rude or not embarrassing others. These and other Jewish values should be reflected in the way the students behave towards their teachers and other students in the school, in class and in the hallways.

Visitors and Friends

Students may occasionally bring friends to the Sunday School, especially friends who may want to enroll! Guests must behave properly, and hosts should be extra careful to remain attentive. If a guest or host is causing a distraction, the guest will need to be picked up by the host’s parents. Guests who visit more than twice will be invited to enroll!

Parent Visitation

While we encourage parents to visit their child’s class, we are also committed to providing the safest environment possible for our children and families. In compliance with the security regulations at KleinLife, we ask that parents who wish to visit their child’s class call Victoria in advance to schedule the visit. Upon arrival, parents must check in at the school office and will be escorted to the child’s class.

Conferences

If you wish to arrange a private conference with a teacher or with Victoria, please call the school office at 215-698-7300 x175 to make an appointment. This way we can give you our full attention. Teachers will not usually be able to meet with you during times that the class is in session or just prior to the beginning of the class session. Telephone conferences can also be arranged with a teacher. Please call them after class.

Student Groups/Classes

Our school is divided for most activities into 4 age groups. All classrooms are on the lower level of the KleinLife building.

Pre-K class Room 132. The teacher is **Margarita Zelfon**. Young children learn and explore Jewish culture through song, story, art and play.

Nitzanim (Hebrew for flower buds), meets in room 111 and the teacher is **Suzanne Kronstadt**. Nitzanim learn the Hebrew alphabet, Jewish holidays, and focus on the theme “Journey through Jewish Life.”

Halutzim (Hebrew for pioneers) meets in room 114 and the teacher is **Dylan Rossin**. They will review the letters learned last year, and begin to learn to read and write simple Hebrew. Halutzim will also study and experience Jewish holidays and focus on the theme “Journey through Jewish Community.”

Bogrim (Hebrew for the older students) meets in room 112 with the teachers **Rhonda Fink Whitman/Anna Resnick**. They will reinforce Hebrew reading skills learned last year, and begin to learn simple conversational Hebrew. *Bogrim* study the theme “Journey through Jewish History.” A favorite highlight of *Bogrim* is the study of famous Jewish heroes.

Music

Each week all children will have a music session with Esther (Fira) Kogan, our music teacher, where they will learn songs relevant to holidays, Israel and the Jewish People. We will also have a chance to sing all together as a school community, and will participate in special concerts.

Special Programs

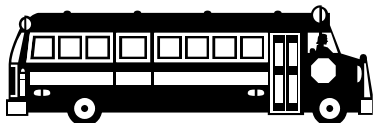
Tzedakah and Acts of Loving Kindness

Tzedakah is the Hebrew word for Justice. This usually refers to money donated to those in need and it is an important mitzvah (commandment) in Judaism. Tzedakah, in the form of small change, is collected in class each week. As a community, we will select where the funds will go. Please remind your children to bring tzedakah money to school. A quarter or two is a suggested donation.

Kehillah - Assemblies

Creating a sense of Kehillah (community) among our students is another essential Jewish value we teach at our school. One way to do this is to have a number of special programs or assemblies. Although you will receive more detailed information about the exact nature of the programs as the year progresses, please check the school calendar for the dates of these special assemblies. These are very special times during the year, so make sure your child does not miss them. Even when not asked to actively participate, parents are invited to attend all special programs. See the enclosed calendar for dates of Holiday programs.

Field Trips



Our classes will be taking field trips to places relevant to class study. You will be notified in advance of any field trip plans and you will be asked to return a permission slip for the activity. Please pay careful attention to the times listed on the permission slip since they might occasionally differ from customary school arrival or dismissal times. Buses will leave the parking lot at the time indicated on the flier. Sometimes teachers will need to coordinate parent drivers. *Please don't be late. The bus will not wait!*

Cell Phone and Electronic Devices

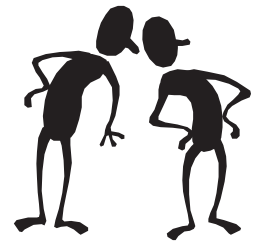
Some students may carry cell phones. Electronic devices such iPods and phones should be kept silent and put away during school. The exception is if an internet search or other approved activity is part of a lesson. Please do not tell your child that you will be calling their phone during school hours. Parents who need to contact their children should call the school office, and every effort will be made to get the message to the child. In the event of an emergency, students will be permitted to use the office phone, or the office staff will call for them.



Communication

E-Mail

Most communication will be via email. Please be sure that the office has all relevant email addresses, phone numbers and cell phone numbers for your family. Watch for monthly newsletters and other notes from teachers or from Victoria.



Fliers

Sometimes fliers will be sent home with the children. Be sure to check for important notices of Sunday School and community events.

Website

Don't forget our website! Log onto www.kleinlife.org regularly for updates about many important center and Sunday School programs.

Calendar

The following is the schedule of sessions for the year, noting some special events. Watch your email and fliers for additional information.

KleinLife Jewish Children's Sunday School Calendar, 2019-2020

September 29	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
October 6	
October 13	
October 20	
October 27	
November 3	
November 10	
November 17	
November 24	NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING BREAK
December 1	
December 8	
December 15	Hanukkah Celebration*
December 22- December 29	NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK
January 5	
January 12	
January 19	
January 26	
February 2	
February 9	Tu B'shvat Celebration*
February 16	
February 23	NO SCHOOL - PRESIDENTS WEEKEND*
March 1	

March 8	Purim Celebration*
March 15	
March 22	
March 29	
April 5	Model Seder
April 12	NO SCHOOL - PESACH BREAK
April 19	
April 26	
May 3	
May 10	
May 17	Last Day of School*

*Dates are subject to change.

