



# JCFS Yeshiva Manual 2016-17

---

## *The JCFS Therapeutic Yeshiva*

Joy Faith Knapp Children’s Center

3145 West Pratt Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60645

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

Spring 2016

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.

## **Contents**

Introduction: JCFS Therapeutic Day School & Yeshiva .....	1
Mission, Vision, Values, Commitments.....	2
Faculty and Administration.....	3
JCFS School Yeshiva Program Calendar 2016-2017 / 5777.....	4
Schedule, Attendance, Transportation .....	5
Academic Program.....	6
Fostering a Positive Culture of Learning & Living .....	7
School Supplies; Forms .....	10

## ***Introduction: JCFS Therapeutic Day School & Yeshiva***

The JCFS Therapeutic Yeshiva, part 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  
(773) 467-3926

Ms. Orli Ginsburg, Clinician  
(773) 467-3766

Ms. Elizabeth Hahn  
(773) 467-3911

Mr. Alexander Lavin, High School Teacher  
(773) 467-3948

Mrs. Rachel London, Clinician & Intake Clinician  
(773) 467-3909

Rabbi Neil Brill, High School Aide and Jewish Studies Teacher

Mr. Yechiel Silber, Clinician  
(773) 467-3908

Mrs. Lauren Furlong, Elementary Teacher  
(773) 467-3947

Ms. Denise Bloom, Speech-Language Therapist  
Ms. Carolyn England, Occupational Therapist  
Ms. Susan Nowinski, Transition Specialist

Ms. Alice Hoffmann, Elementary Aide

### **JCFS Therapeutic Day School Administration (773) 467-3900**

Ms. Sandra P. Spicher, Principal  
Ms. Katie Fiore, Assistant Principal  
Ms. Allison Stevens, Clinical Director

Ms. Lisa Haber, Clinical Coordinator  
Mr. Daniel Nilson, Dean  
Ms. Tracey Lewis, Assistant Dean

# JCFS School Yeshiva Program Calendar 2016-2017 / 5777

**Boldface**= school not in session    Underlined = adjusted schedule.    *Italics* = special programming  
Holidays occurring on weekends are not included    Subject to **change**    **Current as of 6/28/2016**

## Academic Year 2016-2017 / 5777

### September 2016/5776

5 Mon    **Labor Day**  
6 Tues    First day of Fall Semester  
8 Thurs    *Open House for Parents & Students, 4 – 6p*  
22 Thurs    *Picture day*

### October 5777

3-4 Mon & Tues    **Rosh Hashanah**  
10 Mon    **Columbus Day**  
11 Tues    Erev Yom Kippur Dismissal: 12:00 Noon  
12 Weds    **Yom Kippur**  
17-18 Mon & Tues    **Sukkot I & II**  
19 -21 Weds - Fri    Chol HaMoed Sukkot Dismissal: 12:30 PM  
24-25 Mon & Tues    **Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah**  
26 Weds    *Pizza Lunch*

### November

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

### December

13 Tues    *Pizza Lunch*  
15 Thurs    Dismissal: 1:45 PM  
21 Weds – 22 Thurs    Dismissal: 1:45 PM  
23 Fri -    **Winter Vacation**

### January 2017

- 6 Fri    **Winter Vacation**  
9 Mon    Classes Resume  
16 Mon    **Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday**

### February

9 Thurs    *Tu biShvat Programming (13<sup>th</sup> of Shevat)*  
14 Tues    *Pizza Lunch*  
17 Fri – 20 Mon    **Presidents Day Weekend**

### March

9 Thurs    *Fast of Esther*  
10 Fri    **Faculty In-Service**  
13 Mon    *Shushan Purim*

### April

4 Tues    *Pizza Lunch*  
4 Tues    *JCFS Feast of Freedom, 5:30 PM*  
10 Mon - 18 Tues    **Pesach / Spring Break**  
19 Weds    Classes resume  
24 Mon    *Yom HaShoah (28 Nisan)*  
26 Weds    *Parent Teacher Conferences in evening*

### May

1 Mon    *Yom HaZikaron (5 Iyyar)*  
2 Tues    *Yom HaAtzma'ut (6 Iyyar)*  
15 Mon    *Lag BaOmer programming (Omer 34)*  
24 Weds    *Yom Yerushalayim (28 Iyyar)*  
29 Mon    **Memorial Day**  
30 Tues    Erev Shavuot Dismissal: 12:30 PM  
31 Weds    **Shavuot I**

### June

1 Thurs    **Shavuot II**  
20 Tues    *Pizza Lunch*  
21 Weds    *Graduation rehearsal, 9:00 AM*  
                 *Graduation, 12:00 PM*  
                 Dismissal: 1:45 PM  
22 Thurs – 28 Weds    Dismissal: 1:45 PM  
29 Thurs    Last day of School    Dismissal: 1:45 PM

## Extended School Year (Summer School) 2017

### July

5 Weds    First day of Summer School  
11 Tues    Fast of 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz  
21 Fri    **Faculty In-Service**

### August

1 Tues    Fast of Tish'ah be'Av  
4 Fri    Last day of Summer School

## ***Schedule, Attendance, Transportation***

### **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) (if offered)*

8:00 AM – 1:30 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 for 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.

### **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 older elementary (typically 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up) and high school 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, as appropriate: 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*

As appropriate, 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 boys 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).
- Yeshiva boys 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](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
- Makes safe use of the computers/devices
- Leaves or logs off when instructed to do so

A student who does not abide by these expectations 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)*

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; Forms***

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 (16) and Pens\* – 1 pkg.
- Index cards, lined\* – 2 pkg.
- 2-pocket folders, 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

Yeshiva forms are on the following sheets.

Manual 2016-2017 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 \_\_\_\_\_

(blank page)

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

(blank page)

**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