



Parent/Student Handbook

2023-2024 ✡ 5783-5784

WELCOME TO KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL

On behalf of our entire administration and faculty, I would like to warmly welcome you to another amazing year at Katz Hillel Day School.

Our Jewish day school has been growing rapidly over the past few years and now has over 660 children ranging from 2 year olds through 8th grade. At KHDS, we take great pride in the culture we have cultivated that promotes Derech Eretz (outstanding character), love of Torah and Mitzvot, academic excellence in all areas, commitment to Israel and to bettering the world in which we live. We recognize the unique needs of each child and believe in working in close partnership with our parents. This important collaboration ensures that each precious child that enters our school achieves his or her fullest potential. Please take some time to read this handbook with your child as it contains useful information and will help answer questions regarding our procedures and expectations.

We look forward to a year of great academic accomplishments and personal growth for your child in our nurturing environment.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Yaakov Sadigh
Head of School

KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL OF BOCA RATON

Parent/Student Handbook

Mission Statement

Katz Hillel Day School of Boca Raton is a modern Orthodox Jewish Day School whose mission calls for excellence in its ongoing commitment to provide each student with a synthesis of Jewish and general studies, without compromise in either area. KHDS seeks to develop students who have a deep-seeded love of Torah, who are knowledgeable in academic areas, who are sensitive to moral and ethical concerns, and who are committed to American democratic principles as well as Zionist ideals.

Katz Hillel Day School Values

Parents are always welcome at Katz Hillel Day School (please see our visitor's policies for details on signing in, etc.). When visiting the School, please keep the following in mind:

Katz Hillel Day School is a "*Makom Torah*", a place where Torah is studied. As such, dress should conform to what would be appropriate when visiting a synagogue. For example, form-fitting lycra outfits, high-cut running shorts and tank tops are not appropriate attire when visiting the School. Please plan to dress appropriately when you know you will be visiting the School. When volunteering, attending School functions such as class presentations, adult *Torah* classes or committee meetings, parents should dress in accordance with the standards of *tzniyut* as outlined above. Males of the Jewish faith must wear a *kippah* when visiting campus and attending School functions.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Admission and participation in our educational programs is open to all eligible students who meet our qualification requirements regardless of race, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

Katz Hillel Day School of Boca Raton
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Phone 561.470.5000 • Fax 561.470.5005
www.hilleldayschool.org

Katz Hillel Day School of Boca Raton does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. It is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Actions Influence Attitudes

אחרי הפעולות נמשכים הלבבות

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

These are our expectations for students while on campus and during school activities off campus.

Students are expected to:

- Respect oneself and respect others.
- Respect their environment, school's property, and the property of others.
- Be punctual arriving for the school day.
- Follow directions the first time given.
- Not run in the halls or walkways.
- Be on time and prepared for class.
- Complete all class and homework assignments.
- Be honest in all interactions.
- Be sensitive towards others.
- Conform to the school's dress code policy.
- Be responsible when utilizing social media

HONOR CODE

I will always be honest in all of my interactions; I will respect myself and others.

Students are expected to be honest in all their words and deeds and to respect the rights, property, and reputation of every member of the School community. Each student has a duty to accept individual responsibility in promoting the atmosphere of trust engendered by the Code. Those who choose to violate that atmosphere jeopardize their ability to remain in the School's community.

Suspected violations of the Honor Code will be submitted to the Principals or Head of School. Penalties for violation will be in accordance with The Schools' Disciplinary Procedures.

PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

This Handbook was developed to answer most of the commonly asked questions that parents and students may have during the School year. Because the Handbook contains information about student rights and responsibilities, parents and students are responsible for knowing its contents. It can be a valuable reference during the School year and a means to avoid confusion and misunderstandings when questions arise.

The School reserves the right to interpret the content of this Handbook, including the rules and regulations governing the academic and non-academic conduct of students. This Handbook is not a contract, nor is it intended to be so construed. Our School reserves the right to modify and/or amend the content of this Handbook at any time during the year. If any written modification or amendment is made to this Handbook, a copy of such modification or amendment will be distributed to students and parents.

If you have any questions about this Handbook or any of its policies, please contact the appropriate school administrator:

Mrs. Hadassah Smolarcik:	Judaic Studies Principal, Grades 1 – 8
Mrs. Shireen Butman:	General Studies Principal, Grades 1 – 8
Mrs. Rina Lanner:	Assistant Principal, Middle School
Mrs. Gwenn Baer:	Early Childhood Director

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Please note that shaded sections pertain to the Early Childhood Education Program only.

Early Childhood Education Program And Philosophy

The educational philosophy of our program is centered on the Developmental Interaction Approach. “Developmental” means that we work on the assumption that children learn best when they are ready for new experiences, and that new experiences build on earlier ones. The repetition and perfecting of skills is important and respected, and particular experiences are determined by a child’s interests and abilities. “Interaction” refers to the idea that experiences lead to learning when they occur in a socially and physically responsive environment. Thus, we place great emphasis on how children work with their peers, teachers and materials.

The carefully planned “learning environments” encourage curiosity, problem solving and social growth. We strive to create an atmosphere which nurtures self-esteem through positive relationships with others. Furthermore, we evaluate each individual child’s needs and interests in order to create a better environment.

A program of integrated activities meets the developmental needs of each age group. Because young children learn best through play and social interactions, an important time of the day is activity/work time. When a child chooses from areas such as blocks, dramatic play, art, books, manipulative toys, and group activities we learn more about the child and his or her interests. (Each group also has an active play period on the playground as well as several group times for story, snack, music and movement, and discussion.) We are able to use these valuable pieces of information in order to help facilitate learning and to further your child’s Jewish education.

Character Policy

We have found that TV or movie character toys that are hard and/or based on aggressive and violent stories can lead to the same kind of behavior in the classroom and often do not promote the Jewish ideals that we teach. **Furthermore, please do not send your child to school with clothes (including sneakers), lunch boxes or figures from Pokemon, Power Rangers, Batman, Superman, etc.** These articles promote aggressive play, as the children try to imitate the characters. Children are also often quite competitive about these possessions, and this can lead to unnecessary arguments. Barbie dolls and other commercial figures can also lead to difficult and competitive problems between children. Please keep them at home.

Separation

Helping children to separate (say goodbye) from their parents is a key component in the program. In order to ease the separation process, parents and teachers work together to create a bridge between home and the program. We have found that when a parent feels comfortable in Katz Hillel’s environment, often the child will too. The building of a relationship between parents and teachers is the foundation for the child’s positive experiences in school.

All parents must say goodbye to their children and tell them when they will return. Parents may NOT sneak out in order to prevent the child from crying at that moment. Leaving without saying goodbye may be easier for the parents than leaving while a child is crying, but it truly is not easier for the child. Their tears and cries are symbols of their attachment to you. It is necessary and healthy for children to be allowed to express their emotions. Children will be helped and comforted by a teacher. Leaving without saying goodbye can also make separations more difficult because a child will fear the unexpected departure and try to keep a close eye on his or her parent. This fear prevents him or her from engaging in play and interacting with teachers or other children. Sneaking out of the room is in direct opposition to the trust that you are trying to build with your child and contributes to feelings of abandonment. Children will become more confident in their ability to trust adults when they see the tangible process of separation.

We encourage you to talk openly with the teachers in order to establish positive relationships. Expressing your feelings and needs at this time and throughout the year is vital to your and your child’s success. It is also one of the most important things you can do to establish a working relationship with the staff, which is a fundamental part of your family’s experience at Katz Hillel. Please speak with the teachers after the children have left or arrange for a phone conversation. The Director can be notified for consultation if a problem should arise.

Share information about your child with the teachers. They will ask a lot of questions about your child’s routines at home for meals, sleeping and being with you. Please inform them of any changes that have happened recently, before school started or are expected in the near future (i.e., moving, visitors, new sibling, and parent traveling). Teachers are not being nosy; they want to be able to understand your child better. Changes that may seem routine or ordinary to an adult are regarded as unusual by a young child who has not had as many years of experience in dealing with changes.

Remember, communication with the teachers and your child is the key to a successful experience. Please do not hesitate to voice your questions, concerns and needs. It is the only way we will know what your needs are.

Drop Off /Pick Up Time

Our day begins at 8:10am and ends at 3:40pm, Monday to Thursday. On Fridays, we close at 2:35pm.

Please do not drop your children off before 8:05am. Teachers use their mornings to plan curriculum, meet with associate teachers and prepare for the day. This time is invaluable; please respect teachers' time by not dropping your children off early. Furthermore, please pick your children up at the appropriate time. We understand that there are times when you might be late, but please make every effort to be here on time. Teachers have put in a long day of work and they have families, too. Please show them and your children your respect by picking your child up at the appropriate time.

Children in EC2-EC4 must be picked up and dropped off at the Early Childhood carline.

Sign in/ Sign out

We are mandated by the Florida Department of Health to use a time stamped, signature system to sign students in and out for EC2-EC4 students. The system we use is called Brightwheel. It is mandatory for your child to be signed in and signed out every day whenever your child enters or leaves the building. Please make sure all adults picking up or dropping off your child are added as an approved pick up. *We will not allow children to leave with anyone who does not have authorized permission to pick him or her up.* If you need assistance, please contact Gwenn Baer.

A Day At Katz Hillel Day School

Our school day begins at 8:10am. It is important that you be on time as activities begin promptly at this time. We have found that children who arrive late can have a hard time moving into the group because they've missed a good portion of the morning activity period.

Each class has a regular daily schedule of activities. The activities alternate between teacher-directed and child-directed. There are times when the children function as a group (story time, music, Parsha, movement, snacks) and there are times when the children are left to make their own choices (activity/work period and outside playtime). Some of the activities the children can choose from include: art, block building, puzzles, dramatic play, and baking. The teachers are aware of each child throughout the day so that they have a picture of how the child's day flows. The teachers encourage developmentally appropriate choices whenever it is constructive to do so, and will become more actively involved when needed. We are helping the children learn to exert self-control and to try to solve the problems they confront on a daily basis. This applies to social skills as well as academic and physical challenges. Children feel good when they know they have some control over themselves and their environment.

What To Bring

Please see our website for a supply list of items that your child will need for the first day of school. Those items may include, but are not limited to:

- Photo(s) of child/ family
- Extra clothes (pants, shirts, sweater, two pairs of socks and underwear). Everything must be labeled.
- Clearly labeled refillable water bottle
- Items for rest time

Reporting on Opening Day

Students should report to school on the date indicated on the school calendar, which is published annually.

School Hours

The school day begins at 8:10am daily.

Students in all divisions should report to their classrooms by 8:10am for attendance and/or *Tefillah*. Middle School students should report to their Tefillah locations.

PLEASE NOTE: There is no supervision of students before 8:05am. There is also no supervision for students in Early Childhood through Grade 5 after 3:50pm on Monday through Thursday or after 2:45pm on Friday with the exception of those enrolled in one of Katz Hillel's After-School programs.

Therefore, children must wait with parents prior to 8:05am and must be picked-up at the appropriate dismissal time in the afternoon.

Dismissal Schedule and Procedures

EC-2 through Grade 5: Monday-Thursday: 3:40pm, Friday: 2:35pm

Grades 6-8: Monday & Wednesday: 4:50pm; Tuesday & Thursday: 3:40pm; Friday: 2:35pm

Early dismissals to allow for teacher meetings and faculty in-service training may be scheduled throughout the school year. You will be notified well in advance of any such changes.

For the safety of our children, parking is permitted only in designated areas. Do not park directly in front of the building in the fire lanes, or in any reserved spots. Do not use handicapped spots unless authorized. **Violators are subject to being ticketed by the police.**

Parking lots A & B have been reserved for Parent/Visitor parking. Faculty and staff have been assigned reserved spaces in parking lot C, adjacent to the gymnasium. Parents are asked not to park in spaces designated for faculty and staff.

Carpool Procedures

Carpool runs according to your youngest child (or youngest child in your carpool).

EC-2 - EC-4 - Early Childhood Carpool Lane

Kindergarten - 8th Grade - Main Carpool Lane

6th - 8th Grade - Middle School Carpool Lane

After school (KTP, Clinics, Sports Teams) - Main Carpool Lane

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARPOOL LINE (Grades EC-2 – EC-4)

AM Drop-Off

Please take note of the following areas, demarcated by clearly marked signs: “No Parking Zone/Drop Off Only,” along the curb, and “15-Minute Parking Zone,” in Lot A in the front row (southern row, see map). Please follow these signs as they will help keep our children safe during the morning drop off. In order for this morning drop off to run safely and smoothly, it is imperative that parents follow all signs. In addition, extra staff has been added to facilitate the carpool flow. Should you need assistance in helping your child walk into school, please do not hesitate to ask one of our staff members. We strongly encourage all other parents to use drop off carpool in the morning to help your child have a smooth transition to the classroom. **Under no circumstances are parents to leave their cars unattended in the Drop-Off Zone.**

3:40pm Pick-Up

During afternoon dismissal, **Parking Lot A** will be **closed to all parking** from 3:20pm until the close of carpool. Cars parked in this area at 3:20pm will not be able to be moved until the close of carpool. All ECE children (EC-2-EC-4) will be escorted by their teachers to their cars. Cars will line up in a double line in which 14 cars (7 rows of 2 cars--see map) will be loaded at one time. **Once these 14 cars are loaded, they will be released at the north gate and a second group of cars will be moved forward into the pickup zone.** This procedure will be repeated until all students have been placed in their carpools. If a carpool does not have all its passengers and all other cars are loaded, that car will be instructed to pull forward and park, and wait until it is fully loaded. **Please expect afternoon carpool to last from 3:40pm until 4:00pm (this time may increase due to inclement weather).**

Carpool notes:

- While waiting to load, please do not leave your car under any circumstances.
- Please have your Brightwheel app open and ready to check in/ check out your child
- **Cell phone use is not permitted while driving on campus.**

MAIN CARPOOL LINE (Kindergarten - 5th Grade (this line is not for picking up children from EC-2–EC-4)

Afternoon Pick-up (3:40pm and 4:50pm)

While familiarizing yourself with this system, please consult the carpool map on the following pages.

- Cars should enter the *South Gate* and proceed toward the *Loading Zone*.
- Cars should then line up in **2 rows** beginning at the *crosswalk* (where orange cones are placed).
- All engines must be turned off.
- If there are cars that are still missing passengers when we are ready to release a group, they will be instructed to swing around and get in line again. *Please impress upon your children the importance of getting to the carpool line as quickly as possible.*
- **Cell phone use is not permitted throughout the carpool procedure or while driving on campus.**

Important Note: It is unsafe to allow children to walk through the parking lot unattended. Please do not allow your children to wander through the parking lot; they should wait to be picked up in designated areas.

Middle school carpool - If the youngest child in your carpool is in 6-8th grade, please proceed to enter the campus via the south entrance and to continue directly to the middle school building to pick up your children in a single line.



Exiting the Campus

In order to maintain a safe and orderly flow of traffic, the north gate will be open for use all day. Traffic will be able to enter the campus from both gates in the morning. For security reasons, the south gate is locked between 9am and 3pm.

In the afternoon for carpool dismissal, all Early Childhood students will be picked up from the Early Childhood lot. After picking up students in the Early Childhood lot for afternoon carpool, all cars in this lot will exit the north gate. Cars should then proceed to go around the traffic circle to either exit via the 95th Ave. South exit to Glades Road, or the exit to Central Park Blvd. at the other side of the Federation campus that leads out to SR7/US441.

Please Note: If, upon exiting the campus, you plan to travel east on Palmetto Park Road, you should use the south exit from the Federation campus as this will save you time and expedite your trip home.

Walkers

- In order for a child to walk home from school they will need to be sign a waiver that can be obtained from the school office. Please see restrictions below:
 - **Students aged 10 and older** may walk home with a signed waiver.
 - **Students aged 11 and older** may walk home with a sibling or other student (Kindergarten and above) with a signed waiver.
 - According to the Florida Department of Health, all **EC2-EC4** children must be dropped off and picked up by an approved adult (18 years and older). The adult must sign in and sign out the child daily.

Accreditation and Memberships

Professional affiliations and accreditations affirm that a school maintains high standards as defined by objective criteria developed by professionals in the field of education. We are proud to be an accredited school affiliated with the organizations described below.

Katz Hillel Day School is affiliated with Prizmah Center for Jewish Day Schools, a thriving, passionate, engaged, and committed Jewish community – nurtured by Jewish Day Schools. The school also is a member of Torah Umesorah, The National Society of Hebrew Day Schools, the oldest organization in the United States representing Torah Day Schools.

Katz Hillel is accredited by Cognia, a national educational agency that accredits schools across the country. Accreditation is sought on a voluntary basis. The attainment of accredited status by a school certifies that the institution has met the policies and standards established by the Commission on Elementary and Middle Schools of Cognia.

Katz Hillel Day School is also a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and partners with the Federation in providing a Jewish education to the Jewish youth of South Palm Beach County.

Student Medical Needs and Accommodations Requests

We understand that there may be circumstances when a parent may request that the School provide an adjustment or accommodation for a student's medical needs or physical, mental, or learning disability. As the range of requests have grown over the years, the School believes that it is appropriate at this time to outline the School's policy and general guidelines for addressing such requests.

General Policy: In general, it is our School's policy to provide accommodations or adjustments for a student's minor medical needs in circumstances in which the administration determines, in its sole discretion, that doing so is within the reasonable ability of the School and/or its staff and will not result in an unacceptable impairment to the rights of other students (or employees) or a fundamental change to our educational environment or mission. We also ask parents to realize that, given the size of our school and our available resources, we may not be able to provide all requested accommodations.

Please note that shaded sections pertain to the Early Childhood Education Program only.

Bottles and Pacifiers

In accordance with the Florida Department of Health, children are not allowed to use bottles or pacifiers during school hours. We strongly urge families to phase-out these items before children start school.

Request and Documentation: For any type of medical accommodation (including administration of medication at school), the parent must inform the School nurse of the need. The School nurse will then advise the parent of the type of medical documentation needed, which generally will state the student's diagnosis, how the condition limits the student, the recommended accommodations, and the length of time that the accommodation(s) will be needed.

Release for Communications with Physician: Sometimes, the documentation received from the physician may raise questions or be unclear as to the recommendations. For that reason, the parent(s) must sign a Release of Information form, permitting the School to contact the medical professional, when necessary. In addition, if there is any cost associated with the physician's cooperation (i.e., to answer a set of questions submitted, etc.), the parent must agree to bear the cost of such process.

Assessment of Request: Once the parent's request and medical documentation has been received by the School, appropriate persons within the administration will meet with the parents to clarify information and to discuss whether the School will be able to implement the accommodation requested. In some cases, the parent may be asked to provide (at the parent's cost) any special equipment needed, training for the school's staff, or other associated matters. In addition, the School may advise the parent that the School will allow a particular accommodation, but the full responsibility for doing so will rest with the parent. For example, if the student needs to be tested or have certain types of medicines administered during the day that the School or nurse believe are beyond the scope of the School's responsibility, the School may allow the parent to make arrangements to visit the campus for the purpose of testing and administering.

Limitations on Requests: Please understand that the School is not a medical facility and does not have the personnel, training, or equipment to handle certain types of medical procedures best left to the student, parent, or physician. In addition, the School reserves the right to deny a request for accommodation or to modify any consent to previously granted accommodation requests.

Responsibilities for Implementing Accommodations: The School may agree to provide the accommodation directly; may require the student to provide the accommodation (such as taking prescribed medications with observation by the nurse), or may require that the parent provide all aspects of the accommodation. In addition, to the extent that a student may need some type of adjustment or accommodation during off-campus activities, the School may condition the student's participation in such activities upon the parent agreeing to participate in the activity for purposes of monitoring and addressing the student's needs.

Release and Waiver: Depending on the nature of the request and the type of the accommodations, the School may require the parent to execute a release and waiver in favor of the School as a condition to providing the accommodations.

ACADEMIC PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Attendance Policies

General

Students are expected to be at School every day and to report to their classes on time. Frequent absences and tardiness seriously affect academic progress and are disruptive to the teaching environment. Chronic lateness may result in serious academic deficiencies that could affect learning and grades. The School requests that parents and students thoughtfully consider the effects of any absence other than one of a medical or family emergency. Families are discouraged from taking students out of School prior to a School break. Absences for vacations will be considered unexcused. Whenever possible, regularly scheduled medical appointments should be made after School hours. **Students with excessive absences, excused or unexcused, may be denied re-enrollment or promotion.**

Excused Absences

1. Illness validated by a parent or guardian. For an extensive illness involving several days of absence, the School may require a statement from a physician. When a student is unable to attend School because of health reasons or other emergencies, parents should call or email (reception@hilleldayschool.org) the School Office by 9:00 A.M.
2. Death in the immediate family.

Any student not well enough to attend all of his or her classes during the School day may not participate in any co-curricular, extra-curricular, or sport activity that afternoon or evening, except with the specific approval of the Head of School or one of the Principals.

Sick Policy

Students who are ill or who are suspected of having a communicable disease must be removed from the classroom according to School policy. To prevent the spread of infection through direct contamination (coughing, sneezing, talking, sharing articles, etc.) students must be asymptomatic before returning to School. **In other words, A student may not return to school the following day and must have no fever, etc for 24 hours prior to their return to School, or have a physician's note stating that the student is not contagious and/or is under treatment.**

A student who is ill should be signed out by the Nurse's clinic. Teachers will be informed of students dismissed for illness.

Make-Up Work for Excused Absences

It is the responsibility of the individual student to communicate with his/her teacher(s) to make up any work missed because of an excused absence.

If it is absolutely necessary that a Middle School student must miss a Final exam for reasons other than illness:

- The parent must inform the Principal at least one month prior to exams.
- The teacher whose test is being missed will create a new exam and decide on a mutually agreeable make-up date.
No test will be administered prior to the scheduled date of the exam.

The school will not reschedule Final exams to accommodate vacation plans.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program (VPK) [For EC-4 Only]

Please be advised that those parents who have a child enrolled in the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program must sign a monthly attendance verification long form along with our daily sign in and sign out requirement.

Unexcused Absences

All other absences from School will be considered unexcused, subject however to the review and discretion of the appropriate division head. When an absence is considered unexcused, students are not permitted to make up tests, examinations, or quizzes that are missed. These guidelines apply to all School days including those immediately before and after vacations.

Sign-in and Sign-out Procedures

There are specific procedures for signing a student in and out of School. All children, including Middle School students, who arrive late to School must report to the front desk in the main building for a late pass before proceeding to class. A child who is chronically late may be required to be signed in by his/her parent.

Students who find it necessary to leave campus during the School day must notify the receptionist. They must sign out when leaving, and sign in upon returning to the School campus. A parent must be present when a student signs in or out of School. The School will not allow a student to leave School early with another person unless authorized by the parent to do so.

Students who leave School without properly signing out will be suspended.

Tardies

Students are to be in class by 8:10 a.m. Anyone who arrives after the designated start time will be considered tardy.. Parents of students in grades K-8 with excessive tardies will be contacted by the administration. **Please remember that punctuality is important. We are building the foundation for your child's future.**

Dismissal

No teacher or other employee may directly excuse a child to any adult before the regular dismissal time. If a situation arises which necessitates taking a child out of School, the parent/guardian is required to come to the office and sign the early release log. The office will notify the teacher to send the student to the office. This procedure is to safeguard children from unauthorized persons seeking to remove them from class. Students are not allowed to leave the KHDS campus during school hours, except for an authorized School trip, or under the conditions described above.

Emergency Closing

The School will make every effort to keep parents informed regarding emergency school closing through text message/e-mail and/or phone tree. The administration will monitor weather-related developments and make a final determination regarding school closing as close as possible to the arrival of dangerous storms. After a storm has passed, the administration will assess damage to the campus and travel conditions in Broward and Palm Beach counties. When conditions allow for safe travel and operation of the school, an announcement of school opening will be made.

Grading and Conduct Rating

Report cards are issued at the end of each trimester for students in Grades 1 through 8 and twice yearly for students in EC-2 through Kindergarten.

The grading scale for EC2 - 2 Grade is as follows:

Extending: Has exceeded developmental milestones.

Achieving: Has reached appropriate developmental milestones.

Developing: Within typical limits; should be monitored closely for continued development.

Area of Concern: Not typically developing; child is not reaching developmental milestones.

Accommodations Made: Developmental/academic modifications have been made.

The grading scale for 3rd Grade is as follows:

Excellent = 90 and above

Good = 80-89

Fair = 70-79

Area of Concern = 69 and below

Accommodations Made = Developmental/academic modifications have been made.

The grading scale for Grades 4th-8th is as follows:

A+: 97-100	B: 83-86	C-: 70-72	F: 64 or below
A: 93-96	B-: 80-82	D+: 67-69	
A-: 90-92	C+: 77-79	D: 66	
B+: 87-89	C: 73-76	D-: 65	

Conduct Scale for Grades 4th-5th is as follows (This scale is used in other areas as well):

O = Outstanding

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

Conduct Scale for Grades 6th-8th is as follows (This scale is used in other areas as well):

O = Outstanding

G = Good

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory

Effort/Investment Scale for Grades 6th-8th is as follows (This scale is used in other areas as well):

O = Outstanding

G = Good

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory

Re-enrollment

A pattern of low grades, poor work habits, poor conduct, excessive absenteeism or tardiness, or to partner with the school or to meet financial obligations can jeopardize a student's continued enrollment. Entrance into the next grade will be based on the classroom performance of the student, observations of the teacher and appropriate testing.

Academic Honors

Any student from 4th through 8th grade who achieves grades of "A-" or higher in all his or her studies and maintains proper behavior at all times will be entitled to be on the "Head of School's List" each marking period. All subjects are included in this calculation.

Any student from 4th through 8th grade who achieves grades of "B" or higher in all his or her studies and maintains proper behavior at all times will be entitled to be on the "Principal's List" each marking period. All subjects are included in this calculation.

Any Middle School student who receives no more than two "G's" and the rest "O's" in every subject for conduct in a trimester will be entitled to be on the "Middot Tovot Honor Roll" each marking period. Any Middle School student who receives an "O" in every subject area in each of the three trimesters will be placed in the "B'nai Hillel Middot Tovot Honor Society." Such students represent the qualities our school most wishes to imbue within our students.

National Junior Honor Society

The Katz Hillel Day School is a member of the National Junior Honor Society. NJHS is the premier organization promoting recognition of students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of academics, character, leadership and service. Students in grades 7 through 8 who meet the NJHS and KHDS criteria are eligible for participation. Students who achieve a 93 cumulative average at the end of the academic year, and who meet our standards of fine character, will be inducted at the beginning of the following academic year. This is assuming the student is participating in the standard academic program. If the student is on a modified program, the Administration reserves the right to determine eligibility. Dropping below a 91 average at the conclusion of the following academic year will result in removal from the Society.

Academics and Athletics

A healthy body contributes to a healthy mind. The Athletic Program was established to encourage students to participate in rigorous conditioning, to learn how to function as part of a team, and to bolster school spirit. Students in grades 4-8 are encouraged to try out for the various competitive teams offered each year. A student who commits to a team is expected to participate in games and all practices (Please see the separate handbook for Athletics).

Students are required to have a minimum average of “C” in order to try out for any Katz Hillel Day School team.

All team members must exhibit exemplary behavior and work ethic in all of their classes throughout the school day. We believe a positive work-ethic in the classroom will transfer to the playing field and a positive work-ethic on the playing field will transfer into the classroom. Any student-athlete, who receives a C- or lower in any class, will be temporarily removed from the sports program for a full week. Students cannot participate in games or practices until the grade is brought up to acceptable levels. The benching is for a week but for no more than 2 games. The student must reach out to the teacher to work together and design a plan to help raise the grade or show enough improvement by the end of the week.

Any students participating in a sport must maintain an academic average of “C” in all subjects (73%) or above during the entire time that he/she is involved in the sport. If the student’s academic average falls below a “C” in any subject (73%), he/she will be required to stop participating in the sport in order to devote more time to School work and will not be allowed to attend practices or travel with the team to away games. Suspension from all sports activities will last until the student has raised his/her academic average to a “C” (73%) or above. No child receiving a grade lower than “C” in **any** subject is eligible for after-school sports at Katz Hillel Day School. This policy is not instituted to punish but to help students keep their academic work as a high priority and not neglect it while participating in sports.

Members of Katz Hillel Day School athletic teams may be removed from their team if found to be in violation of a school rule that results in a suspension from school, or if they receive an “N” on his or her report card.

Our School offers a variety of activities including an athletic program and varied selection of non-athletic activities. School is a lot more fun for those who participate - go out for a team or join an activity! Listen to the announcements or stop in the office to find out more about the activities program.

The School assumes no responsibility for injury to students participating in athletics or other School activities.

Education is first - this is stressed at all times. All athletes must meet scholastic requirements as outlined in this Handbook. Discipline is a prime factor in any athletic success - off the field, on the field, in locker rooms, on trips, and in School. Athletes are to conduct themselves on the highest possible level, being sure that their actions and words are beyond reproach.

Please refer to the “Academics and Athletic” policy in this Handbook for more information on academic requirements to participate in our School organizations.

Academic Probation

A student in Grades 4th through 8th whose overall academic average is below a “C-” (i.e., below 70%) at the end of any grading period is automatically placed on academic probation for the following grading period. If a student in Grades 4th through 8th has a grade average of less than a “C-” (70%) for the academic School year, the parent may be advised to seek an alternate school or be moved down a level for the child for the next year. Exceptions are possible only where extenuating circumstances have affected the student's academic performance. A student will be removed from academic probation when his/her GPA for a full trimester is a “C-” or above.

Additionally, any student who has two “D’s” (or equivalent or below) on their record is considered to be in academic probation. Students may be required to undergo testing and forward complete results to the school, receive tutoring, or a special home/school contract to help overcome this difficulty.

Graduation Policy

8th graders failing a course during any of the three trimesters will not have fulfilled their requirements for graduation.

Homework

Homework is an important part of the student's day as it is a time for the learner to review the day's lessons, master additional material, and prepare for class the following day. As both short and longer term assignments are given, it is necessary for students, with the assistance of faculty and parents, to budget their time wisely. Students are expected to complete assigned homework as directed and in the spirit in which it is assigned; to return homework assignments to the teacher by the designated time; and to submit homework assignments that reflect careful attention to detail and quality of work.

Teachers will assign relevant homework nightly. In general, homework should not exceed approximately 30 minutes total (Judaic and General Studies combined) in Grades 1st and 2nd, approximately 45 minutes in Grade 3, and approximately 60 minutes in Grades 4th and 5th. The amount of homework increases as departmental classes are added in Middle School. Please note that this does not include 15 minutes of reading per night. Teachers will monitor the homework carefully and welcome parental comments and input.

Tests will not be given during *Chanukah*, a day following vacation, during standardized testing, or on a day following a major school event, e.g., Kids Time Program presentation. The exception is Middle School, where tests will be given during *Chanukah* and standardized testing week.

All student work must be School appropriate. When making videos, powerpoint presentations, or writing reports, students must refrain from making inappropriate sexual, drug, alcohol, violence, or smoking references or innuendoes. Additionally, students' work must be sensitive to differences and diversity based on disability, gender, religion, ethnicity or race.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences, by appointment only, will be held during the first and second trimesters. Sign-up is done through an on-line reservation system. You will receive instructions on how to sign up about two weeks prior to the scheduled conference day. We strongly suggest that everyone avail themselves of the opportunity to strengthen the home-school educational team by participating in these conferences.

In consideration of the great demands placed on teachers, the administration requests that you refrain from engaging teachers in a discussion at times when their attention needs to be on their class. Parents and students may not call teachers or administrators at their home.

Plagiarism and Cheating

All work that students complete for which they receive credit must be their own. A student who asks or allows another person to complete or submit the student's work is responsible for the actions of the other person.

Plagiarism & Cheating. Cheating and plagiarism are academic dishonesty. *Plagiarism* is the presentation of the words, ideas, concepts, images, or works of another as one's own. Material (in whole or paraphrased) taken from a primary or secondary source without following standards of conventional attribution, and/or without appropriate reference citation is considered to be plagiarized. *Cheating* is obtaining or giving (or attempting to obtain or give) something by dishonest or deceptive means. A failing grade will be recorded for any work containing any information improperly submitted as one's own, or, completed by means of academic dishonesty, or, deception.

Situations involving cheating or plagiarism on School work (tests, quizzes, homework) will result in disciplinary action, Lending homework to a fellow student to copy is considered cheating by both participants. Discussing the items on a test before all students have taken the test is also considered cheating by all participants.

The concept of plagiarism is explained and discussed in all grades, and thus, the student should be well qualified to make the necessary judgment to avoid erroneously representing someone else's work as his/her own.

Schedule and Teacher Changes

Schedule and/or class section changes will be initiated by the School when operational needs require or when the administration believes the change will be in the best interests of the student and/or institution. The School will not entertain requests for class or schedule changes based solely on parental/student inference or to accommodate friendships. Please understand that the School and administration often place students in particular classes to ensure diversity and to enhance everyone's learning experiences.

School Supplies

Each student is to be fully prepared at all times with his/her necessary school supplies. A supply list has been sent home and is available on the School's website: www.hilleldayschool.org. You can also order supplies through the PTA.

Standardized Testing

Standardized tests are administered to students each year. Students are tested in several academic areas including English/language arts, writing and mathematics.

The purpose of the testing program is to monitor student progress. The results of such tests are used to identify students' strengths and weaknesses in academic areas, and may be used to determine eligibility for promotion to the next grade or the need for summer schooling. Also, test results are used to determine the effectiveness of educational programs and how programs can be improved.

In addition, standardized testing is required for all students receiving state scholarships.

Student Evaluation

The major aim of the Katz Hillel Day School is to give each child the best education possible. We are very aware that all children differ in learning and potential. Therefore, to assess progress and meet individual needs, we administer educational tests to highlight particular strengths as well as areas in need of remediation.

The school reserves the right to mandate testing or counseling for any student whom the administration perceives is having consistent problems in school. **Our School Psychologist, Dr. Penina Dorfman (Grades 1-5) can be reached at ext. 243 . Our Director of Guidance & Student Support, Mrs. Ester Herschman LCSW (Middle School) can be reached at ext. 297. Our Early Childhood Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Nili Davis LCSW (EC2-K) can be reached at ext. 226.**

Summer Reading

It has been said, "students who read the most read the best." The more students practice reading, the better readers they become. Parental involvement in this process is of the utmost importance.

Summer reading is required for all students attending Katz Hillel. Reading lists and assignments are available at the end of the school year on the School's website: www.hilleldayschool.org.

Students will share their summer reading experiences when they return from summer vacation. The primary reason for required summer reading, however, is the continued development of children's reading skills and to enhance their appreciation of reading. Please help us achieve this goal of reading every day, all year – 24/7/365.

Tefillah - Prayer

Proper *Tefillah* requires high levels of concentration, sincerity, and a realization of the tremendous potential of communication with *Hashem*.

Katz Hillel and its Judaic Studies Faculty are all aware of the challenges inherent in the *Tefillah* experience. We also realize that the person who achieves the proper *Kavanah* has a powerful device for personal *Torah* growth and is on the road to becoming a *Ben* or *Bat Torah*.

It is our responsibility to help create a setting in which appropriate *Kavanah* can exist. The combination of a serious atmosphere for *Tefillah* and a rigorous *Torah* study program defines a Torah Day School and provides an environment for spiritual growth and development. Therefore, every student is required to participate in the entire *Tefillah* service and proper decorum and respect must be shown for the entire service as we teach our students the meaningfulness of *Tefillah* in their lives.

Tefillin Policy

With some diversity in terms of family custom, Jewish males generally begin donning *Tefillin* one month before their thirteenth birthday. *Bar Mitzvah*-aged students are required to wear *Tefillin* for morning *Tefillah*. Should you have any questions regarding the purchase of Kosher *Tefillin*, please contact the Head of School.

It is customary to celebrate the first wearing of *Tefillin*, and we would be happy to help you arrange a small but meaningful celebration. Please email Mrs. Jill Kaminetzky, Assistant to the Head of School for assistance.

Textbooks/Digital Devices

Students are responsible for the careful care and upkeep of their textbooks. Lost or damaged books/digital devices must be paid for and replaced. Students are to write their names, their class, and the date in the space provided in the textbook.

SOCIAL GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

Purpose and Goal

Our goal is to maintain a secure, safe, nurturing yet academically challenging School environment, where students develop a strong sense of integrity and respect for others. In order to promote this goal, students are expected to take care in the language they use, the attitudes they express, and the behaviors they exhibit.

These standards of student conduct are designed to provide students with guidance to help them meet the goals and expectations of our community. The list of rules and policies should be read carefully. Violations will result in serious consequences, up to and including suspension or dismissal from School. Students may also be held responsible for any damage or harm that they cause to individuals, school property and/or the School community at large.

The policies and standards apply any time a student is on campus, any time a student is participating in or attending a School-sponsored event on or off campus; any time a student is officially representing the School; and any time a student is traveling on behalf of the School.

In addition, the School regards any behavior prejudicial to the best interests of the School, whether at School or elsewhere, as sufficient grounds for a disciplinary action.

Consistent application of disciplinary policies is sought, although each situation is judged on its merits, and every effort will be made to ensure that decisions are not arbitrary.

The policies and rules outlined in this Handbook should not be read as an all-inclusive description of the School's standards, which are based on **honesty, respect, trust, safety and overall Torah values**. Any behavior that constitutes a breach of these School values may be treated as a major School rule violation. Students are expected to comply with School standards and rules, and they are also encouraged to discuss with their fellow students, teachers or administration any issues or infractions of School standards and rules toward the purpose of caring for one another in a spirit of kindness and of what is best for each person in the School community.

Harassment/Bullying-

The School is dedicated to fostering an environment that promotes kindness, acceptance, and embraces differences among individuals. Therefore, the School will not tolerate any type of harassment or bullying. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, slurs, jokes, and other verbal, graphic, or offensive conduct relating to race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, citizenship, appearance or disability. Bullying includes, but is not limited to, physical or verbal aggression (hitting, kicking, taunting, teasing, threatening, ridiculing, etc.), relational aggression (harming or threatening to harm relationships or acceptance, friendship, or group inclusion), emotional aggression (teasing, threatening, intimidating others). The School also prohibits cyber-bullying (creating websites, social media, instant messaging, e-mails, using camera phones, or other forms of technology to engage in harassment or bullying). Horseplay will be treated by the administration as an incident of fighting. Any of these types of offensive conduct can create an uncomfortable School environment.

All concerns relating to harassment or bullying should be reported immediately to the Principals or the Head of School. We also expect that anyone, whether student, faculty, staff or family member who witnesses, or has knowledge of an incident of bullying or harassment, will report the incident to administration immediately. When the School administration becomes aware of harassment or bullying, the situation will be promptly investigated. **Any student found to have violated this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.** No adverse action will be taken against any person who makes a good faith report of harassment or bullying. Retaliation in any form against anyone for making a complaint under this policy or for participating in an investigation is strictly prohibited. Any retaliation should also be reported pursuant to this policy and is itself a cause for disciplinary action.

Inspection Policy-

The School reserves the right to inspect and conduct a search of a student's locker, book bag, backpack, computer, and any other possessions or property on the School premises or on a School sanctioned event. Inspections and searches may be conducted on a routine or random basis or as deemed necessary. Further, the School has the right to seize and permanently retain property disclosed by an inspection or search which is considered potentially harmful, dangerous, illegal, or inappropriate, the possession of which is a violation of the School's rules, community standards, and/or local and state law.

Investigations-

Students are expected to cooperate in investigations. Students are expected to be honest, but honesty is not necessarily a mitigating factor and students' own statements may be used against them. Failure to cooperate with an investigation may be cause for disciplinary action.

If a student refuses to participate or cooperate at any stage of an investigation, or is unable to do so for whatever reason, including without limitation, pending criminal charges, the School reserves the right to take action, including proceeding without a statement from the student, or to require the student to withdraw from School.

Language-

Students and parents are prohibited from using profanity, obscene, bigoted, racial slurs, or other type of offensive language or gestures in any form on campus or at School-sponsored events. Anyone using inappropriate language may be asked to leave the campus or event.

Policies and Rules

Animal Policy

Due to the Florida Department of Health regulations, no animals are permitted outside of your personal vehicle.

Behavior in Class/Halls/Walkways

Students should always exhibit proper behavior in class and other school gatherings. Students must walk from place to place on campus. Students must exercise good judgment in traveling from place to place, which includes watching for obstacles, not walking with items in the student's mouth, not playing in the corridors, not blocking entrances or walkways, etc.

Student Conduct

In Kindergarten-Grade 5 we use the EMET (Excellent Middot Every Time) program. Students receive EMET notes from teachers when they display excellent middot. There are four categories: Kabbalat Ol, Derech Eretz, Kovaya Etim, Kavod HaBriyot. If you receive 5 EMET's in the same category, you receive an EMET badge.

The motto we use in middle school to represent our values is the KAR²ES motto: Kindness Always Respect and Responsibility Everywhere Safely. In the middle school there are KAR²ES shoutouts praising the students for demonstrating middot tovot..

Please note that shaded sections pertain to the Early Childhood Education Program only.

Toilet Training Policy

All children entering the 3 year old program (EC-3) must be toilet trained and out of diapers prior to the first day of school in accordance with the Florida Department of Health.

Cell Phones and Other Electronics

Students may have cell phones in their lockers at School (Middle School only), but must ensure that they are turned off during School hours, and they cannot be used during the day. Students may use cell phones only before School and after School hours. Cell phones may never be used in or out of school by students in any way that is harassing or disruptive to the educational environment, including making threats, using camera phones to take pictures or to videotape classes, to send text messages to other students in class, or in ways that would otherwise violate a School rule. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action and the phone will be confiscated and an email will be sent to the students' parents. If he/she violates this rule more than once, he/she may lose the right to bring a cell phone to School. **Furthermore, the use of cell phones and/or other recording devices by students to record individuals or groups participating in School activities, in and out of school, without both the knowledge and consent of the individuals or groups, is strictly forbidden. Any student making such recordings is subject to disciplinary action.**

Students may *not* have out or use electronics in School, including personal laptops, games, walkie-talkies, Smartwatches, etc. Students who violate this policy will have their electronics confiscated. Parents will be required to come to the School office to pick up confiscated items.

The School reserves the right to inspect the device, including all contents. Students must provide any passwords to inspect the device upon request by a School administrator. Parents will be required to come to the School office to pick up confiscated items. Students will also be subject to disciplinary procedures for violation of this policy. Teachers and/or Administration reserve the right to occasionally allow the use of cell phones and/or other electronics if they deem it appropriate for education.

Computer and Systems Usage Policy

All persons using the School's computers or the School's computer systems are required to abide by the following rules. This policy also applies to the use of any personal electronic devices (cameras, phones, video cameras, PDA, etc.) on school property or at a school related event. Failure to abide by these rules will result in appropriate disciplinary action determined by the School administration. All computers should be used in a responsible, ethical and legal manner. Violations of the following guidelines may result in the revocation of access privileges and possible disciplinary responses, including expulsion for serious offenses.

Purpose: The purpose of providing access to the Internet and the School's computer systems is to support research and provide unique educational opportunities. The use of such resources should be limited to those activities that support the School's educational objectives.

Privilege: The use of the School's systems is a privilege and not a right. Inappropriate or illegal use of the School's systems or of the Internet will result in loss of the privilege and disciplinary action.

Internet Access: The School community - students, faculty, administrators and staff - have the privilege of access to the Internet. The School encourages students and teachers to use the Internet to expand their knowledge. The Internet allows users to send and receive email, to log onto remote computers, and to browse databases of information. It also lets users send and receive files and programs contained on other computers. Files may be downloaded only to personal external drives. Files are not to be downloaded to the Schools local or network hard drives.

Use of Laptop Computers:

Laptops are permitted only with prior permission from a teacher or an administrator.

The School provides a limited filtering system. No filtering system is foolproof. Therefore, we expect users to act responsibly in their searches and to immediately disengage from any materials that are inappropriate and to report the situation to the faculty member or administrator in charge of the activity. Although the School cannot effectively restrict the content of information obtained by students via the Internet, obtaining material that is explicitly labeled, as not intended for minors will be considered a violation of School rules. Furthermore, making public or passing on any material that is pornographic, violent in nature, or otherwise harassing is totally unacceptable and will be dealt with immediately by the appropriate administrator.

Internet Safety: Students should never give out personal information (address, telephone number, name of School, address of School, date of birth, Social Security Number, credit card number, etc.) over the Internet. Students also should not meet with someone that they have contacted on-line without prior parental approval. Safety is the responsibility of the parent and student. The School is not liable in any way for irresponsible acts on the part of the student.

Pirated Software: The term “pirated software” refers to the use and transfer of stolen software. Commercial software is copyrighted, and each purchaser must abide by the licensing agreement published with the software. There is no justification for the use of illegally obtained software. The School will not, in any way, be held responsible for a student’s own software brought to School for personal use.

Network Access: Accessing the accounts and files of others is prohibited. Attempting to impair the network, to bypass restrictions set by the network administrator, or to create links to the School’s web page is prohibited. Obtaining another’s password or rights to another’s directory or e-mail on the network is a violation of School rules as well as a form of theft. Taking advantage of a teacher or student who inadvertently leaves a computer without logging out is not appropriate. Using someone else’s password or posting a message using another’s log-in name is a form of dishonesty, just as is plagiarism or lying, and will be treated as a violation.

School’s Right To Inspect: The School reserves the right to inspect user directories and email accounts for inappropriate files or content and to remove them if found and to take other appropriate action if deemed necessary, including notification of parents. The School also reserves the right to inspect any personal electronic devices brought onto campus. Assume that any messages or materials on your computer or the School’s systems are not private.

Email: Email may not be used to harass or threaten others. The School reserves the right to randomly check email or text messages. Email messages must not include personal attacks and should follow the normal rules of appropriate public language. They should not contain any language or content which the author would not be willing to share from the podium at a School meeting. Students should be aware that deleted emails can be undeleted.

Any person who believes that they have been harassed or threatened by an e-mail communication should immediately report the concern in accordance with the School’s No Harassment/No Bullying policy.

Viruses: Every effort is made by the School to keep our system virus-free. Even with the best techniques, however, computer viruses can be transmitted to and from any computer. The School is not responsible for the transmission of any virus or for damage suffered from a virus.

Computer Care: Members of the School community will not abuse, tamper with, or willfully damage any computer equipment, use the computer for anything other than appropriate work, or be eating or drinking while using a computer. Any intentional acts of vandalism will result in discipline and students will be held responsible for replacement or repairs.

Reporting Requirements/Discipline: Any student who accesses inappropriate material on the Internet, receives harassing, threatening, or inappropriate materials via e-mail or on the Internet, must immediately report the concern to the teacher who is supervising the activity or to the technology administrator for the student’s School so that the situation can be investigated and addressed appropriately. Students who violate any aspect of this Computer and Systems Usage Policy will be subject to appropriate discipline and loss of computer and/or Internet privileges.

Pornography

The possession, viewing, or distribution of pornography, in any form, is a violation of school rules. Students who violate this rule will appear before the Head of School. The school reserves the right to determine what material is pornographic.

Child Abuse and Cooperation with Governmental Authorities

We take our responsibilities to report suspected child abuse, neglect, and abandonment seriously and will cooperate with governmental authorities in connection with their investigations. If you have any questions regarding the School's mandatory reporting obligations, please consult with the Head of School.

Cooperation with School Staff

Students are expected to be honest and cooperative with School staff at all times.

Criminal Activities

A student engaging in conduct that is defined under law as a misdemeanor or felony (whether charged by law enforcement or not) is grounds for expulsion. Violations of law that occur off campus or during or after the school day will be subject to review under School rules. In the case of offenses that occur at the end of the school year, the School may require punishments to be served during the summer. Transcripts and other reports pertaining to the student's academic standing will be withheld until the completion of the assigned punishment. All decisions involving suspension or expulsion are subject to the final approval of the Head of School.

Destructive Acts

Students should govern their actions by the values of respect for self, person, and property. Thus, any destructive actions, including setting fires, causing damage to property, stealing property, harming others, or similar conduct is prohibited.

Displays of Affection

Students are prohibited from inappropriate displays of affection on campus, on field trips, or at any school-related events. In addition, any type of sexual conduct anywhere on campus, on School buses, or at a School-related event is prohibited. Any unwanted or offensive sexual conduct occurring on School property or at a School event must be immediately reported in accordance with the Harassment and Bullying Policy.

Dress Code (EC2 – Kindergarten)

Sturdy, comfortable, washable clothes are best for school. A certain amount of staining is inevitable in a varied art program. **Children should not be made to feel they have done something wrong if they get paint on their clothes.**

We recommend pants with an elasticized waistband. These are easily managed and encourage independence, especially during toileting routines. All children should be dressed so they can enjoy outdoor play every day and come with closed toe sneakers. Non-skid shoes afford maximum safety for both indoor and outdoor activities. Shoes with Velcro fasteners are preferable to laces since children can close them themselves. For boys, *kippot*, or a hat, and *tzitzit* are required starting in the three-year-old room.

Dress Code (Grades 1-8)

The purpose of our school dress code is to engender self-esteem, promote positive behavior and ensure that students dress in compliance with rules of *Tzniyut* (modesty). The school's uniform is a policy of the Board of Trustees and is required for regular school days for all students in grades 1-8. **The school reserves the right to require students to wear school uniforms for evening and off-campus programs.** The uniform mandated is specified exactly and we indicate below where it can be purchased. The uniform policy does not allow for substitutions or variations.

Katz Hillel Day School uniform shirts and navy and plaid skirts are available for purchase at Katz Hillel's **PTA Shoppe** located in Katz Hillel's main lobby. There are "staffed hours" during which a PTA volunteer can assist with purchases, while front desk assistance is available during all school hours.

To purchase **shirts, plaid or navy skirts** from the PTA Shop by simply filling out the form online at www.khdsptashoppe.com and your order will be filled. **Shorts and pants** may be purchased at a variety of stores (such as Target and Walmart) that sell uniform bottoms.

All boys in grades EC-3 through grade 8 are required to wear *Tzitzit* and *Kippot* at all times including recess and physical education classes. Boys in grades EC-3 through K are required to wear either a kippot or a hat. Hats may not be worn during class in grades 1-8.

- T-Shirt style tzitzit are available for purchase in the **PTA Shoppe** in sizes 3 through 22.
- A limited number of hats are available for purchase in the **PTA Shoppe**.
- Klipped Kippot are available for purchase in the **PTA Shoppe**.

The following are the guidelines for school uniforms:

Girls Grades 1-5

- Unisex Polo-style shirt with KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL embroidered on the upper left side of the shirt (short or long sleeve shirt is acceptable). Colors allowed: white, red, navy.
- Skirt in navy or red plaid.
- Uniform needs to be tailored to comply with rules of *Tzniyut*. Skirts should cover the knees, and shirts should not be unduly form-fitting. In purchasing skirts, parents are encouraged to buy skirts of sufficient length to accommodate growth throughout the school year.

Boys Grades 1-5

- Unisex Polo-style shirt with KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL embroidered on the upper left side of the shirt (short or long sleeve shirt is acceptable). Colors allowed: white, red, navy.
- Pants or shorts in navy or khaki. **No cargo pants or cargo shorts are permitted.**
- **All male students age 3 and above are required to wear *kippot* and *tzitzit*.** *Kippot* and *tzitzit* are available in the PTA store for a nominal fee.

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Girls Grades 6-8

- Unisex Polo-style shirt with KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL embroidered on the upper left side of the shirt (short or long sleeve shirt is acceptable). Colors allowed: white, grey, navy.
- Skirt in navy or blue plaid.
- Uniform needs to be tailored to comply with rules of *Tzniyut*. Skirts should cover the knees, and shirts should not be unduly form-fitting. In purchasing skirts, parents are encouraged to buy skirts of sufficient length to accommodate growth throughout the school year.
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- Sleeves on shirts should come close to the elbow. Cap sleeves are not permitted.

Boys Grades 6-8

- Unisex Polo-style shirt with KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL embroidered on the upper left side of the shirt (short or long sleeve shirt is acceptable). Colors allowed: white, gray, navy.
- 6th grade boys may wear pants or shorts in navy or khaki. **No cargo pants or cargo shorts are permitted.**
- 7th and 8th grade boys are called upon to lead services at *shacharit* and *mincha*. Therefore, boys in the 7th and 8th grades must wear long pants, in navy or khaki, with the exception of physical education, during which they may wear knee-length shorts. **No cargo pants are permitted.**
- **All male students age 3 and above are required to wear *kippot* and *tzitzit*.** *Kippot* and *tzitzit* are available in the PTA store for a nominal fee.

Sweatshirt or Jacket-

- **Grades 1-5 may only wear a plain navy blue or KHDS sweater/sweatshirt**
- **Grades 6-8 may only wear a plain, navy blue zipper sweatshirt or a KHDS sweatshirt. Should you want to purchase a sweatshirt, a link will be available on the PTA Uniform Shoppe website.**

Footwear:

- All students must wear socks.
- Shoes must have a covered toe and a secured back.
- Crocs are not permitted.
- Students must wear sneakers on days when they have physical education classes for safety reasons. As many of our physical education classes will be held in our gymnasium, students not wearing sneakers will not be allowed on the gym floor.
- Students not wearing sneakers will not be allowed to participate in physical education classes.
- Repeated offenses will be reflected in their physical education grades. Sneakers with wheels in the bottom (“Heelys”) may not be worn to school. Students will be required to wear rubber-soled shoes to participate in all activities that take place in the gymnasium. Please plan your shoe purchase accordingly.

Each student should have at least one basic “uniform” (navy blue bottom and white polo shirt with the “Katz Hillel Day School” logo as appropriate) to be worn on Rosh Chodesh, picture days, and special events. Red uniform tops are generally worn on field trips.

Hair and Grooming-

The style of a haircut can be a *Halachic* issue. Extreme styles are not acceptable. Any student who appears with an extreme hairstyle will not be permitted to attend Hillel until it is corrected (hair grows back or is cut properly). The school encourages moderation in both hair and appearance. In general, the laws of *Tzniyut* (modesty) require that both boys and girls dress in a manner that does not draw undue attention to the individual. Any student with a hairstyle or length that is deemed inappropriate by an administrator may be required to remedy his/her appearance. A general guideline for boys is that hair may not be of length that could extend over the eyes, even if it is worn combed back, and that the hair on the back of the head does not hang over the shirt collar.

Neither boys nor girls are permitted to dye their hair. Students who dye their hair will be excluded from class until the natural hair color is restored. Excessive makeup and lipstick are prohibited. Clear lip gloss is permitted. Nail polish and jewelry must be conservative. Boys are not permitted to wear earrings. The administration reserves the right to restrict the wearing of jewelry.

Visitor Dress Code:

- KHDS is a “Makom Torah,” a place where Torah is studied. As such, dress should conform to what would be appropriate when visiting a Yeshiva.
- Please plan to dress appropriately when you know you will be visiting the school. When volunteering, attending school functions such as class presentations, adult Torah classes or committee meetings, parents should dress in accordance with the standards of *tzniyut*. Males of the Jewish faith must wear a kippah when visiting campus and attending school functions.

Dress Code Violations Policy

- Undergarments must not be visible.
- Parents will be required to bring in appropriate clothing or a student will be loaned a suitable replacement before the student will be permitted to attend classes.
- For a second infraction, in addition to the above measures, the student will be put on notice that any subsequent infraction may result in disciplinary action from school.

Drugs and Alcohol

General: Our students are prohibited from possessing, using, selling or purchasing any alcoholic beverages, vaping, or other mind-altering substances on or off School property. - Off-premises possession, use, sale or purchase of mind-altering substances and off-premise alcohol abuse is also prohibited.

Testing: Students may be required to submit to urinalysis drug screens, blood alcohol tests, breathalyzer tests and medical examinations under the following circumstances: (a) when a student is suspected of attending School or School-related activities with intoxicants or mind-altering substances in his or her system; (b) when a student suffers an injury or is involved in an accident while at School; (c) on a periodic or random basis, including but not limited to, in connection with the student's participation in extracurricular activities; or (d) when a student is placed under disciplinary contract and such screenings or examinations are terms of the contract. The presence of 0.02% alcohol or the presence of any other intoxicants or mind-altering substances in the body is a violation of this policy. Refusal of a student (by the student or the student's parent) to undergo testing or to cooperate fully with any of these tests (including signing consent forms or providing testing results promptly to the school) is also a violation of our policy and will result in expulsion.

This policy does not prohibit the proper use of medication under the direction of a physician. However, the misuse or abuse of such drugs is prohibited. Students who are taking prescription or nonprescription drugs, which could affect their ability to function in a safe and efficient manner must notify an administrator in the School Office of this fact when they report to School.

Consequences: In addition to determining the appropriate disciplinary action pursuant to the School's Disciplinary Rules, the School reserves the right to impose the following additional or different requirements as appropriate for the circumstances: determination of possible legal action; required professional counseling approved by the administration; removal from all elected or appointed positions of leadership in the School; required random and/or regularly scheduled drug and/or alcohol testing at a School-approved local clinic or doctor's office for a time period and at intervals to be determined by the School's administration.

Elevator Policy

The elevators at Katz Hillel Day School are considered off limits to students who do not have an elevator pass. The nurse will provide an elevator pass to a student upon receipt of documentation of need from the student's physician.

Lockers and Cubbies

All students in Grades 6-8 are issued lockers. Students can only use the lockers assigned and may not switch lockers. Students may not decorate the outside of their lockers.

Students are to keep their locker or cubby neat and clean. An administrator or a member of the faculty may require students to clean out lockers if they get too messy. Personal items should be taken home each evening. Lockers may be inspected periodically without prior notice or consent. Locks are not allowed.

All lockers are to be emptied by the last day of School. Any items or books left after that time will be given away or discarded as appropriate.

Students should not bring valuables into School assuming that they are secure in their lockers. The School cannot be held responsible for stolen items.

Lost and Found

Books, clothing and other personal items which are left at the end of each day will be placed in designated lost and found areas and may be claimed before or after school. Unclaimed items will be donated to charitable organizations or disposed of at regular intervals. Labeling of all items helps prevent loss.

Food

Food and beverages will be consumed only in designated areas and at designated times. There will be no chewing of gum in the School.

Kashrut

All food brought from home MUST be certified Kosher with proper Rabbinic supervision. Acceptable supervisions include ORB, CRC, O-U, O-K, Star-K, and Chaf-K. While different people have varying levels of *Kashrut* observance, when it comes to school, please make sure that everything meets the highest community standard. Children are extremely sensitive to the remarks of other children as to the *Kashrut* of their food. If you have any questions regarding what is kosher, please call the Principals.

CHILDREN ARE NOT PERMITTED TO EXCHANGE OR SHARE FOOD ITEMS.

The school lunch program serves both dairy and meat meals according to a predetermined schedule. Students not participating in the school lunch program may bring home-prepared meat or meat products (*fleishig*) to school on meat days. Please consult the monthly menu for a listing of dairy and meat days.

- If you are dropping off lunch for a student, bring it to the front desk.
- Please remember to send plastic forks and spoons if needed - the school does not provide these items.
- Please do not send knives of any kind, including plastic.
- Please do not send beverages in glass bottles or any other foods packaged in glass containers.

The food that children consume directly affects their performance in school. Nutritional school snacks that promote healthy eating habits include fruits and vegetables. Sugary foods, candies and cakes, often affect the children's classroom behavior, performance, attention span and ability to learn. There are studies that show food colorings and preservatives such as BHA and BHT can induce higher levels of activity, particularly in children prone to difficulties relating to attention and concentration. Please do not send soda and candy to school.

NOTE TO EC AND LOWER SCHOOL PARENTS: The childhood years are the time when the students form eating habits that will last for the rest of their lives. Healthy snacks are encouraged. Please do not send candy to school with your children.

Nut-Sensitive School

The School has joined many other schools in our community and has established a PEANUT/ NUT SENSITIVE SCHOOL. The School has a number of students who are severely allergic to peanuts, nuts and nut products.

The School cannot guarantee that a student will never experience a peanut allergy-related event while at School, but we are committed to student safety, and therefore have created this policy to reduce the risk that children with peanut allergies will have a peanut allergy-related event.

The School will do our best to avoid serving food with nuts, but cannot guarantee that products with nuts will never be present as we cannot monitor products sold at athletic events or special student sales, products brought for celebrations, or served on off-campus trips. Therefore, persons with severe food allergies must carefully monitor their food in these situations.

We ask that you not send any foods containing tree nut/peanut products. This includes: peanuts, peanut butter, nutella, walnuts, peanut oils, pecan, almonds, pistachios, macadamia, etc.

For children with severe food allergies, it is the family's responsibility to notify the School, in writing, of the allergies. Working in conjunction with the family physician, the family should submit written protocols for the student. The School Nurse will work with parents to implement reasonable protocols in the form of a Food Allergy Action Plan (FAAP).

Messages

In order to maintain an appropriate classroom environment, classroom interruptions should be limited to emergencies. **Please do not ask the office to relay messages to your child except in case of emergency.** Students are not permitted to call home for homework, test papers, folders, etc. If a true emergency occurs then the office should be notified.

Parents/Visitors

The School seeks to provide an open and friendly learning environment which values and actively encourages visitors to our School. At the same time, we recognize our duty of care to ensure a safe environment for students and staff of the School, as well as a duty to our students to fulfill our educational purpose. Therefore, the School reserves the right to determine whether individuals, including without limitation, parents or other family members, are permitted to be on campus or at School-related events. The School further reserves the right to place restrictions on an individual's involvement or activity at School, on School property, or at School-related events if the individual engages in behavior (such as behavior that is disruptive, intimidating, overly aggressive, or seriously interferes with the School's safety procedures, responsibilities, or accomplishment of its educational purpose or program) or has a status (such as a criminal conviction for sexual misconduct, voyeurism, assault, battery, abuse of a child, kidnapping or any other similar egregious offense) that would reasonably suggest that such restrictions may be appropriate for the community.

Outside visitors are not allowed to visit a student's class without prior permission from the student's teacher and administration. Unscheduled visitors to classrooms disrupt the learning process. We, therefore, ask that parents and other visitors confine their business to the front office and not go into the classroom wings or the lunchroom without prior clearance from an administrator. Teachers are instructed not to admit parents to classrooms without prior approval.

The main building has restrooms for parents and visitors in the office suite; there are also restrooms next to the Loewenstern Cafetorium. The middle school building has bathrooms specifically designated for adults. Visitors are not permitted to use the facilities in the classrooms or the children's bathrooms.

Parties

In-class birthday parties for children are permitted only in the Early Childhood Department (see *Celebrations*, below).

With regard to home parties, we ask everyone to conform to standards of religious practice consistent with the school's mission statement in terms of *Kashrut* and intergender interactions. We can plan parties that everyone can attend. We can make sure that we do not schedule parties on *Shabbat* or Jewish holidays. We can make sure that all of the food that we serve has proper Rabbinic supervision. With proper planning, we can model inclusive behavior that shows our children that we truly value the mitzvah of *Ahavat Yisrael*.

Students in grades 1 through 8 are not excused from class in order to participate in Early Childhood Education Program birthday parties or to attend performances by younger siblings.

Please note that shaded sections pertain to the Early Childhood Education Program only.

Celebrations

Birthday celebrations help us give a greater awareness of growth and change, and reaffirm the importance of each individual. Please discuss with teachers at least a week before your child's birthday what kind of celebration would be appropriate and fit into the class schedule. Parents should contact their child's teacher for guidelines regarding party food. Although we encourage children to celebrate their birthday in school with their friends, we ask that you keep the party simple with cupcakes or cookies. Please do not send in any "goody-bags" for the classroom children.

The Head of School or his designee must check all food before it is served or distributed. Please remember that no dairy products can be served in the afternoon as some children may have ordered the school lunch which may have included meat. School time is valuable learning time; it is regrettable, but siblings may not leave class for in-school birthday parties.

We request that when a party is planned for your child outside of school, all invitations should be sent through the mail. We are unable to distribute invitations in school but we are happy to provide you with a class list to aid you in sending invitations through the mail. Children are very sensitive and easily hurt when left out of these activities..

With regard to home parties, we ask that everyone conform to standards of religious practice by planning parties that everyone can attend, by making sure parties are not scheduled on *Shabbat* or Jewish holidays and by ensuring all food served has proper Rabbinic supervision. If your child cannot attend an out-of-school birthday party for a school friend and you have a gift for the birthday child, please give it to the child's parent or caregiver after school. It's hard for children who don't have gifts to see one in a friend's cubby. Please follow these guidelines for any gift-giving situation.

Telephone Use

Parents may not contact a student through the school phone; it is for business calls only. Necessary communication, including plans for transportation home, should be made with students in the morning before they leave for school. Under no circumstances are students to make unauthorized calls from the classroom telephone or from the school phone.

Social Media and Social Networking Policies and Procedures

Social media encompasses a broad array of online activity including social networks such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, blogs, and other similar online or Internet communications. Because this form of communication is vast and growing, we feel it is important to communicate to you the School's position regarding a student's use of social media or networking.

Use at School or a School-Related Event: We do not permit students to access social media and/or social networking sites while on School property or at a School-related event. We have taken steps to block many of the social media/networking sites on our network, but technology will undoubtedly work faster than our IT Department. Therefore, even if you are able to access such sites on School property or at a School-related event, you should understand that your activities are in violation of School policy and may result in disciplinary action.

Use Away from School Property: All students should ensure that they are familiar with School's conduct policies to avoid any online communications that might violate those policies.

For example, you should ensure that your online activities do not violate a School policy regarding bullying or harassment, or other similar policies pertaining to how students interact with each other. If you post or say something online that makes another student feel uncomfortable, your activity may result in an investigation and possible discipline.

Students should also be aware that teachers and administrators periodically check such sites and may determine that off campus behavior violates the School conduct code by making disparaging or negative comments about the School, administration, or faculty members in a manner that is disruptive to the School's educational mission or activities.

Students should not be "friends" with any faculty member on any of these social networking sites. Any violation of this prohibition must be reported to the Administration immediately.

In addition, postings on social networking or other Internet sites of students engaging in inappropriate behavior (such as drinking, smoking, sexual actions, etc.) are prohibited.

Students are not permitted to use the School's name, logo, trademark, or service mark in online activities. Students are not permitted to post photographs of the School, its locations, activities, students, parents, or employee-related activities online. . Students are not permitted to create websites or social networking profiles to rate teachers, discuss aspects of the School or otherwise disclose information online that the School would find offensive or inappropriate if posted in the School's newspaper. Finally, students are not permitted to disclose any confidential information of the School, employees, students, parents, or activities online.

Your Identity Online: You are responsible for any of your online activity conducted with a School e-mail address, and/or which can be traced back to the School's domain, and/or which uses School assets.

What you publish on such personal online sites should never be attributed to the School and should not appear to be endorsed by or originated from the School.

School's Right to Inspect: The School reserves the right to inspect all electronic data and usage occurring over the School's network or on School property without prior notice. We also reserve the right to assess information in the public domain on the Internet and to discipline students for any violation of these guidelines.

Student/Adult Interaction and Communication

Our students and adults (teachers, administrators, staff members, parents, and visitors) are expected to interact with each other in a professional and respectful manner. Although our adults can and should be friendly with the students, becoming too friendly with each other sometimes results in confusion and anxiety.

If a student or the student's parents become aware of any adult's communications or actions toward one or more students that seems unusual, overly friendly, or otherwise inappropriate, such information should immediately be reported to the guidance counselor or administrator of the division.

Some examples of behaviors that should not occur and which should be reported include School employees:

- Calling students at home for a non-School matter;
- Touching students or their clothing in non-professional ways or inappropriate places, or touching a student with aggression or in frustration;
- Making comments that are too personal (about a student's clothing, hair, personal habits, etc.)
- Sending e-mails, texts, or writing notes to students of a personal nature;
- Flirting or asking a student on a date;
- Visiting students to "hang out" in their hotel rooms when on field trips or sporting events or when the student's parents are not at home;
- Asking students to sit on a teacher's lap;
- Telling secrets or telling the student not to tell something that's a secret;
- Swearing, making inappropriate sexual, racial/or ethnic comments;
- Inviting students to visit the adult's social networking profile or become a "friend" on a social network;
- Telling off-color jokes; and
- Dating or engaging in consensual relationships with students.

Similarly, we expect that our parents will not take it upon themselves to address a situation with a student relating to a disagreement with the student or the student's parents. Loud, angry, or aggressive language or actions will not be tolerated. Any such interaction should be reported under this policy.

Student Council

The Student Council is made up of representatives from grades 6-8. This group serves as student leaders and plans social action projects and social activities that will benefit the school and the general community.

Student Council officers and members, or any student in a leadership position (whether elected or appointed), will be removed from that position if found to be in violation of a school rule that results in a suspension from school. Furthermore, any student receiving an "N" on his/her report card will be removed from the Student Council. Student Council candidates will be asked to sign a form indicating that they are aware of this rule. The administration reserves the right to determine whether or not a student can run for Student Council office.

Personal Belongings

Students should not bring valuables to school. **Early Childhood children are encouraged not to bring toys from home unless a note is sent home from a teacher requesting them to do so.** Items that do not belong in the school will be taken by the teacher and returned at the end of the day. Repeated offenses will result in the parent having to pick up the item from the school office.

Weapons and Threats

The School takes a zero tolerance position on threats and weapons, even when students make comments in jest, on email, or away from School toward or about another student, employee, or the School. Students are prohibited from bringing any type of weapon to School or School-sponsored events, including knives, guns, fireworks, etc. Any such item may be confiscated and, if appropriate, turned over to law enforcement.

Disciplinary Procedures

The teacher of each class is in charge of the ordinary discipline in the classroom. The student is expected to comply with whatever regulations or disciplinary measures the teacher may impose. Faculty and staff members should always be addressed in a polite and respectful manner. Confrontational behavior with the teacher is at variance with conduct expected from all students. Each situation will be handled at the School's discretion in accordance with the School's rules, policies, and practices, as well as general common sense.

Disciplinary matters, or incidents in violation of School rules and regulations, will be handled initially at the most immediate level possible. Violations will subject the student to disciplinary consequences. The level of disciplinary response for any violation of School rules will depend on a variety of circumstances.

Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the Head of School or Principals.

In addition, the School may report to the appropriate governmental authorities any actions that appear to violate law.

Reporting of Infractions from Previous Schools

If requested on the original application, students and parents are responsible for immediately reporting to schools to which the student may be transferring (1) disciplinary matters for which a consequence has been given; and (2) circumstances under which a student was withdrawn from School to avoid the possibility of a disciplinary infraction. The student and/or parent must also provide the School with a copy of the letter or other information disclosed. It is important for the student and parent to realize that the School will also inform the school of such an incident.

In the case where a disciplinary action (or withdrawal) has occurred after the school transfer application has been sent, the same process must be followed. In other words, if the original application asked for information on disciplinary infractions, the student should update the information if it later changes and provide the School with a copy of the update letter. Similarly, the School will update the information to the school. This reporting must take place in letter form to the school within seven (7) days after the consequence has been imposed or the withdrawal has occurred.

Please note that shaded sections pertain to the Early Childhood Education Program only.

Discipline

Discipline is a multifaceted term. Parents and teachers frequently talk about, and are concerned with, discipline - the hows, whys and whens of setting limits and helping children learn to be self-disciplined. All these terms are interrelated, and Katz Hillel has a few guidelines for dealing with negative behavior that are in keeping with both our understanding of child development and our philosophy.

Things we consider:

- Decide where you stand on important issues and stick to it. Consistency is a key to positive discipline:
 - a) Choose your issues.
 - b) Set clear, consistent and reasonable rules.
 - c) Help children gain self-control.
 - d) Don't expect them to behave like adults or even older children.
- Children do need to learn about boundaries, what is safe, what is allowed or not allowed and why. They need help learning to organize their time and energy.
- Some strategies: distracting, negotiating, ignoring, anticipating, setting rituals, advance preparation.
- Offer limited choices. "Do you want me to help you with your coat or do you want to do it yourself?" Not: "Do you want your coat on?" (Phrase the choice so that the one you want the child to pick is after the word "or.")
- Take advantage of children's ritualistic tendencies and behaviors. Setting up rituals around activities gives children a sense of control since they know what to expect.
- Avoid ultimatums. (i.e., "You have to do ____ before I ____.")
- Avoid carrying on a fruitless, frustrating or ridiculous argument. You are bound to feel awful afterwards.
- Prepare children in advance for what will happen next. (i.e., "We will read one book, then get our coats on.") It often helps to avoid conflict.
- Motivation: "Where does your coat go?" Rather than: "Hang up your coat." Pretending you forgot where the coat goes often thrills young children.
- Sometimes picking up the child and removing him or her from the situation is the only remedy.

Discipline involves deciding upon which things you are going to insist upon. Discipline helps children to cope with the challenges of daily living, to interpret their world and to learn social skills.

Children and adults at Hillel are never allowed to hurt themselves or others. Expressing angry feelings, physically leads to feelings of guilt as well as hurting oneself or others. Young children may not yet understand that hitting hurts or that they should be "nice" or "polite." They can learn that hitting, grabbing toys, throwing objects other than balls, biting, etc. are not allowed. Children are never removed and isolated from a situation with the expectation that they can "reflect" on their behavior. An adult is always part of diffusing a negative situation and redirecting an activity. By setting firm, consistent rules, you are helping to build your child's conscience. The ultimate goal is self discipline and Derech Eretz.

When in a situation where one child is hurting another, we help both children by describing the situation and the emotions we see displayed. Through this kind of description, the children learn to verbalize their own feelings and needs and be on the path to using words, rather than physical means, to solve conflicts.

Often, prevention is the best means of avoiding potentially difficult situations. If the classroom environment is conducive to the development of the children, discipline problems occur less often.

Biting

Biting can be a form of expression in children who have limited verbal skills. Some children may use biting when angry or frustrated. While it is considered typical behavior for young children, it is detrimental to the health, safety and well-being of children in a school setting. Being that we are a developmentally appropriate program and see children as individuals, it is inappropriate to make one overriding policy. The following procedure will govern the administration's approach to situations where children repeatedly bite.

Biting Discipline Procedure:

- After a child bites the first time, the family will be contacted.
- If repeated biting incidents occur, the administration will meet with parents in order to implement a plan that would prevent further incidents from taking place. This plan may include a "shadow" or removal from the program.

STUDENT SERVICES, ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

Chesed/Community Service

Many schools, both public and private, have adopted "Community Service" programs as a requirement for promotion and/or graduation. Because we are a *Torah* institution, we stress strong character and involvement in Chesed/Community Service. The Board of Trustees of Katz Hillel Day School has passed a policy mandating community service for Middle School students.

- Students in Grade 6 must serve a minimum of 10 hours, students in Grade 7 must serve a minimum of 12 hours, and students in Grade 8 must serve a minimum of 14 hours.
- Chesed/Community Service may only be served at, or for, not-for-profit organizations.
- Students may only obtain their hours before or after school hours.
- A parent may NEVER sign his or her own child's Chesed/Community Service sheet.
- Service hours obtained during the summer may be applied to the following school year. Volunteering at an approved camp may allow you to receive half of your community hours
- Hours are considered complete when all information on the Chesed/Community Service sheet has been completed and submitted.

Any student not obtaining the minimum number of hours of community service by the end of the school year will not receive a report card, transcripts or a diploma until such time that the requirements are met. Students may also not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities the following year. Questions about our Chesed/Community Service program should be directed to Mrs. Rina Lanner, at voicemail ext. 279 or at rlanner@hilleldayschool.org.

Field Trips

Day and overnight field trips are part of the educational process. It must be stressed, however, that only those students who have demonstrated good conduct and decision making in school will be permitted to attend.

Proper behavior during the trip continues to be of utmost importance. Parents of any student unable to follow the given guidelines will be notified. In severe cases, the parent will be requested to come and/or provide transportation home for the student.

In order for a student to attend a field trip, a permission slip must be on file in the office. On longer extended trips, special permission slips may be required. When on school field trips, all of the rules of the school's Code of Conduct apply. Students must also wear school uniforms unless the specific field trip activity requires a different form of dress. In addition, the administrators or faculty members leading the trip may institute special rules. Students taking medication on a daily basis must take their medication on field trips as well. All rules must be followed to ensure the safety of everyone on the trip. Failure to follow the rules on a field trip may involve serious consequences including the possibility of parents having to arrange for the transportation of their child home from the field trip.

Fundraising

No class, individual or organization is to begin any money raising activity without permission from the School. No class, individual or organization may request money from any other class, individual or organization within or outside the School without permission from the School administration office.

Guidance Services

The School Psychologist and the Directors of Student Guidance & Support are available to help students and parents with personal or social concerns that may arise and which affect the student's academic performance or social conduct. The enrollment of your child is consent to allow your child to receive services through our counseling office.

Students and parents should be aware that conversations may be privileged and confidential, unless the nature of the communication reveals potential risk of harm to the student or others, or a violation of the child abuse laws.

Health Regulations & School Health Policies

The State of Florida mandates specific health evaluations and immunizations for children attending Florida schools. Upon your child's entrance into school and each year, it is important that you review these requirements and ensure that your child is in compliance with the State regulations. The mandated health information **must** be recorded on Florida State forms, which are provided by your Florida medical provider. If your child is entering a Florida school from another state, a Florida medical provider must be consulted and their records must be transferred over to the mandated forms, DH 680 and DH 3040. **The completed forms MUST be returned to school by your child's first day of school or your child will be excluded from school.** Forms are needed for students entering **EC-2, EC-3, EC-4, Kindergarten, 7th Grade**, and all students **NEW** to Hillel. For any health-related questions contact **Nurse Robin, LPN**, at **rnoble@hilleldayschool.org**.

Vision and Hearing Screening-

Parents are responsible for having their children's vision and hearing screened annually.

Health Information Sharing

Parents and student agree, as a condition of continued enrollment, to consent to the release of any of the student's health-related information, including information relating to drug treatment, testing, medical, and mental health records, to employees or agents of the School, as determined by the Head of School or his or her designee, to meet the medical or safety needs of the student and the community or the legal responsibilities of the School.

The School will maintain appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to protect the security of all health-related information within its care or custody. While it is the obligation of the School to safeguard student medical information, we must also balance matters of privacy and confidentiality with safeguarding the interests and well-being of our students and our community. Thus, parents/guardians and students consent to allow employees and agents of the School, who have a need to know, to receive and/or share medical and/or psychological information necessary to serve the best interests of the student and/or community. In the event of a disclosure required by law, every effort will be made to notify the student and/or parents/guardians in advance.

Medication Policy

Early Childhood through Grade 8

For the safety and welfare of each child, the administration of all medications must be strictly regulated and supervised. Therefore, the Katz Hillel Day School will provide for the administration of medication in accordance with Florida State and Palm Beach County regulations.

Florida Statute states, "The school personnel shall not administer or dispense medication to any student without the written consent of the parent and a completed treatment plan signed by the physician."

Medication may be administered to a student only when a Medication Authorization Form is completed and signed by the physician and parent and is on file at the school. This applies to any prescription or over-the-counter medication required during school hours and brought in from home. The parent must transport the medication in a properly labeled container. The medication must be in the original container and labeled to match the physician's order. School personnel cannot be responsible for the administration of medication which is not prescribed by the child's physician. Medications that students take on a daily basis must be given to students even on days of scheduled field trips.

Grades EC2- K

No over the counter medication will be given to any children in EC2-K. Prescription medication can be given with a doctor's order.

Grades 1-8

Non-prescription medications designated and approved by our consultant will be administered to a child only if permission is granted on FACTS system. Permission must be completed for each school year.

Policy For Exclusion For Illness

For the safety and health of all children at Katz Hillel, the following guidelines have been developed.

Parents are responsible for promptly picking up their ill child and when necessary, consulting with their child's doctor about diagnosis or care. Please make sure to inform the school promptly if your child is diagnosed with a contagious illness. Children must remain at home while they have any signs of illness and for twenty-four (24) hours after the symptoms have disappeared. **The child must remain at home for at least one day (not counting the day sent home) both for his/her sake and for the consideration of others at the school.**

A child is not permitted to attend school if he or she has:

- a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. The child should be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school without the intervention of an antipyretic (e.g., Tylenol or Advil).
- conjunctivitis, an eye infection commonly referred to as "pink eye." The white of the eye generally appears red, may have some burning or itching sensation and may secrete a discharge which is watery or thick with mucus and pus (causes eyelids to stick together).
- a rash - until a health care provider determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease.
- untreated infectious skin patch(es), such as impetigo. Impetigo starts as red pimples, which eventually become fluid filled. When the blister breaks, the surface becomes raw and weeping, progressing to an encrusted stage. The lesions occur in moist areas of the body such as the crease of the neck, groin and underarm and on the face, hands or edge of diaper.
- diarrhea (two or more abnormally loose stools within a 24-hour period).
- vomiting.
- Pediculosis. **See Policy in next section.**
- a severe or persistent cough.
- a severe cold with fever, sneezing and/or nose drainage. **If the child is in the Early Childhood program and has nasal drainage which requires attention in excess of three (3) times in twenty (20) minutes, the child may not be in school.**
- any other unusual sign or symptom of illness. The child may look or act differently. He or she may be unusually pale, irritable, tired or uninterested in usual activities or eating.
- a contagious disease such as measles, chicken pox, or mumps. **The child must have a doctor's note indicating when he or she may return to school.**

***Note:** If an antibiotic is prescribed for an infectious illness, e.g., ear or throat infection, the child should not be brought to school until he or she has been on the medication for at least 24 hours.

When a child is ill and will not be attending school, the parent should call or email the office by 8:15 a.m. Children and teachers are concerned when a child is absent; also, other parents are notified if the class has been exposed to a contagious disease.

If a child presents any of the designated symptoms during the course of the school day or requires more attention than the teacher can provide without hurting the health and safety of the other children, that child's parent will be called and the child will be sent home immediately.

With most childhood diseases, children who have been exposed are not excluded from school, but everyone is alerted to watch for signs and symptoms. Children must remain at home while they have any signs of illness and for twenty-four (24) hours after the symptoms have disappeared. **The child must remain at home for at least one day (not counting the day sent home) both for his/her sake and for the consideration of others at the school.** There will be no exceptions to this rule. When children are in school they must be able to participate in all activities, including outdoor play. In the long run, less school is missed if early signs of an illness are heeded and the child remains at home to rest.

By observing good health standards, all children at Katz Hillel are protected.

Pediculosis Capitis (Head Lice) Exclusion Policy

Lice screenings are periodically done during the year. A clinic exclusively for the treatment of head lice and nit removal comes to the school to check each student. The screenings may be done within the first two days of the start of the school year, after the Mid-Year Break in January, and again after the Pesach break, or as needed.

When head lice or nits are detected in a child, the child is excluded from school. The child may not return to school until treatment with a medicated shampoo and until louse/nit free. The school nurse must evaluate the affected child before the child may return to class.

If the child has a recurrence of head lice, the child must be evaluated and treated at a professional head lice awareness and control agency. In addition, all family members and individuals residing within the child's home must be checked at the agency. The child is readmitted to school upon certification from the agency that the child and household members are lice/nit free. The child must also be reevaluated at the agency weekly until lice/nit free for two consecutive check-ups. This step is to ensure that the child and family are past the lice infestation period.

At the time of head lice determination and/or recurrence, the nurse must also screen the classmates, siblings and any other contacts the child may have within the school for infestation. Parents are asked to inform other contacts outside the school.

In the unusual circumstance that a case of head lice is not controlled through the above interventions, the school nurse will consult with the head of school to determine a plan for further action.

Videos

The School posts videos of school activities on its website and at YouTube.com/HillelTube. Students are not identified by name on such videos.

Child Safety from Sexual Offenders and Predators

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), sexual perpetrators are commonly people the parents/guardians or children know, and these people may be in a position of trust or responsibility to a child and family.

Because of our concern for student safety, all employees are screened through the School's criminal background process.

To keep their children safer, parents should talk openly to their children about safety issues. Parents should know their children's friends and be clear with their children about the places and homes that their children visit. Children should be taught that they have a right to say no to any unwelcome, uncomfortable or confusing touching or actions by others and to get out of those situations as quickly as possible.

Parents should regularly visit the public registry to check out individuals for prior criminal records and sex offenses. Information concerning registered sex offenders and predators in Florida may be obtained by visiting <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us>, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Sexual Offenders database. Information may also be obtained by contacting the FDLE's toll-free number: 1-888-FL-PREDATOR (1-888-357-7332). To view a map of registered sex offenders living within a five mile radius of any given address, parents should visit <http://www.familywatchdog.us>. To learn additional child safety tips and links to child and internet safety sites and searches, parents should visit the Florida Attorney General website at <http://myfloridalegal.com>.

Lockdown

Katz Hillel Day School has adopted the Standard Response Protocol designed and developed by the I Love You Guys foundation. This program has been embraced by over 30,000 schools nationwide. It has been reviewed by the Jewish Federation security team, the Secure Community Network, and shared with the local Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Detailed information on the program is available on the website; iloveyoudogs.org.

Fire Drill

As per the Florida Department of Education guidelines, KHDS performs a fire drill at least once per month. The timing of the drill varies in order to allow students to experience the drill at all different times of the day. The time to clear the building is recorded and submitted to the state annual during inspection. The fire system in the school is inspected quarterly, and is inspected annually by the fire department.

Evacuation

A map can be found in each room showing the quickest and safest route for leaving the building. Please familiarize yourself with these maps. Do not stop to close windows or shut off lights when the alarm sounds.

Students should move quickly and quietly to designated area. Movement and noise during fire drills should be kept to a minimum. Talking is prohibited.

Transportation [Private/Carpools]

Parent(s) are expected to provide transportation for their son(s) and daughter(s). The School will be glad to help identify neighboring families; however, School personnel cannot be responsible for the formation of carpools. Students must go home with their own driver or carpool unless prior arrangements have been made, and the School has been notified. A note to the classroom teacher, email to the office or, in an emergency, a telephone call to the office will serve as notification. **All requests must be made no later than 1:00pm.**

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Katz Hillel Day School of Boca Raton is the school's governing body. As the governing body, the Board is charged with strategic planning, evaluating the school's administration, in establishing the school's policies, and setting the annual operating budget.

Each trustee member serves voluntarily and is expected to assist in his/her function with the school's best interest in mind. Personal agendas are not addressed by the Board of Trustees.

The President of the Board of Trustees is the direct line of communication between the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, and the Administration of the school. Board of Trustees members are not able to assist individual parents with personal issues. Please refer to the information below regarding the school's operational structure so that you can better understand the management and governance of our school.

The Executive Committee is a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees. This Committee includes the officers of the school and the chairs of standing committees as designated by the president.

All parents in the school are invited and encouraged to join a committee and become involved in Katz Hillel Day School of Boca Raton. This is the best way to learn about the wonderful things that take place throughout the year.

Operational Structure

Any problems relating to your child should first be discussed with your child's teacher. The teacher works with your child on a daily basis and will most likely be able to resolve any problems that arise.

If communication with a teacher has not resolved the problem, you may request a conference with an administrator.

Problems with socialization with other children that cannot be resolved with your child's teacher should be directed to the administration who will refer the problem to appropriate personnel.

When you request a meeting with a member of the administration, he/she will meet with you as soon as possible to resolve the problem. Please understand that immediate meetings are not always possible even though your child is our priority.

Issues not resolved through contact with Principals should be referred to the Head of School.

If the Head of School is unable to resolve your problem, please feel free to contact the President of the Board of Trustees. Suggestions regarding educational issues should be made to the Head of School.

Please understand that no teacher or administrator at Katz Hillel will ever discuss another person's child with you.

Parent/Family Cooperation

A positive and constructive working relationship between the School and parent is essential to the fulfillment of the School's educational purpose. Thus, the School reserves the right not to extend the privilege of enrollment or re-enrollment to a student if the School concludes that the actions of the student's parent or other family member makes such a positive and constructive relationship impossible or otherwise seriously interferes with the School's accomplishment of its educational purpose. Moreover, the School reserves the right to expel a student at any time if, in the judgment of the Head of the School, conduct of the student or anyone directly associated with the student, including but not limited to the student's parent or other family member, in or out of the School, is not in keeping with the School's accepted standards or principles. There will be no refund of tuition where such enforced withdrawal occurs and any unpaid balance is payable in full according to the terms of the student's enrollment contract.

Payment of Tuition and Fees

The School strives to provide the highest quality education while maintaining affordable fees. We depend on the timely payment of tuition and registration fees to cover our obligations. Enrolling your child requires a financial commitment much like any other major purchase. Please make School tuition a budget priority. Failure to make tuition/fee payments by the contractual dates may result in a child being removed from School. Transcripts and student records cannot be forwarded to another School if there is an outstanding balance in his/her account, or if there are other outstanding debts.

Posters and Flyers

All posters must be approved at the front office before they are displayed in School. If a student wishes to put up a poster, he/she should bring it to the Principals first.

School Business Office Hours

The School's Business Office is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Thursday, and 8:30am to 2:45pm on Friday.

Student Records and Information

Requests for student records and transcripts must be directed in writing to the School Office. The School reserves the right to withhold student transcripts and records for non-payment of tuition or fees.

The School makes reasonable efforts to ensure that both natural parents (or legal guardians) receive substantially the same information (transcripts, records, appointments, etc.). The School must rely upon the correctness and completeness of parental information when the student is enrolled. In situations of divorced or separated parents, if one parent believes that the other parent is not entitled to receive certain information, the parent wishing to restrict information provided by the School must provide the School with a court order that is still in effect that specifically restricts the other parent from receiving such information.

Supporting Your School

The ability of the Katz Hillel Day School to operate and maintain superior educational standards depends on more than tuition. The school depends, in great part, on the support of friends and parents of the school, rendered both individually and through the various fund-raising activities such as the annual Journal Dinner and its related journal.

Please be sure to be counted in the "Every Parent Campaign" (EPC) by participating in an Annual Fund Event such as the Journal Dinner, Golf Tournament, or through a personal contribution that reflects your family's ability to contribute.

In addition, the PTA does a great deal to enhance the educational environment of the school. Computer and science equipment and donations to our library are some of the ways the PTA has benefited the school. Please call the PTA president to volunteer your time and effort.

No class, individual, or organization is to begin any money-raising activity without permission from the Head of School. No class, individual or organization may request money from any other class, individual, or organization within or outside the School without permission from the Head of School.

This is where you can sponsor a Day of Learning in memory or in honor of someone. For more information go to <https://www.hilleldayschool.org/support-hds/koppie-cohn-day-of-learning-program/>

Visitors

Parents or guardians who need to visit campus during School hours are asked to follow these guidelines:

- **Make an Appointment:** If you are coming to see an administrator or a faculty member, please call to make an appointment in advance.
- **Check-in in the main office:** When you arrive on campus, please report directly to the main office for authorization. If you need to proceed from there to any other part of the campus, you will be issued a visitor badge.
- **I.D. Check:** If you are asking to see your son or daughter, please do not be offended if you are asked to show identification. This is a safety measure intended to protect your children.

Please Note: For the safety and security of our students, anyone seen on campus during School hours without a visitor badge will be reminded to obtain one or asked to leave campus.

The School seeks to provide an open and friendly learning environment which values and actively encourages visitors to our School. At the same time we recognize our duty of care to ensure a safe environment for students and staff of the School, as well as a duty to our students to fulfill our educational purpose. Therefore, the School reserves the right to determine whether individuals, including without limitation, parents or other family members, are permitted to be on campus or at School-related events. The School further reserves the right to place restrictions on an individual's involvement or activity at School, on School property, or at School-related events if the individual engages in behavior (such as behavior that is disruptive, intimidating, overly aggressive, or seriously interferes with the School's safety procedures, responsibilities, or accomplishment of its educational purpose or program) or has a status (such as a criminal conviction for sexual misconduct, voyeurism, assault, battery, abuse of a child, kidnapping or any other similar egregious offense) that would reasonably suggest that such restrictions may be appropriate for the community.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RECEIPT OF PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023-2024

The registration of a student is considered an acceptance, on his/her part and on the part of his/her parents or guardians, of all rules and regulations of our School, including the judgment of School authorities on academic and disciplinary sanctions, suspension, or expulsion of a student.

The rules and regulations contained in this Handbook are not meant to be all comprehensive. Rather, they presuppose the good will and judgment of a student in all circumstances in which he/she may find himself/herself.

Parents/guardians are asked to familiarize themselves and to ensure that their child understands all of the information contained in this Student/Parent Handbook. Parents/guardians and students must sign the form below

We have read and understood all statements and provisions set forth in the Student/Parent Handbook.

_____ Signature of Parent or Guardian	_____ Relationship	_____ Date
_____ Full Name of Student (please print)	_____ Age	_____ Grade
_____ Full Name of Student (please print)	_____ Age	_____ Grade
_____ Full Name of Student (please print)	_____ Age	_____ Grade
_____ Full Name of Student (please print)	_____ Age	_____ Grade
_____ Full Name of Student (please print)	_____ Age	_____ Grade
_____ Full Name of Student (please print)	_____ Age	_____ Grade