

# JKHA MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK



2021-  
2022

Dear JKHA Middle School Students and Parents,

At JKHA Middle School, our goal is to ensure that every student appreciates the inherent value of learning. To us, school provides so much more for our students than its function as a conduit for knowledge. For our students and families, JKHA Middle School provides an important social-emotional framework through which our students can gain the confidence and understanding they need to interact meaningfully with others while pursuing academic excellence.

Our Middle School community thrives on our core values, which we call KushnerCares: community, accountability, respect, empathy, and self-awareness. We are deeply appreciative of your family's commitment to supporting these values, which frame the important academic, social, and emotional growth that happens at school on a daily basis.

The enclosed JKHA Middle School Handbook is meant to articulate the responsibilities and values we expect our entire school family to embrace in order to achieve our mission. When parents, teachers, and students work collaboratively to uphold the expectations outlined in our Handbook, our entire community thrives. Please familiarize yourself with our policies and practices so that we can collectively support one another and our community as we continue to grow our thriving learning community.

We look forward to partnering with you!

Eliezer E. Rubin  
Head of School

Ariel Levenson  
Principal

Danielle Hertzberg  
Assistant Principal

## OUR MISSION

As a Modern Orthodox co-educational yeshiva, JKHA seeks to inspire students to live lives of Torah and mitzvot; to embrace secular knowledge and American democratic values; to love and serve the Jewish People; and to forge a lifelong bond with the Land and State of Israel.

We aim to empower students to achieve personal excellence by teaching them how to learn, and by encouraging them to analyze, to create, and to pursue new intellectual challenges.

We lead students to recognize that because we were all created in the image of God, we must treat everyone with respect and loving-kindness.

We help students form strong, healthy identities, and we prepare them to take responsibility for themselves and their communities.

## JKHA/RKYHS NON-SESSION DAYS 2021-2022

Wednesday, September 1	First Day of Classes for all divisions
Monday, September 6	Erev Rosh Hashanah – no sessions
Tuesday, September 7-Wednesday, September 8	Rosh Hashanah - no sessions
Thursday, September 9	Tzom Gedaliah - early dismissal for Grades 7-12
Wednesday, September 15–Thursday, September 16	Yom Kippur - no sessions
Monday, September 20–Wednesday, September 22	Sukkot - no sessions
Thursday, September 23–Friday, September 24	Chol Hamoed Sukkot - no sessions for RKYHS only
Monday, September 27–Wednesday, September 29	Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah - no sessions
Tuesday, November 2	Faculty In-service day – no sessions
Wednesday, November 24	Early dismissal for all divisions
Thursday, November 25–Friday, November 26	Thanksgiving - no sessions
Tuesday, December 14	Asara B'Tevet - early dismissal for Grades 7-12
Friday, December 24	Legal holiday - no sessions
Friday, December 31	Legal holiday - no sessions
Thursday, January 20–Friday, January 28	Winter break - no sessions
Monday, February 21	President's Day - no sessions
Wednesday, March 16	Ta'anit Esther - 1:30PM dismissal for all divisions
Thursday, March 17	Purim - no sessions
Friday, April 15–Friday, April 22	Pesach - no sessions
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day - no sessions
Sunday, June 5–Monday, June 6	Shavuot – no sessions
Wednesday, June 15	Last day of sessions

## Administration and Faculty

Ms. Leora Babich – *Teacher of Mathematics/Learning Center Teacher*  
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Mr. Matthew Bergman - *Teacher of Language Arts/Learning Center Teacher*  
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Ms. Melanie Bienstock – *Teacher of Mathematics*  
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Ms. Sheree Bohbot – *Administrative Assistant, JKHA Middle School Office*  
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Ms. Susan Braverman- *Teacher of Art*  
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Ms. Gaby Elkaim- *Teacher of Science*  
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## Typical School Day

School begins with davening at 8:00 am. After davening, Middle School students have 8 periods, with their day ending at 3:35 pm. Students who are staying in school until the 4:20 dismissal are only allowed to wait in the Jocheved Orbach Dining Hall.

In 5th grade, students enroll in a robust schedule that includes both General and Judaic studies. Students also take physical education, art, music, and computers at various points throughout the week.

6th through 8th graders, who will have lockers, have a locker break immediately following morning davening; they also have two other locker breaks throughout the day. During locker break, students can go to their lockers to put away their books. After lunch, students will have the opportunity to get their afternoon books and supplies from their lockers. All 6th through 8th graders daven mincha in the Rosenberg Beit Midrash Monday-Thursday from 1:56-2:12, immediately following 6th period.

Students will receive their unique schedules before the start of the school year, at the end of August; each schedule lists the subject classes, teacher and room. Copies of the schedule are available in the Middle School office as well. The daily schedule for each 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student has been created to fulfill the needs of each individual child. Care has been taken to ensure that each student is presented with a challenging and engaging curriculum in accordance with his or her abilities. Student placements are based upon past academic performance, teacher recommendations, organizational skills, and standardized test scores.

Over the course of the year, it is possible to switch a student's placement should the need arise. If students have questions or concerns about their individual schedules, they may see Ms. Levenson or speak with Ms. Bohbot in the Middle School office.

## Lockers for Grades 6,7,8

Before school begins, students are assigned a lock and locker by the Middle School office. At the end of the school year in 6th and 7th grade, students will lock their lockers on the inside loop. When students advance following the 8th grade, they are expected to return their locks. If students have trouble with their combination, they can speak with Ms. Bohbot. Lockers can be decorated on the inside only, but decorations must be in good taste and placed there with tape. As stated above, there are times when it is appropriate for students to be at their lockers; students should not need to go to their lockers during class.

**Please note that students are responsible for the care of their lockers as school property; lockers should not be written on using marker, dry-erase or any other kind.**

## Tefillah for Grades 5, 6

Middle School marks not only an important transition in the academic life of our students but also an important milestone in our students' religious and spiritual growth. To that end, all students in 5th and 6th grade begin to daven together daily in the Rosenberg Beit Midrash. 6th graders will join the 7th and 8th grade minyan on Mondays and Fridays as they transition into the age of bar and bat mitzvah.

## Tefillah for Grades 7, 8

The Middle School minyan provides our students with a meaningful spiritual experience each day. Students will be provided a Siddur to use during davening. A seating chart will be available on the first day of school. Boys and girls

must remain in their permanent seats for tefillah unless a member of the faculty asks them to switch. While tefillah is in progress, students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

Tefillah begins promptly at 8:00 am. On Mondays and Thursdays, when the Torah is read, tefillah usually ends by 8:40 am. On non-Torah reading days, davening ends by approximately 8:30 am. In the event of a longer davening time, schedules will be modified. Announcements will be made regarding a schedule change, as well as other important announcements regarding special programs or schedules.

During davening, students should expect to develop a personal relationship or connection with Hashem, to acquire an appreciation for tefillah b'tzibur, and to understand the meaning of the words they are saying. Students who would like the role of the chazzan should speak with Rabbi Selengut to set up a time to lead davening. Rabbi Selengut will help students prepare for this important honor and responsibility.

## Fire and Lockdown Drills

Over the course of the year, there will be a number of drills to ensure that all students and faculty are familiar with the protocols and procedures in place in case of an emergency. No matter where a student is during a drill, be it the lunchroom, auditorium, gym, or a classroom, he or she must follow the specific procedures established by the school. Students must remain silent during fire drills, even after attendance is taken. It is for each child's safety that these drills are taken seriously.

## Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, an email will be sent to all parents as soon as possible to inform the school community about any delays or cancellations. There will be a voicemail on the main school number (862-437-8000) with a message regarding any cancellations or delays by 5:45 am. In the event of a delayed opening, students are expected to daven at home.

## Breakfast/Lunch Program

Shimtal Caterer provides a daily breakfast and lunch program at a cost per student. Breakfast items will be priced and sold on a daily basis, cafeteria style. Students have the option to purchase lunch on an annual basis, half year basis, specific day participation, or per day. In addition, if students are staying in school late, they can purchase snacks at the after school cafe. Students who ride the bus or get picked up at the regular dismissal time cannot go to the cafe before they leave.

Please go to [myschoolaccount.com](http://myschoolaccount.com) to sign up or contact the caterer directly at 862-437-8043, 973-477-7956 or [shimtalcaterer@gmail.com](mailto:shimtalcaterer@gmail.com).

## Kashrut

To ensure the highest standards of Kashrut, as well as a safe environment for all students, we urge parents to carefully review and comply with the following policies:

Four Kashrut symbols are currently accepted at JKHA: OU, OK, Chaf-K and Star-K. It is of paramount importance that all parents comply with this requirement when preparing dairy, parve and meat foods that will be sent into school for lunch or snacks.

Shimtal Caterer will offer students dairy meals on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On these days only, dairy and parve meals may be sent from home. Shimtal Caterer will offer students meat meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On these days, meat meals may be sent from home.

## Food Allergy Management

As JKHA is a nut-aware institution, Shimtal Caterer will not serve any lunches or snacks containing peanuts or tree nuts.

In addition, our caterer will continue working with parents whose children participate in our school lunch program and who have specific requirements related to other food allergies.

Out of consideration for students who are allergic to peanuts and/or tree nuts, we ask all JKHA and RKYHS parents to refrain from sending into school any sandwiches or snacks containing peanut butter, nuts or traces of nuts.

Please review carefully the ingredients list printed on the packaging of every food and snack you send in to school in order to support the safety of all of our students.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Home-cooked and home-baked products (such as birthday cakes) may not be shared among students in order to protect our students with allergies; similarly, students are not allowed to share or trade food.**

## Lunch Time

Lunch for all 5th through 8th graders is from 12:30-1:15 pm Monday through Thursday, and 11:55- 12:40 pm on Friday. Students are expected to wash *netilat yadayim* before eating bread. Please remember that all food eaten in the school must have the appropriate kashrut symbol.

All students, grades 5-8, are expected to clean and clear their tables.

In 5th grade, students are walked to the Jocheved Orbach Dining Room by their 5th period teachers and are walked back to their classrooms after lunch. There are rotating faculty members supervising the 5th graders during lunch. All 5th graders must sit at designated tables in the dining hall.

5th graders eat lunch together for the first twenty minutes of the lunch period in the Jocheved Orbach Dining Room; then, their teachers escort them to recess for the remaining twenty minutes of lunch.

In keeping with our school's mission and our desire to create community, 6th-8th graders eat lunch together for the first ten minutes of lunch in the Jocheved Orbach Dining Hall. For the second part of lunch, teachers will escort students to the gym or outdoors (weather permitting) where they may play or socialize. All students are expected to comport themselves appropriately in the Jocheved Orbach Dining Hall, outdoors, and in the gym.

If a student is participating in an activity or club that meets during lunch, s/he may bring lunch to that activity's location.

## Library

The library is open during regular school hours. Students are encouraged to make use of the extensive collection of Sefarim and fiction and non-fiction books in the library. No materials are to leave the library without first being checked out at the circulation desk with Ms. Roth. Computers are available for work and research purposes. Students using computers and the internet for inappropriate purposes will lose the privilege of using this facility. Students should work quietly and not disturb fellow students. Students are required to return all library materials before the end of the school year in order to receive their report cards.

## Nurse/Health Services

The school nurses are responsible for a variety of services, including providing students with prescribed medication, assisting students who become sick during the day or are involved in an accident, and maintaining medical files. It is very important that parents inform the nurse about all medical needs and keep medical data up to date.

## Attendance/Absence from School



If your child will be absent from school, please send an email to Ms. Bohbot, [sbohbot@jkha.org](mailto:sbohbot@jkha.org). Attendance will be taken during the first period. If your child will be arriving late to school, he/she must sign in at the security desk in front and then stop by the MS office to get a late note.

Students are not expected to do work while they are sick at home. However, it is the student's responsibility to check in with all teachers after an absence and to make up any missed class work or assignments. All MS teachers use Google Classroom and Plus Portals (Rediker) to help students and parents understand assignments and their due dates. If you have any questions or difficulty with the system, please email Ms. Rubin at [mrubin@jkha.org](mailto:mrubin@jkha.org), who can provide assistance.

Lateness:

Whenever students are late (to school, to the next class), they must ask their teachers for a lateness form, which he or she will fill out. Students are required to bring that form to their next class. If students are late to school, they should go to Ms. Bohbot to get the form to gain them entrance to their next class.

## Homework Policy

Homework can be assigned on any school day with the exception being made for the observance of holidays. The day after a holiday or major class trip, there will be no tests or major assessments due.

## Dismissal Procedure

Please email [carpool@jkha.org](mailto:carpool@jkha.org) with any dismissal changes by 12:00 pm. While on the bus, students are expected to act in accordance with the guidelines set for behavior in school.

Dismissal for Middle School students is at 3:35 pm. Students should be mindful to pack up in a timely fashion and go straight to their buses. The buses pull out by 3:45 pm. Students who go home via carpool will go to the tents outside the Middle School office.

## KushnerCares

KushnerCares is our Middle School social-emotional framework: it is the bedrock of the purposeful, values-driven teaching that happens inside and outside the classrooms of our school each and every day. Designed by JKHA faculty, KushnerCares-- an acronym that stands for **C**ommunity, **A**ccountability, **R**espect, **E**mpathy, and **S**elf Awareness-- establishes the pillars of character that help each one of us--students and teachers-- become the best versions of ourselves. At JKHA, through conscious, deliberate discussion and support of KushnerCares, we teach our students: to embrace and cultivate community; to hold themselves and each other accountable; to respect each person uniquely; to empathize with other people; to build self-awareness in an ongoing effort to better oneself. With these values in place, our students are prepared to become active and purposeful participants in Middle School and beyond.

## Tests/Quizzes

There is a master calendar for tests and projects posted on the bulletin board outside of the MS office. Students and their parents can access their child's specific test schedule via Google Classroom; the grade test calendar is accessible via the school website. Each teacher is responsible for entering tests and/or project due dates on the master calendar. Students are given one week's notice about upcoming tests.

In 5th grade, students are allowed to have two assessments per week. This will be adjusted to three in January. Assessments will be posted on the hall calendar outside the 5th grade classrooms.

For 6th, 7th and 8th graders, there can be no more than one General Studies and one Judaic Studies test per day. Unannounced "pop" quizzes can be given at any time as they do not require studying and are less than fifteen minutes in duration. Announced quizzes will be scheduled at least three days in advance and are also expected to be less than fifteen minutes in duration.

## Grades

The year is divided into three trimesters. For 6th through 8th graders, there are two types of academic achievements that are recognized in each trimester: Scholars with Distinction (academic distinction for those who earn a 93 or above overall on average) and Scholars (for those who earn an overall average of 88 and above).

## Academic Code of Conduct and Intellectual Integrity Policy

The Academic Code of Conduct and Intellectual Integrity policy was designed to ensure a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment for all of our Middle School students. Everyone in our JKHA Middle School community deserves to be treated with respect, and all students will be held accountable for maintaining this standard of civility in all of their classes.

In keeping with our KushnerCares values, we hold our students accountable for their behavior and expect them across all grades to be self-aware of their decorum and academic work. Specifically, we want our JKHA Middle School students to know which academic behaviors are not permitted in order to avoid them: Cheating, plagiarism, forgery and computer use in class for a purpose other than the classwork is strictly prohibited. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of books, electronic devices, notes, crib sheets, copying from other students.

Plagiarism is defined as stealing or using, without acknowledgement, the ideas, words, formulas, textual materials, online services, computer programs, etc. of another person as one's own.

### **For tests and major assignments:**

If submitted work contains writing that was not generated by that student, the student will earn a failing grade of 65%. For the first offense only, the student will have the opportunity to revise the plagiarized assignment for a new grade, which will be averaged with the initial 65%. All subsequent offenses on major assignments will earn a zero.

### **For homework assignments:**

For submitting homework assignments that contain plagiarized text, students will earn a zero for the assignment and will not have an opportunity to revise the assignment for a different grade. For submitted homework assignments that are copied from a classmate, all classmates involved will earn a zero for that assignment; they will not have the opportunity to revise the assignment for a different grade.

## Learning Center

The Learning Center supports students with modified schedules or specific learning needs. Learning specialists work with small groups of students who need curriculum support and study skill strategies. Every attempt is made to meet the needs of all students to help ensure that each student reaches his/her academic potential.

There are five learning center teachers in the Middle School: Ms. Babich, Mr. Bergman, Morah Hendel, Ms. Litland, and Ms. Shanskhalil.

## Student Services

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the MS guidance and counseling services, headed by Ms. Aviva Wasserman. The Guidance office is a valuable resource for students who need to discuss: a challenge at home, a question about friendships, a struggle with classwork, stress about a test, difficulty sleeping, among other concerns of this nature. Guidance provides a confidential, quiet place to go. Students may speak with Ms. Wasserman as needed;

she is also available by appointment. Sometimes, a teacher or parent may suggest that a student speak with Ms. Wasserman about a specific question. All students need permission from a teacher to leave their classroom to see Ms. Wasserman.

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Following the first trimester, parents are invited to meet with teachers for parent-teacher conferences. Short private meetings in each subject area may be scheduled by parents with each of their child's teachers. An email will be sent out with instructions on how to sign up for parent-teacher conferences. Parents should be aware of the deadlines and are encouraged to sign up early, as slots fill up quickly.

Of course, parents are always welcome to contact the school to share their thoughts, recommendations and ideas with the administration and the faculty throughout the year.

## Bar/Bat Mitzvah Policy

In our Middle School, we believe in and support a culture of inclusion and kindness; our policy reflects our belief that simchas provide important opportunities for families to model for their children what it means to purposefully include others community. Whichever option is selected of those listed below, please keep in mind that children want to be included in social activities: no one likes to be left out, and doing so does not reflect the ethos of our school or community, where we value kindness and inclusion. Please include any SINAI classmates in your invitations, and remember, it is important for children to feel that they belong in our school community: being a part of a simcha celebration cements that feeling. If you have already made plans that contradict this policy, please amend them promptly.

A family may reserve a bar/bat mitzvah date for their child by booking the desired date with Ms. Bohbot no more than two years prior to the date. For example, a bar/bat mitzvah to be held on January 6, 2024 can be booked no earlier than January 6, 2022. The guidelines for parties other than a Shabbat Kiddush or lunch follow:

- The school calendar will allow for multiple parties for the same grade on the same day, if necessary, but only one party per grade will be allowed at any given time. Parents can reserve a slot in the morning (9:00-1:00), afternoon (1:00-5:00) or evening. Preference will be given to the family who reserves first on the school calendar. Please call Ms. Bohbot at 862-437-8015 or email her at [sbohbot@jkha.org](mailto:sbohbot@jkha.org) to reserve the date for your son/daughter's bar/bat Mitzvah.
- If there is a conflict and there are a number of celebrations on the same day, families are asked to work together on the timing of events.
- You may submit only one date for your celebration.
- All food and drinks served at a bar/bat mitzvah must be glatt kosher.
- Students should dress modestly and act appropriately at another family's simcha.
- We encourage that weekday celebrations end by 9 pm, and weekend parties end at a reasonable hour as well.

As the date of the celebration gets closer, the guest list will need to be finalized. Addresses are accessible through the JKHA school directory through the school website, or by asking Ms. Bohbot. Please keep in mind that the bar/bat mitzvah celebration should be an occasion for inclusion. One of the following options may be chosen:

- Inviting all of the students in the grade;
- Inviting just the boys or just the girls in the grade;
- Inviting a small group of JKHA friends (no more than 8).

Regarding Shabbat invitations, please create your invitation list from the following options:

- Invite all JKHA students in the grade;
- Invite all JKHA boys/all JKHA girls in the grade;
- Invite only JKHA boys or girls in your immediate local community (i.e. only West Orange boys or girls, or East Brunswick boys or girls);
- If you are not inclined to invite all of the boys/girls in the grade, no more than 8 friends should be invited.

Whichever option is selected, please keep in mind that children want to be included in social activities: no one likes to be left out. Please reach out to Ms. Levenson should you wish to include any SINAI classmates; she will then connect with the Head of Sinai, who will help determine which students from the corresponding SINAI grade can attend a simcha independently and successfully. It is important for children to feel that they belong in our school community: being a part of a simcha celebration cements that feeling, and we aim to include our SINAI classmates whenever possible.

Celebrations in school are allowed but should be kept modest. Outside family members and friends are welcome, but please do not bring candy to throw in the shul. JKHA recommends ordering refreshments for the entire minyan or just for the grade through the school caterer- Shimtal Caterer. Rabbi Selengut will be happy to help students with writing a d'var Torah if he or she would like to deliver one on the day of his or her school celebration.

To maintain the integrity and commitment of our academic program, however, parents are not permitted to invite the grade during school hours to off-campus Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations.

## Electronic Policy

JKHA Middle School requests that all cell phones, smart watches, and electronic devices be left at home.

However, we understand that cell phones may be necessary for your child for communication. If they are brought to school, cell phones, watches, iPods, wearables, tablets and other electronic devices **must be locked in a student's locker for the duration of the school day** to support appropriate socialization and educational growth.

If a device is seen during school hours, it will be confiscated by a faculty member. Phones may be picked up after school in the Middle School office that day by a parent **only**; students may pick up their phone the following morning after davening. Further offenses will be met with more severe consequences. **This policy is in place for all students in the Middle School, and we expect our parents to honor and support this policy.**

### Method of communication between parents and students:

**Parents are asked *not* to communicate with their children during the school day in order to encourage student independence.** Should a parent need to communicate with his/her child during the day, please call the Middle School office at 862-437-8015 or email sbhbot@jkha.org. If a student needs to communicate home, s/he can communicate from the Middle School office at the appropriate times, with teacher permission only, to use the office phone.

## Chromebook Policy

At JKHA Middle School, we provide all students in the Middle School with 1:1 devices. At the start of the school year, each student will be assigned a Chromebook with a specific number and serial number.

- Students in 6th-8th grades are responsible for the care and keeping of their Chromebooks, which they should bring to and from school daily, charging nightly at home with the school-provided charger. Bringing the Chromebook home is a nightly expectation, new this year, to help students take responsibility and hold themselves accountable for their devices.

- As our 5th graders are new to Middle School, 5th graders' Chromebooks will not travel home; they will live permanently in school and charge in 5th grade classrooms.
- Charging stations will be available in school for students in all grades, should a student need to charge during the day. Should a student forget his or her Chromebook at home, the Middle School office will have limited Chromebooks to loan out; students must participate in their classes without a Chromebook if none are available.
- All students are fully responsible for their Chromebooks; when Chromebooks are damaged, the school will not investigate the reasoning behind the damage, nor will the reasoning impact the cost of a repair. As has been true in the past, parents will be responsible for any repairs that need to be made to the Chromebook.
- Please click [here](#) to view the JKHA Middle School KushnerChromeCare Optional Insurance Policy

## Dress Code

Students must enter and depart from school with respect for our school dress code. As a Modern Orthodox Yeshiva, we strive to inculcate in our students an appreciation for the value of tzniut; our dress code reflects the value of modesty and appearing presentable. No dress code is capable of addressing every conceivable situation; it is left to the discretion of the faculty and administration to decide on individual cases as to the appropriateness of how a particular style of fashion is in keeping with the spirit and goals of our dress code.

In all cases, all clothing should fit appropriately in accordance with the value of modesty (tzniut).

### Girls

#### Tops: 5th and 6th Grades

- Any color collared shirt is acceptable, without inappropriate logos
- All shirts or vests must be buttoned if worn in lieu of a collared shirt
- The following types of necklines may not be worn:
  - Low-cut
  - Cut-outs
  - V-neck
  - Boat neck
- Cap sleeves are not permitted
- Sweaters and sweatshirts may be worn, but a collared shirt must be visible
- Hats/hoods may not be worn during school hours

#### Tops: 7th and 8th Grades

- Collared shirts are **not** required, without inappropriate logos
- The following types of necklines may not be worn:
  - Low-cut
  - Cut-outs
  - V-neck
  - Boat neck
- Cap sleeves are not permitted
- Hats/hoods may not be worn during school hours

### Bottoms

- In accordance with the value of modesty (tzniut), skirts must reach the knee.

- Students must wear closed-toe shoes. **Slippers, heels, slides and sandals are not permitted.**

## Boys

### General

- Hair must be kept neat
- A kippah and tzitzit must be worn

### Tops

- Any color collared shirt is acceptable without inappropriate logos
- Sweaters and sweatshirts may be worn but a collared shirt must be visible
- Button down shirts should remain buttoned for the duration of the school day
- Hats/hoods may not be worn during school hours

### Bottoms

- Any solid color pants are acceptable
- No sweatpants, jeans, track pants or cargo pants
- Students must wear closed-toe shoes. **Slippers, slides and sandals are not permitted.**

**\*Students who do not adhere to our dress code will be asked to change and a notice will be sent home to them and their parents informing them of the infraction. For repeated incidents by a student, the administration will determine an appropriate consequence.**

## Student Programming

Over the course of the school year, students are given the opportunity to participate in a number of special activities and programs.

There are also many enrichment activities that meet during lunch or after school to allow students to find a voice outside the classroom.

## Student Council

The Student Council is an elected group of students who meet frequently to discuss issues that affect students; they meet with the administration to help resolve student concerns. In addition, the Student Council develops and carries out a number of fundraising activities throughout the year to benefit the school and other important causes. Money raised by the Student Council is used to provide additional resources for the school and to sponsor various school events throughout the year.

The Student Council Board consists of the following elected positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In order to run for office, students must have earned an "85" average in their major subjects and exhibit positive middot in both Judaic and General Studies.

The Student Council is headed by Ms. Shirley Gantz.

## Athletics

There are a variety of teams for middle school students. Fall sports tryouts will be announced via email at the beginning of the school year; spring sports tryouts will be emailed after January break. In order to try out, students will

need the proper equipment for that sport, and a completed athletic/health form. In order to stay on a sports team, students must maintain a "75" average. Class conduct may impact a student's permission to participate in athletics.

Students in grades 6-8 may try out for teams. If a student makes a team, it doesn't guarantee the student playing time during games. Coaches make every effort to play as many players as possible, but the leagues are very competitive, and middle school athletes should know that the teams play to win, so not all players are guaranteed equal playing time. Therefore, for all teams, playing time is at the discretion of the coaches. Playing time can also be limited based on court behavior. Proper middot on and off the court are required to play on any JKHA team. There are intermural sports teams for both girls and boys during the year. On these teams, coaches make every effort to give playing time to all participants in the context of the spirit of competition.

Students will need to pay for their uniforms, and there is a nominal fee to participate in inter-mural sports. Mr. Seth Leeds, a JKHA parent, is the Director of the Athletics Department. Any questions regarding the sports or athletic extracurricular program can be directed to him at [sleeds@jkha.org](mailto:sleeds@jkha.org).

## Discipline Policy

All students have the right to learn, and all teachers have the right to teach in an environment of mutual respect. This is the guiding principle of the JKHA discipline policy, through which we build community, hold one another accountable, while establishing a culture of respect, empathy, and self-awareness.

At all grade levels in Middle School, students are expected to understand and abide by the expectations and rules created by their classroom teachers. Teachers often handle disciplinary issues within their classrooms as they arise.

However, when student behavior hinders the learning of any students or creates a negative learning environment, students may be sent to the Middle School office, where their behavior will be addressed appropriately. For minor disciplinary incidents, we believe that students must somehow "give back" to our school community, which they had negatively impacted with their original offending behavior. During the middle school lunch period, disciplinary heads coordinate opportunities for students to "give back" to the school by working to help the school in some capacity in lieu of the more traditional lunch detention. For more serious disciplinary incidents or repeated minor incidents by a student, the administration will determine an appropriate consequence.

Parents will be notified of any significant disciplinary infractions as we continue to partner with one another to support students and their role in our school community.

## What Can Students Expect from JKHA?

- To be treated with respect.
- To be provided with a program of academic excellence in all subjects.
- To be supported by caring and warm teachers and administrators who possess expert content knowledge.
- To feel secure both in body and mind at all times.
- To find students who will value and respect one another's intelligence, creativity and individuality.

## What Does JKHA Expect from Students?

- To treat fellow students and all members of the JKHA learning community as they themselves would like to be treated: with respect, courtesy and consideration.
- To strive for academic excellence.
- To become active members of a community of learners.
- To practice the mitzvot and middot that distinguish B'nei and B'not Torah, and to strive to develop their intellectual, spiritual, emotional and social capabilities.

- To adhere to the expectations and standards set forth by JKHA.

## What Should Parents Expect from JKHA?

- Parents are vital partners in the educational process, interacting in a mutually respectful and courteous manner.
- Teachers and administrators model on a daily basis the mitzvot and middot we seek to teach your children.
- Passionate educators committed to providing students with a first-rate education in both Judaic and General Studies.
- A personalized, differentiated academic program tailored to meet the individual needs of each student, as well as an educational environment that nurtures students' academic and social growth, enabling students to fulfill their highest personal potential.

## What Does JKHA Expect from Parents?

JKHA enrolls the students' families, not just the individual students, and we believe that a positive working relationship between our school and your family is essential to success. At the center of this community are the best interests of the students, both individually and collectively. The school expects that parents:

- Be respectful and courteous in all written and in-person communications with school teachers and administrators. Please know that our school also truly wants what is best for your child, and by framing our conversations in a collaborative, positive manner, parents, teachers, and students are best served.
- Become familiar with and support the school's mission, policies, guidelines and channels of communication.
- Read all material emailed home; attend parent-teacher conferences, events sponsored by KPAC (Kushner Parent Activities Committee), back-to-school nights, curricular evenings, sports games and other class presentations.
- Support the articulated values of the school, cooperate with the school in any matters concerning discipline or academic achievement, and deal promptly with any situations that may arise.
- Keep in close communication with the school about your child's physical and emotional health, and inform the school about changes in the home environment.
- Provide a quiet supportive environment for study at home.
- Follow the instructions of those directing traffic around the school.
- Notify the administration if your child may be absent for an extended period of time to ensure the continuity of your child's academic program.



