

FAMILY HANDBOOK

GRADES 1-12



FUCHS MIZRACHI SCHOOL

2301 Fenwick Road
University Heights, Ohio 44118
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www.fuchsmizrachi.org

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Statement of Educational Philosophy

Fuchs Mizrahi School is an Orthodox Jewish college preparatory day school offering educational programs for preschool through twelfth grade. The school seeks to foster allegiance to G-d's Torah, both written and oral, and its precepts, as interpreted by our sages. Our school identifies with the ideology of religious Zionism and seeks to foster love of the land of Israel.

We are committed to intellectual mastery of Torah and secular disciplines, as part of our religious imperative to seek G-d through understanding His world. We seek to produce a wholesome synthesis of the two within an intensive Torah atmosphere. In pursuit of these ideals we offer a sequential program of religious studies, taught in Modern Hebrew (*Ivrit b'Ivrit*), in conjunction with a full range of college preparatory programming, including physical education, creative arts, and technology.

The school is committed to the unity of the Jewish people, the inculcation of ethical standards and the belief in the dignity of every human being. Of paramount importance is the teaching of values inherent in Torah-based moral practice. A Fuchs Mizrahi School education strives to enable each student to achieve *ahavat Hashem* and *yirat shamayim*, love and fear of G-d, and a commitment to their community and to their world.

A fundamental feature of the school is its commitment to a holistic approach to each child as a unique individual. Each child is encouraged to reach his or her full potential. The classroom is envisioned as a place where the children not only learn but also learn to enjoy learning, where questions are cherished and where creative thinking and divergent discussion are encouraged and able to flourish.

Fuchs Mizrachi School Administrative Directory

Head of School

Rabbi Pinchos J. Hecht
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Early Childhood Director

Mrs. Lesley Schwersenski
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Head of Lower School and Junior High School

Rabbi Barry Kislowicz, Ed.D.
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Head of Upper School

Rabbi Binyamin Blau
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Notice of Non-Discriminatory Policy

The Fuchs Mizrachi School of Cleveland, Inc. recruits and admits Jewish students of any race, color, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities. The school will not discriminate on the basis of race, color or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships, loans, fee waivers, educational programs and athletic or extracurricular activities. In addition, the school is not intended to be an alternative to court or administrative agency ordered, or public school district initiated, desegregation. The Fuchs Mizrachi School of Cleveland, Inc. will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or ethnic origin in the hiring of its certified or non-certified personnel. Further information is available on our web site, www.fuchsmizrachi.org.

Safety and Security Policies

The safety and security of every member of the Fuchs Mizrahi School community is of paramount importance. The following basic procedures help ensure everyone's safety.

Building Safety

1. When entering the building all visitors including parents should sign in at the front office and receive a visitor's badge to wear at all times while on campus. Parents and guests are not permitted to go to classrooms without signing in at the front office.
2. Children from Nursery through 6th grade are under the direct supervision of an adult at all times. In the Middle School and Upper School, we work to engender responsibility and independence among our students. Students are supervised during class time but are trusted to move from class to class, to gym and to lunch without adult supervision.
3. Children are not released to anyone other than a parent or legal guardian without written permission from a parent or legal guardian. In emergency situations, an administrator who recognizes a parent's voice may accept verbal consent provided s/he also recognizes the person (either through I.D. or past experience) with whom the child is leaving.
4. Children being released early must be signed out at the front office by their parent or legal guardian.

Parking Lot Safety

5. Faculty, staff and students who drive to FMS are required to display their blue parking passes. This will assist security personnel in cases of emergency, as well as help FMS staff to monitor parking.
6. Parking in the fire/drop off lane is illegal and dangerous. Cars parked there may be towed at their owners' expense.
7. Children are to be dropped off by a sidewalk ONLY.

Emergency Situations

8. If faculty, staff or visitors see anything suspicious, please use the nearest available phone to contact 911. After you have called 911 contact the main office.
9. Parents should be aware that in the event of an unscheduled early dismissal, all students in the school will be dismissed through the front door (by the main office). Office personnel will be there to check out every student before they exit.

Schoolwide Policies

School hours

Grades 1-5	8:00-3:30 (2:30 on Fridays)
Grades 6-8	8:00-4:23 (2:30 on Fridays)
Grades 9-12	8:00-5:10 (2:30 on Fridays)

- I. Please note that afternoon day care (Monday-Thursday 3:30-5:30) as well as enrichment classes are offered by pre-registration for children in grades 1-6. Afterschool sports are offered to grades 6-12
- II. If you need to pick up your child early from school please notify the office in advance so that your child will be prepared when you come. Parents picking up children early will need to sign them out in the front office.
- III. All families with children in the Lower School will receive dismissal forms to fill out and return to the school. These forms indicate who is permitted to pick up your children.
- IV. Parents of Lower School children should notify the main office by 2:30pm in case of any change of pickup routine.
- V. Please read the attendance policies in each of the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools as each have slightly different age appropriate expectations and procedures.

School Closing

In cases of bad weather, Fuchs Mizrahi School will close the first day that the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district closes. On all other days, if you have any questions about whether school is in session, please call the school office early in the morning and listen to the voice mail message at 932-0220 X 198. School closings or delayed openings will be announced on as many of the radio and television stations as possible.

Field Trips

It is the policy of the school to take students on educational and occasional recreational field trips. A blanket permission slip for these trips is attached to every enrollment contract. We will inform parents in advance prior to taking children off campus.

Bike Riding

Students are not permitted to ride their bicycles during the school day. Students are permitted to ride to and from school with the permission of a parent.

Health

Please complete and return all requested health records and emergency forms in a timely manner. These records are kept on file in the nurse's office in case of emergency or illness.

No medication will be given without parental permission in writing, and prescription medication must be in a container from a pharmacy with the child's name and dosage clearly indicated. Please advise the school nurse if your child is taking regular medication - even if he/she does not require assistance in its administration.

Children showing symptoms of illness listed below should be kept home until the illness has subsided. Please notify the office immediately if your child contracts a communicable disease, such as chicken pox or head lice.

- Vomiting/diarrhea
- Temperature of 100.4 or higher within the last 12 hours **without medication**
- Strep is suspected, but results of a throat culture have not been received
- Positive throat culture for strep throat. Student may return to school after 3 doses of antibiotic treatment if the student's condition is improved with no fever, fatigue, etc.
- Symptoms of acute illness such as persistent cough, runny nose with body aches
- Presence of nits in hair
- Pus-like drainage from the eyes
- Severe headache, severe earache, severe or persistent abdominal pain
- Rash suspected to be contagious
- Wheezing/coughing episode in an asthmatic which is not relieved by prescribed medication

Lice Policy: State law requires children entering nursery through grade five to have a lice check from school personnel prior to the school year. In addition, we check after selected vacations or when there has been a case of lice found in school.

When a child has any nits or any live lice, s/he will be sent home immediately. Upon return to school (which must be a minimum of twenty four hours later), the child needs to report to the office with a parent to have his/her hair inspected.

Lunch and Kashrut

When packing lunch, please remember:

- Dairy days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please send only dairy or pareve food on those days.
- Meat days are Tuesday and Thursday. Please send only meat or pareve food on those days.
- Please do not send any food requiring heating, adding of water, etc.

- An integral part of our program is that students wash, make *motzi* and say *Birkat haMazon* daily.

Any food brought to be shared with the class should be packaged with an appropriate Kosher certification

Since there are many, many kosher certifications/symbols world wide, we direct you to the website of the Chicago Rabbinical Council at www.crcweb.org which is a reputable rabbinic organization that lists recommended symbols, updates that list regularly and provides other valuable kashrus information. (Please note that a plain K is not a copyrighted, reliable kosher symbol unless you know which organization certifies that given product.) If more clarification is required, the best solution is to discuss the matter with your local Orthodox rabbi.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Celebrations

A calendar of Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates is kept by Mrs. Bloom to coordinate dates in our community. Please call her when scheduling your date. Students are also invited to share their Bar or Bat Mitzvah with their class with an informal parent-sponsored breakfast and presentation in school. Please contact the office to schedule such a breakfast for your child.

The Lower School Grades 1-6

Welcome to another wonderful year at Fuchs Mizrahi School!

Our team of dedicated faculty and staff is looking forward to a wonderful year of learning and growth. We are committed to your child's spiritual, academic, social and emotional growth. We strive for academic excellence in all areas while recognizing and prizing individual differences. We aim to imbue the lower school years with love of learning, *ahavat HaTorah* (love of Torah) and *yirat shamayim* (fear of heaven).

While the notes below explain many important technical points, the heart of the lower school cannot be adequately captured in this sort of handbook. In addition to the active and engaging learning that your child will experience in class, you can expect many exciting informal programs over the course of the year. These programs are designed to build the lower school community and to infuse it with a passion for Torah values. Some examples of these programs include our opening day communal art project, the weekly kabbalat shabbat program where we prepare for Shabbat through stories and song, and school-wide programs for the chagim. Each grade will also share at least one program during the year with their parents so that you can see firsthand what makes this school so special.

Education is always a partnership between the home and school. Please contact us if we may provide advice or assistance in any way.

Important Guidelines

Attendance

Arriving in school on time (or even a few minutes early) is a great way to start the day on the right foot. Students are welcome to arrive in school as early as 7:45am. The school day officially begins at 8am.

Any student arriving after 8:10am will be marked late for that day.

Any student arriving after 8:30am must first be signed in at the office so that the daily attendance can be corrected. This is an essential precaution so that the attendance lists are accurate in case of emergency.

We strongly encourage students to attend school on a daily basis. Students who miss extended periods of time due to family vacations often have a difficult time catching up on material. A packet of worksheets is simply not a sufficient replacement for the active, teacher-guided learning that takes place each day in class.

Homework

In Lower School, particularly in the early grades, the major portion of learning takes place in the classroom. However, in-class learning is often well supplemented by homework assignments. Homework is never intended to be "busy work." Rather, it is intended to reinforce what the children have learned in school, to help them prepare for a future lesson, or – particularly in the upper grades – to help them learn independent study and research skills

If your child is struggling with homework on a given night please feel free to write the teacher a note to excuse him/her from the work not completed. If you find that your child regularly has trouble with homework, or if you are concerned about the amount of homework your child is receiving please feel free to contact the teacher directly. Since children work at very different paces a reasonable assignment for some may be burdensome for others.

While it is appropriate to help and guide children with their work, they should be able to complete the majority of assignments on their own. If they are not able to do so you should check in with the teacher rather than completing the assignment for them.

As a helpful note, it is important to give your child a set place and time for doing his or her homework. Ideally, it should be well lit and without distractions.

Communication

If you have any concern about your child please contact us right away. If the concern relates to a specific class it is most appropriate to contact the specific teacher. If the concern is of a general nature please contact the head of lower school.

If there has been a significant event in your child's life that may affect them emotionally or academically, please contact us as soon as possible so that teachers can make appropriate accommodations.

It is our goal to accurately and effectively communicate your child's progress in the academic sphere. This is done primarily via report cards, progress reports and conferences (outlined below). When teachers are concerned about a student's progress or any social or emotional issues, they will not wait for the next reporting period but will instead contact you as soon as possible so that we can work together to assist your child. The team of teachers, administrators and other professionals working with the children frequently meets with parents to address any areas of concern. If you have any concerns and have not been contacted please contact the teacher or the special services team to schedule such a meeting.

Special Services

Our special services team is comprised of two top-notch learning specialists, Mrs. Malkie Ginsburg and Mrs. Rachel Rothner Stark. Both Mrs. Ginsburg and Mrs. Rothner Stark have advanced degrees in special education. Whenever possible we attempt to support and accommodate struggling students within the regular classroom. Mrs. Ginsburg's role is to work with the teachers to identify students who need assistance and enable them to succeed within the regular classroom. In many cases, additional assistance is needed outside the regular class setting. Mrs. Rothner Stark's role is to support students who need additional assistance outside the regular classroom in a resource room environment.

The learning specialists will communicate with the parents of any student receiving special services. In each case, a plan of action will be established and the student's progress will be logged and reported to parents. The special services team meets weekly with the head of lower school to insure that all students being served are making appropriate progress.

In addition, the school benefits from the services of a licensed social worker, Amy Burzinski, provided through the Bellefaire JCB. In addition to having regularly scheduled meetings to run social groups with various classes, she meets with children who may be in crisis or have special concerns. She can also assist in referring students who need additional assistance to a reliable mental health professional.

Progress Reports, Conferences, and Report Cards

Students receive basic progress reports in mid-November. These reports are followed by the first set of parent-teacher conferences. The second set of parent teacher conferences occurs in mid-March. Report cards are distributed in January and June, at the conclusion of each semester. This spacing is designed to insure that you are receiving an official progress update at four different times during the year.

Our report card was completely revised in the 2008-09 academic year. It continues to be a work in progress which we are working to refine and enhance. The fundamental goal of the report card is to communicate our assessment of your child's progress in the most accurate and helpful manner possible.

In creating this new report our goal was to define the specific skills that students must master in order to become proficient in each core subject area. These skills then serve as guides for teachers' pedagogic focus in the classroom, and students are assessed as to their progress towards age-appropriate levels of mastery of each skill. The same skill may appear in multiple grades, but the level of proficiency expected is obviously different.

Each skills is marked Mastered, Developing, or Limited progress. A student who receives an M has mastered the given skill according to the expectations for his/her given grade/semester, but still has room for growth in order to master the skill as the higher levels of proficiency expected in future grades. A student who receives a D in a given skill is developing that skill along in a reasonable trajectory, and there is no cause for concern. In any case where a child receives a mark of L, teachers will work with you and your child to ensure that s/he gets the necessary support to enhance his or her development in that area.

The general studies reports are most detailed in the areas of Language Arts and Math. These are the most important foundational subject areas for future success in all areas, and do occupy the majority of teaching time in the early grades.

As the sixth grade is our transition year to the high school grading system, the 6th grade reports will include traditional letter grades for each subject area for achievement and effort in addition to the skills assessments.

Dress Code

The dress code is designed to create an appropriate atmosphere for learning at school and emphasize the values of *tzniut* (modesty) while at the same time allowing for students to express their individuality and feel comfortable at school. Children at different ages have different standards and needs. Therefore, you will notice that the dress code sometimes differs from grade to grade.

Boys

- *Kippot* and *tzitzit* at all times.
- Baseball caps are not permitted
- Shirts or t-shirts should have sleeves (no tank-tops etc.), and should have appropriate designs, pictures or logos.
- Shorts and sweat pants are permitted only in the first grade. **From grade two** boys should wear slacks or jeans.
- In warm weather, students may wear supportive sandals without socks. Flip flops are not permitted. *Students will always need gym shoes for physical education class and running around during recess.*
- On special occasions, boys may be asked to wear white shirts and blue slacks to school.

Girls

- **Beginning in grade one**, girls are to wear skirts.
- **Beginning in grade four**, skirts should cover the knees (Slits above the knees are not acceptable).
- Shirts or t-shirts should have an appropriate neckline and sleeves (no cap sleeves, tank-tops etc.), and they should be long enough to cover the body while running around. They may have appropriate designs, pictures or logos.
- Make up is not appropriate.
- Excessive jewelry is not appropriate.
- In warm weather, students may wear supportive sandals without socks. Flip flops are not permitted. *Students will always need gym shoes for physical education class and running around during recess.*
- On special occasions, girls may be asked to wear white blouses and blue skirts to school.

Birthdays

If you would like to have your child celebrate his/her birthday in class, please contact one of your child's teachers to make arrangements. Please be aware that while a party is appropriate in early childhood classes, children in grades one through five do not have birthday parties during class time. However, children may bring a special snack for their class.

All food should be packaged with an appropriate kosher certification or purchased from one of the local kosher establishments. Please make an effort to accommodate children in the class who may have food allergies.

We encourage you to celebrate your child's Hebrew birthday. Doing so is an easy way to emphasize the importance of the Jewish calendar and our connection to it.

With regard to out-of-school birthday parties, we encourage you to keep the following guidelines in mind: Please try to invite (1) less than half the class, (2) all of your child's gender or (3) the entire class. This will help minimize children feeling excluded.

Things NOT to Bring to School

In order to create an appropriate school environment and protect everyone against unnecessary loss, the following items should not be brought to school.

- Toy weapons of any kind
- Unnecessary money
- Expensive toys or games
- Electronics such as: iPods, video games or cell phones

The Junior High School Grades 7-8

Welcome to Fuchs Mizrahi Junior High!

We know that this it is an exciting (and sometimes frightening) transition and we do our best to make the move from lower school to junior high a smooth and successful one. Junior high is the bridge which takes students from lower school, educates and nurtures them for two years, and prepares them to be successful in high school.

In the junior high we are driven by a commitment to educate each individual child in the academic realm, and to inspire his or her growth as a person, as a Jew, and ultimately as a Jewish leader. We are fortunate to be a small division, and we strive to build a sense of community and leadership amongst our students and our faculty.

The junior high years will be marked by a well-planned informal education program designed to facilitate relationship building, social-emotional and religious growth. At the same time, these years will be marked by a skills-oriented, challenging academic program designed to provide our students with the foundations they need to excel in high school and beyond. We are constantly enhancing and improving both our Judaic and our general studies curricula.

We look forward to developing relationships with both you and your children over the coming years as we learn and grow together. Please do not hesitate to contact Rabbi Kislowicz or Mrs. Fleischmann with any questions, comments or concerns.

General Guidelines

Homework

Homework assignments should not require you to teach your child. While parents are encouraged to check in with their children and guide them in managing and setting aside time to complete homework, children should be able to complete assignments by themselves. Where this is not the case please contact your child's teacher.

We encourage junior high school students to take more responsibility for their own time management. In order to help students plan their work schedule effectively, all major assignments and tests will be posted on a test board in school and homework assignments are written on a daily homework board in the hallway. Each student is provided with an agenda designed to facilitate their ability to track assignments in each class.

When students are absent it is their responsibility to find out about and make up missed work.

Special Services

Our two lower school learning specialists, Mrs. Malkie Ginsburg and Mrs. Rachel Rothner Stark, serve the junior high as well in their respective capacities. Whenever possible we attempt to support and accommodate struggling students within the regular classroom. Mrs. Ginsburg's role is to work with the teachers to identify students who need assistance and enable them to succeed within the regular classroom. In many cases, additional assistance is needed outside the regular class setting. Mrs. Rothner Stark's role is to support students who need additional assistance outside the regular classroom in a resource room environment. Generally speaking, student who need such assistance are excused from Navi class in order to work with Mrs. Rothner Stark.

The learning specialists will communicate with the parents of any student receiving special services. In each case, a plan of action will be established and the student's progress will be logged and reported to parents. The special services team meets weekly to insure that all students being served are making appropriate progress.

In addition, the school benefits from the services of a licensed social worker, Amy Burzinski, provided through the Bellefaire JCB. In addition to having regularly scheduled meetings to run social groups with junior high classes, she meets with children who may be in crisis or have special concerns. She can also assist in referring students who need additional assistance to reliable mental health professionals.

Attendance Policy

Arriving in school on time (or even a few minutes early) is a great way to start the day on the right foot. Students are welcome to arrive in school as early as 7:45am. The school day officially begins at 8am.

Any student arriving after 8:10am will be marked late for that day and must sign in at the office. We recognize that junior high school students depend on their parents or siblings to bring them to school. Therefore, there will be minor disciplinary consequences for students who come late occasionally. The school will contact parents in any case of consistent lateness so that we can work together to insure that all children arrive in a timely manner.

We strongly encourage students to attend school on a daily basis. Students who miss extended periods of time due to family vacations often have a difficult time catching up on material. A packet of worksheets is simply not a sufficient replacement for the active, teacher-guided learning that takes place each day in class.

In order to participate in athletics or other extracurricular activities on a given day, a student must attend all classes unless excused by the Administration.

Dress Code

Our past years' experiences with our dress code have been positive overall. We have felt the dress code has contributed to the atmosphere we are trying to create at Mizrachi while not imposing an undue burden on our students.

Girls

Acceptable skirts will meet the following requirements:

- 1) Length: Amply cover both knees when sitting
- 2) Style: Solid, No open slit

Acceptable shirts will meet the following requirements:

- 1) Roundneck cotton 3/4 sleeve or long sleeve shirts
- or**
- 2) 3 button Polo shirts whose sleeves may be no shorter than one fist above the elbow. Shirts may be any color, striped or solid.

Sweaters or zip-ups may be worn on top of but *not* instead of appropriate shirts.

Shirts may not:

- 1) Have necklines below the collarbone
- 2) Be form fitting/tight around bust line
- 3) Be see through (including white sheer shirts)

- 4) Leave any midriff (stomach or back) exposed. With arms raised, shirt must still generously cover top of skirt.
- 5) Have sleeves shorter than those described above

Shoes: Thongs that look like water shoes may NOT be worn to school. However, thongs clearly intended to be worn as regular shoes may be worn.

Gym: Students may wear shorts and t-shirts for gym class. Shorts should be long enough to cover the knees while sitting. T-shirts should conform to the dress code shirt guidelines above, with the distinction being that short sleeve shirts may be worn so long as the sleeves extend at least halfway to the elbow.

Any student who does not come to school in dress code will need to call home to have appropriate clothing brought. If clothing cannot be brought, the student will be loaned school clothing to wear in the interim.

Multiple occurrences will be treated as discipline violations, and carry with them appropriate consequences.

Boys

Shirts:

- 1) Oxford or Dress shirts are acceptable
- 2) Polo shirts are not acceptable
- 3) Shirts with loud or wild colors (i.e., Hawaiian shirts) are not acceptable

Pants:

- 1) Dress Twill or Relaxed Fit Pants are acceptable
- 2) Neat cargo pants (tight fit, not overly baggy) are acceptable
- 3) Jeans, warm-ups, or sweatpants are not acceptable

Tzitzit and kippot are obviously required at all times.

Gym: Students may wear shorts and t-shirts for gym class. Tank tops or other shirts without sleeves are not acceptable. Students must wear a kippah while participating in gym class.

Any student who does come to school in dress code will need to call home to have appropriate clothing brought. If clothing cannot be brought, the student will be loaned school clothing to wear in the interim.

Multiple occurrences will be treated as discipline violations, and carry with them appropriate consequences.

Communication

If you have any concern about your child please contact us right away. If the concern relates to a specific class it is most appropriate to contact the specific teacher. If the concern is of a general nature please contact the head of junior high school.

It is our goal to communicate accurately and effectively your child's progress in the academic sphere, this is done primarily via Powerschool and conferences (outlined below). When teachers are concerned about a student's progress they will contact you as soon as possible so that we can work together to assist your child. The team of teachers, administrators and other professionals working with the children frequently meets with parents to address any areas of concern. If you have any concerns and have not been contacted please contact the head of junior high school to schedule such a meeting.

Report Cards, Powerschool, and Conferences

Beginning in seventh grade student grades are recorded in the Powerschool system. You will receive a letter approximately a month into the school year with logon information for the website. Through Powerschool you will be able to check each grade, test and assignment as they are recorded. Teachers make an effort to record assignments within two weeks of their collection, and you can feel free to contact a teacher directly if you do not see grades for a specific assignment.

Upper school (7-12) parent-teacher conferences take place once a year in November. In any case where a teacher is concerned about a student's progress they will contact the parents directly. In addition, the junior high administrative team makes a special effort to monitor students' social and emotional wellbeing and will contact you in case of any concerns.

As you will now have direct access to your children's grades you should also feel free to contact the teachers or administration if you have any questions or concerns about your child's academic progress.

Informal Programming

As mentioned in our introduction, the junior high years are a crucial transition period for students. In addition to giving them the academic skills they need for success, we are cognizant of the need to inspire and guide students' personal and religious growth. This is

done primarily through our informal education program. Throughout the year students will experience programs designed to inspire them religiously, address questions with which they are struggling, build their leadership capacity and bring them together as a community.

Some program highlights include:

- Weekly mishmar learning sessions held every Thursday night at a teacher's home
- Year-opening orientation team-building trip which includes low and high ropes course activities
- Junior high shabbaton which offers students the ability to create a spiritually uplifting shabbat environment with *ruach* created through singing, dancing and learning together
- Channukah *chagiga* which the students plan and run for themselves including preparatory learning, cooking, preparing the entertainment, decoration etc. etc.
- Students jointly creating their own Haggada with divrei torah and artistic representations to enrich the seder experience
- Many, many more...

THE UPPER SCHOOL

Welcome to the Upper School! It is here that we inspire young Jewish men and women to flourish into mature Jewish Leaders. Through our rich and vibrant Judaic and Secular program and host of extra-curricular activities we prepare our students with the values, skills and knowledge necessary to take their place as leading member of Am Yisrael. With their grounding in Torah and Mitzvot, social consciousness and connection to the heart of the Jewish people in Medinat Yisrael, Upper School students graduate ready and willing to carry the mantle of responsibility forward and live a life of Torah and Mitzvot with which they meet tomorrow's challenges.

Our program and high school culture reflects the mature and ethical behavior we expect of our students as future Jewish leaders. Our policies grant a significant degree of independence and assume trust. The following pages detail the Upper School's Academic program and behavioral expectations and lists consequences in the event that that trust is violated.

Please read the following carefully and contact us if you have any questions, clarifications or concerns.

Academic Program

Goals

The administration and faculty of FMS will place special emphasis on imbuing the following qualities in the student body.

- The religious ideal of *shiviti HaShem l'negdi tamid* (placing God before me constantly) - that is, leading a life consistent with Jewish morality and law.
- The positive value of an integrated approach to religious and general studies.
- A love of learning both Judaic and General that will continue throughout life.
- The skills to pursue that learning independently throughout life.
- Love for *Medinat Yisrael* (The State of Israel) and an appreciation of the central role that the *medina* plays in the lives of all Jews.
- The ability to socially interact with others in accord with Jewish values and Halacha
- Appreciation for and commitment to the importance of daily tefila

General Curricular Guidelines

- The curriculum is designed to foster the development of intellectual skills and creative talents in both Religious and Secular Studies.
- The curriculum for boys and girls is identical with the exception of those few topics with specific relevance to each gender (e.g., laws of family purity).
- A core religious curriculum consists of subjects in which a specific level of proficiency is expected of students at the time of graduation. Subjects in the core curriculum include Talmud, *Chumash*, *Navi*, *Halacha*, Hebrew Language and Literature, Jewish History.
- A Talmudic study program will be conducted using the “continuous progress” model designed to foster the development of learning skills. Students will advance based on their individual abilities and skills achieved. Emphasis will be placed on the religious value of learning and the role the Talmud plays in Jewish law and morality.
- The school stresses academic excellence. Although the curriculum is not geared towards enhancing students’ scores on scholastic achievement tests, the school provides a program that aids students in their preparation for these tests.

Honors and AP Classes

FMS offers Honors or Advance Placement (AP) courses in *Talmud*, English, Math, Social Studies and Science. Honors classes carry an additional .5 quality point in determining averages and AP courses carry an additional 1.0 quality point. Enrollment in honors and AP classes require the recommendation of the subject teacher as well as the determination of the student to put in the extra work required.

Fuchs Mizrahi High School Four-Year Program

Judaic Program

All students take four core Judaic subjects or Bet Midrash plus two Judaic subjects per year. In certain specific circumstances, such as enrollment in Study Skills program, exemptions can be made with the approval of High School Principal or Head of School.

Subject	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Talmud			Bet Midrash 2 Periods	Bet Midrash 2 Periods
	Talmud	Talmud	Talmud	Talmud
Chumash	A four-year rotation covering all of Chumash.			
Halacha		Halacha	Halacha	Halacha
Jewish History	From the 2 nd Commonwealth to <i>Geonim</i>	<i>Rishonim</i> to Modern Era		Zionism
Navi	Navi		Navi	Navi
Hebrew	Hebrew	Hebrew	Hebrew	

General Program

Fuchs Mizrahi High School is a chartered school and all our graduates meet the Ohio Minimum Standards for graduation.

Subject	Tracks	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English		Literary Genres	Composition & Rhetoric	British Literature	American Literature
	Honors	Literary Genres	Composition & Rhetoric	AP British Literature	AP American Literature
History		World History	U.S. History	Contemporary History	Economics and Government
	Honors	World History	AP U.S. History	Contemporary History Seminar	AP Economics and Government
Math		Geometry	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus	Statistics
	Honors	Geometry	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus
Science		Biology	Chemistry	Environmental Science	Forensic Science
	Honors	Biology	Chemistry	AP Biology	Physics

Additionally, in order to fulfill the Ohio standards for graduation students take a Health course during 10th grade and have a weekly Physical Education class throughout their four years of high school.

(Participation on athletic teams can be counted towards completing the latter requirement.)

General Academic Expectations

Homework

Students in the Upper School are expected to learn to take responsibility for their own time management. In order to help students plan their work schedule effectively, all major assignments and tests will be posted. Students can expect to receive on average two hours of homework daily and several hours on Sunday. This includes daily assignments and a proper pacing on long term assignments. Students should understand that at times they will receive more and at other times less. It is the responsibility of a mature high school student to budget his/her time wisely so that long-term assignments are given sufficient time.

When students are absent it is their responsibility to find out about and make up missed work.

Incomplete work

Work that is not complete by the end of the semester in which it was due will normally receive a grade of “zero”. In special circumstances, such as extended illness, a teacher may issue a student a grade of “Incomplete”. Except when the most unusual circumstances have warranted a special dispensation by the teacher and the department head, “Incomplete” work must be made up within two weeks of the end of the semester. After that, such work automatically receives a “zero” and the resulting grade will remain on the student’s transcript.

Exam Policy

In deference to the large number of courses that the average student takes daily, and in order that our students have the opportunity to do their best, it is the policy of Fuchs Mizrahi School that no more than two exams be scheduled on any given day. The exam schedule will be posted both physically (in the hallway) and electronically. If any concerns arise, such as an individual student winding up with three or more exams, they should be brought to our academic counselor.

Final Exams

As a general rule, students are expected to take final exams when they are given. Only in the rarest of circumstances will exams be rescheduled. Students who don’t take finals will receive a “zero”. Students cannot earn credit for a course without passing the final exam or summary project.

Students who do not come to school for *t’filah* or for *shiur* on the days when finals are scheduled may not be allowed to take the finals that day.

Academic Probation

Students who receive two or more grades of D or F or any combination thereof, may be placed on academic probation. This intervention is not meant to be punitive but rather to reestablish the student’s sound academic standing. Students on probation, together with their parents, will be asked to meet with a member of the administration to determine the terms of the probation. Probation may include mandatory after school study hall, weekly meetings

with mentors, and required tutoring.

Varsity Sports

Students engaged in varsity sports must have a physical exam before participating on a Fuchs Mizrahi School team. Students on Academic Probation will not be allowed to participate in any sport until grades are improved.

Athletic Eligibility

Fuchs Mizrahi School is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and therefore abides by its guidelines for academic eligibility. In accordance with the OHSAA rules, if a student is not passing at least five of his/her courses s/he will be ineligible to play for the entire quarter. While those are the OHSSA guidelines, in instances where a student's grade point average is below a 2.0 Fuchs Mizrahi School reserves the right to declare a player ineligible until his/her academic standing has improved.

(Students interested in playing on FMS teams should acquaint themselves with the Ohio High School Athletic Association rules regarding participating in out-of-school sports activities. Such activities could impact on eligibility for school sports.)

Student Council

Students in Grades 11 and 12 are eligible to run for President and Vice President. Students in Grade 10-12 are eligible to run for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. A minimum grade average of a "C" is required in order to run for any school office. Moreover, any student running for office may not have a "D" in any subject.

Community Service

Among the values that FMS strives to instill in its students is thinking about and helping people outside of their usual social life. In order to heighten awareness of the needy people in our community and understand their difficulties, we would like our students to be involved in various *chesed* (community service) activities in which they would normally not be involved. These include our highly successful PEI Program, *Matan B'sayser*, helping the elderly in hospitals or homes for the aged and work in *Yachad*. All students at Fuchs Mizrahi School are required to perform 15 hours of community service per year. (This does not include activities that are part of our Lets Make A Difference Day). Work in the summer may be counted toward fulfillment of this obligation. A supervisor must document this activity on the official stationery of the organization.

National Honor Society

Fuchs Mizrahi School is proud to have a chapter of the National Honor Society. Juniors who have been at FMS for at least one semester are eligible for membership if their academic average is at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in both religious and Secular Studies and they have demonstrated leadership, service and excellence in character. An Advisory Council made up of faculty makes the selection.

Transcripts

Official student transcripts include all semester grades in both Religious Studies and secular subjects. Transcripts also indicate honors and advanced placement level courses as well as academic awards and standardized test results.

Diplomas

Fuchs Mizrahi School diplomas are issued at graduation to students who have successfully completed all requirements for graduation in both Religious Studies and Secular Studies. One diploma is issued for both Religious Studies and Secular Studies.

Career and College Counseling

This is an ongoing process in which students are assisted in planning and evaluating appropriate choices for furthering their education - both in Religious Studies and in Secular Studies. This guidance is based on the knowledge of individual talents, aptitudes and interest.

FMS Standards of Conduct

FMS will maintain standards for its students that are in accordance with *halacha* and appropriate ethical behavior. Students are expected to adhere to the regulations of the school published in this handbook. As behavior outside of school is reflective of the school and its student body, students will be strongly encouraged to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is consistent with the philosophy and practices of Orthodox Judaism.

The administration and the faculty will deal with disciplinary matters involving students. These problems will be dealt with in a manner that is sensitive to both the individual and the interests of the school and its student body.

At Fuchs Mizrahi School teachers are fully empowered to deal directly with their students. They may or may not choose to involve the administration with infractions, lateness or absence. Teachers are required to record and report tardiness and absences. They are strongly urged to make class participation a significant percentage of the final grade which means repeated absences will have serious ramifications.

Attendance Policy

A pre-requisite to any successful learning environment is that students be punctual and fully prepared to participate in the educational program. Our day starts with tefilla at 8:00 a.m. Students are required to sign in when they arrive and are considered fully on time until 8:05. Students arriving after that time period until 8:15 sign in on a different sheet indicating that they are late but still present. Anyone arriving after 8:15 is considered absent from tefilla.

Excessive lateness or individual cases of being absent will result in disciplinary consequences as determined by the principal. Generally students are required to arrive earlier, before the scheduled start time for tefilla, to correct that bad habit and get the student back on track.

Students are expected to be on time and present for all classes throughout the day. Obviously they will be excused from classes when participating in school sanctioned activities such as athletic events or programs such as Model UN although they are required to make any work missed. In any other instance that a student misses class, a form of communication is needed from his/her parents indicating the nature of the absence (be it illness, a visit to the doctor, or a family trip etc.) and then it can be classified as excused.

Students who leave during the day must sign out with the front office before departing. This is critical not only for establishing the legitimacy of the absence but also to insure that all students are safe and accounted for in cases of emergency.

Unexcused absences are the equivalent of cutting and will result in both a lack of credit for all material covered that day (including grades of “zero” on all exams) and other consequences as determined by the administration. For students to succeed they need to be fully engaged in the

learning process and there is no substitute for the active teacher guided learning that happens daily in the classroom.

To that end while we appreciate the value of family vacations, and are always prepared to work with individual families, we request that you be mindful of this concern when making travel arrangements.

Attendance and Extracurricular Activities

A condition of participating in the extracurricular life of the School – games, plays, concerts etc. – is attending school on time. Barring very exceptional circumstances, a student who wishes to participate in a school function is required to attend school for the full day of the performance etc. Simply stated, a student must complete a full school day to be eligible for extracurricular participation on that day. If a student misses a portion or all of the day, he/she cannot participate, unless his/her absence is excused (as for a doctor's appointment.)

Failed grade policy

Under certain circumstances, students may make up a failed grade with prior permission from the administration by either attending summer school, taking an online course or by completing a course equivalent project. If the latter option is selected, these projects will be designed and graded by the teacher. The final grade will reflect the student's actual course work and the grade received on the project, with the understanding that a grade of "B" is the highest achievable.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating includes both using and supplying unauthorized information or other aides on any test or assignment.

A special kind of cheating is plagiarism that can take the following forms:

- Including in one's paper a passage taken directly from a book, the internet, or any other source without using the proper and accepted methods of bibliographic citation.
- Paraphrasing a passage from another person's work including internet sources without using proper and accepted methods of bibliographic citation.
- Submitting one's own previously graded work, the work of a current or past student, whether FMS's or another school, or any work that is not one's own without using the proper and accepted methods of bibliographic citation.

In the event a student hands in a paper that is plagiarized, the student will receive a grade of "zero"; he/she will not be able to "make up" this work. Detentions or suspension may also occur.

Dress Code

Our past years' experiences with our dress code have been positive overall. We have felt the dress code has contributed to the atmosphere we are trying to create at Mizrachi while not imposing an undue burden on our students.

Girls

Acceptable skirts will meet the following requirements:

- 1) Length: Amply cover both knees when sitting
- 2) Style: Solid, No open slit

Acceptable shirts will meet the following requirements:

- 1) Roundneck cotton 3/4 sleeve or long sleeve shirts
- or**
- 2) 3 button Polo shirts whose sleeves may be no shorter than one fist above the elbow. Shirts may be any color, striped or solid.

Sweaters or zip-ups may be worn on top of but *not* instead of appropriate shirts.

- Shirts may not:**
- 1) Have necklines below the collarbone
 - 2) Be form fitting/tight around bust line
 - 3) Be see through (including white sheer shirts)
 - 4) Leave any midriff (stomach or back) exposed. With arms raised, shirt must still generously cover top of skirt.
 - 5) Have sleeves shorter than those described above

Shoes: Thongs that look like water shoes may NOT be worn to school. However, thongs clearly intended to be worn as regular shoes may be worn.

Gym: Students may wear shorts and t-shirts for gym class. Shorts should be long enough to cover the knees while sitting. T-shirts should conform to the dress code shirt guidelines above, with the distinction being that short sleeve shirts may be worn so long as the sleeves extend at least halfway to the elbow.

Any student who does not come to school in dress code will need to call home to have appropriate clothing brought. If clothing cannot be brought, the student will be loaned school clothing to wear in the interim.

Multiple occurrences will be treated as discipline violations, and carry with them appropriate consequences.

Boys

Shirts:

- 1) Oxford or Dress shirts are acceptable
- 2) Polo shirts are not acceptable
- 3) Shirts with loud or wild colors (i.e., Hawaiian shirts) are not acceptable

Pants:

- 1) Dress Twill or Relaxed Fit Pants are acceptable
- 2) Neat cargo pants (tight fit, not overly baggy) are acceptable
- 3) Jeans, warm-ups, or sweatpants are not acceptable

Tzitzit and kippot are obviously required at all times.

Gym: Students may wear shorts and t-shirts for gym class. Tank tops or other shirts without sleeves are not acceptable. Students must wear a kippah while participating in gym class.

Any student who does come to school in dress code will need to call home to have appropriate clothing brought. If clothing cannot be brought, the student will be loaned school clothing to wear in the interim.

Multiple occurrences will be treated as discipline violations, and carry with them appropriate consequences.

Communication

If you have any concern about your child please contact us right away. If the concern relates to a specific class it is most appropriate to contact the specific teacher. If the concern is of a general nature please contact the head of upper school.

It is our goal to communicate accurately and effectively your child's progress in the academic sphere, this is done primarily via Powerschool and conferences (outlined below). When teachers are concerned about a student's progress they will contact you as soon as possible so that we can work together to assist your child. The team of teachers, administrators and other professionals working with the children frequently meets with parents to address any areas of concern. If you have any concerns and have not been contacted please contact the head of upper school to schedule such a meeting.

Parking

Please observe the clearly marked Handicapped spaces so reserved. Students who wish to drive to school must first register with main office who will issue a parking “hanger”. The first three rows of parking spaces closest to the playground are reserved for faculty. Students may park in any spaces not reserved unless they are assigned designated areas. Parents and students are reminded that the school is not liable for accidents or damage to cars parked in the parking lot.

Student vehicles are subject to search if there is a suspicion of illegal activity. Principals or their designees are permitted to search student vehicles on school grounds if there is reason to believe the laws may be violated. All laws are in effect in the parking lot regarding speed limits, stop signs, etc.

Please take care when driving in and out of the parking lot. Small children are about and we all must be mindful of their safety. Any violation of this essential trust will result in the immediate revocation of parking privileges and other disciplinary actions.

Drugs and Alcohol

While we are proud of our present student body and their conduct, we are not naïve regarding the challenges facing today’s teenagers. As such it must be stated that students engaging in inappropriate behavior involving drugs and/or alcohol will face disciplinary consequences including the possibility of removal from Fuchs Mizrachi School. At the same time, the administration will attempt to balance the need of the individual (getting them the assistance he/she needs) with the welfare of the student body as whole.

Conclusion

While we have attempted to summarize all of our basic policies in this handbook we realize that there many questions which may arise during the course of the year. We urge you to contact any member of the administration with any questions and concerns you may have. We are eager to work together with you to most successfully educate all of our children.