



Friday, November 3, 2024

19 Cheshvan, 5784

Dear Harkham GAON Families,

Our team sincerely appreciates the time that we have been spending (or will be spending next week) with you all at our parent-teacher conferences! Precisely because we are a small community, we have been pleased to be able to set each appointment at a mutually convenient time, and within the school day. I believe this process has been a win-win for us all. The timing has been key; at this juncture we know your students, and have sufficient data to discuss all aspects of their experience here. Today marked the last day of the first quarter (approximately halfway through first semester).

Next week report cards will be issued (and sent via our JupiterEd Student Information System), and we will embark on a slightly different schedule. The length of our school day will still be the same, but some of the features of our new schedule will include: a snack break between 2nd and 3rd period, some new approaches to PE, changes in our Jewish Studies schedule, and more. Just as at the beginning of first quarter, we will not finalize or publish the schedule until we have had a chance to beta test it for any kinks on Monday and Tuesday. We'll plan to publish it on our website next week.

Speaking of the snack break above, I'd like to take this opportunity to ask all families to ensure that students are sent to school with the following items/materials in their backpacks each day:

- 1) Snacks, lunches, water bottles and *utensils*. Our stash of utensils left over from last year are running low.
- 2) Notebooks with lined paper for notetaking and assignments, along with pens and other writing implements of choice. sketch pads of unlined paper for drawings are also useful in all classes.
- 3) A working computer with a charger. Cell Phones may not be used in place of a working computer.

Speaking of cellphones, our policy as originally stated continues, however, effective this past week and going forward, we will be enforcing it in a new and improved way. Students may have their phones all day, but are being asked to place them, turned off, on their teachers' desks during each class period. This has already helped what may never be a perfect situation immensely, and we hope it will be the best solution for our school going forward.

Upcoming news and events for Second Quarter:

- **Free Dress Fridays**, starting November 10th
- **Speaker Series #1**: Sunday, November 12th at Beth Jacob, 6:30pm, all are welcome
- **Escape Room Field Trip** (critical thinking skills, team building) on Monday, November 13th
- ****** In order for *all* students to be able to participate in this trip, parents are asked to send their children with \$35 cash, or by Venmo to Nathaneal Harkham (310-741-0313) no later than Tuesday, November 7th.
- **Wallis Annenberg Play**, November 15th
- Note regarding field trips: all families completed a general field trip release form with their admission packets, so we will not be sending forms for you to sign each time. We may still need to reach out to you to ensure headcounts for tickets, and other considerations.

Shabbat Shalom. May our soldiers be effective and return safely, and may our hostages return safe, sound and soon.