
EARLY CHILDHOOD
Welcome Back Parent Meeting
and New Parent Orientation
2020-2021
BERNARD ZELL
ANSHE EMET DAY SCHOOL

What are Jewish values?

Here at Bernard Zell, we talk a great deal about the importance of teaching Jewish values. Every so often, we are asked what we mean when we use that phrase, and honestly it's a fair question. So, with thanks to about a zillion different people and sources (and with the caveat that this is not to be taken as exhaustive), here is a short, curated list—a set of values that we believe are universal to living a Jewish life, regardless of background, level of ritual observance, or denominational affiliation. Without elaborating or allowing for much in the way of nuance, we are hopeful this can serve as a good starting point towards establishing a common vocabulary:

1. **Achrayut** (responsibility, especially for each other)
2. **Ahavah** (love, especially in the sense of giving)
3. **Avadim ha'yinu** (remembering we were once slaves; fighting oppression and exploitation)
4. **Bal tashchit** (avoiding waste, especially natural resources)
5. **Bikor cholim** (visiting and caring for the sick)
6. **B'rit** (literally, covenant; the importance of honoring agreements)
7. **B'tzelem Elohim** (remembering that all humans are created in the image of God)
8. **Chaverut** (friendship; being a good friend)
9. **Chesed** (kindness)
10. **Darchei shalom** (seeking the path of peace)
11. **D'rash** (interpretation and inquiry)
12. **Emet** (truth)
13. **Emunah** (trust)
14. **Gimilut Chadadim** (sympathetic consideration to others; sometimes good deeds)
15. **Hak'nasat or'chim** (hospitality)
16. **Havdalah** (the importance of distinguishing between the holy and the mundane)
17. **Hidur mitzvah** (beautifying Jewish, including the arts)
18. **Hidur zeken** (honoring elders)
19. **Hodaya** (gratitude)
20. **Kavana** (intention--usually balanced with *Keva*)
21. **Kavod** (respect; extending honor)
22. **Kedusha** (making the mundane holy)
23. **Kehilla** (community)
24. **Keva** (ritual--usually balanced with *Kavana*)
25. **Kibud av v'em** (honoring your parents)
26. **K'vod hab'riyot** (maintaining human dignity)
27. **K'lal Yisrael** (inclusion, specifically of all Jewish people, regardless of background)
28. **L'adonai ha'aretz um'lo'a** (the world is God's, and we are responsible for maintaining it)
29. **L'dor vador** (fostering and preserving connections between generations)
30. **Lifnei Aver** (never placing an obstacle in front of someone's good intent)
31. **Limud torah** (studying Torah)
32. **Lo ta'amod al dam re'echa** (do not stand idly by when harm is being done to another)
33. **L'omed mikol adam** (learning from each person you meet)
34. **Menschlichkeit** (behaving as a good person)
35. **Mischpacha** (placing family at the center of Jewish life)
36. **Mitzvot** (fulfilling divine commandments or obligations, sometimes "good deeds")
37. **Ometz** (courage, particularly standing up for convictions)
38. **Or l'goyim** (literally, a light unto the nations; be an example for the world)
39. **Rachcmanut** (mercy and compassion)
40. **Samayach b'chelko** (being content with what you have)
41. **Shalshelet hakabala** (preserving tradition)
42. **Shem tov** (maintaining a good name)
43. **Shalom bayit** (peace and love at home)
44. **Sh'mirat haguf** (taking care of your body)
45. **Sh'mirat halashon** (guarding your speech carefully)
46. **Simcha** (celebration and happiness)
47. **Slicha** (seeking or extending forgiveness)
48. **Teshuva** (literally, "answering"—usually, apologizing and making things right)
49. **Tikun olam** (repairing the world)
50. **Tzedek tirdof** (actively pursuing fairness and justice)
51. **Tz'ni'ut** (modesty)
52. **V'ahavta l'rayecha ka'mocha** (love your neighbor as yourself; treat others as you wish to be treated)
53. **Yirat shamayim** (awe of God)
54. **Zachor** (remembering the past)

54 (TRIPLE CHAI) JEWISH VALUES THAT AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT.

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Our Theme for the Year is *ACHRAYUT* (אַחְרָיוּת)

(Noun): A specific kind of social responsibility; the moral belief that, as individuals, we are responsible both for ourselves and for the well-being of "the other."

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“Achrayut” begins with the first letter of the alphabet, Aleph, reminding us of the primary importance of this value. It is also the letter for "Ani"--me, or self, reminding us that we, ourselves, bear this responsibility.



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אח

Next letter is Chet--Aleph Chet, or "Ach," which means brother (Achot sister). This reminds “me” that I am obligated to take care of my brother.

אחר

Next letter is Raish, which spells "Acher," or, “Other.” This is the root of *Achrayut*. "The Other" is a key phrase in Judaism, as we are reminded that we were once "the stranger," and so must always remember that we are responsible for the welfare of others.

אחרי

Next letter is Yud, which spells "Acharai," which means "after." This reminds us to always consider the consequences of our actions, that which comes following our actions.

אחריו

Next letter is Vav, which spells "Acharav," meaning "After him," which reminds us to follow our leaders only when they have the welfare and responsibility of everyone—including “the other”—in mind.

אחריות

Finally, we have *Achrayut*: the moral responsibility we have for those around us, including the stranger amongst us. This is not the same kind of negative responsibility we mean when we say, “I am accountable for my actions,” but rather, the positive *mitzvah* to acknowledge, “I have the responsibility to make the needs of others my own.”



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Empathy in Jewish Texts

ואהבת לרעך כמוך

You should love your friend as much as you love yourself. (Leviticus 19:18:2)

אם אין אני לי, מי לי. וּכְשֶׁאֲנִי לְעַצְמִי, מה אֲנִי. וְאִם לֹא עַכְשָׁיו, אֵימָתַי

If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when? (Pirkei Avot 1:14)

לֹא עָלֶיךָ הַמְּלָאכָה לִגְמֹר, וְלֹא אַתָּה בֶּן חוֹרִין לִבָּטֵל מִמֶּנָּה. אִם לָמַדְתָּ תּוֹרָה הַרְבֵּה, נוֹתְנִים לְךָ שָׂכָר הַרְבֵּה. וְנֶאֱמָן הוּא בַּעַל מְלַאכְתְּךָ שֶׁיְּשַׁלֵּם לְךָ שְׂכַר פְּעֻלָּתֶךָ. וְדַע מַתַּן שְׂכָרָן שֶׁל צַדִּיקִים לָעָתִיד לָבֹא

It is not your responsibility to finish the work (of perfecting the world), but neither are you free to desist from it" (Pirkei Avot 2:16)

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This Evening's Agenda

All Parents:

- Welcome from Gary Weisserman, Head of School
- Presentation from Abby Aloni, Head of Early Childhood
- Q & A with Abby and Gary
- Closing and Goodbye

New Parents:

- Opportunities for involvement - PTC and Annual Campaign Initiatives
- Keeping in touch with Bernard Zell

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Meet Our Nursery Team

Nursery A



Ms. Mizrachi



Ms. Wineburgh



Morah Hagit

Nursery B



Ms. Grosser



Ms. Portugal



Morah Hagit

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Meet Our JK Team

JK 103



Ms.Cohen



Ms. Iglow



Ms.Levine



Morah Hagit

JK 104



Ms. Elliot



Ms. Spizman



Ms. Levine



Morah Hagit

JK 105



Ms. Schraber



Ms. Rubin



Ms. Hirt



Morah Hagit

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Meet Our SK Team

SK 107



Ms.Fujinaka



Ms. Gelfond



Ms. Gorelik



HaMorah Andrea

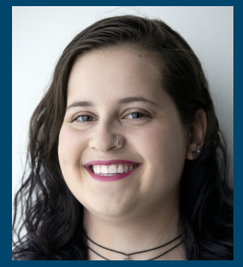
SK 108



Ms. Ahitow



Ms. McKenna



Ms. Hirt



HaMorah Andrea

SK 110



Mr. Hirt



Ms. Raisher



Mr. Gorelik



HaMorah Andrea

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Our Team Continued to Be Committed to Our Craft This Summer!

A few examples:

- Erikson Institute Technology Center - Supporting Families in Exploring Math and Remote STEM Learning and Emphasis in Science + Technology
- The Opal School Summer Symposium - The Ecology of Listening
- National Lewis University - Aim for Excellence in EC Education
- Gratz College - Play as the Foundation for Learning and An Anti-Bias Lens in the EC Classrooom
- Boulder Journey School Summer Conference
- Fairy Dust Teaching Play First Summit
- Paradigm Project/Jewish Education Project Webinars on topics such as anti-bias curriculum, meaningful parent communication, and online teaching and learning
- Pardes Adult Education Bootcamp
- Harvard Graduate School of Education Zaentz Professional Learning Academy

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Initiatives for This School Year

- Continued focus on social emotional learning and mindfulness
- Continued focus on intellectual curiosity and foundational academic learning grounded in preschool and kindergarten standards
- Continued focus on seamless Judaism
- New Initiatives Around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
  - Paradigm Project's Community of Practice on Racial Justice in the Jewish Early Childhood Classroom
  - The Matan Institute to Support Inclusion in the Jewish Early Childhood Classroom

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What Will Things Look Like In Our EC Classrooms This Year?

- Creating a Home/School Connection
- Cohorts
- Face Coverings
- Social Distancing
- Drop Off/Pick Up

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What If We Need to Go To Remote Learning?

In all EC grades, students and parents can expect a consistent distance learning schedule each week that will include live structured morning meetings, live small group offerings that will focus on activities that align with our social-emotional learning curriculum as well as Illinois preschool or kindergarten standards.

There will also be individual teacher check-ins with students and/or caregivers, and whole class and/or grade level (depending on whether or not a class or the entire grade level is out of school) live opportunities for Shabbat celebrations, Jewish Studies, additional storytelling, and guided literacy, mathematics, or creativity explorations.

Additional recorded options for literacy, mathematics, or creativity explorations may also be offered.

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Upcoming Events

- Classroom Preview Days:
  - Nursery - Tuesday, August 25 from 9:30-10:00 a.m.
  - JK - Wednesday, August 26 from 9:30-10:00 a.m.
  - SK - Thursday, August 27 from 9:30-10:00 a.m.

- PTC Welcome - first week of school : Dates TBD

- EC Back-to-School Night:
  Wednesday, September 9 two identical sessions from 8:00-8:25 p.m. and 8:30-8:55 p.m.

- JEFF event for Rosh Hashanah - Challah Cleanse for the New Year:
  September 16 @ 7:00 p.m.

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Bruchim Habaim (Welcome)!

- Hello from Pals
  Marina Gershengorin

- Getting involved and the Annual Campaign
  Becky Altman and Vince Panozzo, Annual Campaign Co-Chairs

- Everything you need to know about lunch
  Chef Ben Randall, Sage Dining

- Jewish Experiences for Families
  Hagit Lewis, JEFF Coordinator

- Keeping in touch with Bernard Zell
  Brian Barasch, Director of Marketing

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Thank You!

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