

Darchei Academy Handbook

1. Program Goals

“From Tanakh to Rabbinic wisdom—a Jewish learning experience that cultivates thoughtful, well-educated graduates.”

Our curriculum is built around four pillars of study:

- **Chagim:** Learning new material about the holidays each year of the program.
- **Tanakh :** Study key moments of the Tanakh from Creation through the building of the first Beit Hamikdash.
- **Rabbinic Texts:** Engage with topics of Jewish law, life, and philosophy through the lens of rabbinic texts.
- **Israel:** Explore traditional texts that discuss history, halacha, and philosophical questions related to Israel.

Students proceed through a multi-year curriculum cycle with material building upon prior content and skills. Students are encouraged to enter into the program at any point in the educational cycle. The curriculum is constructed around four age clusters, with two options for high school learners.

- **Kindergarten - Second Grade: Shorashim (Roots)**
 - *Tanakh Study and Chagim:* TORAH. Students explore key personalities and events from the Torah while building basic text reading skills.
- **Third - Fifth Grade: Anafim (Branches)**
 - *Tanakh Study and Chagim:* NAVI. Students continue developing their textual skills while encountering key personalities, events and wisdom in the stories of our Nevi'im (prophets).
- **Sixth - Eighth Grade: Alim (Leaves)**
 - *Rabbinic Texts:* MISHNAH, AGGADAH, BAR AND BAT MITZVAH. Students learn about the history and structure of early Rabbinic texts while exploring the wisdom and struggles of our Sages. Additional units will focus on life as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah as well as topics specific to men and women in Judaism.
- **High School**
 - (1) Sicha/Discussion based track – This section is for students interested in discussing Jewish topics in English. Students are invited to explore enduring questions in Jewish thought, tradition, and history by analyzing classic and contemporary Jewish text. All texts include English translations and no Hebrew background is required. Together, we will delve into primary sources, asking

thoughtful questions, examining multiple perspectives, and developing a richer understanding of Jewish textual tradition. The course emphasizes curiosity, careful analysis, and lively conversation.

- (2) Mekorot/Source-based track – This course is for students interested in studying Jewish text and building language and analytical skills. Students should possess the ability to read Jewish texts in Hebrew and have prior experience translating, parsing, and analyzing classical Torah sources. They should also have a genuine desire to deepen their textual skills, engage thoughtfully with primary sources, and strive for textual fluency.

2. Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial to your child's success at Darchei Academy. There is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement, interest, and attitude. Furthermore, coming late disturbs the entire class and disrupts your child's classroom routine.

3. Personal Belongings

Please leave any distracting personal belongings and electronic devices at home. Cell phones, apple watches, and other electronic devices are not permitted during Darchei Academy classes, as these serve as distractions for the entire class. In the event that a student brings any of these items, the teacher will hold them for safekeeping and return them to the student at the end of the day. We respectfully request that parents take the lead in reinforcing this important rule.

4. Tuition

Tuition is due in full by February 1, 2027. Member families in good standing, for children in grades K - 8 pay \$253 per child, and for high schoolers, \$402 per child. Non-member families, for children in grades K - 8 pay \$307 per child, and for high schoolers, pay \$455 per child. Please pay by check (memo: Darchei Academy) or by the 'Contribute' [link](#) found on the Darchei Noam website (memo: Darchei Academy). We will send you an invoice if payment has not been received by February 1.

If tuition is a burden to your family's participation, please reach out to the Rabbi or the Youth Committee directly, as sliding scale and tuition remission are available. We want all children to be able to access and participate in Jewish life.

5. Behavioral and Program Expectations

At Darchei Academy, we believe that children deserve a learning environment that is safe, respectful, and productive. Our teachers lead students in promoting an environment where students are free to learn without significant disruptions. Students are responsible for respecting classroom rules and routines. We believe that together, we have a responsibility to promote mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance.

Darchei Academy will not accept behaviors that infringe on the safety and wellbeing of any student. Students may not intimidate, harass, or intentionally hurt other students through words or actions. Such behavior includes: direct physical contact such as hitting or shoving, verbal assaults such as teasing or name-calling, and social isolation or manipulation. Darchei Academy may take disciplinary action (see below) or request that a child be picked up from school when a student significantly disrupts school activities, mistreats other people or property, bullies or intimidates other students or teachers, or engages in unsafe behavior.

We expect every student to treat fellow students and staff members with courtesy and cooperation at all times. Our classrooms are multi-use and serve many purposes; please treat our classrooms and synagogue space with respect, and help clean up when asked.

Parent Responsibilities

- Parents have the responsibility to:
 - Bring and pick up children on time
 - Contact their teacher regarding a classroom concern
 - Send boys with a kippah/yarmulke
 - Collaboratively work with instructor to ensure success for student, including sharing learning differences/IEP/or 504 plans and modifications your child uses in the school classroom
 - Be supportive and positive of Darchei Academy programming, particularly in front your children
 - Take an active part in their child's Jewish Education and support Jewish learning at home.

Darchei Academy Responsibilities

- You should expect Darchei Academy to fulfill the following:
 - Provide a positive and warm environment for your child
 - Give your child a viable knowledge of Jewish Holidays, Tanakh, Rabbinic Texts, and Israel
 - Keep you informed of your child's progress and class activities
 - Provide your child with a knowledgeable teacher who is dedicated and concerned about your child's Jewish Education.

Disciplinary Action

- The teacher will make all classroom rules clear to students.
- If a child is disruptive, uncooperative, or refuses to follow classroom rules, the teacher will ask the student to leave the classroom and a parent will be called to pick up their child.

- If a child continues to be disruptive, a conference will be set up between child, parent, teacher and/or the Rabbi as appropriate.
- If a child continues to be disruptive, the teacher in conjunction with advice from the Rabbi will suspend the student. The child may only be readmitted after a behavior contract specific to the child is signed by all parties, and by agreement of the teacher and Rabbi.
- At any time, if the child's behavior is significantly dangerous to others or uncondusive to the learning environment, the teacher, in consultation with the Rabbi and youth administration may recommend removal from the program.