



Gesher Guidebook

2023–24 / 5784

Dear Gesher Parents and Children,

Welcome to a new year in the Gesher community at Dor Hadash.

Our goal is to create positive Jewish memories that will fill you and your child/ren with Jewish pride. We strive to instill a love of the traditions, holidays, and stories of our ancestors and from Jewish history.

Children want to belong. We all do! You will find community at Dor Hadash, and a safe place to be yourself, ask questions, and feel the joy that comes with Jewish celebrations. You will also be called upon to be there for others in times of need.

At Dor Hadash, you have a place to explore your own identity within the year long cycle and to live a life of Jewish values to pass on from generation to generation, l'dor vador,

With your input and involvement, together we will create special Jewish memories that your children (and you) will proudly take into their futures.

Betsy Schneider

Pronouns She/Her

Director of Education and Engagement

Who's Whom at CDH?

Rabbi Yael Ridberg

Director of Education and Engagement: Betsy Schneider

Administrator: Julie White

Song Leader: Hillel (Hilly) Rubin

Parent Connection Co-Chairs: **Shelby Abramson and Meghan Altman**

Gesher Teachers

Gan (Pre-K, K) Sheri Brown

Alef (1st) **TBD**

Bet, Gimel (2nd, 3rd) Maiya Haberman

Daled, Hey (4th, 5th) Mindy Nnambi

Vav, B'nai Mitzvah (6th, 7th) Holly Baumann

Who Comes When?

Pre-K – 5th grades Sun 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

6th and 7th grades Sun 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Tues on Zoom 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Families:

- Kehillah Gatherings Sundays 9:00 – 9:25 a.m.
- First Friday Shabbat Services, once per month
- Shabbat B'Yachad (together) Saturdays, several per year

Teens:

- Madrihim (teen helpers) Sundays 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **BBYO Youth Group with Beth Israel**

Gesher Sunday Schedule

9:00 – 9:25 Kehillah Gathering **upstairs in the library** — for parents too!

9:30 – 10:30 Gesher havurah (class time)

10:30-ish Hadash Nosh (break, outside)

10:45 – 11:55 Class Time

12:00 – 12:10 Dismissal from the front parking lot, **main entrance**

Gesher Sunday Dates

September 10

October 1, 8, 29 (8 is Simhat Torah B'yahad)

November 5, 12

December 3, 10

January 7, 14, 21 (14 is MLK Day, 21 is at Coastal Roots Farm)

February 4, 25

March 3, 10, 17 (17 is the Hamantashen Bake)

April 14, 28

May 5, 19

June 2 (CDH Annual Meeting)

Gesher Tuesday Dates on Zoom for 6th and 7th graders (4:30–5:30):

October 10, 17, 24, 31

November 7, 14, 28

December 5, 12

January 9, 16, 23, 30

February 6, 13, 27

March 5, 12 (no class on the 19, so you will come to Purim on the 23)

April 9, 16, 30

May 7, 14

Weekly Newsletter

Each Wednesday, parents will receive an e-newsletter called MA HADASH (what's new?) that Betsy and Julie will prepare especially for you.

Please read it! Any changes in the Sunday schedule will be listed there.

What Should My Child Bring on Sunday Mornings?

- Tzedakah money (any amount)
- \$1 or so to spend at Hadash Nosh (outside break time)
- Water bottle or cup, labeled!
- Sweatshirts/jackets (Please label ALL sweatshirts/jackets. They are often left behind.)
- Geshher shekels on shuk days (watch Ma Hadash for reminders)

Kehillah (Community) Gatherings

On most Geshher Sunday mornings, parents, students, and teachers gather as a community in the library to connect, learn, sing and share. Parents are encouraged to participate and lend their voices, talents, and ideas as we spend this time together each week.

Parent Connection (PC) All Geshher parents are members of the Parent Connection. **Shelby and Meghan** will give Parent Connection updates throughout the year at Kehillah Gatherings. If you have ideas or comments, you are encouraged to stay at 9:30 to continue the conversation.

Social Sundays All Geshher families are invited to Social Sundays (one part Social Action, two parts FUN) several times a year. There is no Geshher at CDH on Social Sundays. If you have an idea for a Social Sunday, please let [Shelby](#) or [Meghan](#) know.

Geshher Fundraising If you have a fundraising idea, we welcome your suggestions. So far, PC is planning for our Hamantashen Bake and to sell beautiful Hanukkah candles from Tzfat, Israel.

Hadash Nosh (break time) Throughout the year, parents are asked to provide bagels and healthy snacks for Hadash Nosh. All parents are requested to sign up with the Parent Connection to bring two dozen SLICED bagels (with shmeer separately) once or twice a year. Families are

also asked to bring healthy snack items during your assigned months (below). One or two large boxes of snacks should be plenty; however, if you'd like to bring more, please do so.

...PLEASE BRING SNACKS...

September and October - Student's last name A–F

November, December, and January - Student's last name G–K

February and March - Student's last name L–R

April and May - Student's last name S–Z

Tzedakah Please bring tzedakah money (any amount) each Sunday! Teachers will facilitate conversations about tikkun olam (repairing the world), and collect tzedakah each Sunday. We will all vote at the end of the year on where to donate the collection.

Gesher Shekels Students earn Gesher shekels (wooden nickels) for participating in Jewish activities outside of Gesher. **Each Sunday, shekels are handed out at Hadash Nosh.** Several times throughout the year, students spend their shekels at the shuk (market) during Hadash Nosh: October 29, December 3, March 3, June 2

Bringing Visitors on Sundays Children and parents who are interested in touring or visiting a Gesher Sunday, should contact Betsy to make arrangements as well as to get their questions answered. We ask that students refrain from bringing friends or relatives to class, as this can be disruptive to the classroom community.

Vav, B Mitzvah Class On Tuesday afternoons, our 6th and 7th grade students will be learning about the Prophets and Jewish Values, in addition to working on prayers and blessings in preparation of their bar/bat/b mitzvah.

B (Bar/Bat) Mitzvah Requirements

In order to become a b. mitzvah at Dor Hadash, students must be thirteen years old (either according to the Hebrew calendar or the Gregorian calendar) and have attended religious school for a minimum of three years, beginning at CDH no later than Vav (6th grade).

Holocaust Studies The students in Mindy's class (4th, 5th grades) learn about the Holocaust through videos, stories, and discussions.

Homework

Teachers may assign homework to encourage progress in reading Hebrew. The assignments may be interactive or on-line and may require parent participation.

The Independent Learning Program (ILP) Each student in Daled (4th grade) through B'nai Mitzvah (7th grade) participates in self-directed Jewish learning with a minimum of ten activities per year (attend Jewish events, read a Jewish themed book, etc.). Students will share one of their ILP activities in January or February at Kehillah Gatherings or in their classes. All students are encouraged to participate.

First Fridays The Dor Hadash community will welcome Shabbat together on the first (or other) Friday of most months from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. During each First Friday, a group of Gesher students will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat service with Rabbi Yael and song leader, Hilly Rubin. All birthdays for that month will be celebrated. **The Gesher curriculum expectation is that students and their families attend EACH month**, or as often as possible.

Class Assigned First Fridays:

Gan, Alef: Dec 8, Feb 2, June 7

Bet, Gimel: Nov 3, Jan 5, June 7

Daled, Hey, Vav, B'nai: Oct 13, March 1, May 3, June 7

Shabbat B'Yachad (together) These are everybody-friendly Shabbat morning experiences on a few Saturdays with Rabbi Yael and Hilly from 9:00 – 11:30. We will Pray, Learn, and Connect through song, Torah, art, and schmoozing. **Dates: Feb 10, April 20, May 11**

Gesher Hebrew & Prayer Expectations

Gan, students will know:

Shabbat blessings (3)
Hanukkah blessings
Sing along with the Four Questions Leha Dodi (chorus)
Oseh Shalom
The Shema
The Barehu (with bowing)

Alef, Bet, Gimel students will be able to recite and sing the above plus:

V'ahavta
V'shamru
Eliyahu Ha'Navi
Mi Hamoha (chorus)
Havdalah blessings
Mi Shebeirach

Daled, Hey, Vav students will be able to recite and sing the above plus:

Shalom Aleichem
Kiddush for Shabbat
Opening of the Amidah (with bowing)
Hatzi Kaddish and Mourners' Kaddish
Aleynu (Reconstructionist version — with bowing)

Sheheha-yanu

B Mitzvah students:

Focus on Shabbat morning blessings
Torah and Haftarah blessings



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