Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! We hope you have had a wonderful summer of relaxation, fun, and adventures with family and friends. We’re very excited to start the new school year and look forward to seeing you in just a few weeks.

A class placement letter and other information will be mailed to you the week before school starts. Tuesday, August 27, is the first day of school for all students. Students and parents are invited to “Meet & Greet” their teachers on Monday, August 26, from 9:30-11:30 AM. Please note that new students are invited to an orientation beginning at 8:30 AM before the “Meet & Greet” begins.

During the days preceding the first day of school, you or your child may have questions about what the school year will be like. This information packet will help you start to prepare for the beginning of the school year. More specific information regarding our school community practices, procedures, and policies is addressed in the Parent Handbook, which may be viewed here and will also be addressed along with the academic program at Back to School Night on Tuesday, September 17. We look forward to greeting you and your children and to a wonderful new year.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact:

Joan Brauner, Lower School Principal - x 4830
Inga Schoenbrun, Assistant Principal of General Studies - x 4807
Yoram Bar-Noy, Assistant Principal of Judaic Studies - x 4812
Jared Givarz, Coordinator, Math & Science - x 4825
Alanna Kotler, Coordinator, Reading & Writing - x 4827
Carol Urbach Symonds, ESS Learning Specialist – x 4838
Rebecca Prigal, Guidance Counselor - x 4833

The Fourth Grade Team
Shira Brown, GS  Keren Carp, JS
Michele Kolodny, GS  Einat Hileli, JS
Leonie Quinn, GS  Rina Kolnik, JS
Elizabeth Rosenberg, GS  Rochelle Sobel, JS
Two Teachers, Two Classrooms:

In fourth grade, all students will have different classrooms for General and Judaic Studies, and some will go to a different classroom for math as well.

When placement information is sent out, it will note your child’s General and Judaic Studies teachers' names and room numbers and where to go on the first day of school. That morning, students will be shown where all the fourth grade classrooms are.

Student lockers are assigned by the General Studies teachers and are outside the General Studies classroom. The lockers are for all of the student’s books, materials, snacks, etc. for both GS and JS.

Judaic Studies and math classes are grouped by level in fourth grade. General Studies classes are not grouped by level – all GS classes are balanced and heterogeneous.

Your Fourth Grader’s Day:

Please aim to drop off your children at 8:00 AM in order to give them time to walk to their classroom, get the day’s materials from their locker, and settle in. School starts at 8:15 AM. This means that at 8:15 students should be in their classrooms with their books and materials, ready to begin the learning day. Students who come to the classroom after 8:15 miss the critical morning transition into the school routine as well as curriculum content.

Every school day begins with Morning Meeting, either in General Studies or Judaic Studies. This opens the day with community building activities, an introduction to the day’s lessons, and an opportunity for students to learn and practice social and cooperative skills.

Before school
Students in grades 3-6 who arrive at school between 7:45 and 8:00 AM go directly to the gym, where they are supervised until 8:00. Students sit with their own grade in a designated area in the gym. When the bell rings at 8:00, they walk down to their classrooms and begin their morning routines.

Daily schedule
We have a block schedule, with a 6-day rotation. This means we will cycle through A-B-C-D-E-F Day schedules throughout the Lower School. In all fourth grade classrooms, General Studies and Judaic Studies begin and end on alternate days (half of the grade will start with GS on A,C, and E mornings and the other half will start with GS on B, D, and F mornings, and vice versa for Judaic Studies). All classrooms have a sign on the door reminding the students whether it’s a GS or a JS morning when they arrive.
The day looks like this for fourth graders:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15-8:45</td>
<td>Morning Meeting (in GS or JS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45-10:45</td>
<td>JS/GS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45-11:30</td>
<td>Specials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-12:00</td>
<td>Lunch in Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:00</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-1:45</td>
<td>GS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45-2:15</td>
<td>Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15-3:15</td>
<td>JS/GS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15-3:30</td>
<td>Dismissal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fourth graders Specials are as follows:
- Art (once a 6-day rotation)
- Music (once a 6-day rotation)
- Science (twice a 6-day rotation)
- PE (twice a 6-day rotation)

We encourage children to wear sneakers every day.

**Snacks and lunch**
Students in fourth grade have snack time every day. We encourage children to bring a healthy snack of fruits, vegetables, or protein.

Fourth graders eat lunch in the cafeteria every day. Students may bring a meatless lunch from home, or they may pre-order hot lunch (Monday through Thursday). At the beginning of the year we sit by class grouping and after a few weeks move into open seating. On Mondays and Wednesdays, those students who order the meat hot-lunch eat at meat-only tables.

During the year there are occasional class celebrations for which students bring in snacks from home. Everything shared in school must be kosher. Please see the kashrut information sheet at the end of this packet for specific kashrut information, and refer to the [Lower School Family Handbook](#) for the School’s food policy.

We are not a peanut-free school. However, since snacks are eaten in the classroom, individual classrooms may restrict peanuts or tree nuts due to student allergies. You will be notified by your child’s teacher if this is the case.

**Shabbat preparation**
At CESJDS, students develop a strong connection to Shabbat. As we infuse the joy and spirit of Shabbat into our day, we hope to enrich our communal and community spirit while emphasizing our Jewish values, heritage, and pluralistic approach to honor each students’ family observance and traditions. All students are required to wear blue and white on Fridays as we get into the spirit of Shabbat. Students welcome Shabbat in their Judaic Studies class. Challah that can be purchased from the PTO is delivered to your child’s locker during the day on Friday.
Homework in Fourth Grade:

A key component of fourth grade is the development of organization and study skills. These skills are modeled and reinforced right from the start, and we are mindful of the appropriate level of expectation for nine and ten year olds. Developing these skills is an ongoing process, and the fourth grade teachers work with students (and their parents) to support them in attaining these life skills.

The purpose of homework is for the children to practice and build on what they learned at school and to develop the ability to work independently. They will not be asked to learn something new or to use a skill they have not practiced in school. We believe that homework must be meaningful, developmentally appropriate, and balanced. Your child’s teacher will talk more about this at Back-to-School Night and throughout the year.

The first week of school, all fourth graders will be given a CESJDS assignment/agenda book. Through regular modeling, practicing, and reinforcing the organizational routines in class and at home, fourth graders develop these essential lifelong habits. The assignment book goes home every night and must be returned to school every day.

Fourth graders benefit from working with their parents to develop a productive homework routine. As the year progresses, students are able to work more independently, but at the beginning of the year they will need your guidance to establish routines, organize their time, and set priorities.
KASHRUT

In order to ensure that our community is inclusive and that families from a wide array of backgrounds feel comfortable, Kashrut standards (traditional Jewish dietary practices) are maintained throughout the School. It is of paramount importance to the fabric of daily school life that these guidelines be followed by all families and students.

KOSHER PRODUCTS
There are online resources to help you identify kosher products and brands. Here are some suggested sites:

- http://product_search.oukosher.org/
- http://www.ok.org/kfg.asp
- http://www.star-k.org/directory/cons-prod.asp

The following symbols of kosher supervision can be found on products which may be used in school without prior approval:

The symbol “K” is not copyrighted and is placed on food packaging by many different agencies and companies. Therefore, if you would like to check the Kashrut of a product with a “K” on it, or if you have any questions about the Kashrut policy or items which may be used in the School, contact the Lower School Assistant Principal of Judaic Studies.

School Lunches
Lunches may not contain any meat or meat products. All individual lunches must be dairy or parve.

Cafeterias
The kitchens are under the full-time supervision of the Vaad Harabanim of Greater Washington (Rabbinical Council of Greater Washington).

School Programs
- No meat products are to be brought into the School.
- Home-baked/cooked foods are not allowed (except in individual lunches).
- Kashrut is observed at all school-sponsored events outside our physical facility.

Birthday Celebrations
At CESJDS, we foster an environment of consideration, respect and mutual understanding for all of our children and their families. If you are planning a birthday party, please observe Shabbat and Kashrut. If the entire class is invited, invitations may be distributed in school.
SAFETY GUIDELINES
FOR DISMISSAL & CARPOOL

For the safety of all the children, please be sure to adhere to these instructions:

Please be sure to complete the online dismissal carpool form to receive a carpool number placard and book bag tag for your child. [www.cesjds.org/dismissal](http://www.cesjds.org/dismissal)

- Please follow the directions of the guards at all times.
- To ensure the safety of all, please do not talk on your cell phone while driving in the carpool lane.
- Stay in your car at all times.
- Children enter and exit the car on the sidewalk only.
- Never back up — you cannot see children who are small.
- U-turns are never allowed.
- Please post your CESJDS or B’nai carpool number clearly on your windshield or window.
- Older siblings may NOT be responsible for classroom pick-up or walking younger children to the JCC.
Parking at CESJDS can sometimes be a challenge.

**The CESJDS Parking Lot** is for staff and visitors only. However, two short-term parking spaces have been created in the lot in the front of the building. These are for brief visits only. Handicapped spaces are for those vehicles with a handicapped placard or license plate only.

**Ring House Parking Lot:** Parents, teachers and visitors can use any space in the Ring House Parking Lot that is marked CESJDS. Please be sure to use the crosswalk.

**B’nai Israel Parking Lot:** There is an assigned area for CESJDS and a path behind B’nai that takes you up the stairs to the School. Parents are not permitted to enter the building through the cafeteria door, even if it is open for children. You must walk around to the front of the building and sign in at our front desk.

**JCC Parking Lot:** Please note that parents, teachers and visitors should not use the JCC parking lot, even if they are members of the JCC. The JCC may tow unauthorized vehicles, particularly during the hours that the JCC is busy with activities.

**Federal Plaza:** At the beginning of the school year and during special events, when parking is extremely difficult, you can park at Federal Plaza and cross E. Jefferson Street to enter the front of the building. Please exercise caution and cross in the crosswalks.