

Ottawa Talmud Torah Parent Handbook



Welcome

Welcome to Ottawa Talmud Torah (OTT)! This handbook is designed to answer any questions you may have about our school and our goals for your family as part of our community. For over 100 years, OTT has been dedicated to providing Ottawa families with a traditional and comprehensive Jewish education. Today, OTT@KBI continues to offer a community-focused program rooted in Conservative Judaism, fostering a strong sense of Jewish identity while ensuring our rich heritage remains relevant in today's modern world.

Our goal is not only to connect students with Jewish tradition but also to encourage their engagement in the ongoing dialogue that defines modern Judaism. At OTT, we are committed to creating a meaningful program for the next generation, one that is relevant, engaging, and helps Jewish children grow into involved, educated Jewish adults. We are proud to provide our teachers and students with a rich and fulfilling learning environment. Throughout the year, our dedicated educators will guide students on a journey of Jewish exploration, giving them opportunities to learn, grow, question, and engage with topics that are significant to their Jewish identities.

Active Involvement

Regular attendance is crucial to achieving the goals of our educational program, and we encourage parents and families to get involved as well. If you are interested in further ways to become involved, please consider joining our OTT committee. For more information, please contact David Anzarouth or Jaimee Mitzmacher.

Teacher by Grade

Kindergarten – Morah Mali

Gr. 1/ Gr. 2 –Morah Orah

Gr. 3/Gr.4/ Gr.5 – Morah Brittany

Gr. 6/ Gr. 7/ Gr.8 – Morah Kaylee

Tefillah – Moreh David

OTT Behavior Code

At OTT, we believe that kindness and respect are essential to creating a positive learning environment. Core Jewish values such as honesty and kindness will guide students' daily experiences and help foster a safe, rich, and supportive atmosphere for all.

Bullying

OTT has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying. If such a situation arises, parents will be notified, and the matter will be addressed appropriately.

Safety

If a student is injured during school hours, the injury will be addressed immediately, and parents will be notified by the school director. Any serious injuries must be reported, and an incident report will be filed. Several of our teachers are First Aid certified, and first aid kits are available in the school. Please note, we cannot administer any medication (topical or otherwise) without written medical consent. If your child has a life-threatening allergy, please provide the director with relevant medical information and a recent photo of your child, along with any necessary medical interventions (e.g., EPI-PEN).

Sick Policy

If your child exhibits symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, fever, vomiting or diarrhea, they should not attend school. Thank you for helping us maintain a healthy environment. If symptoms present during school hours, the director will contact the parent or guardian to pick up their child from school.

Homework

We do not assign homework or administer tests at OTT. However, if students or families would like additional exercises or lessons, please feel free to contact the teacher, who will be happy to provide extra material.

Recess

During recess, students must remain on school property. The teacher on duty is responsible for all students. The following rules apply:

- No violent games
- No throwing sand, ice, snow, etc.
- OTT is not responsible for any toys that are brought to school and damaged or misplaced.

Cell Phones

Cell phones are not permitted in class. If a student brings a phone to class, they will be asked to put it away. If the behaviour continues the teacher can take it and return it at the end of the day.

Snacks

We ask that all snacks brought to OTT be kosher and nut-free.

Absences or Early Pickup

If your child will be absent or if there is a change in pickup, please email the Director at david@kehillatbethisrael.com. If you need to pick up your child early, please notify the Director ahead of time, as the OTT doors remain locked and closed during class for security reasons.

School Drop-off and Pickup

Students must be dropped off at the OTT door, located on the right side of the KBI parking lot, off Laperrier Avenue. The doors will open 5 minutes before class starts and close 5 minutes after. If your child is late and the door is closed, please ring the doorbell.

If you know that you will be dropping off your student after Drop-off time, you must email the director with the appropriate information. Parents will be asked to follow strict drop-off and pickup expectations as anything operating outside the normal windows may cause disruption to classes, teachers and other students.

Fire Drills

KBI has two exits, but primarily we will use the OTT entrance. In the event of a fire drill, students will meet in the parking lot at the designated muster point.

Snow Day Policy

Your safety is our top priority. A snow day will be declared when Ottawa-area school buses are cancelled, or the City of Ottawa advises people to stay off the roads. Parents will receive an email as soon as possible on a snow day to confirm that classes are cancelled.

Schedule

A full-year calendar, that lists dates when school will be closed due to statutory holidays and Chagim can be found on our website.

<https://kehillatbethisrael.com/ott-school24/>