



School Policy & Procedure Handbook 2025 2026 Academic Year

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Welcome to Yavneh Day School Who We Are and What We Believe

This Handbook is designed to help you navigate school life. On the following pages, you will find the policies and procedures that ensure our school community functions smoothly. Everything we do at Yavneh is guided by our school's fundamental beliefs, mission, and philosophy. Even the nitty gritty of the day-to-day procedures are guided by these four beliefs and texts. These policies and procedures provide the structure that enables the important work of educating the children. We appreciate you taking the time to learn them and adhere to them in order to help build our special Yavneh community.

The School

Yavneh's Educational Fundamental Beliefs: Why we do what we do.

Fundamental Belief	Rooted in Jewish Text
Learning is meaningful when it is relevant	<p style="text-align: right;">חֲנֹךְ לַבַּעַר עַל־פִּי דַרְוֹכָּהּ גַם כִּי־יִזְקִין אִי־סוּר מִמֶּנָּה:</p> <p>Educate a child according to their way and they will not depart from it when they are old. Proverbs 22:6</p>
Everyone benefits from a diverse learning environment	<p style="text-align: right;">בֶּן זֹמַמ אִם אֵין מֵרַחֵם אֵין חָכָם, הוֹלֵךְ מִכָּל אָדָם</p> <p>Ben Zoma says: Who is wise? One who learns from all people Pirkei Avot 4:1</p>
Dynamic Jewish learning is integral to a purposeful life	<p style="text-align: right;">בֶּן־בַּגְּבַג אָמַר, הִפּוּ הַבַּב לְכָל אֶבֶן</p> <p>Ben Bag Bag says: Turn it, turn it for all is in it Pirkei Avot 5:22</p>
Understanding is profoundly deepened through learning in relationship and community	<p style="text-align: right;">הוּא הִיָּה אִם אֵין לִי, מִי לִי. וְכִשָּׁא לִי לְעַצְמִי, מֵהָאֵין. וְאִם אֵין לִי שִׁוִּי, אֵין לִי</p> <p>Hillel used to say, If I am not for myself, who am I? If I am only for myself what am I? And if not now, when? Pirkei Avot 1:14</p>

Mission Statement

Yavneh Day School is committed to academic excellence in General and Jewish studies within a strong, vibrant community where each child is celebrated and challenged. A Yavneh education is about discovering how a child learns in order to maximize each student's potential while promoting curiosity, encouraging risk taking, and fostering a love of learning.

Philosophy of the School

Yavneh Day School is committed to each child realizing their highest academic potential in an environment which nurtures that child and guides them toward a lifelong love of learning, strong Jewish identity, compassion as a human being, and becoming a contributing member of the community. Honesty, compassion, and emphasis on the positive are hallmarks of the school's approach to life and learning.

The Jewish identity that a Yavneh student develops is grounded in ritual, sacred texts, joyous experiences of Jewish life, an understanding of the diversity of Jewish peoplehood, and a strong connection to Israel and the Hebrew language.

Yavneh provides outstanding academic curricula taught in a caring, supportive environment in which each student can grow academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Yavneh teaches students to become critical thinkers, collaborators and problem solvers. Teachers are skilled in differentiation within the classroom and across grade levels, and hands-on experiential learning is valued across academic disciplines. Teachers at Yavneh cultivate self-assurance in students, and help them realize their potential as successful lifelong learners.

Yavneh integrates Jewish and secular learning in order to demonstrate that students are whole individuals, multi-faceted and able to draw from a total of their learning experiences to address new questions or situations. This integration prepares graduates for comfortable and informed participation in a pluralistic society.

A Yavneh graduate will be conversant in the history, politics and culture of the modern state of Israel and aware of its complexities. The graduate will understand that life in Israel is not homogeneous or single minded – that it is a woven tapestry with the colors and textures of many kinds of people from different backgrounds. A Yavneh graduate understands that Israel and the Diaspora must both exist if Jewish life is to continue and thrive.

Yavneh Day School is a community day school, affiliated with PRIZMAH: Center for Jewish Day Schools. It follows the norms of Conservative Judaism as interpreted by our school's Administration and Board of Trustees in consideration of the larger communal environment in which the school exists. Yavneh welcomes students from diverse backgrounds whose families support the mission and philosophy of the school.

Yavneh Day School relies on the involvement of entire families in the school community. Parent volunteers support the school in a number of ways including through the YPA, participating in holiday celebrations, helping to raise money to strengthen and broaden school programs and to ensure that families from all economic backgrounds may receive the benefit of a Yavneh education.

Yavneh offers an egalitarian environment in every aspect of the school. All students, regardless of gender identity, are offered the same opportunities in religious observance and ritual, as well as in-classroom, athletic experiences, and leadership roles within the school.

School Calendar

Yavneh Day School will be closed on the following federal holidays: Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, and Juneteenth. Yavneh is also closed for the major Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah (two days), Yom Kippur, Sukkot (first two days), Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, Pesach, and Shavuot (two days). Under certain circumstances, school may be closed or have early dismissal the day before a holiday (*erev chag*) or late start the day after a holiday. School is typically in session during the holidays of Hanukkah and Purim. Subscribing to the [school's public calendar](#) is the best way to stay up-to-date with important events and days off. The [school calendar](#) is always available at the website www.yavnehdayschool.org and important dates to note will be publicized in *HaShavua*, the weekly school e-newsletter.

School Hours

K-4th

8:15 am - 3:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:15 am - 2:30 pm Wednesday

8:15 am - 3:00 pm Friday

5th

8:15 am - 3:45 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:15 am - 2:30 pm Wednesday

8:15 am - 3:00 pm Friday

6-8th

8:15 am - 3:45 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

8:15 am - 3:00 pm Friday

The Child At The School

Family Security Badges

Each family will be issued a security card for each adult registered for dropoff and pickup. It will be necessary to show your card to the security guard in order to enter Yavneh's campus. **Security Badges will be distributed the 1st week of the school year.** You can request a security card in the office.

Arrival

One of the keys to maintaining the calm, purposeful atmosphere of the school is a punctual, unhurried start to each school day.

Students can arrive as early as 7:45am and go to early care in Club J until 8:10am. Enter through the front school doors. At 8:00am, enter through the front door. At 8:10am classroom doors open for students for class to begin at 8:15am.

At the arrival time, please enter our driveway and [drop off line](#), and make your way to the front of the building. Students must exit the car right in front of the building and proceed directly into the building.

Parents are also welcome to walk their child into the school. Please respect the teacher's time in the morning as they are preparing for their school day and welcoming your children. Please stay outside of the classroom. You can always schedule an appointment if you would like to speak with the teacher.

If your student arrives after 8:15am, you must park your car and walk them into the Yavneh office so they can get a late slip.

Dismissal Dismissal time is a transition for children, parents/caregivers, and teachers. It is important for both the security of the students and the schedules of the teachers that children be met promptly. For safety and security reasons, a teacher or administrator needs to see the child leave with his/her permitted adult. An orderly dismissal is extremely important to help ensure student safety and security.

Times for Dismissal

K-4th: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 3:30pm; Wednesday: 2:30pm; Friday: 3:00pm

5th: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 3:45pm; Wednesday: 2:30pm; Friday: 3:00pm

6th-8th: Monday-Thursday: 3:45pm; Friday 3:00pm

Dismissal Procedures

Parents/Caregivers may pick-up their child from their classroom or curbside pickup line during their dismissal time. Please do not call or text your child directly to ask them to come downstairs. Any student not picked up 10 minutes after their dismissal time will be escorted to aftercare in HaMoadon.

Middle school students may leave campus on their own accord, with expressed parental/guardian permission indicated during the registration process. If you would like your Middle School student to be able to leave unattended, please email: attendance@yavnehdayschool.org to complete the walkout form.

Parking-Lot Etiquette

Parents are asked to observe caution while in the parking lot as children are being loaded and unloaded from vehicles. Under no circumstances should parents park in the "NO PARKING" or "STAFF PARKING" areas. "DISABLED PARKING" zones must be reserved for persons with disabled parking tags. Parents may choose not to park in the area directly in front of the preschool, as they may need to wait for the drop off/ pick up lane to clear (8:30am/3:45pm) before they may exit. Please note that all traffic flow in front of the building during pick up is one way, southbound. Please follow [this map](#) for arrival and dismissal parking lot protocols.

Pick up Authorization and Procedures

Please indicate in your [Gradelink registration](#) the names of all those authorized to pick up your child. To ensure the safety of your child, any variation from this form must be authorized by a parent in writing, via email, or by phone call. **We will release children only to authorized individuals.** Please save your child's distress and the office confusion by informing us when dismissal routines are changed.

Attendance

It is important for children to attend school regularly so they can feel part of the daily life at school. Make-up work never replaces the in-class interaction and direct instruction that the student misses while absent. Parents are asked to call or email the school as early as possible to report all absences. In particular, parents are asked to plan family vacations so that they coincide with school vacations.

If you know in advance that your child will be absent from school, please notify your child's teacher and the school office. It is the responsibility of the parents and student to make sure that he/she completes missed work when absent. If your child is absent frequently, a special conference with the teacher and the administration may be requested.

Please email attendance@yavnehdayschool.org if your child will miss school or call the main desk at 408-984-6700.

Early Departures

If a child needs to depart school prior to dismissal time, please notify the teachers and the office in writing, by email, at attendance@yavnehdayschool.org or phone at 408-984-6700. When you arrive for early pickup, please park and enter the main office to request your student to be dismissed early. A parent or designee will be required to sign their student out when leaving early.

Special Instructions from Parents

When it is necessary for a child to deviate from their normal routine, an email from the parent should be sent to the office at attendance@yavnehdayschool.org and to the classroom teacher. Changes include riding or walking to an address other than the student's own, going to another student's house after school, or being picked up by someone not listed on the emergency form.

Recurring Tardiness and Early Departures

The school understands that families may occasionally run late; however, consistent tardiness or early departures cause disruption in the learning environment, and may communicate to our children that learning is not important. Please do your utmost to limit tardiness and early departures to an absolute minimum.

Student Expectations, and Discipline Policy

Yavneh strives to provide a safe and accepting learning environment to support student achievement and well-being. The Head of School, Principal, Senior Director of Administration and other members of the administrative team retain the right to give consequences or assign discipline in response to disruptive behaviors occurring at the school. While Yavneh may attempt to find solutions within its ability to work with students, staff and parents, it reserves, in its sole discretion, the right to bypass or alter responses, penalties or discipline procedures, and proceed directly to dismissal of a student, as it deems warranted.

Yavneh Day School Dress Code Policy

Rooted in Shmirat Ha-Guf — Guardianship of One's Body

At Yavneh we teach children the value of Shmirat Ha-Guf (guardianship of one's body). Students are expected to dress in a way that expresses this value. Therefore, children should be dressed in comfortable, clean clothes that are respectful and conducive to a productive school environment.

Dress Code Rationale Since the parent/guardian is the primary educator of the student, it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the student is in correct dress code on a daily basis while on campus and at school functions. Parents and guardians who send their students to Yavneh Day School, and students who choose to attend Yavneh Day School, acknowledge that the Administration reserves the right to make final determinations regarding school policies and procedures, including dress code.

Accountability & Enforcement

If a student arrives at school in violation of the dress code:

They may be asked to change into appropriate clothing provided by the school (if available).

If no clothing is available, a parent/guardian will be called to bring appropriate clothing.

Repeat violations will result in a conference with parents and may lead to additional consequences.

Annual Review

This dress code is reviewed annually to ensure it remains inclusive, age-appropriate, and aligned with our school's values. Updates may be made as needed to reflect emerging needs in the school community. The Administration is the final and sole judge of what is, or is not, acceptable for the students in our community.

Mondays and Special Days

Mondays: Students **are required to** wear Yavneh-branded shirts every Monday to show school pride.

Holidays and Performances: Students **are required to** wear white polo shirts with Yavneh Logo for holidays and performances.

White Polo Shirts with Yavneh Logo may be purchased from [LandsEnd](#)

Yavneh Spirit Wear may be purchased from the [Yavneh Spirit Wear Store on Bonfire](#).

General Dress Guidelines

Clothing should:

Be clean, neat, and in good condition.

Fit properly, without being excessively tight or baggy.

Cover private body parts and undergarments at all times (including while sitting, bending, or raising arms).

Allow for active movement in class, recess, and outdoor play.

Reflect respect for oneself and others in a diverse learning community.

Not Permitted

The following are not appropriate for school and will result in a required clothing change:

Clothing that is torn, ripped, see-through, or has holes.

Clothing that reveals the midriff, back, cleavage, or undergarments.

Clothing or accessories with images or language referencing:

Clothing that bears logos or graphics related to alcohol, drugs, profanity or messages that go against the spirit of the school philosophy.

Political slogans or messaging.

Pajamas, slippers, or loungewear (unless part of a designated spirit day).

Clothing, backpacks, water bottles and other personal belongings should be free of inappropriate references (drugs, alcohol, suggestive innuendo)

Tops

Tops must cover the shoulders, midriff, and back.

Necklines should be modest and not deeply scooped.

Spaghetti straps, halter tops, and strapless tops are not allowed.

Sleeveless tops are acceptable if straps are at least two inches wide and undergarments are not visible.

Tops should not be sheer or low-cut.

Shorts and Skirts

Must extend to at least to the mid thigh

Footwear

Students must wear closed-toe shoes or sandals with straps at all times.

PE Days: All students must wear athletic shoes and appropriate activewear on scheduled PE days.

Footwear should allow for safe movement during recess and school activities.

Crocs, Slippers, slides, flip-flops, and heavy military/combat-style boots are not allowed.

Change of Clothing:

Kindergarten & 1st Grade Students: Must have a full change of clothing (including underwear and socks) stored in a labeled plastic bag at school.

***Kippot*/Head-coverings**

For two thousand years, Jews have covered their heads as a symbol of Jewish identity, humility, and awareness of God. Head-coverings, commonly referred to as *kippot*, can take many forms, including cloth coverings, certain hats, wide headbands, scarves, and more. Students can choose which of these forms of head-covering they want to use and are encouraged to make a choice that expresses these values. Head-coverings need to also be appropriate for a learning environment as determined by the school administration.

Baseball caps and hats with brims are not allowed because they impede eye contact, which is essential to learning. Said caps worn backwards are considered disrespectful and therefore not within the values head-coverings are intended to express.

Because religious observance at Yavneh is egalitarian, both boys and girls wear *kippot*/head-coverings. Learning of all subjects is considered sacred at Yavneh, therefore students are encouraged to wear *kippot*/head-coverings during all classroom time and strongly encouraged

during Tefillah.

Both boys and girls are required to wear *kippot*/head-coverings when in a leadership role in Tefillah or studying sacred text.

During some field trips, *kippot*/head-coverings may be required depending on the activities and destinations involved.

Kippot are personal ritual objects and are not allowed to be shared.

All students must keep two extra *kippot* (and clips if needed) stored in the classroom. Middle school students must keep two *kippot* in their drawers in the Beit Kehillah and one in their backpack or locker. Teachers will alert parents when *kippot* are lost. All *kippot* should have students' names written clearly inside. All Gan and new students will be given a special *kippah* at the start of the school year. *Kippot* come in a wide range of shapes and sizes and are an opportunity for your child to express a little bit of their own personality. Yavneh logo *kippot* and head-coverings may be purchased from the office for \$10.

You can also find a wide variety online, here are a few websites with varied selections:

http://fairtradejudaica.org/product_category/yarmulkes-kippahs-kippot/ <http://www.kidskipot.com/>
<http://www.jjudaica.com/kippot/kids-kippot>

Food

Chewing gum is prohibited on school property

Kashrut (Kosher Observance)

The laws of *kashrut* are important means of sanctifying the act of eating, elevating it from a biological function to a sacred one. Yavneh observes and teaches the mitzvah of *kashrut* consistent with the principles of Conservative Judaism.

Kashrut implementation: The School's Director of Jewish Life is available to answer specific questions and to advise on implementation of the policy.

Daily Meals

School Lunches

- For reasons of *kashrut*, as well as food allergies, health and nutrition, students are not allowed to share their lunches or snacks with each other.
- All foods packed in students' lunches must be dairy-*parve*.
- We encourage parents to pack foods high in protein, fruits, and vegetables. Please keep junk food to a minimum. Please do not pack candy or soda in your child's lunch.
- In the spirit of *tikkun olam* (fixing the world) and *bal tashchit* (not wasting our natural resources), we encourage the use of reusable bags and containers.
- Because we will be offering hot school lunch options, parents are not allowed to have food delivered through apps such as DoorDash, etc.

Snacks

Children need to bring a snack to be eaten at mid-morning recess. Children are often very hungry at this time, and sometimes consume their entire lunch unless a healthy adequate snack is provided. Typical snacks might include: popcorn, pretzels, crackers, granola bars, fruit, cheese, and/or vegetables.

On-campus/Off-campus events (Milestones, class parties, holiday celebrations, birthdays, bake sales, special luncheons, etc.)

- Outside catering or food delivery will be dairy-*parve* or supervised kosher (when meat option is suitably available)
- Packaged food must be certified kosher (with a *hechsher* on the package). Packaged food is defined as anything that was not raw or uncooked when purchased. For example chips, popcorn, dips, frozen foods, yogurt, cookies, crackers etc.
- Any domestic USDA certified cheese without a *hechsher* is also permissible. However, please be aware that there are many *hechshered* cheeses as well as cheeses made with vegetable or

microbial rennet easily available at many stores.

- The Yavneh Learning Kitchen is Kosher dairy-*parve*.
- Baking and cooking food at home is allowed provided that all ingredients are *hechshered*. You may use your own pots, pans, utensils and serving dishes.
- Fresh fruit and vegetables do not need a *hechsher*.
- Insofar as kosher supervision, we recommend that one caters from a place that is either kosher supervised, or certified vegetarian. Kosher supervised options in the South Bay include:
 - Pars
 - Izzy's Brooklyn Bagels
 - Food prepared by Jeff Leo from House of Bagels at Congregation Sinai/Congregation Beth David
 - Food prepared by Lucy Fried at Congregation Sinai
 - Food prepared by Rachael Berman Huck at Congregation Sinai

Where can I find Kosher food?

Kosher food can be found in almost every supermarket from Safeway to Costco to Trader Joes! Just look for the [hechsher](#). Additionally, our community is fortunate to have a kosher market right around the corner and we encourage you to support [Pars Kosher Market](#). For those of you who travel further up the Peninsula, [Mollie Stones' Market](#) in Palo Alto has a wide variety of Kosher options as well.

Specific Guidelines for Yavneh Celebrations at local synagogues

The school will share basic milestone celebration guidelines to help classroom families plan their part in hosting the class milestone celebration. Sometimes Yavneh's *kashrut* policy differs from a synagogue's *kashrut* policy. Please make sure to check with the Rabbi before bringing any food to a synagogue.

Food Allergies

The Yavneh student population includes those who have severe and/or life threatening allergies to certain nuts and other foods. We ask that you be sensitive to the needs of our students who have these allergies. Please refrain from sending foods with known allergens to children in the class to schoolwide and classroom events. Please be sure to check product ingredients as many food items contain nuts or other allergen products. Additionally, it is important to know that allergic reactions can be triggered not only by ingestion, but also by skin contact and airborne exposure to nuts or other allergen products. It is essential that, as we become increasingly aware of the seriousness of nut and other food allergies, students do not share food at school. Parents of students with allergies are asked to provide "back-up" snacks to be used in the event that snacks provided by school or other students do not meet the needs of the student. Snacks for students with allergies should be labeled and given to the office as well as the classroom teacher.

If there is a student or staff member with a relevant allergy, we will adapt our policies to ensure everyone's health and safety.

Cell Phones/Electronic Communication

To help students have a meaningful, focused, and purposeful learning environment, students are not allowed to use cell phones or smart watches during the school day. Students are allowed to bring cellphones. However, cell phones must be turned completely off (not on vibrate) during the school day and stored in the designated location at teacher's desk or first period instructor. Middle School students may use their phones after dismissal to contact their parent/guardian about pick-up. (The phone in the office is available for student use during the day, with the permission of a Yavneh supervising adult.)

So that faculty and staff can be responsive to the needs of students, we ask that all parent-student communication related to dismissal or any needs during school hours be conveyed through the office rather than via text/IM/email or other electronic communication forms directly with the child.

Laptops/Tablets

5th to 8th Grade students are expected to have a FULLY-CHARGED device for purposes of accessing curricular material, and completing school assignments. During school hours, devices are to be used

only for academic purposes. Students may NOT use smartphones or smartwatches. All students must sign and adhere to the [Technology Use Agreement](#). We also display and enforce the following [Technology Use Reminders](#).

Lost and Found

Please mark all personal belongings and lunches with your child's name. Lost articles that have been found will be available for retrieval on a special "lost and found" display that is typically located outside on the playground. Any article left for more than one month will be donated to a charitable organization. There is also a middle school lost and found located upstairs by the lockers.

Textbooks

Textbooks (including reading books and library books) are the property of Yavneh Day School. The student, parent, or guardian is responsible for the student's textbook once the book has been issued to the student. Books are to be returned to the appropriate teacher before the end of the school year or by the final date of attendance if the student leaves mid-year. The family shall reimburse the school for any lost, destroyed, or damaged books issued to the student. Literature books for middle school English Language Arts will be property of the student.

School Supplies are provided by the school in most cases. Teachers will send a school supply list at the beginning of the school year for additional items.

Homework Policy

Learning occurs both in and out of the classroom and is best achieved through a partnership between home and school. Many of our students engage in extracurricular activities and have limited time to spend with family or unwinding and processing their day's activities. In addition, adequate time for sleep is crucial for neurological development and general health and well-being. Many studies show minimal and even negative effects of homework, especially for younger students.

In some cases, the opportunity to review and extend school learning as well as reinforce work habits may be deemed beneficial. In other cases, homework may be given to allow students an opportunity to complete assignments that were not finished during class time. When the efforts of the teachers and families are coordinated, a positive attitude toward learning is reinforced for our students.

Homework Guidelines for Parents: Homework assigned is primarily the responsibility of the student. Unless another agreement has been reached with the teachers, parents should encourage their children to work independently, which means allowing your child to complete their own assignments and not doing it for them. Homework should not be a source of excessive stress. If you and your child do not have a positive experience involving homework, if it is overly distressing to your child, or if they are refusing to complete it, PLEASE contact your child's teacher immediately.

If students are given work to do at home, the following guidelines indicate the **maximum** amount of time students should be expected to spend on it per night. (This time does not include "reading time.") Time estimates include the combined work time for all subjects.

Alef	10 minutes
Bet	20 minutes
Gimel	30 minutes
Dalet	40 minutes
Hay	50 minutes
Middle School	75 minutes

If your child spends more than the allotted time to complete homework, please notify your child's teacher.

In addition, students are encouraged to read or be read to daily for a minimum period of time as required by the teacher. Teachers will make an effort to coordinate homework assignments to avoid overloading students. Other than reading, homework will not be assigned over Jewish holidays and long vacations. Questions regarding homework should be addressed with your child's teacher. You will be notified if your child consistently turns in late homework or no homework at all.

Evaluation and Assessment

In accordance with the standards of the California Association of Independent Schools, Yavneh Day School has developed a thoughtful, in-depth, and multi-faceted system of student assessment, which enables teachers and administrators to gather and analyze important evidence regarding each student's learning and to implement strategies that will help each student reach their potential.

The most meaningful evaluation of student progress takes place on a regular, ongoing basis by the teacher. Teachers consistently assess each child during instruction minute-to-minute and day-by-day through formative assessment strategies, intentional questioning, and identifying the range of responses of each child. Teachers keep a log of anecdotal records for each student, recording observations not only of academic progress or difficulty, but also of significant incidents relating to the social and emotional domains. In addition, teachers assist the students in maintaining portfolios of student work. Reports, projects, and tests also provide evidence of the progress made in reaching academic goals. During the spring semester, students in grades 2-8 will complete the NWEA MAP test. This test is a nationally normed test which helps us obtain information about a student's growth over time (within and across years), as well as a comparison to their peers nationally. We use assessment results to garner additional information to better meet the individual student's needs and to provide the school an indication of the strength of various aspects of the academic program.

Use of Student Images and Names for Marketing Purposes

From time to time, student photos, video, audio, and/or first name are used in school publications, on the school's website, blog, social media, or in the general media to depict Yavneh Day School activities. If you would like to opt-out of having your child's picture or video used in internal school communications or external postings or marketing, please email info@yavnehdayschool.org. It is the policy of the school to use only the child's first name (when applicable) in connection with any photograph.

The Parent and the School

Parent Conduct

Parents are important partners in their children's school experience. Besides being advocates for their children and supporters of a Yavneh education, they serve as important role models for their children. During challenging times, it is especially important to be mindful of the tone we are setting for our child(ren), as it greatly influences their attitude towards safety measures and learning. As such, the relationship between parents and teachers, administration, and other parents at the school is of great significance. By being kind and considerate of the needs of teachers, administrators, and other parents, we build a *kehillah kedoshah*, a sacred community in which to raise the next generation. Since its inception, Yavneh Day School has prided itself on building such a community. While parental volunteerism and participation in the Yavneh Parent Association (YPA) are vital to a positive school climate, parental conduct is also a crucial contributor to school success and positive student experience. Ways in which parental conduct can contribute to building this sacred community include:

- Caring for parents/teachers who are sick in the community by offering to prepare meals, shop or provide transportation/care for their children (room parents will often coordinate these activities.)
- Being sensitive to the unique circumstances of different families, such as religious practice (e.g. Kashrut, *Shabbat*) or health issues (e.g. allergies, medical conditions)
- Avoiding "lashon hara" (gossip), not speaking with others about those not in your presence and addressing school issues directly with those responsible (see communication section below.)
- Respecting the confidentiality of students by not sharing observations or experiences that you may have with students (other than your own) with others in the community.
- Speaking to others' children respectfully and carefully, realizing that you may not have necessary background information to address issues that you observe.

In addition, we count on each stakeholder in the school's success (including teachers, staff, students,

and parents) to be ambassadors for the school and promote the school for everyone's benefit. As such, parents are encouraged to express themselves positively about the school in social media and are requested to refrain from making disparaging remarks on social media or speaking critically about the school in public venues. Parents are encouraged to express concerns directly with the appropriate school personnel as outlined below.

Parental behavior that violates the sanctity of the Yavneh community or is found to be potentially damaging to the school's reputation may result in that family's dismissal from the school at the discretion of the school's administration.

Guidelines for Parent-Faculty Communication

The success of our school is based in part on the effective forms and channels of communication we establish between parents and faculty. Your first and most important contacts within the school are your child's teachers. They are the best resources for information and advice concerning your child and their studies, relationships, homework, and individual development.

Our teachers welcome your communication and will return your calls or email inquiries within 24 hours (unless it is *Shabbat* or a major Jewish holiday). During school breaks (Passover, Winter Break, etc.) response times may fluctuate. **Please note the teachers and staff will not respond to texts regarding your student(s).**

As models to our children and as an educational community, civility and a respectful tone must guide all our communications. We ask that you not discuss private matters with the teacher while in the presence of other students or parents. Please honor the teacher's responsibilities by refraining from discussions while the teacher is teaching, on yard duty, or during drop-off or pick-up. Please do not hesitate to contact the teacher at the first signs of any potential problems or with questions about the curriculum. If after speaking with the teacher you feel the issue would require the input of an administrator, please contact the office to make an appointment.

Guidelines for Parent-Administration Communication

(See administration directory below)

You can find information about whom to send your inquiry to below but in any case, you can send your message to info@yavnehdayschool.org and we will make sure it gets answered by the best person.

Late arrival, early pickup or absences: attendance@yavnehdayschool.org or call 408-984-6700.

Academics: Inquiries about academics and curriculum should be directed to the teachers first, and then the Principal at aviva@yavnehdayschool.org

Tuition payments: Inquiries about tuition payments should be directed to our Senior Director of Administration at admissions@yavnehdayschool.org

Tuition Assistance or School Registration: Inquiries about tuition assistance, prospective families and upcoming events should be directed to our Director of Admissions at admissions@yavnehdayschool.org

Fundraising & Donations: Inquiries about fundraising events and opportunities should be directed to our Director of Development at development@yavnehdayschool.org

School Policies: Inquiries about school policy and the Board of Directors, or other issues unresolved by other administrators should be directed to boardpres@yavnehdayschool.org.

Jewish Practice: Inquiries about school practices and policies regarding Jewish Life should be directed to our Director of Jewish Life at kobi@yavnehdayschool.org.

School Directory

Unless the school office is [notified](#), all families' names, addresses, email and phone numbers will be listed in the school directory during the 1st month of school. This directory has been produced for your personal use and the information contained within is confidential. **Please do not distribute the directory for solicitation purposes.**

Newsletters & School Publications

Each Thursday evening, families will receive Yavneh's weekly e-newsletter *HaShavua*. This includes important announcements, upcoming events, and other school information. Please take the time to read this communication carefully each week. In addition, you will receive the following forms of communication:

- Classroom teachers sharing updates about the students' learning every week.
- Room parent and/or teacher announcements specific to the class or special events.
- At the end of the year, each student receives a Yavneh yearbook, which is funded through YPA dues.

Back to School Night

This evening program will allow parents to learn more about the curriculum and educational approach utilized in the classroom. This evening will also provide an opportunity to learn about opportunities for parent involvement.

Conferences

We view the education of children as a partnership between parents, students, and teachers. We offer Family Conferences two times a year - Fall and Spring. The goal of the Conference is to establish a relationship between all parties and for the teacher to begin to understand the learning style and needs of the individual student. Within the context of the meeting, an initial "*brit*" (covenant) between all parties will be established vis-a-vis classroom behavior, homework expectations, communication between home and school, and discuss student progress.

Student Success Team (SST) Process

In the course of a child's enrollment at Yavneh, concerns may arise over social, emotional, behavioral, developmental, or educational issues. Many such issues are easily resolved with simple intervention/accommodation by the teacher and/or the parent in the everyday classroom context. Occasionally, issues may need to be addressed more extensively, in which case a Student Success Team meeting is called that may include parents, teachers, Principal, Learning Specialists, Head of School/Senior Director of Administration, and/or outside consultants to gain a deeper understanding of challenges and to formulate strategies for student support. Yavneh is committed to making every attempt to meet each student's needs.

Yavneh Parent Association (YPA)

The purpose of the YPA is to support an interactive relationship among parents and staff, as well as to promote a sense of community. Every parent at Yavneh is a member of the parent association, which includes annual dues payable as part of your enrollment. The dues allow the YPA to sponsor activities which bring the community closer together. The many extracurricular activities and events include holiday celebrations, Book Fair, Oneg Shabbat celebrations, Parent Nights, and Staff Appreciation events. The YPA wishes to set an example for our present and future generations and encourages you to be involved in your child's education through participation in these community-building events and activities. By doing so, we model *G'milut Hasadim* (acts of kindness), and we solidify bonds between the Yavneh community and our children. To learn more about the YPA, click [HERE](#).

Parent Participation Expectations

When a family enrolls at Yavneh, they become part of the family, one whose primary focus is the education, growth, and development of its children. A school, like any system, is most effective when all of its stakeholders are actively engaged participants. In addition, as is the case with most independent schools, Yavneh's financial model is one that relies on family engagement through fundraising and volunteerism to both assure increasing excellence in our program and to control rises in tuition.

To achieve this effectively, Yavneh relies on parental generosity, both in the realm of fundraising as well as volunteerism. Parent involvement not only benefits the school's financial health, but more importantly, builds relationships within our parent body and strengthens the school's community.

As part of parental contribution to the school, parents are asked to volunteer in a way that will be meaningful to both the parent and the school by making a commitment to volunteer. Families are expected to volunteer for 10 hours/year/student specified on the [Parent Participation Commitment Form for 2025-2026](#). While some of these opportunities occur during the school day, there are many that can be fulfilled after school hours. Making this commitment prior to the start of the school year enables the school to plan to assure that programming will operate smoothly and that families will be able to enjoy the full range of educational and community-building opportunities. Please note that some volunteer commitments may require training, which will be provided. Here is the [current Sign Up form of volunteer opportunities](#), more volunteer opportunities will be added throughout the year.

Room Parents

The purpose of the room parent is to help foster community among the classroom families and to:

- Support the teachers in organizing logistics for special classroom activities
- Organize social events such as a class playdates, coordinating field trip drivers, classroom volunteers, and sending out sign-ups for special events as directed by the teachers
- Organizing logistics for big events, like a class [milestone](#)
- Acting as liaison regarding policies related to birthdays, kashrut, etc.
- Helping the teachers with coordination of special classroom projects or even

Getting in touch with your room parents is a great way to immediately connect with the workings of the classroom. Room parents are often the first line of communication for teachers about upcoming events, needs in the classroom and volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in being considered as a room parent, please contact the Yavneh office prior to the end of the current academic year.

Ways to Support Yavneh

We know you appreciate the value of a Jewish Day School education because you entrust your children to us. We appreciate your interest in helping us fulfill Yavneh's mission. Better than most, you know that quality education comes at a price. We are committed to keeping tuition as affordable as possible; therefore, tuition does not cover the full cost of a child's education. We must raise additional funds to maintain and improve the quality of your child's educational experience. We anticipate that all Yavneh families contribute to reaching our annual goal of 100% participation in school and community fundraising efforts.

Tuition income covers approximately 70% of the actual cost of educating each child. The remainder is raised by financial support from parents, grandparents, community members, and foundations. Every family at Yavneh is expected to participate in raising funds to close this gap. Here are some ways in which you can participate:

Annual Campaign

It is through the Annual Campaign that we reach out to all of our constituents: parents, alumni, extended families, as well as the larger Jewish and general community. This effort provides not only important funds for the school but is an excellent opportunity to educate community members about Yavneh. We welcome your contribution to the Annual Campaign as well as anticipate your help reaching extended family and friends for donations. Click [HERE](#) to visit Yavneh's Giving Page.

General Fundraising

Yavneh hosts annual fundraisers to acknowledge a special celebration in the life of the school or as an effort to generate additional income to meet extraordinary budgetary needs (often to strengthen scholarship funds). Such events can include the Gala and the Walk-a-thon.

Endowment Fund

Yavneh's Endowment Fund is a new initiative designed to add long-term financial stability. Carefully invested, the Endowment Fund will yield income that can be used to maintain the facility, to provide scholarships and help meet the annual expenses of the school. The Endowment Fund will be an important focus of significant fundraising efforts in the future. Although unrestricted gifts to the Endowment Fund are the most helpful, donors may choose to designate their contribution for a specific long-term purpose. If you wish to learn more about Yavneh's Endowment Fund, please contact the [Director of Development](#).

Tribute Funds

Whether you are celebrating a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, birthday, wedding, new baby, graduation, special achievement, or wish to remember a loved one, a Tribute Gift is a thoughtful way of marking those special occasions while supporting our school. We will be pleased to send notification to the honoree or his/her family. Click [HERE](#) to make a gift.

Gifts in Kind

"Gifts in Kind" are donations of a particular item other than money. The purchase of an item for Yavneh can be tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please contact the Director of Development to learn more about the school "Wish List" and the deductibility of an in-kind gift.

Company Matching

Many companies offer to match your monetary or stock donation to not-for-profit organizations, such as Yavneh Day School. By inquiring if your company matches your donation through your Human Resources Department, you can quickly increase your donation. We will recognize your employer in all donor recognition materials and, if you own your own business, gifts can be made in the name of your business.

Appreciated Stocks

Securities are one of the most popular ways of making a contribution and can be one of the most advantageous ways of giving. If your gift of stock is one you have owned for more than a year, you may qualify to deduct the full market value of the stock as a charitable contribution, while bypassing capital gains taxes. Please contact the Director of Development, for more information.

Legacy Project

Jewish tradition teaches that one of our key responsibilities is to make the world a better place for future generations. A planned gift to Yavneh Day School will allow you to create a legacy for our future students. A planned gift can be created to fulfill a long-desired philanthropic interest and may also allow you to increase your personal income, save on taxes, and make a legacy gift to Yavneh Day School. Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Life Insurance Policies, and a Bequest are convenient and secure ways to ensure your legacy. Please reach out to our Director of Development to schedule an appointment to learn more about how to make a legacy gift to Yavneh.

Special Events

Birthday Celebrations in School

Children enjoy having their birthdays recognized at school. Every teacher has their own custom of how birthdays are celebrated in class. Please check with your classroom teachers about how they celebrate birthdays in their classroom community. Due to health concerns and allergies, food cannot be part of in-class celebrations. We encourage all families to present a book to the class library in honor of the child's birthday. If you need help selecting a book, please contact your child's teacher.

The Yavneh Community celebrates everyone's birthday each month at our Keshet of Kavod Assemblies. We do our best to align them to each Rosh Chodesh (start of the new Jewish month) and call up all students who have birthdays at that time. They are given a special Yavneh gift to take home and the entire school wishes them a hearty happy birthday in English and Hebrew.

Birthday Celebrations out of School

Creating a *kehillah kedosha* (sacred community) at Yavneh is dependent on the entire community's

respect for and adherence to our community standards in a number of areas of school life. Birthdays are incredibly important in the lives of children. We want to take this opportunity in the spirit of *kehillah kedosha* to remind you that it is important to adhere to our community standards, because they allow anyone from our school community to participate in a child's outside birthday celebration.

1. While it is not necessary to invite the entire class to all parties, no child should be singled out for omission. Children who are excluded are likely to feel hurt. As a rule, if you are inviting more than half the class then all the children in a class should be invited. Please try to keep the feelings of all the children in mind.
2. Please ensure that birthday parties do not begin, take place, or end on *Shabbat/Yom Tov*. *Yom Tov* includes both days of *Rosh HaShanah*, *Yom Kippur*, the first two days of *Sukkot*, *Shemini Atzeret*, *Simchat Torah*, the first two and last two days of *Pesach*, and both days of *Shavuot*. The school calendar lists the times that *Shabbat/Yom Tov* begin and end.
3. Be mindful of the food that is served. While you are not required to adhere to the Yavneh Kashrut policy at a personal event off campus, we do request that you are mindful of all of the dietary needs of the students attending so everyone can feel included.

Please keep in mind that these guidelines are intended to help avoid hurt feelings, and not to impose undue burdens on our families. Please feel free to call the principal if you have any questions about these guidelines. Thank you in advance for your partnership in creating a welcoming and celebratory atmosphere for your child's classroom community at your child's celebration.

Shabbat and Holidays

The school moves with the rhythm of the Jewish Calendar. It strives to imbue in children a sense of the sanctity of *Shabbat* and the Jewish holidays and their place in Jewish tradition. Classes and school activities are never scheduled to conflict with *Shabbat* or holidays, and we ask that parents and staff refrain from doing school-related business including phone calls and emails during *Shabbat* (from candle lighting time on Friday to one hour after sundown on Saturday) and on Jewish holidays. We ask for special sensitivity in the winter months, when *Shabbat* begins as early as 4:30 pm and when a holiday falls on a Sunday.

Official national holidays such as Thanksgiving and President's Day are recognized and observed in our school. There are no school-related observances of Halloween, Valentine's Day, or St. Patrick's Day, which, despite their secular modes of contemporary observance, have non-Jewish religious origins and associations.

Field Trips

All field trips at Yavneh Day School are part of the curriculum and have specific educational goals. Teachers are encouraged to use the many resources in the Bay Area to enrich our curriculum. These educational opportunities are considered an extension of the classroom, and students are expected to conduct themselves according to the school's behavioral expectations at all times. Parent volunteers usually provide field trip transportation. The school's insurance company requires that any parents driving students on any school-sponsored trip or activity are required to have confirmation in writing that they have liability coverage and a valid driver's license. Only those parents who have filed a [Parent Driver Form](#) with the office illustrating proof of license and minimum insurance coverage will be permitted to drive on field trips. Students under 8 years old or under 60 pounds must be seated in a car seat or booster. Parent drivers may not bring siblings on field trips, since this would detract from their ability to help supervise the students properly. Pets are also prohibited on school field trips. A permission slip for each trip will be sent home a few days before the event for a parent to sign and return.

Milestones

The Milestone Curriculum is designed to develop students' public speaking and leadership skills and to enable them to feel at home being leaders of Jewish ritual. This is accomplished through the annual mastery of a set of new skills centered around a service or ritual. Mastery of this set of skills is celebrated at a ceremony. The ceremony is an opportunity to demonstrate and share that new skill with family and the Yavneh community. **Specific details about each grade's milestone**

ceremony are supplied by the teacher as the event gets closer. Parents participate by attending a family workshop prior to the event, helping with preparations and in some grades preparing the gift that is given to the students in honor of their accomplishment.

Health and Safety Policies

Emergency Forms

The emergency form information must be completed and on file before the first day of school. Copies are made for the school office and for each classroom. In the event that it becomes necessary to evacuate the school building for fire or earthquake, teachers and administrators take the emergency forms with them and use them to account for all of the students. It is imperative that information on the emergency form be kept current. Please list all medications your child takes daily (at home or school) on the Emergency Information Form. Please call the office to inform them of any changes as soon as they occur.

Emergency Comfort Kits

All families are expected to provide a gallon-size ziploc bearing their child's name with several healthy snacks (crackers, pretzels, granola bar, dried fruit), a beverage (juice box or small water bottle) and a short note as a comfort provision in the unlikely event of an emergency. Kits are to be brought to school on the first day of class and given to the child's teacher, these will be returned to families at the end of the school year.

Immunization Record

Students entering Yavneh for the first time must provide a TB risk assessment and a record of five (5) DPT or DT, four (4) Polio, three (3) Hepatitis B, two (2) Measles Mumps Rubella, and one (1) Varicella vaccine. In addition, the law requires a Tdap booster vaccine for all students entering 7th grade. Students cannot and will not be accepted on the first day of school without all of this information on file in the front office.

Minor Injuries & Illness

Minor injuries and illnesses at school will be treated in the school office. When necessary, the child's temperature will be taken. Parents will be contacted when the office staff deems necessary.

Medical Emergencies

In the event of a medical emergency, the parent will be notified. If the parent cannot be reached, the person listed on the emergency form will be notified. We must have a current emergency form on file for each child. It is understood that enrollment at Yavneh Day School confers upon the school the obligation to select emergency care providers in the absence of our ability to reach parents, the contact person designated by the parents, or the physician. No liability will be attached to such a decision in the event that these people cannot be reached.

Health Guidelines

Do not send your child to school if your child is sick. If your child contracts a contagious condition, (i.e., strep throat, conjunctivitis etc.) please notify the school office at once. The school will notify all other parents of children in that class (without mentioning the name of the ill child). Any child with even a slight fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit, who does not appear alert, or is not well enough to play outside, will be sent home. A child who has been absent due to illness of any kind must be free of fever (without medication), episodes of vomiting, nausea, stomach cramps, or diarrhea for at least 24 hours prior to returning to school. Do not send your child to school with a rash until your health care provider has stated that your child is not contagious. When a child has been home with a contagious condition, we may require parents to obtain a doctor's note stating that the child is free of contagion before returning to school. This is for the protection of every member of our school community. If your child is sick, irritable, or uncomfortable, he or she deserves the comforts of home. For colds and less severe conditions, we ask you to consider the comfort of your own child and the well-being of the others in the class in deciding whether or not your child should stay home.

Risk Acknowledgement

The COVID-19 virus has a long incubation period in which carriers may not show symptoms but may be contagious; it's therefore difficult to determine who may have contacted the virus. The safety of students and employees is our first priority. While we diligently comply with State Health Department, CDC, the Santa Clara County Public Health and Department of Education infection prevention guidelines to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we cannot make guarantees. In order to keep everyone as healthy as possible, we ask that everyone be symptom-free before entering our campus.

Face Coverings and Masks

As the nature of the Covid-19 disease shifts from pandemic to epidemic, we too will shift our approach to masking at school. With minor exceptions, we will follow Santa Clara County recommendations for schools. However, when there is a known risk to a class, group of students or staff and/or other reason for concern we can, at any time, require the wearing of masks in class, hallways and/or outside. We take seriously the teaching of Hillel in Pirkei Avot 1:14, *If I am not for I? am what myself, for only am I If me? for be will who* ,אִם אֵינֶנּוּ לִי, מִי לִי. וְכִשָּׁאֵנִי לְעַצְמִי, ,myself

מִה אֵנִי

In response to this teaching, we choose life and recognize the interdependent and covenantal responsibilities inherent in community and the importance in taking care of the needs of others in addition to our own.

Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfecting

There are strict requirements for ensuring proper hygiene and disinfection on campus, especially in bathrooms, food consumption areas, and communal areas. Students and staff will be trained to practice proper hand-washing and self-sanitation. Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be provided in communal areas and for any shared equipment.

Medication

The school asks that parents avoid sending medication to school. When possible, administer medication before school, upon returning home after school, and at bedtime. Any child requiring medication during the school day must have an adult supply the office with a [Medication Authorization Form](#) signed by the physician. No medication will be administered without a form. A child cannot bring in the medication on their own to the office. Medication must be brought to school by an adult in the original labeled container to be given to an adult during drop off and must be kept in the school office. If your child has a chronic condition (e.g. asthma), please provide an emergency supply of medication as well as the signed medical authorization form.

Head Lice Policy

Head lice are endemic in Santa Clara County which means that they are always present in our community. Infestation can happen to anyone at any age. It is not a sign of poor health habits or being dirty. While head lice require a large amount of effort to treat, it is important to remember that they do not cause disease nor harm.

When a student has been identified as having head lice, the condition needs to be addressed promptly to prevent the spread to others. The child will be asked to wait in the office until they are picked up to go home. After the student's parent is contacted, any siblings are checked, and all students found to have lice will be sent home to receive treatment. The School Office will provide the parent with information regarding head lice treatment, readmission requirements, and resources for treatment.

If you discover head lice, it is important that you notify the school as soon as possible. A notice will be sent home notifying parents of the grade of their child's possible exposure to lice (without identifying the affected child). This is done to help prevent reinfection. Parents of your child's friends, scout groups, and teams where a helmet or hat is shared should also be notified.

Before returning to school:

- Remove all nits from hair
- Treat live lice
- Treat home environment including bedding, clothes, stuffed animals, hair decorations, combs and brushes

Readmission Requirements to School After Finding Head Lice:

The student(s) may return to school the following day, with proof of treatment, if all lice have been removed from the hair. Office personnel will examine the student's head at drop off before reentry

into the classroom. ***A parent or guardian must be present during the return to school check. Children found to have lice during this check will be sent home for further treatment and may return for another check the following school day.***

Emergency Drills

The school conducts regular emergency drills (i.e., fire, lockdown, and earthquake drills) during school hours. The school is equipped with water, flashlights, and first aid equipment. We urge each family to make a plan in case of an earthquake during the school day. Children will remain on-site in a safe area until parents or designated adults (indicated on the emergency form) arrive. In the event of an emergency, school will remain in operation, and we will stay with your child until someone comes for them. If a major emergency occurs, please do NOT call the school. We have an Emergency Phone and Text Tree in place, and everyone will be contacted as soon as possible. We must leave our telephone lines open for emergency calls.

Keeping Our Children Safe

We take security precautions seriously to ensure the safety of the children at Yavneh. While we have not had any incidents, we feel it is prudent to be cautious. Our children's safety is our most important concern. The school wing of the Levy Campus is secure, with access allowed only through the security doors at the entrance. A security guard is present at the entrance during school hours. Families are issued a Yavneh security badge at the beginning of the school year.

Governance

The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is comprised of volunteer parents and concerned community members who are dedicated to quality education. The Board sets policy and standards, ensures fiscal responsibility, and acts as ambassadors for the school. The Board actively encourages parental and community involvement in Yavneh and actively solicits support for the school. Board membership is a serious commitment as Board members are responsible for keeping Yavneh a viable, effective, and quality Jewish educational institution. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Board of Trustee member or joining one of our working committees, please reach out to the Chair of the Governance Committee. You can find more information [here](#).

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is composed of the President, Presidents, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and, in some cases, the Immediate Past President. This committee acts as a steering committee for the General Board and works with the administration on a regular basis. The Executive Committee proposes action items to the General Board for consideration.

The General Board

The General Board sets policy for use of facilities and financial matters, establishes personnel policies, and promotes the general well-being of the school. Items requiring policy decisions are brought before this body for consideration. The Board meets regularly during the school year.

Constituency Relationships

Parents, faculty, administration, and Trustees all share a vital interest in the well-being of Yavneh Day School and work as a team to insure the improvement of the school. It is only through this

partnership that Yavneh will continue to grow and flourish. It is vital that all parents take an active role in Yavneh's committees, classrooms, and leadership.

Governing Board Charter

The school is a Non-Profit Benefit Corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Non-Profit Benefit Corporation Law for charitable purposes. The property of the school is irrevocably dedicated to charitable and educational purposes and no part of the net income or assets of the school shall ever accrue to the benefit of any private person.

Yavneh Speak

Term	Definition
YPA	Yavneh Parent Association
<i>HaMoadon</i> (Ha-Mo-a-don)	A term sometimes used to refer to Club J. In Hebrew it means The Club.
The Auditorium	Large room in the JCC on the other side of the building where we hold big events.
JSV	Jewish Silicon Valley provides programs through the Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center that focus on youth and families, Jewish life and culture, healthy aging, and wellness. They also support the work and programs of other local Jewish agencies to ensure a broad range of opportunities are accessible for anyone seeking to explore their own meaningful Jewish journey.
JFS	The Jewish Family Service of Silicon Valley provides counseling services for adults, children, and families. In addition, the JFS is involved with home care, senior services, emergency financial assistance, émigré resettlement, vocational counseling, ESL, and citizenship preparation.
Beit Kehillah	Community space where we gather for all-school services and events.
Torah Service	Thursday morning service when we read from the Torah (The 5 Books of Moses)
<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i>	The prayer service that welcomes <i>Shabbat</i> immediately preceding the <i>Shabbat</i> evening service. At school it is used to refer to our Friday afternoon <i>Shabbat</i> Celebration.
Milestone Ceremony "The Milestone"	To enable students to be full participating members and leaders in Jewish ritual life. This is accomplished through the annual mastery of a set of new skills centered around a service or ritual. Completion of the mastery of this set of skills is celebrated at a ceremony.
<i>Ha'Shavua</i>	This is the name of our weekly e-newsletter that comes out every Thursday evening. In Hebrew it means The Week.
Moving Up Ceremony	Special end of the year service held on the final morning of school that marks the passage from one grade to the next.

Keshet of Kavod	Rainbow of Respect, seven character attributes (middot) that are chosen annually by the school community that then become the focus of school wide character education.
Keshet Krew	Student leaders of the Keshet of Kavod who study, write and present monthly skits focusing on a chosen middah of the Keshet of Kavod.
Generations Day	Special day when grandparents and special friends are invited to come to school with the students for special activities.

Important Hebrew/Jewish Words to Know at Yavneh

English Transliteration	Definition	Hebrew עברית
<i>Derech Eretz</i>	Showing common decency, being a mensch	דרך ארץ
<i>Shabbat Shalom</i>	Have a peaceful <i>Shabbat</i> (This greeting is said on Fridays at school)	שבת שלום
<i>Boker Tov</i>	Good morning	בוקר טוב
<i>Na La'amod/Na La'kum</i>	Please Stand Up	נא לעמוד
<i>Na La'shevet</i>	Please sit down	נא לשבת
<i>Todah Rabah</i>	Thank You	תודה רבה
<i>B'vakasha</i>	Please/You're Welcome	בבקשה
<i>Kol HaKavod</i>	Lit. All of the respect. all right, way to go, or a job well done, great job!	כל הכבוד
<i>Yashar Koach</i>	May your strength be affirmed/Power to you!	ישר כח
<i>B'teavon</i>	lit. With appetite. is the Hebrew equivalent of bon appetit!	בתאבון
<i>Kehillah</i>	Community	קהילה
<i>Parshat Hashavua</i>	Torah Portion of the Week	פרשת השבוע
<i>Hashavua</i>	Lit. the week. It is also the name of the Yavneh Weekly e-newsletter	השבוע
<i>Tzedakah</i>	Righteous giving. It is the name given to money donated to help others.	צדקה
<i>Mitzvah</i>	lit. Commandment. Often used to refer to the performance of Jewish actions and good deeds	מצווה

<i>Kosher</i>	Fit to eat according to Jewish Law	כשר
<i>Hechsher</i>	The symbol found on packages of kosher food	הכשר
<i>Milchig/Chalavi</i>	Dairy: milk based foods eg. yogurt, cheese	חלבי
<i>Fleishig/Basari</i>	Meat: meat based foods eg; chicken broth	בשרי
<i>Pareve</i>	Food that is considered to be neither milk based or meat based and thus can be eaten with either eg. fish, eggs, vegetables, fruit	פרווה
<i>Tefillah</i>	Prayer	תפילה
<i>Shacharit</i>	Morning Prayer Service	שחרית

<i>Bracha/Brachot (pl)</i>	Blessing(s)	ברכה / ברכות
<i>Tefillin</i>	Phylacteries: leather boxes worn on arm and head during the morning service containing passages from the Torah	תפילין
<i>Tallit</i>	Prayer shawl	טלית
<i>Tzitzit</i>	Knotted fringes found at the end of a 4 cornered garment/tallit that are commanded in the Torah to be worn	ציצית
<i>Kippah/Kippot</i>	Traditional head covering(s)	כיפה/כיפות
<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i>	The service that welcomes the Shabbat immediately preceding the Shabbat evening service. At school it is used to refer to our Friday afternoon Shabbat Celebration.	קבלת שבת
<i>Teshuvah</i>	Turning toward becoming a better person	תשובה
<i>Tashlich</i>	Rosh Hashanah Ritual of symbolically casting away sins by throwing bread crumbs into water	תשליך
<i>Bedikat and Biur Chametz</i>	The ritual of checking for and destroying of leaven before the Passover holiday	בדיקת חמץ ביאור חמץ
<i>Chag Sameach</i>	Happy Holiday	חג שמח
<i>B'seder</i>	Alright/OK	בסדר
<i>Tikkun Olam</i>	Fixing the World	תיקון עולם
<i>Rosh Chodesh</i>	Head of the month, Holiday that marks the beginning of each Jewish month	ראש חודש
<i>Nusach</i>	Tune used for prayers	נוסח
<i>Beit Sefer</i>	lit. House of book, School	בית ספר
<i>Chumash</i>	Another word for Torah, comes from the Hebrew word Chamesh (5). Refers to a book in which you can find the 5 books of Moses	חומש
<i>Tanakh</i>	An acronym for the Hebrew Bible. T : Torah (5 books of Moses), N : Nevi'im (The Prophets), KH : Khetuvim (The writings)	תנ"ך

<i>Talmud</i>	The body of Jewish civil and ceremonial law and legend comprising the Mishnah (text) and the Gemara (commentary).	תלמוד
<i>Slichah</i>	Excuse Me	סליחה
<i>Pirkei Avot</i>	Lit. Sayings of our Ancestors	פרקי אבות
<i>Rashi</i>	Acronym for Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki. Famous commentator on the Torah and Talmud	רש"י
<i>Siddur</i>	Prayer Book	סידור

<i>Kiddush</i>	Blessing that sanctifies holy days said over a glass of wine or grape juice	קידוש
<i>Ha-motzi</i>	Blessing said before eating bread	המוציא
<i>Birkat Hamazon</i>	Blessing said after eating	ברכת המזון
<i>Halleluyah</i>	lit. Praised is God. Commonly used word of exclamation in Jewish prayer	הללויה
<i>Kaddish</i>	Mourner's Prayer	קדיש
<i>Niggun</i>	A wordless song	ניגון
<i>Gan</i>	Kindergarten	גן
<i>Kitah Alef/Aleph</i>	First Grade	כיתה א
<i>Kitah Bet</i>	Second Grade	כיתה ב
<i>Kitah Gimmel</i>	Third Grade	כיתה ג
<i>Kitah Dalet</i>	Fourth Grade	כיתה ד
<i>Kitah Hay</i>	Fifth Grade	כיתה ה
<i>Kitah Vav</i>	Sixth Grade	כיתה ו
<i>Kitah Zayin</i>	Seventh Grade	כיתה ז
<i>Kitah Chet</i>	Eighth Grade	כיתה ח
<i>Geffen</i>	Grape/Grape Vine	
<i>Rimon</i>	Pomegranate	
<i>Tamar</i>	Date	
<i>T'enna</i>	Fig	
<i>Middah/Middot</i>	lit. measure or size. Also means character attribute (the measure of our character)	

<i>Shinshiniot</i> / <i>Shinshinim</i>	A Hebrew abbreviation of "Shnat Sherut" - year of service. A shin-shin (m, singular) or shinshinim (f, singular) is a young Israeli person doing a year of national service through community work in a diaspora community. Their job is to bring Israel - language, culture, history, and more - to life here in our community.	
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The Local Jewish Community

The Jewish Campus

The Gloria and Ken Levy Family Campus houses Jewish Silicon Valley, the Addison Penzak Jewish Community Center, Yavneh Day School, and Jewish Family Service of Silicon Valley. Together under one roof, these four thriving Jewish agencies provide a focal point for the Silicon Valley Jewish Community.

Jewish Silicon Valley supports programs and services to meet Jewish needs locally, nationally, and overseas. JSV's mission is to develop leadership; raise and allocate funds needed to maintain and strengthen Jewish identity, Jewish community, and Jewish life; and to work toward meeting the needs and concerns of the Jewish community.

Jewish Silicon Valley provides a variety of programs and services including preschool, youth camps, teen and single activities, senior programs, and sports and cultural events.

The Jewish Family Service of Silicon Valley provides counseling services for adults, children, and families. In addition, the JFS is involved with home care, senior services, emergency financial assistance, émigré resettlement, vocational counseling, ESL, and citizenship preparation.

Synagogues

Yavneh enjoys warm relations with our neighboring synagogues and clergy. We encourage our families to participate in *Shabbat* and holiday observances at local congregations, and to take advantage of the religious and communal benefits of synagogue affiliation. Please note, most synagogues require membership in order to have a bar/bat mitzvah as part of their community and many require membership by the time the child is in 4th or 5th grade. Please consult each synagogues' membership policies for more information. Congregations in our area include:

- Congregation Beth David, Saratoga (Conservative)
- Congregation Shir Hadash, Los Gatos (Reform)
- Congregation Sinai, San Jose (Conservative)
- Temple Emanu-El, San Jose (Reform)
- Ahavas Torah Synagogue, San Jose (Orthodox)
- Congregation Am Echad, San Jose (Orthodox)
- Bar Yohay Minyan, Sunnyvale (Sephardic)
- Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos Hills (Reform)
- Congregation Kol Emeth, Palo Alto (Conservative)
- Congregation Emeth, Gilroy (Reform)
- Congregation Kol Tefillah, Santa Cruz (Conservative)
- Temple Beth El, Aptos (Reform)
- Congregation Etz Chayim, Palo Alto (Independent)

Non-Discrimination Statement

Yavneh Day School admits students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

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Beneficiary of Jewish Silicon Valley
Member of Prizmah-Center for Jewish Day Schools
Member of National Association of Independent Schools
Accredited by the California Association of Independent School