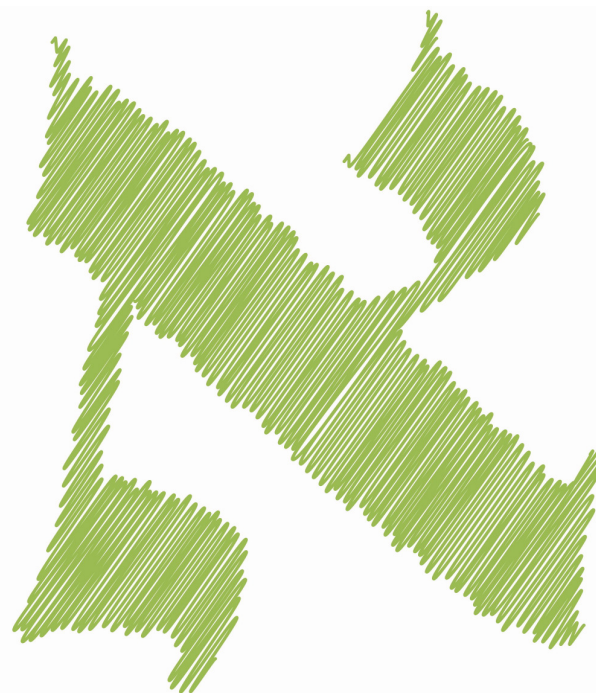


Elementary School Handbook



ALEPH
academy

"Where Arts and Academics Meet"

Welcome to Aleph Academy! Our elementary school program allows for every child and their family to learn and grow in a supportive environment. It is our hope that your family will become active participants in our greater school community and all it has to offer. In our pursuit for excellence, we welcome your questions, concerns, suggestions and ideas.

I. Curriculum

Curriculum Overview

The school day is filled with core subjects like language arts, math and science, and extra curricular activities like art, drama and movement by qualified instructors. Judaic subject are taught in an experiential way so that they are relevant and meaningful. Hebrew language is introduced using a scaffolding approach; building a strong foundation for future learning.

In addition to academics, we use project-based learning so students can tackle a challenging curriculum in ways that are meaningful, exciting and engaging. Our curriculum meets or exceeds Nevada State educational standards. Detailed descriptions of the curriculum for each grade level are available.

Goals

Aleph Academy's goal is that each child will reach their full potential in a distinctly creative learning environment. By creating a community of learners and exposing our children to the arts and technology, we strive to inspire excellence in every student. The mixed age learning environment mimics "real life" and allows for a vibrant classroom setting.

Our goal is to provide a learning experience that develops the whole child, helping them grow intellectually, emotionally, creatively, physically and spiritually.

the school year. If a child loses a book, a replacement fee will be assessed based on the cost of that book.

Report Cards

Report Cards are distributed two times a year to all children in grades first through fourth. Report cards cover all of our core subjects including language arts, spelling and math. Combined with our portfolios, a parent gets a well rounded view of their child's academic performance.

Uniforms All K-4 children are required to abide by the following dress code.

Boys- Black, Khaki or Navy Pants or shorts, oxford or polo style long or short sleeve shirt in the following colors: white, black, navy, khaki, socks required with shoes.

Girls- Black, Khaki or Navy skirt to the knee, oxford or polo style shirt in the following colors: white, black, navy, khaki. Shirt sleeves to the elbow, socks required with shoes.

Code of Conduct

At Aleph, we want to give every child the chance to succeed. If a child's behavior disrupts our classroom environment to the point where learning cannot be achieved, parents will be called and have to pick up their child immediately. If this happens three times, that child will be asked to find another institution of learning.

*This handbook covers all of our specifics for Elementary school children (K-4.) Additional information pertaining to Aleph Academy's policies and procedures is available in our general Parent Handbook.

Grade Placement

We follow Washoe County's guidelines for grade placement. Children entering Kindergarten must be five years of age by September 30 of that year. If you feel that your child should be considered for a different grade, we require an independent evaluation conducted by a licensed child psychologist or psychiatrist, paid for by the family. The ultimate decision of class placement will be made by the educational director and the teacher of the class.

Homework

The purpose of homework is to reinforce information learned at school in a concise manner. It is not limited to the work sent home by the teachers. We encourage parents to spend time with their child while working on their research projects, gathering information and having "real life" learning experiences.

Parent Conferences

Conferences are held with your child's teacher twice yearly after formal assessments are conducted. Teachers and parents share information concerning the life of the child both at home and at school. Additional meetings may be held whenever a parent, teacher or the Director request information or assistance.

Portfolios

Children will receive a portfolio documenting progress in all of our school subjects including language arts, math, science and social studies. Portfolios are a compilation of assessments or pieces of work that show exemplary scholarship or growth.

Book Fee

There is an annual book fee that covers all books in both our Judaic and Secular studies classes. Fee is due prior to the start of

Core Subjects

Language Arts- Includes phonics, spelling, mechanics, Junior Great Books, handwriting

Math- Focuses on critical thinking, use of manipulatives are highly encouraged.

Science- Thematic Curriculum covering life, earth, health and environmental sciences.

Social Studies- See The Project Approach.

Judaics-The cycle of the Jewish year becomes a springboard for the learning topics.

Hebrew- Emphasis on reading, writing, popular prayers and the modern spoken language.

The Project Approach

The project approach allows children to broaden their knowledge and take ownership of the learning process in a challenging, engaging and stimulating way . Valuable skills are gained in public speaking, leadership, responsibility, effective research methods, self esteem, cooperative learning and social skills, just to name a few. At the start of a new project, the teacher will send home a specific timeline for when tasks need to be completed. We urge parents to make note of dates and expectations. Upon completion of the project, parents and friends are invited to a special presentation.

Art

Art in all its forms is an integral part of our program. Children use different art mediums during long term school projects as a way to express themselves and delve deeper into their learning.

Technology

Technology is an integral part of our elementary school program. Teachers will use class computers to assist in children's learning and research. Students will need access after school hours to a computer and the internet to conduct research projects and reports. Classrooms are fully internet accessible. Any student that is part of Aleph Academy and simultaneously enrolled in another program (e.g. k12 or the Shluchim Online School) will be required to bring their own laptop to school. Children's laptops need to have full parental controls in place for a child to use during school hours. Personal computers are not allowed for any other reason.

Guest Speakers and Field Trips

One of the highlights of our program is the community aspect. If the children are learning about journalism, we bring in a local reporter for them to interview. Afterwards, they had the opportunity to create their own newspaper. When they focused on body systems in science, an Orthopedic surgeon visited and taught our students all about their bones. Two children acted as assistant nurses while the other children received casts!

Aleph elementary students go on field trips that are relevant to them and their learning. Children are encouraged to learn about the place prior to the trip and to reflect afterwards. This creates a meaningful and memorable experience.

II. General Information

Admissions Requirements

After the parent tour, all enrollment forms and a non-refundable registration fee needs to be submitted to initiate the enrollment process. Elementary students are required to have an *interview* and take an *admissions exam*, administered by our school. Testing will be done in both math and language arts proficiency. This includes students enrolled in Aleph preschool. Students wishing to enter Kindergarten through 4th grade from another school will be required to supply *two letters of recommendation* from previous teachers as well as a *copy of their transcripts*. It is the parents' responsibility to obtain these in order for the registration to be complete. Families will be notified of acceptance once all forms and fees are submitted.

Distance Learners

Aleph Academy attracts children from throughout the Northern Nevada region. We provide a unique distance learning option in Aleph Academy's elementary program for children that cannot attend all five days of the week. These children are considered "home schooled" and parents must file their appropriate state home schooling forms. Please make a copy for our school records.

Aleph Academy will make every effort to make these children feel part of the greater Aleph community. At the parent's request, Aleph can assist the child's family in finding appropriate additional web based curriculum for both secular and Judaic studies. Due to the unique nature of this program, teachers and administration cannot "catch up" the child with work on the days missed. The academic level of distance learners is the sole responsibility of the parents.