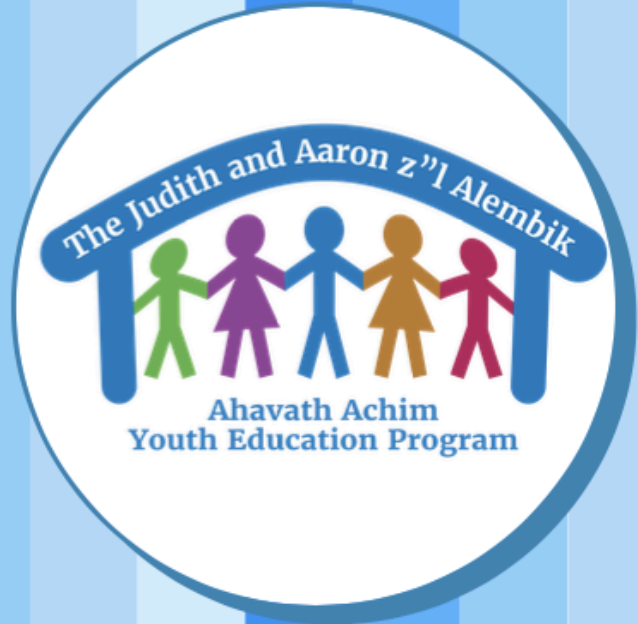


seriously
Awesome

Parent

H A N D B O O K



2024-2025

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Student & Parent Keshet & Nesiah Handbook

Who We Are

Welcome to the The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program.

Keshet

Keshet is Hebrew for “connection,” and connection is at the center of everything we do. Keshet is Ahavath Achim Synagogue's Jewish school program for kids from Pre-K through 6th grade. We nurture compassionate and curious Jewish learning to draw connections between children and their Jewish values and rituals, to each other, to their community, and to their environment. Students in 2nd through 6th grade also meet remotely each week for small-group, focused Hebrew tutoring.

At **Keshet**, our spiraling curriculum meshes Jewish values with Jewish holidays and customs, and children's interests into child-centered, project-based learning experiences. We believe in nurturing the whole child through differentiated interactions based on core Jewish values that inform their relationships and interactions at home, in the community, and globally.

Nesiah

Nesiah, Hebrew for “journey,” is Ahavath Achim Synagogue's on-the-move program for 7th through 9th-grade students. Nesiah runs on a triennial curriculum, each year exploring Jewish values and Jewish identity through the lens of history, politics, and current events, culminating with a memorable trip. The students spend time during the year documenting their experiences and discoveries. The curriculum is uniquely designed to bring together public and private school students alike.

The **Nesiah** course for 2024-2025 – “From the Outside In: Understanding the Origins of Our Prejudices – “will be explored through race, religion, and culture. This class will predominantly be taught through speakers and field trips, after which the Nesiah facilitator will help navigate discussions and reflections. The course will start by understanding the foundations of Judaism and antisemitism. We will then visit other religious institutions with open ears and eyes. By mid-year we will be learning about the Civil Rights Movement and Jewish responses to it, and we will end the year learning more about the Holocaust. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to listen and learn how to ask questions curiously, delving into their own stereotypes and prejudices.

Learning about others is a life-long skill that will help us continue to be mindful, navigate dialogues, and open up lines of communication.

Mission

- Teach skills to our students to be confident and comfortable in Jewish spaces (shabbat, synagogue, celebrate holidays, and understanding rituals)
- Instill Jewish values in each student for their own personal growth and identity
- Help students find where they fit in to become responsible Jews and stewards of their communities and the world
- Provide students space to explore what being Jewish means to them
- Find joy in being Jewish
- Through hands-on experiences, help students learn to question, problem-solve, and build a more just world.

Philosophy

Keshet is the Ahavath Achim Synagogue's supplementary education program for grades Pre-K through 6th grade. Our curriculum meshes Jewish Holidays, Jewish Values, and children's interests into a child-centered, project-based curriculum. We believe in nurturing the whole child and viewing our relationships and interactions with others and our environment through the lens of some of these Jewish values: G'milut Chasadim (Lovingkindness), Bitachon (Safety/Trust), Tikkun (Repair), Areivut (Responsibility), Kavannah (Intention), Ma'aseh (Action), Tzedek (Justice), Avodah (Service), Sh'mirah (Preservation), and Kavod (Human Dignity/Respect). We create confident and curious Jewish learners in a safe space where they can take risks, question, play, learn, explore, engage, create, make meaning, and love. We foster the child's sense of Jewish self-discovery by providing a nurturing environment where each person can explore and create their own identity.

Our Jewish Values

- **G'milut Chasadim – Lovingkindness** is the root of being able to understand others so that we may be able to give and receive through Chesed
- **Bitachon** – Our **Safety/Trust** is the foundation upon which we create community and allow children to try, sometimes failing, and grow
- **Areivut – Responsibility** is knowing it is our duty in making our world a better place by taking pride and ownership in our decisions and our actions
- **Tikkun – Repair** is the ability to self-reflect and make different choices in the future to make the world a better place
- **Kavannah – Intention** is the way in which we approach the world, with great purpose and thought, and the ability to make meaning and find connections
- **Ma'aseh** – Understanding that each **action** we take affects more than just ourselves
- **Tzedek** – Building a **just** world and helping us define our relationships
- **Avodah** – To engage in the **act of service** to better our community and our world
- **Sh'mirah** – **Preservation** of our **world** and the **resources** with which we are blessed

•Kavod – Human Dignity/Respect of our community and world we live in by believing that all human-beings are created in the divine image, and so have equal worth

School Operations

Calendar & Dates

You can access our [calendar](#) online. For holidays and breaks we follow the [Atlanta Public School calendar](#) and the [Jewish calendar](#).



The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program

5785 (2024-2025)

*Jewish holidays start the evening prior

24-Aug						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	11	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 1 Atlanta Public School (APS) Starts
- 17 *****Keshet*****
- 18 **Kesher & Nesiah Classes Start**
- 19 AHC Classes Start

25-Jan						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 2-Jan Hanukkah
- 1 New Year's Day
- 12/23 - 1/6 APS Holiday Break
- 11 Family & Kesher Shabbat
- 11 *****Kesher & Nesiah*****
- 20 MLK Day

24-Sep						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 2 Labor Day
- 7 Family & Kesher Shabbat
- 7 Kesher ONLY

25-Feb						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

- 1 Kesher ONLY
- 1 Family & B'nai Mitvah Shabbat
- 13 Tu B'Shevat
- 17 President's Day
- 17-21 APS Winter Break

24-Oct						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 2 Erev Rosh Hashanah
- 4-Mar Rosh Hashanah
- 11 Erev Yom Kippur
- 12 Yom Kippur
- 14-18 APS Fall Break
- 16 Erev Sukkot
- 17-23 Sukkot
- 20 Family Kesher Sukkot
- 24 Shmini Atzeret
- 25 Simchat Torah

25-Mar						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- 1 Kesher ONLY
- 1 Family & Kesher Shabbat
- 9 Daylight Savings Time
- 9 Purim PaloozAA
- 13-14 Purim
- 17 APS Off
- 31 Easter

24-Nov						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- 2 Kesher ONLY
- 2 Family & Kesher Shabbat
- 2 Daylight Savings Time
- 25-29 APS Thanksgiving Break
- 28 Thanksgiving

25-Apr						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 5 Kesher ONLY
- 5 Family & Kesher Shabbat
- 11-Jul APS Spring Break
- 13-20 Passover
- 24 Yom HaShoah

24-Dec						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- 7 *****Kesher & Nesiah*****
- 7 Family & Kesher Shabbat
- 12/23 - 1/6 APS Holiday Break
- 12/25 - 1/2 Hanukkah
- 15 Sparks of Light
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve

25-May						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 4 Last Day of Kesher/Nesiah
- 11 Mother's Day
- 20 Last Day of AHC with 2 make up days
- 26 Memorial Day

June 1-3 Nesiah Trip - June 1 - 3, 2025

Kesher & Nesiah
 Kesher ONLY
 AHC Midweek Hebrew
 Family Program
 Jewish Holidays
 Rosh & Nosh

Kesher Dates in List 2024-2025

Class hours are: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm:

Sunday, August 18;

Sunday August 25;

Saturday, September 7;

Sunday, September 15;

Sunday, September 22;

Sunday, September 29;

Sunday, October 20;

Sunday, October 27;

Saturday, November 2;

Sunday, November 10;

Sunday, November 17;

Sunday, November 24;

Saturday, December 7;

NO KESHER Sunday, December 15

(Hanukkah Programming in evening);

Saturday, January 11;

Sunday, January 26;

Saturday, February 1;

Sunday, February 9;

Sunday, February 23;

Saturday, March 1;

NO KESHER Sunday, March 9

(mid-morning Purim PaloozAA);

Sunday, March 23;

Sunday, March 30;

Saturday, April 5;

Sunday, April 27;

Sunday, May 4 (End of Year Ceremonies)

Sunday, November 17;
Sunday, November 24;
Saturday, December 7;
NO NESIAH Sunday, December 15
(Hanukkah Programming in evening);
Saturday, January 11;
Sunday, January 26;
Sunday, February 9;
Sunday, February 23;
Saturday, March 1;
NO NESIAH Sunday, March 9
(mid-morning Purim PaloozAA);
Sunday, March 23;
Sunday, March 30;
Sunday, April 27;
Sunday, May 4 (End of Year Ceremonies);
Nesiah trip June 1-3 or 4

Lost and Found

All belongings should be clearly labeled with the child's name. Unclaimed clothing and other items found on premise will be taken to the appropriate lost and found box. Missing Keshet and Nesiah items can be found in the lost and found box under the table near the water fountain in the Keshet Hallway. General Ahavath Achim lost and found is located near the front of the building under the coat rack in the stairwell.

Communication

Please stay informed and involved in your child's Keshet and Nesiah experiences and activities by reading all school correspondence sent via email, the Remind app, and social media. Emergency information is sent through email and Remind. Please ensure that you are signed up for **Remind**. Text: @3h3dgba to 81010 or @3h3dgba to (510) 478-9062. **Please make sure that the email you use for school registration is correct, and notify aklehr@aasynagogue.org when you have a change in guardianship, email address, phone**

number, or home address to ensure that you are receiving important information and news. Check the “spam” folder in your email account if update emails are not received. Typically, at least one newsletter email from your teacher is sent every week.

Need to Know Numbers

- Director of Education, Annsley Klehr – 404.216.2522
- Ahavath Achim Synagogue – 404.355.5222

Email Addresses

- Gan – Samantha Adane: samanthaadane@gmail.com
- Ozrim – Mica Kelmachter: micarosekelmacher@gmail.com
- Cosmim – (substitute) Abby Graff: a.frazier.graff@gmail.com
- Menches – Harli Gottesman: harli.gottesman@apsk12.org
- Nesiah – Lisa Vitello: vitellolisa@gmail.com

Website

Please visit the The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program <https://aasynagogue.org/youth-and-family/youth-education-program/> to learn more about Keshet, Nesiah, and see upcoming Youth and Family Program events.

Social Media

Social media can help bring the Ahavath Achim Youth and Family communities closer together and let the wider community know about us, but families should use common sense and courtesy when posting online. Please take the opportunity on social media to uplift and inspire our community and share good news. Facebook is a great way to celebrate successes, build community, and share resources. Social media is not the appropriate venue for airing concerns and grievances, and social media should never be used to publicly humiliate or criticize another parent, faculty or staff member, or student.

When posting photos of our students to personal social media accounts, please be mindful of the privacy of other families. As a reminder, social media sites have age restrictions for account creation, and students are not allowed to access or utilize social media sites during Keshet & Nesiah.

- o Like us on **Facebook** – This site is used to post reminders about The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program, events and activities, share school news, and post urgent information. This is the only Facebook page maintained and monitored by the Youth and Education Program. Please contact the school directly with any questions instead of posting them on Facebook so that you can receive the fastest and most accurate answer.
<https://www.facebook.com/aayoutheducationprogram>

- o Find us on Instagram [ayoutheducationprogram](#)

School Payments

Each family is able to choose how and how often to pay for your program: check, cash or credit card. Regardless of whether you pay with a credit card, if you are late in paying, your credit card will automatically be charged for the month that you are missing. Please be mindful of staying up to date with your payment plans.

Registration

Registration will begin in April of the current year your students are enrolled.

- Early Bird rates are from April of the current year until the last day of Keshet/Nesiah.
- Regular rates run from the day after Keshet/Nesiah end until June 30th.
- Late rates will be charged for any returning family registering after June 30th.

Student & Parent Expectations

Promoting a Positive Jewish School Environment promotes an environment of inquiry, diversity, and multiculturalism, recognizing every person's value and worth. Students are expected to treat everyone with respect, assume good will, and communicate in a positive and appropriate manner, even when they may disagree with others. We hold the same expectation for staff and parents. A healthy school community includes families who are engaged in our Jewish community and the overall wellbeing of their children and the school as a whole. The school and parents are partners in ensuring that children are nurtured and receive a quality education. We expect that conflicts will arise, and parents will have concerns from time to time. We are committed to resolving difficulties and concerns in a constructive manner, through open and positive dialogue. Parents are encouraged to approach teachers and staff in a respectful and constructive way and offer those who interact with students the benefit of the doubt when concerns arise. In return, our Keshet & Nesiah staff are committed to nurturing students, listening to parents, and treating all members of our community with respect.

Kavod Code

With this in mind, we believe in holiness of commitments towards respecting each other. This reflects the agreement between G-d and the Jewish people. We believe that each student has a right to learn; each student has a right to feel safe; and each student has right to be who they are. At Keshet and Nesiah we create community and honor each other when we help each other grow, work together, look for joy, and be respectful. How we do each of these things is discussed in each class and agreed upon by every student.

Dress Code

As we walk into the synagogue building, we want to make sure that we honor the sacred space of our community and our children. On Sundays, Children can dress as desired. On Saturdays, we request that your children come dressed appropriately for Shabbat services.

Celebrations

We want to be able to celebrate and recognize our students as much as possible. If your child(ren) has a birthday, you are welcome to join us in Kehillah at 12:15 pm as we sing happy birthday to your child.

Carpool & Dismissal Procedures

All students arrive at and leave from school in private vehicles from the upper lot of the Ahavath Achim Synagogue. You may drop off in a carpool line or park and walk your child into Paradies Hall.

- Please remember that the safety of everyone involved in carpool is of utmost importance. It is imperative that parents remember to follow these carpool rules, even when running late. Remaining calm and respectful to other vehicles, parents, students, police officers, and staff is the best way to help your child have a great start to their school day.
- **For the carpool line, staff will open car doors for both morning and afternoon carpool. Please DO NOT let your child jump out of the car without an adult present.**
- Once a child(ren) is put into a car, the child(ren) must remain in the vehicle during carpool and may not play in the parking lot, road, or area.
- In order to maintain safety and a smooth carpool process, students and parents should not exit the vehicle to access the vehicle's trunk during carpool. If this need arises, please park in the parking lot and either walk the child in or get back in the carpool line.
- Please be mindful of the safety of our students and staff. Keep a safe distance from other cars and individuals who are walking or directing traffic and maintain a safe speed when approaching the carpool line.
- Please do not use phones or other electronic devices during carpool.
- Pets should be restrained during carpool and should not pose a threat or disruption (i.e. lunging out of a door or window or barking at staff or students).

Morning

Morning carpool begins at 9:20 a.m. and ends at 9:30 a.m.

Afternoon

Afternoon carpool starts at 12:30 p.m. and ends at 12:45 p.m.

Transportation Changes

Please email aklehr@aasynagogue.org **AND** text all transportation changes to the Director of Education 404.216.2522

Authorized Persons for Pick-up

We are bound by law to release children to the authorized adults, as indicated on the student's registration form. Proper identification is required. If someone other than any authorized adults listed on the registration form will be picking up your child(ren), please email aklehr@aasynagogue.org and text 404.216.2522.

Early Dismissal

Adults can remain outside or in the Keshet/Nesiah hallway, and the student will be brought to you. All students requiring early dismissal will be put in the hands of the authorized adult by a Keshet/Nesiah staff member.

Late Pick Up

Please be respectful and show consideration for our staff's personal time and your child(ren) by arriving to pick up your children no later than 12:45 pm. We know emergencies happen, so please make sure you **call and text** The Director of Education 404.216.2522 to alert her immediately.

If you are consecutively late, you will be charged a rate of \$7 for the first 10 minutes after carpool has ended and then \$1 a minute after that, so that our staff can be properly compensated for their time. Your account will be charged accordingly.

Volunteer Hours & Opportunities

We encourage and welcome you to be a part of our community in ways that work for you! We ask that you volunteer **at least one time a semester**. Feel free to suggest other ideas, but here is where we could use your help:

- Organizing and categorizing books in the library
- Substitute Teaching
- Holidays – helping prepare and organize
 - o Tu B'Shevat Seder
 - o Purim PaloozAA - registration
 - o Sparks of Light (Hanukkah)

General Information

Non-discrimination

The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program operates on a policy of nondiscrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, creed, and disability in program services.

Attendance

If you know your child(ren) will not be at Keshet or Nesiah for the week, please alert us as early as possible by **emailing your teacher and the Director of Education**. This allows us to have adequate ability to plan and get your children anything they might need.

Conferences

We do not have set conference times. If you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to your teacher to set up a time to meet or talk.

School Visitors

It is a mitzvah to welcome all guests; therefore, we welcome all visitors, *Baruchim Ha'baim*, which literally is translated to "Bless all of those who visit." Exterior doors shall remain locked during the school day, and visitors will need to buzz in.

Adult Visitors

If you are coming to visit, please make sure you present yourself to the office to check in with the Director of Education. You will be required to sign-in and get a name tag before proceeding further into the building.

Children Visitors

We love children and are happy to invite children for the day to come visit or try out our program. Visiting children need to have all the liability [waivers](#) below completed before being allowed to join a classroom.



Withdrawals

You are free to withdraw your child any time. The beautiful opportunities we provide here are non-refundable. Please make sure you let the Director of Education know if you are going to withdraw your child. We welcome a time with you to share any and all reasons for withdrawal without judgment.

Liability [Waiver Acknowledgements](#) – All acknowledgements are part of the registration process. You need to have all waivers completed before your child(ren) begin school.



- Participation
- Publicity waiver
- Transportation waiver
- Emergency waiver
- Authorized Pick-Up waiver

What to Bring

Snacks – please remember that it is your responsibility to bring a snack. We WILL NOT be providing them this year. The snack can be fresh fruit or vegetables. If it is packaged, it needs to be dairy or parve and have a hechsher symbol on it. If you are not sure what symbols to look for, then check [these](#) out. Students should bring healthy, non-sugary snacks with them to school daily to eat during times designated by the teacher. Please do not allow your child to bring sodas or candy. Please see your student's teacher for more specific guidelines or restrictions of any sort due to allergies in your child's class (e.g. peanuts, tree nuts, etc.).

Kesher Canvas bags – if you have your canvas bag from last year, please make sure your child(ren) begins bringing it EVERY DAY. You might notice the new hooks in the halls for the bags. You will see badges collected on these. *If you do NOT have a bag yet, you will get one.* Inside the bag, please send your little people with:

Water bottles filled with water or non-sugary drink.

Tzedakah – Each class will collect their own tzedakah weekly and at some point will determine which organization they would like to donate it to.

What not to bring

Cell Phone - Students are not allowed to use cell phones, “smart” watches, or other electronic communication devices at school during the regular school day. Students are encouraged to leave all electronic devices at home to avoid loss or damage. If **Kesher** students choose to bring phones or other devices to school, they must stay in their bags. If the cell phone or “smart” watch signals an alert (rings/buzzes) in

class, or if a student is observed using their phone, they will be asked not to use it. If it is a continued distraction, we will hold it for them till the end of the day, and then ask that it either stay in the student's bag or be left at home. If messages need to be relayed to a student, please call or text the Director of Education. **Nesiah** students will create their own cell phone code in their class.

Weapons, Alcohol, and Tobacco - weapons of all kinds (as well as items that look like weapons), alcohol, and tobacco and related products are prohibited at all times by faculty, staff, and visitors on the Ahavath Achim property and at any Ahavath Achim events and activities.

Toys/Stuffies – please do not have your children bring toys/stuffies from home with which to play. It is hard for our young friends to keep them tucked away, and when they are out of their bags, it is hard for our friends to share with others. Toys and stuffies are easily lost and misplaced. If your child needs one, we can provide these items. (If your child has specific needs, you can address them with the Director of Education, and we will problem-solve together with your child(ren).

Valuables - Please discourage students from bringing valuables to school. Ahavath Achim Synagogue is not responsible for damage to or loss of students' personal articles.

Food Allergens- Due to students with severe nut allergies, nuts will not be allowed in the classrooms located in the Ahava Preschool. In the event of severe food allergies of any kind, we will notify parents in those classes and a sign will be posted outside the classroom. Please be aware of items that may contain these allergens if your student is in one of these classes. If your child has a food allergen, please communicate with the Director of Education along with identifying this allergy on your registration form.

B'nai Mitzvah

As part of Keshet within The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program, you shall have access to choosing your child(ren)'s B'nai Mitzvah date as soon as the child enters our Cosmim class (3rd grade).

Field Trips

Field trips are fun and exciting ways of making learning come to life. Students put into practice all the Jewish values they have learned to showcase their best selves when going on field trips. Students must have the transportation waiver granting both permission to go and permission to ride in a non-authorized Ahavath Achim car filled out to be allowed to attend a field trip. There may be extra costs associated with the field trips, which will have to be paid prior to going on one.

Publicity and Photos of Students and Right to Opt Out of Publicity

Each school year provides many opportunities to publicize and celebrate our community and the activities of our students. Publicity may take many different forms, including but not limited to, photographs to hang in school; news releases, photos and video submitted to television, radio and newspapers; media interviews, stories, photography and video for television, newspaper or radio stories; Ahavath Achim publications such as the Beneinu or Schmooze; postings on school web pages and/or the SCSC website or other online sites associated with the school or charter school support organizations. We are proud of what we create as a community. We know that parents and guardians are, too. Publicity can be an important part of students' positive school experience.

Any parent/guardian who does not wish to have their student appear in publicity may opt out in the registration waiver by providing to the school an online opt out of publicity and photos. This request must be made annually within 14 days of the student's first day during the school year. The school will maintain a record of students whose parents or guardians have opted out of publicity for the student.

A parent/guardian wishing to change a student's status with regard to publicity may do so at any time with written notice to the Director of Education: aklehr@aasynagogue.org. Please note that certain school events are public in nature, and publicity in the form of photographs, video, social media posts, etc. is often not within the control of The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program. This includes events such as concerts, synagogue programs, B'nai mitzvahs, and ceremonies. Student names will appear in event programs, on artwork and in yearbooks (along with a photograph) unless the parent/guardian makes a separate specific written request that the student's name and/or image be withheld.

Safety

Emergency situations may arise at any time. To ensure the safety of all of our students and staff, the Ahavath Achim Synagogue has a police officer on duty during the hours of Keshet and Nesiah, and the following procedural guidelines will be implemented.

Security

All entrances to the school are locked at all times, and entry is restricted to faculty, staff, students, and authorized visitors.

Fire drills

All students and staff will be routed in an orderly fashion to the nearest outdoor exit. They will remain there until an administrator gives an all-clear signal.

Severe weather

In the event of severe weather while at Keshet/Nesiah, staff will be alerted through our walkie talkie system. Students and staff will take cover in designated locations, away from windows and exterior doors, sitting on the floor, facing the wall and covering their heads with their arms. Students must remain quiet during this time in order to be able to hear any further instructions. Administration will give an "all clear" signal when the drill has ended.

Emergency Closure procedures/Inclement Weather

In the event of school closure due to severe weather and emergency situations, notifications will be sent to parents via email (by the address provided during registration) and via the Remind App. Parents should monitor their email, phones, and text messages for important messages. Since Keshet and Nesiah students and staff live in multiple counties, the safety of the entire community is taken into consideration when school closure decisions are made.

Health & Wellness

Our students' health is important to us. We work to ensure preventative measures are in place as warranted and feasible.

Sick Policy

A child who has been ill due to a communicable disease must be cleared before returning to school (ex: head lice, conjunctivitis). If a child is suspected of having a communicable disease, parents are called to pick up the child from school and seek a physician's diagnosis prior to returning the child to class. This procedure is for the safety and well-being of all our students.

PLEASE do not send children to school who feel ill or who have had a fever or vomiting within 24 hours. Furthermore, if your child has been diagnosed with ANY communicable infections, please notify the Director of Education immediately.

- A child with a fever of 100 degrees or above must stay home. If a child develops a fever of 100 degrees or above during the school day, they will be sent home.
- A child who has vomited within the last 24 hours must stay at home. A child who becomes sick and vomits during the day will be sent home.
- A child may return to school after they have been free from fever for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Motrin or any other antipyretics.
- A child with uncontrollable diarrhea (3-4 stools per hour) must stay at home.
- A child diagnosed with Strep Throat must have been treated with antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school or otherwise discussed with administration.
- A child diagnosed with bacterial conjunctivitis (pink eye) must have medication for 24 hours before returning to school. Children with viral conjunctivitis must have a doctor's release/report before returning to school.
- In order for a child diagnosed with chickenpox to return to school, the lesions must be crusted over, fading and or disappearing 24 hours prior to return to school. The child must be free of fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication.

- A child diagnosed with ringworm must be treated for 24 hours before returning to school and the affected area kept covered until healed.
- A child with impetigo must be free of weeping lesions. The lesions must be covered and medically treated for 24 hours before returning to school.
- A child with head lice must have been treated with a medicated shampoo and be seen by the Director of Education before returning to school.
- A child must feel well enough to participate in school. A sick child will remain in the office until they are picked up by a parent or guardian when he or she has a condition that may be considered contagious and easily passed from child to child. Final decisions are at the discretion of the nurse.

Medication

All medications for students MUST be administered by the parent or guardian and/or the proper paperwork be completed. The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program does not supply any non-prescription medications. If your child needs to take any medication during school hours, please fill out the Medical Authorization form, have it signed by the prescribing physician, and return it to the Director of Education to be placed in your child's health folder. All prescription containers must be current and match the authorized prescription.

Student Accidents

Any student injured at school with more than just a scrape will have their injury documented on the Student Accident Report, and the supervising staff member will oversee the course of action. The parents will be contacted by the Director of Education, the teacher, or the staff member in charge if the child's injury is more severe. If a child is seriously injured during the day and requires immediate medical attention, they will be transported to an emergency room and parents/guardians will be contacted. Judgment in such cases is at the discretion of school authorities, and parents will assume financial responsibility. Please keep medical information updated and phone numbers on file in the office.

Allergies

Allergic reactions can span a wide range of severity of symptoms. The most severe and potentially life-threatening reaction is anaphylaxis. The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program cannot guarantee to provide an allergen-free environment for all students with life-threatening allergies or prevent any harm to students in emergencies. The goal is to minimize the risk of exposure to food allergens that pose a threat to those students, educate the community, and maintain and regularly update a system-wide protocol for responding to their needs. A system-wide effort requires the cooperation of all groups of people within the system. The goal of The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program regarding Life Threatening Allergies is to engage in a system-wide effort to:

- Prevent any occurrence of life threatening allergic reactions
- Prepare for any allergic reactions
- Respond appropriately to any allergy emergencies that arise

The school administration, in conjunction with the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the primary care provider/allergist will prepare an Allergy Action Plan/Individual Health Care Plan for any student with a life-threatening allergy. The plans will be reviewed by the school admin, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and primary care provider and/or the student's allergist, and signed off by the child's physician to indicating that he/she deems it to be adequate. Multiple copies of the Allergy Action Plan/Individual Health Care Plan will be kept at the school for quick access in the main office, the student's homeroom, and in the homeroom teacher's emergency binder/backpack. EpiPens prescribed for individual students will be kept in that child's homeroom emergency bag or, with permission, carried by the child at all times.

Staff will be trained to identify and respond to reactions from life threatening allergies, including the use of EpiPens. Any staff involved with students who have life threatening allergies will be informed by the parents and provided information from the Allergy Action Plan of each of these students. School staff will take steps to ensure that these classrooms and instructional areas are as allergen free as possible. During snack we will encourage "NO FOOD TRADING" and "NO UTENSIL SHARING" to minimize accidental exposure to allergens. It is requested that each parent of a student with a life-threatening allergies inform the school administration of the child's allergies prior to the opening of school (or as soon as possible after a diagnosis).

Parents must arrange to meet (in-person or virtually) with the school administration to develop an Allergy Action Plan/Individual Health Care Plan for the student and provide medical information from the child's treating physician as needed to write the plans. In addition, parents of children with life-threatening allergies should do the following:

- Provide the school administration with enough up-to-date emergency medications (including EpiPens) so they can be placed in all required locations for the current school year
- Complete and submit all required medication forms
- Provide a Medic ALERT ID for their child
- Notify administration of any upcoming field trip as soon as possible and provide an EpiPen to be taken on field trips
- Encourage their child to wash hands before and after handling food
- Teach their child to recognize the first symptoms of an allergic/anaphylactic reaction and to communicate clearly as soon as she/he feels a reaction is starting
- Encourage their child NOT to share snacks, lunches, or drinks
- Encourage their child to take as much responsibility as possible for his/her own safety
- Help their child understand the seriousness of allergies and the potential consequences of children with allergies by being exposed to allergens.

Healthy Snack Policy (see General Policy info for snacks)

Reporting Abuse

Any student (or parent or friend of a student) who has been the victim of an act of abuse, sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program. Any teacher, counselor, or administrator receiving a report of abuse, sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee shall make an oral report of the incident immediately by telephone or otherwise to the school Director of Education or director's designee, and shall submit a written report of the incident to the school Director of Education or director's designee within 24 hours. If the Director of Education is the person accused of the abuse, sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct, the oral and written reports should be made to the Executive Director of the Ahavath Achim Synagogue or the Head Rabbi of Ahavath Achim. Any school Director of Education or director's designee receiving a report of abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5 shall make an oral report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. The report should be made by telephone and followed by a written report in writing, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Resources (DFCS).

Reports of acts of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator, or other employee not covered by O.C.G.A. §§ 19-7-5 or 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by school or system personnel. If the investigation of the allegation of sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report of abuse or sexual misconduct is valid, the school Director of Education or director's designee shall make an immediate written report to the Executive Director and the Head Rabbi of the Ahavath Achim Synagogue. If abuse or neglect of a child is suspected, mandated reporters must notify the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. All Keshet and Nesiah employees and volunteers are mandated reporters.

Call 855-422-4453 (855-GA-Child), the DFCS 24-hour reporting line. If you are unable to speak to someone or you are otherwise instructed, email the prepared form to cpsintake@dhr.state.ga.us or fax it to 229-317-9663.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Handbook

I/We, _____ and _____,

parent(s) of _____

_____ ,

acknowledge that I have received a copy of the The Judith and Aaron z"l Alembik Ahavath Achim Youth Education Program Parent and Student Handbook. I/We have read and understand the policies and procedures outlined in the handbook. I/We have had an opportunity to ask questions about the Student Handbook and understand that I/we am/are responsible for being aware of and adhering to these policies.

(parent/guardian signature)

(date)

(parent/guardian signature)

(date)

