

**We both work. What are the pre- and post-care options?**

Pre-care is available from 7:45 a.m. and post-care until 5:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Post-care on Fridays is available until 5:00 p.m. during daylight savings time, and ends at 4:00 p.m. on Friday during the winter (November through March). Both programs are available at a nominal charge.

**Is transportation available? How do I find a carpool from my neighborhood?**

Most families arrange their own carpools from the school roster that is available over the summer. The Parents' Association or the school office can help put new families in touch with others in their neighborhood.

**What after-school enrichment programs are available?**

After-school enrichment programs are offered, fall and spring, four days a week. Classes have included chess, art, circus arts, drama, team sports, Equations, dance, etc. Homework help is also available twice a week after school.

**Is there a lunch program? What kinds of lunches can my child bring to school?**

Prepared lunches are available every day and may be ordered from a monthly menu. The orders are placed in advance for the entire month; there are no same-day selections. Lunches from home should be kosher dairy or *pareve* lunches only; no meat, meat products, or any products which contain non-kosher ingredients. Baked goods for school events must bear an appropriate indicator of "Kashrut". All baked goods must come from a nut-free facility. You'll find that most of the local markets have many good selections. We have many people at school, both teachers and parents, who can help advise with more specifics. We also provide a nut-free table at lunch.

**Will we feel comfortable at our level of observance at Schechter?**

Schechter attracts a wide variety of families from almost every congregation in St. Louis and fosters respect for each family's decision. Our students learn that we do not judge one another about our choices of observance. We understand that every family is unique, and the children learn to respect and appreciate religious diversity.

**What are the other financial obligations besides tuition? Is financial aid available?**

Tuition for 2010-2011 has been set at \$12,480, inclusive of text book and activity fees. There are charges for the Parents' Association dues and annual building fund fees. Parents are asked to participate in the Nediv Lev (Annual) Fund with a minimum gift of \$650 per family or \$325 per single parent family. Financial assistance is definitely available. It is important that you apply within the established deadlines and we encourage your early submission of the appropriate forms on-line. The process is handled confidentially throughout. Our commitment is to make a Schechter education affordable for every family whose child is accepted to our school.

**Neither of us knows much Hebrew, how will we be able to help our child with Hebrew homework?**

You're not alone with this concern. Many of our parents don't know all the Hebrew that their children are learning. Your child's teacher may help with creating study sheets for non-Hebrew reading parents. We have a wide variety of Jewish knowledge and observance among our families. Our job as a school is to inform and engage both parents and children.

**What schools do students attend after SSDS, and what is the transition like when they enter larger high schools?**

After Schechter, our students have attended a wide variety of both public and private high schools, including Clayton, Ladue, Parkway, Rockwood, Block Yeshiva, Crossroads, John Burroughs, MICDS, Thomas Jefferson and Whitfield. Most of our graduates are placed in honors-level classes or receive advanced standing. They quickly become active in sports, clubs, and youth groups, often in leadership positions.

**What are the benefits of the dual curriculum?**

First and foremost, your children will hear and understand modern spoken Hebrew by using it every day in their classrooms. Studies show that children who acquire dual language skills before the age of six have advantages that extend throughout their lifetime. Our use of Hebrew immersion brings the Hebrew language to life—we even stop students in the hallways to ask them “mah sh'lom'cha?” (“How are you?”). By the end of first grade, they read from story books and the siddur with growing confidence. Our Jewish Studies curriculum helps support critical thinking and problem-solving skills. As children advance through elementary school, they learn to access Torah texts in Hebrew with enough skill to point out questions that inspired generations of Rabbinic commentary. By the time your children leave Schechter in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they will have all of the skills needed to become life-long learners.

**How are the Hebrew and Torah/Traditions integrated with the General Studies curriculum?**

The teaching teams at each grade level work on programs together and share planning. In Kindergarten, the children end their day with centers in which they move freely from general studies to Hebrew, holiday and Torah learning.

**What is the average class size and the student: teacher ratio?**

The average class size is 12 students. We often have reading or math in smaller groups of 6-8 students.

**Is there a dress code for students?**

We ask students to wear “clean, neat and practical” clothing. The Parent Manual provides additional guidance. Boys are expected to wear a kippah throughout the school day (except P.E. and recess), and girls are welcome to wear a kippah if desired. On Fridays, girls should wear appropriate dresses/skirts for Shabbat. Boys must wear slacks in good condition and shirts must be collared.