



FAQ

What age group does *Chai Fives* serve?

Chai Fives is designed for “young fives” – children who will turn five from June 1 through December 31. For the 2009-10 school year, *Chai Fives* students will turn five from June 1 through December 31, 2009.

If my child is chronologically eligible for either *Chai Fives* or kindergarten, how is placement determined?

Offers of admission and placement will be based upon parent input, current teacher evaluation, and observation by SJCS educators during a small group preview. SJCS invites parents to share placement preference as part of the application process. Final placement decisions will be made by SJCS.

How long is the *Chai Fives* school day?

Chai Fives follows the same hours as our kindergarten program, currently 8:30 a.m. until 3:15 p.m., five days per week. Classroom doors open at 8:15 a.m. From November through February, SJCS has a 2:30 p.m. Friday dismissal for Shabbat.

What is the tuition?

Tuition is set annually by the SJCS Board of Trustees and is announced in January. Tuition for the 2009-10 school year is \$13,835. Tuition does not include a \$25 supply fee, before- and after-school care, or hot lunch.

Is there a financial aid process?

Yes. From its inception, SJCS has been committed to providing tuition assistance to families who qualify. SJCS’ confidential process uses School and Student Services (SSS) and a “Jewish Cost of Living” to determine the “fair share” tuition for families who apply. Tuition assistance is based on demonstrated need. Aid is issued as a grant with no obligation to repay the grant.

Does participation in *Chai Fives* guarantee admission to SJCS’ kindergarten?

Chai Fives students, like SJCS siblings, are given priority during the admissions process. This means that *Chai Fives* students may apply early, usually in December. Eligible students are offered contracts before the general notification date, usually by late February. To apply, *Chai Fives* families need only complete the application form by the deadline (no application fee, teacher evaluation, or preview is required).

What placement follows *Chai Fives* in the next school year?

Kindergarten.

Is there before- and after-school care available?

Yes. Onsite options are available daily from 7:15 to 8:15 a.m. From Monday through Thursday, an onsite after-school option is available from 3:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. SJCS families contract with the University Family YMCA at Magnuson Park for after-school care on Fridays (van service is available). All before- and after-school fees are provided for an additional charge and are contracted on a quarterly basis.

Where is the *Chai Fives* classroom?

Chai Fives will be housed in SJCS' 12351 8th Avenue building.

Do the *Chai Fives* participate with other SJCS students and classes?

Yes. We value blended learning and play opportunities for our students to build friendship and community. *Chai Fives* will have "buddies" in other grades for classroom-based activities and will participate in selected all-school celebrations and events.

None of my child's parents are Jewish. Can my child apply anyway?

Chai Fives is a complement to SJCS' kindergarten program. As such, it integrates Jewish traditions, values, literacy, and observance throughout a student's experience, in an age-appropriate manner. We have found that children who thrive at SJCS do, or will, self-identify as Jewish.

What do snack and lunchtime look like?

The school kitchen is kosher and supervised, but students may bring dairy or pareve lunches from home. Kosher, hot lunch is available for purchase twice weekly. Boys and girls cover their heads with kippot during mealtime, t'fillah/prayer, and Torah study - and throughout the day if they prefer.

For more information, please contact:

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