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www.GanIsrael.us

**CAMP
GAN
ISRAEL**

Bethesda, MD

PARENTS' HANDBOOK

5713 Bradley Blvd. – Bethesda, MD 20814

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

March 2017

Dear Parents,

Whether you and your family are just getting to know us or you've joined us in the past for either our summer or winter programs, we welcome you to Camp Gan Israel of Bethesda, Summer 2017.

We are committed to providing your children with a safe and highly stimulating camp program. All of our activities – from sports and swimming to crafts, trips and challah baking – are designed to enhance their self esteem, teach teamwork & cooperation, increase their level of responsibility, and imbue within them a deep sense of appreciation for a rich tradition of Jewish values, customs and culture.

We look to give your children the most exciting and the most wholesome camp experience possible. Toward this end, we place a special focus on selecting our staff each year. Camp Gan Israel of Bethesda is well known for our counselors, chosen for their warmth, enthusiasm, experience, and ability to care for each child as an individual.

In this handbook you will find important information and policies regarding Camp Gan Israel of Bethesda as well as sample daily and weekly schedules. We encourage you to check our website on a daily basis, as we will be constantly updating it with new information.

We thank you for considering Camp Gan Israel of Bethesda. Your child/ren's summer at Camp Gan Israel will be a memorable one of fun and adventure, providing memories to cherish for years to come!

Best Wishes,

Sender & Nechamie Geisinsky

Directors, CGI of Bethesda

CAMP INFORMATION & POLICY

(Please Read!)

AGES: Aleph Bet Division: 18 months- 3.5yrs

Kiddie Camp Division: 3.5yrs – 4yrs

Gan Izzy Stars Division: 5yrs – 9yrs

Gan Izzy Pioneers Division: 10yrs –12yrs

DATES: **Session 1:** June 26th – July 7th ** **Session 2:** July 10th - July 21th

Session 3: July 24th – August 4th **Extra Wk:** Aug 7st – Aug 12th

*** There will be no camp on Mon., July 4th*

HOURS: Full day hours: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Half-day option: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (Kiddie camp and younger)

Before Care: [Added Fee]: 8:00 - 9:00 am *

After Care: (Added Fee): 3:30-5:00 pm

(No aftercare on Fri)

Early Care provided by Alef Bet, please call them directly to arrange 301-556-5010

These hours will be adhered to daily unless otherwise indicated on the trip schedule, which will be distributed on the first day of camp.

COMMUNICATION: We strongly encourage close communication between the camp staff and parents. Please don't hesitate to call should the need arise, our office number is 301-913-9777. In case of emergency, please call the Head Counselor's cell which will be provided on the first day of camp or the Director's cell 240-370-8819. Email is another great way to communicate our email is info@ganisrael.us.

WEBSITE: Bookmark our webpage: www.Ganisrael.us. We will be updating it daily, enabling you to see your child in action at Camp Gan

Izzy and you can also access the most current information. We encourage you to visit frequently.

LOCATION: Camp Gan Israel of Bethesda will be using the facilities of **Alef Bet Montessori** located at **7300 Whittier Woods Rd, Bethesda, MD**. The main considerations regarding this choice: Clean and safe environment, central location, and ample outdoor fields.

JEWISH SPIRIT: In the direction of our visionary and founder, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, we look to imbue a spirit and love for Judaism throughout our summer program. We strive to show our campers that their link to their beautiful heritage is not only in the classroom but that it can come alive in a way that is fun, enriching, and the source of great pride. Toward this end, we incorporate Jewish themes and activities throughout the schedule. These include Challah baking and Shabbat parties on Fridays, daily discussions and davening, Jewish songs, etc. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

PUNCTUALITY: Please make sure that your child arrives in camp on time each morning. The day begins with morning line up and important information about the day is shared with the children at that time. Children should not be dropped off earlier than ten minutes before the start of camp. Children are to be picked up promptly at the end of each day. Aftercare fees will be assessed for each child not picked up within 25 minutes of the end of camp each day.

PICK UP/DROP OFF: We are asking parents to follow the following pick up/drop off protocol. The entire process will take place outside the school building. Parents are asked to wait until their child has been dismissed by a staff member before collecting their child. A sign in/sign out sheet will be made available for parents or authorized guardian to sign before leaving. Please notify us in advance if someone other than the usual authorized adult will be picking up your child.

FOOD/LUNCHES: Parents are responsible to send a clearly labeled lunch and snacks with your child. **Hot lunches will be available, more information on this will be sent out at a later date.** Lunches and snacks must be dairy or Parve (neutral). Parve foods include vegetables, fruits, fish and eggs. Meat products may not be sent to camp. Please try to send snacks that have kosher symbols on them. We provide freeze pops at the end of the day and chilled water throughout the day. Nevertheless, we recommend sending along a bottle of water to ensure proper hydration of your child.

SHARING POLICY: Due to health risks, we ask you to clarify to your children that no food is to be shared between campers. If a camper forgets to bring a lunch, a basic lunch will be provided by Camp.

FIELD TRIPS: Tuesdays and Thursdays are trip days (Kiddie Camp will generally have only one trip per session on Thursdays). On trip days, it is imperative that you come on time, as transportation cannot wait for late campers. If your child is not coming to camp on a trip day please call to let us know. Please see the camp schedule or our website to check drop off and pick up times as some field trips may leave earlier and return later than normal camp times. On trip days please send lunches with non-perishable items only in labeled plastic disposable bags. Camp Can Israel T-Shirts must be worn on all trips, these help. Please order additional t-shirts if needed.

SWIMMING: Red-Cross certified lifeguards will supervise all swimming activities, and safety precautions are strictly adhered to. Swim sessions are for approx. one hour. There is a shallow water pool for children who are still learning to swim or are uncomfortable in the water. Each child will be tested to assess swimming ability. Please send along sunscreen, a towel and a swimsuit on swim days. Make sure all possessions are clearly labeled, Camp Gan Israel is not responsible for items that do not carry identifying labels.

CAMP TUITION/FEES: Camp tuition is broken down based on number of sessions and camp divisions. Tuition includes all camp activities, trips and other expenses. Tuition, however, does not include fees for the Grand trip, late nights, and camp T-shirts.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Limited scholarships are available. If you would like to obtain a scholarship for your child/ren, please contact Rabbi Sender Geisinsky for information, at 301-913-9777.

WHAT TO SEND TO CAMP

Please send the following to camp with your child daily unless otherwise noted: *All Items Must Be Labeled.*

- Non-meat lunch and snacks
 - Sunscreen (please apply before camp, we will reapply as needed)
 - Athletic shoes
 - A few pennies for Tzedakah (charity)
 - Water bottle
 - Swimsuit and towel (Monday, Wednesday & Friday)
 - Camp T-shirt (mandatory on Tuesday and Thursday)
 - Lunch in a disposable plastic bag for trip days (paper is likely to tear and leak). Regular lunch box on non-trip days.
 - Snacks (additional snacks should be sent on longer trip days).
 - Energy, Enthusiasm, and Desire for Fun! 😊
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SAMPLE DAY SCHEDULE

At CGI each camp day is unique! A typical day might look like this:

Kiddie Camp (Half Day) Schedule	
9:00	Campers Arrive
9:10	Free Play
9:30	Circle time (songs, show and tell, educational themes)
9:50	Snack time (nutritious snack and drinks)
10:00	Developmental Activity (Music/dance, gymnastics, etc.)
10:45	Camp Activity (Scavenger hunts, talent shows, etc.)
11:30	Lunch (Catered/Brought from home)
12:00	Clean-up/Change for Water Play
12:15	Water Play
12:50	Change/Pack up
1:00	Dismissal

Junior Gan Izzy Schedule

9:00	Campers Arrive/ Cocoa Club
9:30	Morning Line-up (cheers and songs)
9:45	Tefillah time
10:10	1st Activity (sports/Funshops)
10:55	Snack time (nutritious snack and drinks)
11:00	2nd Activity (sports/Funshops)
11:45	Special Activity (carnival, scavenger hunts, talents shows, etc.)
12:15	Lunch (Brought from home)
12:45	Change into swim clothes, travel to pool
1:15	Enter pool (free swim or instructional)
2:30	Exit pool / change into dry clothes
3:00	Arrive back at camp / snacks
3:05	Camp Activity
3:20	Dismissal line-up
3:30	Children are picked up

SAMPLE WEEK SCHEDULE

The week is full of highlights! A typical week might look like this:

CGI Bethesda-CC Weekly Schedule BETH						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Kiddie Camp	Fun With Food Edible Creations	Critter Caravan Animals at Camp	Fun-Fit (Exercise Fun Play)	TRIP DAY! SPLASH PARK & MINI GOLF	Morah Music (Songs & Instruments)	
	Water Play (Sprinklers & Wading Pools)	Creative Crafts Art Project	Water Play (Sprinklers & Wading Pools)		Challah Baking	
Junior Gan	Bouncing Cattle Mounbounce	Soccer Academy Brit-Am	Little Chefs Baking Activity	TRIP DAY! SPLASH PARK & MINI GOLF	Shabbat Party!	
	Woodworking Arts & Crafts	Critter Caravan Animals at Camp	Fun-Fit (Exercise Fun Play)		Morah Music (Songs & Instruments)	
	Swimming (Free Swim)	Trip Day! Peddle Boating!	Swimming (Instructional Swim)		Swimming (Free Swim)	
	Marital Arts Tae Kwan Do	Soccer Academy Brit-Am	Little Chefs Baking Activity		Challah Baking & Shabbat Party	

The schedule lists the trips, workshops, activities, and entertainers beyond the regular camp activities. All activities are subject to change. For more info, please contact the Camp Office: 301-913-9777