

FAQs for BISNS Half-Day/Full-Day

The B'nai Israel Schilit Nursery School (BISNS) community is very proud of our award-winning school. We are excited to be integrating our Half-Day and Full-Day programs and staff and remain committed to providing an engaging and structured environment for the children so that they can learn and grow. As with any new program, we expect that that some people have questions about the details. We are providing some answers along with an invitation to learn more by contacting Karen Gerton, Early Childhood Director (301-816-5578, kareng@bnaiisraelcong.org).

What are the hours of our Half-Day and Full-Day programs?

- Before Care (7:30–9:15 AM)
- Half-Day and Full-Day/Core Classes (9:15 AM–12:30 PM; with PreK until 2:00 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)
- Full-Day/AfterCare (12:30–6:00 PM; 5:30 PM on Friday)
- Children's Choice (12:30–2:00 PM; daily enrichment options offered by trimesters)

Half-Day and Full-Day Core students are integrated together in the classroom. With both programs under BISNS, there will only be one application, one registration fee and one set of forms to submit. If a child needs AfterCare for one day we may be able to accommodate the request (for a fee).

What does the AfterCare Program look like? What activities will be offered?

The AfterCare schedule will include art related projects, indoor/outdoor play, reading/literacy, quiet/nap time, daily snack, along with a wide-range of topics and enriching activities such as cooking and science. An "Afternoon Agenda" describing activities, reminders, and more will be available to the parents. AfterCare will utilize the whole building including but not limited to Goodman Hall Indoor Playroom, Playground, Discovery Room, Movement Room and Library. Approximately 25–30% of our students attend Full-Day and therefore AfterCare will be a consolidation of the morning classes.

Who will be teaching my children during the AfterCare hours? Are teachers appropriately certified?

Our school will remain a Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Child Development licensed program. We are proud of the fact that our staff and program fulfill the rigorous licensing requirements. Our AfterCare staff will now be a part of the BISNS staff; possessing educational requirements and completing Continuing Education training. We will be hiring additional staff to provide AfterCare coverage from 12:30–6:00 PM during the school year and summer. Both the Half-Day and Full-Day staff, policies and curriculum will be supervised by the Early Childhood Director.

Can Full-Day students participate in Children's Choice activities?

Full-Day students can participate in Children's Choice for an additional fee. Children will be escorted to AfterCare at the completion of Children's Choice.

I work during the day. Will there be coverage for my children on days when school is not in session for a Jewish holiday or school vacation?

- Our Full-Day program will be open on the Jewish holidays of Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simhat Torah, *hol hamoed* Passover and the last two days of Passover, and Shavuot. On Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur BISNS is closed and we encourage our families to attend services.
- BISNS will closed for the Federal Holidays of: Labor Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day.
- All BISNS staff must attend annual Continuing Education Training and therefore on those days Half-Day and Full-Day classes will not be held. These dates will be listed in the calendar.
- All holidays that we are open for Full-Day will be held at B'nai Israel Congregation.

What is the Inclement Weather Policy for 2019–2020?

- When Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are closed due to inclement weather conditions our school follows MCPS closings for the first two days of each weather event for our Half-Day program. BISNS will make an independent decision for subsequent days. Our Full-Day Program decision will take under advisement the MCPS Child Care status and will make every effort to provide care for our Full-Day students. B'nai Israel will take into consideration the safety of our families and staff.
- If MCPS have a delayed opening, our classes will begin at the regular time of 9:15 AM. There will be no Before Care. Tikvah Twos, Toddler Time and Play at B'nai will be held.
- If MCPS are dismissed early, our school will dismiss as quickly as possible and all Half-Day programs after 12:30 PM are cancelled. Our Full-Day program dismissal time will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- If MCPS are not in session our school closings will be made independently.

Will Full-Day coverage be available in summer 2019?

Our AfterCare staff will provide the Camp Katan 2019 coverage from 1:00–6:00 PM and the four weeks of After Camp from 8:00 AM–6:00 PM.