



Or Hachaim Academy

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A Guide to Bat Mitzva and Bar Mitzva



Bat Mitzva

A Bat Mitzva is a milestone in your daughter's life. A Bat Mitzva is the beginning of when your daughter becomes obligated in the mitzvot of Hashem. Modesty is one of the paramount mitzvot that a young Jewish woman has. Everything a Jewish girl is involved in should be done in a modest manner. Or Hachaim has worked hard to instill in your daughter, the understanding of her role as a Jewish woman, as well as a love for all the mitzvot. Therefore, this special day needs to reflect that methodology.

Invitations:

Simple computer generated invitations, on pretty paper, is the most acceptable. Please put the Hebrew date alongside the secular date.

Dress:

All students and guests must dress in accordance with Halacha. **This must also be written on the invitation.**

Or Hachaim girls must wear a Shabbat dress that meets the requirements of Halacha. This includes proper neck coverage.

Guests:

No men, aside from immediate family members (fathers, brothers, grandfathers & uncles). Men must step out while girls dance.
Staff should be invited to attend.

Hall:

A neighborhood Orthodox shul :
Adat Yeshurun, Eim Habanim, Shaaray Tzedek or Toras Hashem....
Hall- Eretz Cultural Center
Adat Yeshurun-\$250.00

Food:

All food must be restaurant bought. Nothing may be served that is homemade.

Entertainment:

- Children of this age still like to do arts and crafts-Jewish themed projects, ask the school for a catalogue
- A Tzedaka project
- Dance
- Jewish Music/ Music Teacher
- Slide shows with acceptable pictures of the Bat Mitzva girl and family
- Absolutely No secular music & No mixed dancing; No arcade games etc.
- If students want to perform for their friend they need to make sure that what they want to do meets the criteria of this special day. No secular songs may be sung, nor any references to media made
- Any other entertainment must be approved by the school

Speakers:

The Bat Mitzva girl should give a Dvar Torah on this special day;
Fathers and grandfathers can speak as well as mothers and grandmothers.
A school staff member should also be asked to speak.

Photographer/ Video:

No professional photographers or videographers. Friends and family may take pictures and videos.

Length of party:

2-3 hours long

Gifts:

Gift selection should correspond to the beauty and holiness of the day.

Bar Mitzva

A Bar Mitzva celebration is a day that the whole family anticipates and prepares for from the moment the little boy is born. A Torah education and thirteen years of preparation goes into this special day, where your son proclaims himself a man according to the laws of the Torah. Therefore a certain decorum and expectation is expected from the Bar Mitzva boy, and his friends. The following guide is to help you in the preparation, as well as to act as a guide in understanding what Bar Mitzva expectations are for the families and students of the school.

Invitations:

Something appropriate for the simcha with Hebrew and English type setting.

Dress:

1. All students are to attend wearing a suit.
2. If Or Hachaim families are invited the girls must wear a Shabbat dress that meets the requirements of Halacha. This includes proper neck coverage.

Guests:

1. No girls may be invited without their family in attendance and they must be close family friends.
2. Staff should be invited to attend; It is very meaningful for any teacher who taught your child, to be invited.

Hall:

Any Orthodox shul:

Adat Yeshurun, Eim Habanim, Shaaray Tzedek, Toras Hashem, Chabads of North Hollywood or Tarzana.

Halls: Eretz Cultural Center...

No hotels, yachts, country clubs or extravaganza.

If you have a special location, ask the school for permission.

Food:

Caterer must carry a reliable orthodox hashgacha (RCC, OU, OK...)

Entertainment:

-Dance

All dancing must be separate dancing. This includes the second dance after dinner. There should be a mechitza up to separate the dancing.

- Slide shows, with acceptable pictures of the family.
- No secular music, No mixed dancing, No arcade games
- If students want to perform for their friend they need to make sure that what they want to do meets the criteria of this special day. No secular songs may be sung, nor any references to media be made.

Speakers:

The Bar Mitzva boy should give a Dvar Torah on this special day.

Fathers and grandfathers can speak as well as mothers and grandmothers.

A school staff member should also be asked to speak.

Photographer/ Video:

Professional is acceptable

Gifts:

Gift selection should correspond to the beauty and holiness of the day.

Behavior:

If your child is going to a Bar Mitzva then he is capable of behaving in a way that will bring a Kiddush Hashem to himself, his family and school. Children not behaving properly, not acting in a dignified manner and not dressed properly will not be allowed to attend the next simcha.

All students attending from Or Hachaim will be watched by the staff to make sure the simcha is not being upset by the actions of any students.

Students may not bring fire crackers, make loud noises or leave the premises of the party- until they are picked up by their parents. Parents should come into the affair to pick up their children.

Pick Up:

Plan to pick up your child by 10:30