



Parent and Student Handbook

2026-2027

Sikh Academy for Gurmat Education (SAGE)

INTRODUCTION

The Sikh Academy for Gurmat Education (SAGE) is a distinct nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization (Federal Tax ID 99-3001876) in Oakland, NJ, and is the educational arm of Guru Nanak Mission Gurudwara, seeks to accomplish the following:

VISION

To develop a community of like-minded individuals living in Chardi Kala, guided by the Wisdom of the Guru Granth Sahib and living life as instructed by the Gurus of the Sikh Faith. Demonstrating the concepts of Naam Japnaa, Kirat Karnaa and Vand Chaknaa in our everyday life and uplifting humanity, embodying the concept of Sarbat Da Bala.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate a bond between students and their Guru, Guru Granth Sahib, by the instruction of Gurmat through Sikh history and the Saakhees of our ancestors.
- Instruction of Gurmukhi through the learning of Gurbani.
- Instill a sense of action in our Sangat when injustice is perceived. Encouraging activism in our day-to-day lives and applying it to worldly events not just those limited to the Sikh Panth.
- Embody the spirit of Sarbat Da Bala by actively participating in service to communities and those in need.
- Building leaders of tomorrow by establishing self confidence through public speaking and becoming instructors of the younger children
- Inspiring all to walk the Gurus' Path by introducing students to and engaging them with those individuals who are already following the Gurus' instruction and living successfully in our society whilst remaining steadfast to the ideals of GurSikhi.

RULES FOR STUDENTS

- Hair must be covered at all times, EVEN ONLINE. This means a patka, dastaar or headscarf for the boys and a chunee, dastaar or a headscarf for the girls.
NO HATS ALLOWED.
- Shoes will be removed once entering the Gurudwara Sahib and placed in the Jora Ghar (where shoes are normally kept)
- Be respectful toward all.
- No swearing
- No bullying of any kind will be tolerated, including online.
- Be respectful of other students' property. If you find something (money, phone, etc) that is not yours, please return to the SAGE or Gurudwara office.
- Dress should be comfortable and respectable. Gurudwara attire should be the norm. Preferably no skirts, shorts, dresses, or tank tops.
- Be prompt for school activities and events.
- ****Mandatory**** - The Divaan session at 9:00am is the most impactful part of their Sikhi education. If they miss this, they miss out on a tremendous opportunity for inspiration and advancement of their Sikhi.
- Cell phones or other electronic items must remain off during class. If a student is found on their phone/gadget/device, it will be confiscated for the remainder of class and be returned to the parent/guardian upon dismissal. Repeat infraction will result in routinely depositing said device with teacher at the beginning of class to be returned at the end.
- In our Middle School and High School grades, we may collect cell phones as they enter class.
- For HOMEWORK assignments, **no Artificial Intelligence platforms are allowed to be used to answer questions or write essays**. All work must be the student's own.

ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS/HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

- Encourage your children to participate in the activities of SAGE, both in class and out of classroom exercises. If homework is given, please ensure it is completed. • IF PARENTS DON'T CARE WHETHER KHALSA SCHOOL HOMEWORK IS COMPLETED, OUR KIDS WILL NOT LEARN.
- ****Mandatory**** - VIDEO assignments (Gurbani line of the month) are maximally important and MUST be done monthly in order for our kids to learn.
- Be regular attendees of Gurudwara, serving as role models for your children.
- Seek out knowledge. Become as knowledgeable if not more so, than your children. We are constantly learning as Sikhs. We must seek out opportunities to read our history, understand Gurbani and contemplate our purpose on earth. We must walk forward on the path of GurSikhi and not remain stagnant. The only way to do this is to desire to learn. Adult oriented classes will also be available in the coming year.

- Please be prompt when dropping children off to school on Sunday mornings or when joining Zoom sessions online. Frequent absences will disrupt learning and place them behind others in the process. ****See Attendance Promise on Enrollment Application and Contract you must attest to. IF A STUDENT IS UNABLE TO MAINTAIN 75% ENGAGEMENT WITH HOMEWORK/IN-PERSON- ATTENDANCE, THAT STUDENT'S ENROLLMENT IN SAGE WILL BE DISCONTINUED AS OF THE MONTH THEY NO LONGER MEET THE 75% THRESHOLD.**
- Please check your emails, WhatsApp and online portals regularly during the week as assignments will be sent/uploaded/notified via these platforms. Assignments may also include video clips which we highly encourage you to watch and discuss with your children.
- The school administration should be notified for any absence of the student from school. This should be via email (info@sagekhaschool.org).
- Please volunteer your time/skill at the school for any SAGE related activities. Inquire with the administrative Sevadaars as to opportunities available. SAGE will only be as successful as the support it receives. We welcome anyone who wishes to get involved. Positions to volunteer for include teachers, teaching assistants, snack coordinators, in-class parent helpers, administrative staff or support staff, etc...
- Pay attention to your student's progress, or perhaps, lack thereof. If one on one assistance is needed, please contact us directly by email (info@sagekhaschool.org). We are committed to helping any child in need, including providing extra help or support to advance their learning.
- Please be aware that for any disciplinary issues observed, that the school administrative Sevadaars will reach out to you regarding such behavior including but not limited to fighting or physical intimidation, threats (verbal or physical), disrespect shown to any staff member, or the destruction of school property.
- All those involved with running the organization are unpaid volunteers. Please be respectful in your interactions. We will not tolerate any disrespectful behavior on the part of any student or parent/guardian toward our staff.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- What time does school start?
 - Sundays at 9:00AM. Please be aware that school cancellations or changes to the school will be sent out via WhatsApp Chat. Please ensure you have joined the Parents WhatsApp chat and the appropriate chat for your student(s) grade.
- What time does school end?
 - The morning part of our program will end at 12:30PM. Our afternoon session starts at 1:15PM and ends at 2:00PM
- What is the contact information in case I have any questions?
 - Call or text 1-914-850-3270 or Email address: info@sagekhaschool.org.
 - Student registration site is <https://www.sagekhaschool.org/registration>

- SAGE Parents WhatsApp chat group link is in the registration application.
- Please be aware that emails or phone calls will not be returned during SAGE school hours. Best attempts will be made to address concerns or questions before or after school session.
- What time and where can parents drop off their children and where?
 - Although school starts at 9:00am parents can drop their children off as early as 8:45 am, provided a member of the school staff is present (this does not apply to the Pre-K aged group as their parents must be on site during class time as these children are too young to be left unattended).
- Can parents sit in during class time?
 - No, we do not allow parents to attend their student's class due to space considerations as well as to try and encourage independent thought. This will also allow for students to take on more responsibility.

