

# PARENT ORIENTATION BALVIHAR 2026

AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2025



# WHY WE HERE -IN THE WORDS OF 14 YEAR BALVIHAR VETERANS

As I move forward and engage in my future endeavors, I will always keep with me the lessons that Malathi Auntie has taught me and the experiences I've gained from Pre-K to my senior year of high school. And who knows? Maybe you'll see me back in the **teacher's chair in a couple years!**



As I move forward, I carry with me the values and lessons from Balvihar, ready to make a **positive impact in the world.** To the next group of student leaders, I would tell you to enjoy your four years as a student leader and aim to learn as much as you can because before you know it, four years will be done.

# BALVIHAR'S MISSION

**Build, support and strengthen the Indian and Hindu community by:**

- Teaching our culture and religion
- Instilling a sense of pride in and affinity for our heritage
- Facilitating the formation of friendships and relationships among children in our community
- Developing the future leaders of our community



# INDIA TEMPLE ASSOCIATION / BERLIN TEMPLE

- Balvihar is part of India Temple Association, (ITA) a 501(3)(c) member-based non-profit with a broad religious, cultural and social mission.
- We have a Temple in Berlin, NJ which is open daily. Aarti is performed twice daily. (Noon & 8pm). There is a pujari on staff who conducts puja services at the Temple and in the community.
- Our YouTube channel broadcasts daily Aarti and religious events occurring at the Temple.
- ITA celebrates most Hindu festivals and religious events. Event details can be found in our monthly newsletter, Satsang Sandesh. We also organize special events just for Children such as Navratri, Vasant Panchami, Diwali, Janmashtami, and Holi.
- Our Pujari performs puja for all important life occasions
- We have a community service group that fund raises and does community service projects and a program for senior citizens that meets weekly.
- We are 100% run by volunteers except for employed Pujari.
- Additional information is available at [indiatemple.org](http://indiatemple.org)

# HISTORY OF BALVIHAR (DECADES IN THE MAKING)

- Started in the late 70's in a Founders Basement
- Moved to Berlin Temple when it was purchased in early 80's
- Moved to the Marlton Schools in 2010
- Last year we had:
  - 375 Students
  - 35 High School Student Leaders
  - 48 Teachers
  - 15+ Operations and Admin Volunteers
- We are 100% Volunteer Run – Many of us are 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation!

# 2026 Statistics

- **25 Classes**
- **53 Teachers**
- **49 Returning / 4 New**
  - 38 have 5 Years+
  - 18 have 10 Years+
- **38 Student Leaders (Balvihar Graduates)**
  - 27 Returning
  - 11 First Years
- **87.4% Return Rate**
- **384 Registered Students to date**

# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- 10 Year Program from Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup>
- Designed to build a steady increasing base of knowledge, understanding and appreciation
- 16-18 sessions per year on Sunday mornings
- Year End Annual Day Show – **FOR COMMITTED & INTERESTED**
- Optional Shloka Classes offered pre-session
- Domino's pizza for lunch

# TEACHING MODEL & CLASS STRUCTURE

- Classes organized by school grade
- Two Adult Teachers per class for Pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade for Core Classes
- Three Teacher Team for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades with each teacher focused on area of expertise
- Separate Conversational Hindi and Yoga Teaching Teams
- One or two High School Student Volunteer(s) that are Balvihar graduates
- Class size: 15-20 students (2026 Expected Average 16)
- 150+ YouTube “Topic of the Day (TOD)” videos to support in class learning. TOD Videos are short ~5 minute videos created by our high school Student Leaders. Video categories include: Shlokas, Festivals, Incredible India, Deities, Indian Geography, Important Indians, Yoga... <https://www.youtube.com/c/IndiaTempleAssociation>

# GENERAL CURRICULUM FORMAT

## ➤ **Shlokas & Prayers:**

- Day Starts with Morning Prayers (Yellow / Blue Shloka Sheets)
- Day Ends with Shloka & Aarti (Neon Green Sheet)
- Optional Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Shloka classes held 9:30 to 9:55 AM pre-session. Shloka classes will start with the **2<sup>nd</sup> Balvihar** session.

## ➤ **Religion:** Moral Stories, Epics, Hindu Values, Gita and Foundational Principles of Hinduism

## ➤ **Culture / History:** Indian States, Geography, Indian Leaders, Indian Culture and History from Ancient to Modern India

## ➤ **Other:** Yoga, Conversational Hindi

Class	10:00-10:05	10:05-11:00	11:05-11:50	11:55 - 12:10	12:10-12:30	~12:30		
Pre-K Prithvi	Prayer	Yoga / Games Hindu / Snack -CAFETERIA	Transition	Crafts / Shlokas / Stories - CLASSROOM	Transition	Aarti	Lunch	Dismissal
KG Meghaa	Prayer	Stories from Panchatantra / Hindu Festivals - CLASSROOM		Yoga / Snack / Games - CAFETERIA		Aarti	Lunch	Dismissal

Class	10:00-10:05	10:05-10:45	10:45-11:25	11:30-12:00	12:00-12:15	12:15-12:40	~12:40	
1 <sup>st</sup> Saagar	Prayer	Stories From Puranaas / Introduction to Gods & Goddesses	Introduction to India I	Trans	Yoga - GYM	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal

Class	10:00-10:30	10:35-10:40	10:40-11:20	11:20-11:55	12:00 - 12:15	12:15-12:40	~12:40		
2nd Vaayu	Yoga - GYM	Trans	Prayer	Dashavtar & Other Stories	Trans	Stories of Saints & Introduction to India II	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal

Class	10:00-10:05	10:05-10:45	10:50-11:20	11:25-11:55	12:00 - 12:15	12:15-12:40	~12:40			
3 <sup>rd</sup> Pavan	Prayer	Ramayana	Trans	Yoga - GYM	Trans	Indian Leaders	Trans	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal

Class	10:00-10:05	10:05-10:45	10:45-11:30	11:30 - 12:15	12:20-12:35	12:40-~1:00	~1:00
4 <sup>th</sup> Aakash	Prayer	Conversational Hindi I or Indian History- Ancient India /Mauryan Dynasty /	Mahabharata I	Conversational Hindi I or Indian History- Ancient India /Mauryan Dynasty	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal
5 <sup>th</sup> Gagan	Prayer	Conversational Hindi 2 or Indian History (Gupta Dynasty) / Indian Culture	Mahabharata II	Indian History (Gupta Dynasty) / Indian Culture or Conversational Hindi 2	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal
6 <sup>th</sup> Agni	Prayer	Conversational Hindi 3 or Indian History -Mughal Dynasty	Values / Analysis of Ramayana & Mahabharata Characters	Conversational Hindi 3 or Indian History -Mughal Dynasty	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal
7 <sup>th</sup> Marut	Prayer	Into. to Gita I	Principles of Hinduism & Ishvara	Indian History- British Rule	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal
8 <sup>th</sup> Medhaa	Prayer	Into. to Gita II	Religious Culture / Vedic Chanting	Post-Independence / Modern India	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal

# CURRICULUM, COLORS & CLASS NAMES

Grade	Class	Color	Prayers	Religion	History / Culture	Other
Pre-K	Prithvi	Purple	Introduce Shlokas & Aarti	Moral & Religious Stories / Crafts	n/a	Yoga
KG	Meghaa	Yellow	Build on Shlokas & Arati	Moral & Religious Stories / Festivals & Crafts	n/a	Yoga
1st	Saagar	Navy	Morning Shlokas, End of day Shlokas & Arati	Introduction to Deities	States and Geography of India	Yoga
2nd	Vaayu	Light Green	Morning Shlokas, End of day Shlokas & Arati	Religious Stories / Dasavataras	Saints / Diversity of India: Religions, languages, dance, music, art	Yoga
3rd	Pavan	Grey	Morning Shlokas, End of day Shlokas & Arati	Ramayana	Prominent Indian Leaders	Yoga
4th	Aakash	Royal Blue	Morning Shlokas, End of day Shlokas & Arati	Mahabharata I	Ancient India to Mauryan Dynasty / Prominent Indians	Conversational Hindi I
5th	Gagan	Dark Green	Morning Shlokas, End of day Shlokas & Arati	Mahabharata II	Guptas to 1200 CE, Southern Kingdoms, Indian Monuments & Sights, Indian Culture	Conversational Hindi II
6th	Agni	Red	Morning Shlokas, End of day Shlokas & Arati	Values	1200 to end of Mughal Rule	Conversational Hindi III
7th	Marut	Baby Blue	Morning Shlokas, End of day Shlokas & Arati	Principles of Hinduism & Ishvara Why we do....	British India: East India Tea to Independence	Introduction to Gita
8th	Medhaa	Orange	Morning Shlokas, End of day Shlokas & Arati	Religious Disciplines, Culture, Tradition	Independent India	Introduction to Gita II



## 2026 CURRICULUM CHANGES

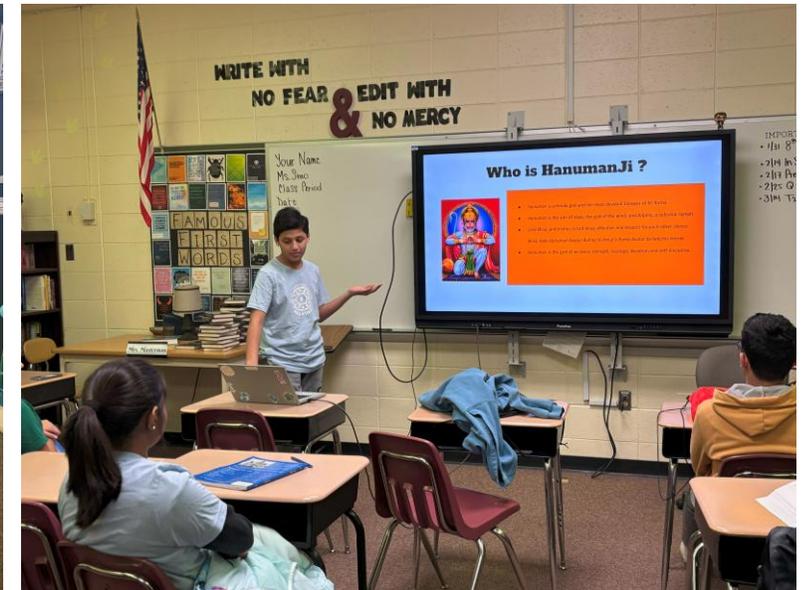
- Adding lesson on History of Indians in America (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Expanding two ideas that worked well in our trial runs
  - VR – visits to landmarks in India
  - Mock Trial of Aurangzeb



# MAKING BALVIHAR A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

Strive to deliver content in an engaging manner using:

- Multimedia tools & games
- Craft driven lessons
- Videos & digital presentations
- Group Activities
- Less lecture, more discussion
- Robust and inviting books



# MAKING BALVIHAR A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

## Rewarding Engagement & Effort

- Use small prizes such as stickers, pencils, etc....
- Weekly Amazon E-gift cards as prizes for homework, winning games, participation, etc.
  - Awarded well over \$1k last year
  - Please accept or \$\$ are lost
- Certificate & \$20 for Perfect Attendance\*
  - 69 students had perfect attendance in 24/25
- Certificate & \$20 for Top Test (3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - 44 students received in 24/25

\*Attending every session for the full duration of Balvihar (i.e. no early dismissals or late arrivals)



## Annual Day Program

- Each Pre-K thru 5th grade class shows learnings through dance, skits, or innovative performances
- 6th Graders Fund Raise for a Charity – Raised over \$10,000 in 2025
- Exceed by 8th grader (85%+ Attendance Required)
- Participation in Annual Day is contingent on BV attendance and attendance at ALL PRACTICES and stage rehearsals



# LUNCH: FUN WITH FRIENDS

Children are served pizza (and sometimes popsicles and ice cream) for lunch at Balvihar. We believe that this is an important aspect of the social experience of the program:

- Give the kids a chance to bond
- Ends the day on a positive note that can stick with them
- Allergies: We use outside vendors (Dominos) and prepackaged juices and ice cream etc. As a result, we can not guarantee an allergen free setting. We do, however, order cheese less pizzas and pizzas with varied vegetarian toppings. We allow children with allergies to bring their own food. Please reach out if you would like to discuss further.



# MAKING BALVIHAR A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

Opportunity to make friends & have fun

- Scale
- Maintaining class continuity
- (87%+ annual return rate)
- Funplex
- Observe the growth of students from the same class from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade





# OPERATIONS / ADMIN / ANNUAL DAY VOLUNTEERS

**Program Director:** Malathi Shankar

- Abhilasha Saxena
- Abhishek Gupta
- Anirudh Kumar
- Anjali Chheda
- Ashish Mehta
- Chandresh Parekh
- Chirag Kansagra
- Dhimant Soni
- Dipak Dattani
- Dipal Parikh
- Jay Chauhan
- Krupa Ruperal
- Mahesh Pathak
- Mayuran Balasubramaniam
- Naylesh Shah
- Nupur Shah
- Reetika Sarin
- Ritesh Shah
- Sagar Dalal
- Sameer Khandhar
- Samir Patel
- Somil Prakash
- Soniya Sheth
- Suneet Bhatt
- Urvashee Patel
- Urvish Bhatt
- Varun Arora
- Vishal Vasisth

# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR BALVIHAR GRADUATES

## Student Leader Program

- Balvihar Graduates who return to Balvihar classes
- Learn presentation skills, time management, leadership and teamwork
- Earn community service hours. Last year 36 students each earned between 70 and 120 community service hours each
- Participate in social and enrichment activities outside of Balvihar



# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR BALVIHAR GRADUATES

## ITA High School Community Service

- Balvihar Graduates serve as volunteers at Temple and community Events
- Minimum 35 hour and 12 event commitment
- Required participation in social and enrichment events

**BOTH PROGRAMS ARE SELECTIVE &  
REQUIRE DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT  
TO BALVIHAR AND A SUCCESSFUL  
APPLICATION**



# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: MATERIALS

- You must pick up your child's books, handouts and t-shirt at one of the material pick-up dates communicated in the "Important Dates" section of the "Welcome Email". Please check to make sure bags have all required items as outline in the Material Pick-Up email.
- Digital copies of class syllabi, calendar, shloka, other hand outs and audio files of shlokas are available at the bottom section of the Balvihar section of the [indiatemple.org](http://indiatemple.org) website.

## ➤ Materials You Must Purchase:

### **PRE-K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

- Washable Crayons & Colored Pencils
- **Yoga Mat**
- Pencil
- Notebook

### **4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

- Pencil / Pen
- Notebook

# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: COMMUNICATION

## Pre-Session Emails

- Newsletter: General Announcements & Program Reminders. Sender will be **“Balvihar.”** **This email is sent at ~7pm on the Friday before Balvihar.**
- Class Emails: Email from Teaching teams of your children providing a brief summary of the prior and upcoming classes. Sender will be specific class, such as **“Gagan B 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.”**

## Other Emails

- ITA Emails: Provides Community Information. Sender will be **“India Temple Association.”** Often includes details about upcoming cultural and religious events.

## Children’s Emails

- If you chose to provide your child’s email, they will get the weekly BV emails not ITA emails. Older children that are self-directed really find this useful. Please note that the BV email lists are deleted at the end of each year.

Please add [bvadmin@indiatemple.org](mailto:bvadmin@indiatemple.org) to your contacts

NOTE: We can see email opens and clicks by user. So....

# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: COMMUNICATION

samirkpatel@yahoo.com

Created on Jul 10, 2025 ET



Email Subscribed

Opted in on Jul 10, 2025 ET

Last originated from List Import from Copy/Pasted File

## Contact Information

[Edit](#)

Email Address samirkpatel@yahoo.com

First Name —

Last Name —

Address —

Phone Number —

Predicted Gender Unknown

Predicted Age Unknown

## Tags

[Manage Tags](#)

Material Pick up 1 × [Add a tag](#)

[Overview](#) [Insights](#) [Notes](#) [Settings](#)

## Activity

Filtered by [All Activity](#)

-  Aug 24, 2025 - 07:00 PM ET  
Was sent the email [Children's Navratri Balvihar Pre-Sale](#)
-  Aug 24, 2025 - 01:47 PM ET  
Opened the email [Material Pick Up #1 Confirm](#)
-  Aug 24, 2025 - 01:33 PM ET  
Was sent the email [Material Pick Up #1 Confirm](#)
-  Aug 24, 2025 - 09:57 AM ET  
Was sent the email [Material Pick Up Reminder & Check List \(copy 02\)](#)
-  Aug 24, 2025 - 09:52 AM ET  
Opened the email [Welcome 2026!](#)
-  Aug 24, 2025 - 09:48 AM ET  
Opened the email [Welcome 2026!](#)

[Overview](#) [Insights](#) [Notes](#) [Settings](#)

## Performance

60%

Email open rate

0%

Email click rate

[Connect your store to get order data](#)

Note this year's email color is orange.



### **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Shloka classes start this week.**

**Location:** Marlton Middle School

**Drop off (Normal): 9:45 AM**

**Drop off (Optional Shloka Class): 9:25 AM**

**Late Arrival:** Late students will be held in cafeteria until morning prayers end

**Dress Code:** BV T-Shirts visibly worn and shorts/pants that are appropriate for performing Aarti

**Snacks/Food:** No food/snack is allowed; only water bottles with secure lids

**Lunch:** Pizza and juice

**Lunch Sponsors:**

---Rashi & Dinesh Iyer

---Vishal & Radha Shah

---Hina & Mital Sheth

---Gaurav & Kena Solanki

**SAVE THE DATE:** Children's Navratri Event will be on the afternoon of Oct. 8th. Info bulletin forthcoming.

**Upcoming Balvihar Session:**

Oct. 1st

Oct. 15th

Oct. 29th

[CLICK HERE FOR BV CALENDAR](#)

### **DROP OFF / PICK UP**

**Marlton Police will be overseeing drop off and pick up.**

**Arrival / Dropoff:**

---You may use the car lane to drop off children that do not require assistance to exit the car. Parents must stay in car if using car lane. If your child requires assistance, please park and walk them to the entrance using designated cross walk.

**Dismissal / Pick-up:**

---You must park and walk to the entrance to meet your child. We will not release your child until you are in the entrance area.

---We ask that you arrive at least 5 minutes before your child's dismissal time. If you have multiple children, you must arrive at your youngest child's dismissal time.

---PreK to 2nd grades will be escorted out.

---Please stand at the front of the dismissal area when your child's grade is announced. This will allow staff to more quickly identify you and match you to your child.

**Dismissal Times:**

---Pre-K / KG: 12:30pm

---1st & 2nd: 12:40pm

# IMPORATANT LOGISTICS: BALVIHAR & ITA CHILDREN'S EVENTS CALENDAR



## India Temple Association **PRELIMINARY** 2025 / 2026 Balvihar Calendar

(Please note that BV dates may change in the event of unforeseen circumstances.)

Date	Event	Location
Sept 7	BV Session 1	Marlton Middle School
Sept 14 (Tentative)	ITA Children's Navratri Program	ICC
Sept 21	BV Session 2	Marlton Middle School
Oct 5	BV Session 3	Marlton Middle School
Oct 11 (Tentative)	ITA Dussehra Program	ICC
Oct 12	BV Session 4	Marlton Middle School
Oct 26	BV Session 5	Marlton Middle School
Nov 2	BV Session 6	Marlton Middle School
Nov 23	BV Session 7	Marlton Middle School
Dec 7	BV Session 8	Marlton Middle School
Dec 14	BV Session 9	Marlton Middle School
Jan 11	BV Session 10	Marlton Middle School
Jan 25	BV Session 11	Marlton Middle School
Feb 1 (Tentative)	ITA Children's Vasant Panchami	Berlin Temple
Feb 8	BV Session 12	Marlton Middle School
Feb 22	BV Session 13	Marlton Middle School
Mar 8	BV Session 14	Marlton Middle School
Mar 22	BV Session 15	Marlton Middle School
Apr. 19	BV Session 16	Marlton Middle School
May 3	BV Session 17	Marlton Middle School
May 9	Annual Day	TBD
TBD	ITA Holi Celebrated	TBD

BACK TO BACK SESSIONS

BACK TO BACK SESSIONS

BACK TO BACK SESSIONS

ITA Children's Events

# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: DRESS CODE / APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

## **Required Dress Code**

- Students are expected to wear their Balvihar T-Shirts during each session of Balvihar. It helps us both track students and builds cohesion among students. Students who repeatedly violate this rule will not be admitted into class.

## **Please dress your children in clothing that is appropriate for a religious program.**

- Pre-K to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be performing yoga. Please have them wear athletic pants.
- Grades 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> students can wear shorts or skirts, but they must be knee length.

# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: DROP OFF

## Morning Drop Off

- Except Pre-K parents, no other parents will be allowed in the building at anytime. This is to help us maintain a secure environment.
- Doors will open for Optional Shloka session students at 9:25am. Only students participating in these classes will be permitted inside the school. Please note Shloka Classes begin with Session 2<sup>nd</sup> Balvihar session
- Doors will open for regular BV session at 9:45 am. Students will not be permitted inside before this time. Early drops offs are not permitted; parents must stay with their children until doors are opened.
- Children arriving after 10:00am will be considered late and will be asked to wait in cafeteria until the completion of morning shlokas at appx 10:10am. Children arriving after 10:30am will be marked late and will be ineligible for perfect attendance award.

# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: DROP OFF

## Morning Drop Off

- Following rules must be adhered to if you are using the car line to drop off your child:
  - Parents must remain in the car at all times while in drop-off car line; if your child requires assistance to exit the car, then DO NOT use the car line. Park your car and walk your child to the entrance.
  - Drive extremely slowly in drop off-line and be vigilant at all times.
  - A Marlton Police Officer and Volunteers will be outside during drop off to enforce these rules.
- If you park and are walking your child to the entrance, please ensure they are crossing at designated crosswalk areas to ensure their safety. For our little young students, we strongly encourage you hold their hands.
- We ask that you do not approach Volunteers with questions or issues during Drop Off. You can speak with them after drop off is completed (~10am). We want the volunteers focused on safety of kids and traffic!

# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: PICK UP

## Early Dismissal Procedures:

- Early dismissal will ONLY be accommodated between 10:30am-11:45am. This time is FIRM.
- If you arrive after 11:45am, **you will have to wait until your child's normal dismissal time**; please plan ahead.
- Children Leaving early will be marked as having missed part of session and will be ineligible for perfect attendance award.
- You DO NOT need to inform us ahead of time that your child will be leaving early.
- Following rules must be adhered for early pick up:
  - Arrive at main entrance and wait for member of Volunteer staff
  - Provide your child's first and last name and their specific class (e.g. Vaayu A vs Vaayu B)
  - Notification will be received by our Volunteer staff inside and your child will be retrieved; please be patient.
  - Students can not leave on their own. They have to wait until member of Volunteer staff arrives to pull them out of class and escorts them to main entrance.

# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: DISMISSAL / PICK UP

## Regular Dismissal Procedure:

- Dismissal is staggered to allow quicker pairing of students and parents.
- Pre-K to 3rd grade children will be escorted out at their stated dismissal time.
- 4th – 8th grade will be allowed to exit at their stated dismissal time
- This we plan to trial letting 8<sup>th</sup> graders leave the blocked area at dismissal.
- You must arrive at your youngest child's dismissal time. Do not tell your child to wait inside for an older sibling! We don't have space.
- If you want your child to skip lunch, instruct them to go straight to front door after Arati and let the posted volunteer know. You MUST BE present to pick them up when they come out. If you are not present, your child will be sent to the cafeteria, and you will need to wait until 1pm. In addition, if your child does not follow your instructions, you will have to wait until 1pm because we do not have enough volunteers to search for your child in the crowded cafeteria. No exceptions.

# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: DISMISSAL / PICK UP

## Regular Dismissal Procedure (Cont.):

- There is no car line for Pick up. You must park your car in the parking lot and walk to the front of the building to pick up your child. Driver way will be CLOSED during pick up.
- Please pay attention as your students are exiting the school and ensure you walk up towards entrance so Volunteer and your child can easily identify you.
- A Marlton Police Officer and Volunteers will be outside during dismissal times to ensure order and safety at all times.
- **LATENESS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**
  - It is critical for parents to arrive on time; being late is inconsiderate and makes it hard for us to complete tasks needed to turn the school over to the maintenance staff. This jeopardizes our ability to continue to use the school.
  - Late parents also create a disruptive domino effect that makes the situation less safe and delays dismissal for everyone.
- Please do not approach Volunteer staff during dismissal with questions or issues. Distracting us from matching children to their parents can cause a significant safety issue. You can approach us after dismissal concludes or via email/phone during the week.

# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: PICK UP

## Dismissal Times

- Pre-K & KG: 12:30 PM
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 12:40 PM
- 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>: 1:00 PM

# IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: TIMELINE TO FIRST DAY

**Aug 24 (10AM-Noon)**

or

**Sept 1 (5-7 PM)**

Pick-up Materials @ 6 Zelkova Run in Moorestown

**Every Family must pick up their own materials**

Strongly recommend you bring your child to ensure correct t-shirt size

Compare backpack contents to list provided in pick up email

Familiarize yourself and your child with course materials and syllabus

The backpacks can be heavy. Please adjust contents to match syllabus as the year progresses.

**Sep 3**

Receive **“Welcome”** email from Class Teacher

**Sep 5**

Receive first Balvihar Newsletter

**Sep 6**

Purchase Additional Required Materials (Yoga Mat, Crayons, etc.)

**Sept 7(9:45AM)**

First day of Balvihar at Marlton Middle School

**DON'T BE THE PROBLEM!!! BE ON TIME!!!!**

# ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

## **Parent Availability**

One parent should be reachable on the numbers provided on the enrollment form and be able to return quickly to Balvihar in case of emergency.

## **Security**

Under normal circumstances, only the Marlton Middle School entrance located in front of the main parking lot should be used for entrance and exit. In case of an emergency, all of the school's exits can be used for egress. The program has hired Evesham Township Police to serve as on-site security at every Balvihar session from 9:15 am to 1:15 pm. When Annual Day practice sessions begin, hours of Police presence will be expanded or adjusted accordingly. All Parents and Children should feel empowered to approach the Officer present with any safety concerns or issues.

## **Unique Circumstances**

If there is a special situation that exists that is transient or permanent that requires an accommodation, please reach out to us. We try to be flexible when possible.

## **Lost & Found**

Left behind items are placed in the school's "Lost and Found". If you are missing something, please see us after pick up is complete (~1pm) and we will escort you into the building to search "Lost & Found."

# ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

## **Keeping Balvihar Safe**

We want Balvihar to be a safe and healthy environment for our children to learn and grow. If you or your child experiences or observes anything that would compromise this atmosphere, please notify someone on the Balvihar Administrative Team: Samir Patel (201) 657 – 8661; Sagar Dalal (201) 705 – 4466; Malathi Shankar (856) 316 -8772; Vidya Shukla (610) 703- 1710; Vinita Ganju (609) 744 -8558 or ITA Compliance / Audit Chair: Bhumika Kundu 856-577-4925.

## **Prohibited Substances & Items**

Alcohol, drugs, or other substances that can be used to cause a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, or stupefaction are prohibited at any Balvihar event. New Jersey law expressly prohibits weapons at schools. As such, there are serious penalties for possessing a weapon of any kind, including firearms, knives, stun guns, tear gas, BB guns, and imitation firearms, on school grounds. Parents and students should be vigilant. If anyone becomes aware of or suspects the presence of any of these banned items on premises or that a student or Volunteer is under the influence of any substance, please notify the Balvihar Administrative team and/or the police officer on duty immediately. Any Student caught with possession of any prohibited substance or item will be expelled from Balvihar.

# ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

## **Code of Conduct, Cell Phones & Toys**

Balvihar is an educational program. We need to maintain a positive, supportive environment. Each family has agreed to a code of conduct as part of the enrollment process. Except in the case of emergency, students are prohibited from using cell phones at all times while Balvihar is in session. Repeated violation of this rule may result in your child not being admitted into Balvihar. Children are not allowed to play with toys during class. Please familiarize your child with the rules and the need to report anything that would result in the positive environment being compromised.

## **Food, Beverages or Water bottles**

No food and beverages of any kind including water are allowed in any part of the school except the cafeteria. The school does have water fountains which students are permitted to use. Violation of these rules can result in loss of the school for Balvihar. We ask that you please ensure your child has eaten a good breakfast prior to arriving.

## **Sickness Guidelines for Parents**

Parents are asked not to bring their child to Balvihar if their child is unwell. This includes but is not limited to cold/flu-like symptoms, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, severe cough, colored nasal drainage, pink eye, lice, open skin lesions or any infectious disease. If a child shows any signs of sickness during Balvihar, we will contact you to pick your child up.

# GRADUATION, STUDENT LEADER PROGRAM & YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP REQUIREMENTS

## **8TH GRADE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

In order to graduate from the Balvihar Program a student must have greater than 75% attendance and receive a passing grade on the final exam during their final year (8th grade).

## **STUDENT LEADER PROGRAM (for 8th grade students only)**

Student Leaders (SL) return to Balvihar to teach and serve as role models. Their responsibilities escalate over time as they demonstrate commitment and competence in delivering the Balvihar curriculum. SLs commit to be at Balvihar every session and are willing to do preparatory work between sessions. Participants typically earn 80-100 community service hours. In order to be eligible to apply to the Student Leader program, graduating 8th graders must have 85% attendance (missing two sessions, being late or leaving early less than 4 times or some combination) or better; the recommendation from the 8th grade teachers indicating that the student has a demonstrated interest in the Balvihar and a passing score on the 8th grade test. We are looking for students that have affinity for teaching and our curriculum. The eligible students submit an application which includes a lesson from our program. We select ~8 students based on availability and application quality.

## **YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP (for 8th grade students only)**

Youth Community Service Group is in its second year. YCSG volunteers help at ITA and other community services events. Students must commit to performing at least 35 hours of community service and helping at 12 events to be in YCSG. This program requires a lower level of commitment than the Student Leader Program and offers greater degree of flexibility in terms which events they choose to volunteer at. However, participants in this program need to be able to volunteer on weekdays and weekends as well as volunteer at approximately one event per month. In order to be eligible to apply to the Youth Community Service Group, graduating 8th grader must have 75% attendance (missing four sessions, being late or leaving early less than 8 times or some combination) or better; a recommendation from the 8th grade teachers indicating that they have a demonstrated interest in our culture; and a passing score on the 8th grade test. We select 5-6 graduates for this program each year.

# WE NEED MORE COOPERATION FROM PARENTS

## **RECOGNIZE**

- This program is run by volunteers.
- We all have families and busy professional careers.
- We do this as a service to make the world and our community better.

## **PLEASE BE:**

- **RESPECTFUL:** Volunteers spending 100's of hours don't deserve to be mistreated.
- **TIMELY:** Late students disrupt the learning experience.
- **ATTENTIVE:** Read our emails!
- **ENGAGED:** Talk to your children about their lesson and make sure they are staying on track
- **PATIENT:** We make mistakes, and we can't always fix them immediately.
- **FOLLOW RULES:** With over 750 parents and students, even a small number of people asking for special treatment creates a great deal of work and burden.

## **REMEMBER**

- You agreed to a code of conduct in when you enrolled your children. Individuals or families that violate the code will be asked to leave the program.

# REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION

Examples of Parent behavior when multiplied makes it difficult for us:

- Being late to pick up your child
- Ignoring teacher emails
- Emailing or texting for information that has been already distributed
- Failing to pick up materials on time
- Blocking the driveway at drop off
- Asking us to physically mail your child's program materials
- Registering late and calling to get a discount
- Asking for special treatment because of your profession
- Signing up your child for Annual Day, but failing to attend practices, complaining about practice times that were disclosed at sign-up or dropping out last minute
- Forgetting to sign up for Annual Day and asking for your child to be added last minute
- Telling us your child is sick and will miss Annual Day practice when they are instead at a birthday party

# REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION

**BE ON TIME**

**READ EMAILS**

**DON'T ASK FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT**



**We will not re-enroll students whose parents  
can't be considerate of volunteer time**

# OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE

## **Volunteer:**

We are always looking for individuals willing to assume dedicated roles such as:

- Teacher
- Lunch Team Member
- Social Events Planner
- General Make it Happen Person

## **Donate:**

- Become a lunch sponsor
- Buy an Ad in our yearbook

If you are interested, please contact Samir Patel at [samirkpatel@yahoo.com](mailto:samirkpatel@yahoo.com).

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# Questions

