



BALVIHAR 2024

AUGUST 23RD, 2023

Why we
volunteer:



First Day of Balvihar 2023

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.

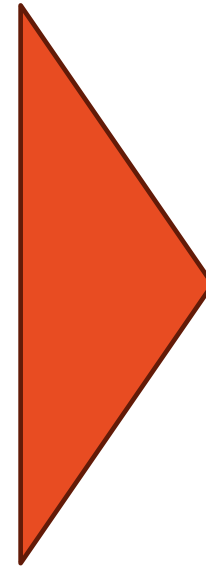
REMEMBER

- 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



We are expecting dramatically better cooperation this year.

If we don't get your help, we will have to shrink the program next year.

If you feel that our expectations are unreasonable, we will give you a refund.

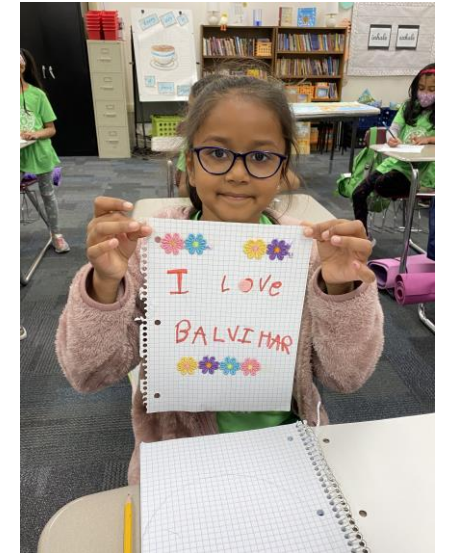
INDIA TEMPLE ASSOCIATION / BERLIN TEMPLE

- 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

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



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:
 - 320 Students
 - 35 High School Student Leaders
 - 46 Teachers
 - 10 Operations and Admin Volunteers
- We are 100% Volunteer Run – Many of us are 2nd Generation!

2024 Statistics

- **47 Teachers**
- **44 Returning / 3 New**
 - 33 have 5 Years+
 - 11 have 10 Years+
- **36 Student Leaders (Balvihar Graduates)**
 - 26 Returning
 - 10 First Years
- **87% Return Rate**
- **338 Registered Students (Record)**

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- 10 Year Program from Pre-K to 8th
- 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
- 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 6th Grade for Core Classes
- Three Teacher Team for 7th & 8th 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 (2023 Average 15.2)
- 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>

TEACHING TEAM (VOLUNTEERING 100+ HOURS)

Sonia Bodiwala	Pre-K	Manisha Chheda	2nd	Vinita Ganju	5th	Ramya Raman	7th
Ishi Shah	Pre-K	Hetal Kansagra	2nd	Rashmi Raghavan	5th	Bhavesh Patel	7th
Kinnari Patel	Pre-K	Nesa - SL	2nd	Muskaan - SL	5th	Ramesh Viswanathan	7th
Sara - SL	PreK	Nehal -SL	2nd	Vivek - SL	5th	Neev - SL	7th
Lisa Shah	KG	Aroon Krishnan	2nd	Sanjay Manchiganti	5th	Ananya - SL	7th
Taral Dadhania	KG	Mihir Parekh	2nd	Shilpa Acharya	5th	Malathi Shankar	8th
Milani - SL	KG	Neel - SL	2nd	Rahul - SL	5th	Shankar Iyer	8th
Harshvi - SL	KG	Kruti Lodhavia	3rd	Anahga -SL	5th	Vidya Shukla	8 th
Mital Chheda	KG	Harshal Parekh	3rd	Arathi Sreenivasan	5th	Tvisha -SL	8 th
Arjun -SL	KG	Mahek - SL	3rd	Hima Prabhakkar	5th	Urvi - SL	8 th
Kavya - SL	KG	Sahasra Mandala	3rd	Piya - SL	5th	Manthan - SL	8 th
Ghata Vyas	Ist	Shashank Sheth	3rd	Anvi - SL	5 th	Shubhra Goel	Hindi
Sheetal Patel	Ist	Punam Patel	3rd	Amit Patel	6 th	Kunal -SL	Hindi
Krishani - SL	Ist	Akshay Rajpal	3rd	Ruchir Parikh	6th	Hemangi Chawan	Hindi
Vaman - SL	Ist	Saishruthi -SL	3rd	Saagar -SL	6th	Alpana Soni	Hindi
Avani Shah	Ist	Anjali Neredmilli	4th	Rudra - SL	6th	Puja - SL	Hindi
Garima Thapar	Ist	Lalitha Chamarajan	4th	Samir Patel	6th	Deepti Goyal	Hindi
Riya - SL	Ist	Kushagra - SL	4th	Zindadil Gandhi	6th	Anu Munshi	Hindi
		Meghna -SL	4th	Yasha- SL	6th	Ronak - SL	Hindi
		Meeta Chaturvedi	4th	Tharun -SL	6th	Ashika Kapoor	Yoga
		Veeresh Deverya	4th	Shubham - SL	6th	Sheetal Parikh	Yoga
		Gowtami Manem	4th				

OPERATIONS / ADMIN

Program Director: Malathi Shankar

- Sagar Dalal
 - Chirag Kansagra
 - Samir Patel
 - Naylesh Shah
 - Ritesh Shah
 - Keyur Trivedi
 - **And many others that help out**
- Vishal Vasisth
 - Dipak Dattani
 - Chandresh Parekh
 - Dhimant Soni
 - Dipal Parikh
 - Mahesh Pathak

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 2nd Bavihar 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

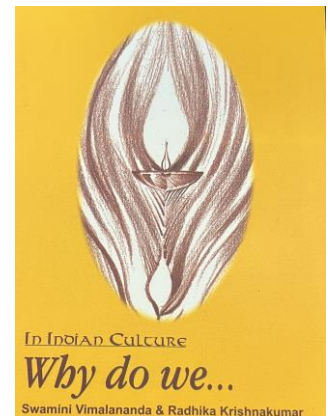
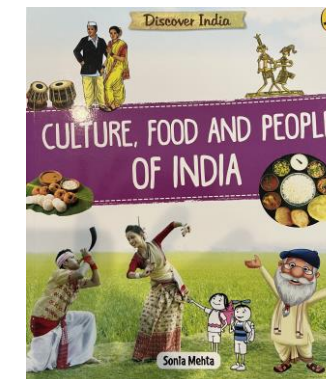
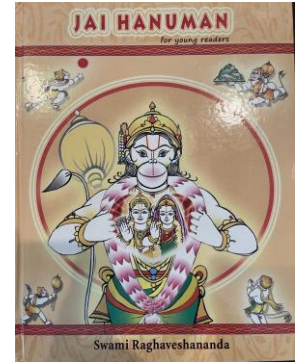
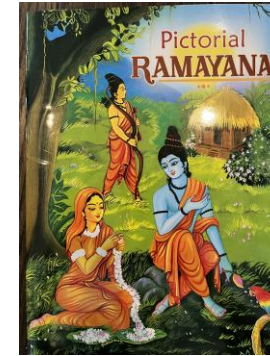
➤ **Other:** Yoga, Conversational Hindi

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

2024 Curriculum Changes

- **2nd Grade New Book:** Dashavtar- The Ten Divine Forms of Vishnu
- **3rd Grade Books-** Pictorial Ramayana and Jai Hanuman
- **5th Grade New Secular Curriculum:** Focus on Cultural Interactions that kids would have in their lives: Food, Wedding, Dance, Language, Sights of India
- **7th Grade New Book:** Why do we... in Indian Culture
 - Light a lamp
 - Fast
 - Chant Om





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

- Weekly Amazon E-gift cards as prizes for homework, winning games, participation, etc.
- Certificate & \$20 gift card for Perfect Attendance
- Certificate & \$20 gift card for Top Test (3rd to 8th grade)

MAKING BALVIHAR A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

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
- 7th Grade – Select opportunities to help with other acts
- Emceed by 8th grader



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 1st to 8th grade



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

MAKING BALVIHAR A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

PROGRAMS FOR BALVIHAR GRADUATES ONLY

Student Leader Program

- Balvihar Graduates who return to teach
- Learn presentation skills, time management, leadership and teamwork
- Earn community service hours. Last year 35 students each earned between 75 and 120 community service hours each

ITA High School Community Service (Pilot Phase)

- Balvihar Graduates serve as volunteers at Temple Events
- Minimum 30 hour commitment



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

ITA Balvihar Schedule -Marlton Middle School

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 st 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	
2 nd Pavan	Yoga - GYM	Trans	Prayer	Bala Bhagavatam	Trans	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal
				Stories of Saints & Introduction to India II				

Class	10:00-10:05	10:05-10:45	10:50-11:20	11:25 -12:15	12:20 -12:35	12:40-~1:00	~1:00			
3 rd 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 th 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 th Gagan	Prayer	Conversational Hindi 2 or Indian History- Gupta Dynasty	Mahabharata II	Indian History - Gupta Dynasty or Conversational Hindi 2	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal
6 th 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 th Marut	Prayer	Into. to Gita I	Principles of Hinduism & Ishvara	Indian History- British Rule	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal
8 th Medhaa	Prayer	Into. to Gita II	Religious Culture / Vedic Chanting	Post-Independence / Modern India	Aarti - GYM	Lunch	Dismissal

IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: COMMUNICATION

Pre-Session Emails

- Newsletter: General Announcements & Program Reminders. Sender will be “**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 5th 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 to your contacts

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

IMPORATANT LOGISTICS: BALVIHAR & ITA CHILDREN'S EVENTS CALENDAR



India Temple Association

2023 / 2024 Balvihar Calendar

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

Date	Event	Location
Sept. 10	BV Session 1	Marlton Middle School
Sept. 17	BV Session 2	Marlton Middle School
Oct. 1	BV Session 3	Marlton Middle School
Oct. 8	ITA Children's Navratri Program	ICC
Oct. 15	BV Session 4	Marlton Middle School
Oct. 29	BV Session 5	Marlton Middle School
Nov 4 (Prelim.)	ITA Dussehra Program	ICC
Nov. 5	BV Session 6	Marlton Middle School
Nov. 19	BV Session 7	Marlton Middle School
Dec. 3	BV Session 8	Marlton Middle School
Dec. 10	BV Session 9	Marlton Middle School
Jan. 7	BV Session 10	Marlton Middle School
Jan. 21	BV Session 11	Marlton Middle School
TBD	ITA Children's Vasant Panchami	Berlin Temple
Feb. 4	BV Session 12	Marlton Middle School
Feb. 25	BV Session 13	Marlton Middle School
Mar. 10	BV Session 14	Marlton Middle School
Mar. 17	BV Session 15	Marlton Middle School
Apr. 14	BV Session 16	Marlton Middle School
Apr. 28	BV Session 17	Marlton Middle School
May. 5	Make up / Annual Day Practice	TBD
TBD	ITA Holi Celebrated	TBD
May 11	Annual Day	TBD

BACK TO BACK SESSIONS

ITA Children's Events

BACK TO BACK SESSIONS

BACK TO BACK SESSIONS

Balvihar Sessions Start at 9:45 AM & End between 12:15-1 PM

INDIA TEMPLE ASSOCIATION INFO:

25 E. Taunton Ave, Berlin NJ 08009
(855) MY MANDIR
www.indiatemple.org

BALVIHAR CONTACT INFO:

Malathi Shankar: malavaid@yahoo.com / (856) 316-8772
Sagar Dalal: sagardalalita@gmail.com / (201) 705-4466
Samir Patel: samirkpatel@yahoo.com / (201) 657-8661

Please use current Satsang or Monthly ITA emails to confirm special event dates and time.

IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: ADDITIONAL REQUIRED MATERIALS

PRE-K-3rd Grade

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

4th-8th Grades

- Pencil / Pen
- Notebook

IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

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

- Pre-K to 3rd grade students will be performing yoga. Please have them wear athletic pants.
- Grades 4th to 8th 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 (September 17th)
- 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 (eg. 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 2nd grade children will be escorted out at their stated dismissal time.
- 3rd – 8th grade will be allowed to exit at their stated dismissal time
- 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 (~12:10pm). 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. Do not park in driveway.
- 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
- 1st & 2nd: 12:40 PM
- 3rd – 8th: 1:00 PM

IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: TIMELINE TO FIRST DAY

Aug 27 (10:30AM-12:30 PM)

or

Sept 4 (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

Sep 5

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

Sep 8

Receive first Balvihar Newsletter

Receive first day class email

Sep 9

Purchase Additional Required Materials

Sept 10(9:45AM)

First day of Balvihar at Marlton Middle School

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

ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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.

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.

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.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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.

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.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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 30 hours of community service and helping at 10 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.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION

BE ON TIME

READ EMAILS

DON'T ASK FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT

HELP!

We need volunteers willing to make an ongoing commitment in roles such as:

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

If you are interested, please contact Samir Patel @ (201) 657-8661.

Closing Remarks

MALATHI SHANKAR

BALVIHAR DIRECTOR



Questions

