

MICAH CHILDREN'S ACADEMY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MICAH CHILDREN'S ACADEMY, NEW PRE-SCHOOL, SLATES GRAND OPENING AUGUST 8;

METRO COUNCILMEMBER, BRENTWOOD MAYOR TO ATTEND

NASHVILLE/BRENTWOOD -- Ribbon-cutting and hanging mezuzahs*...face painting, bouncy house, games...prayers, music, presentations...tours and refreshments will mark the Grand Opening of Micah Children's Academy, a new pre-school for youngsters age six weeks to five years. Owned and operated by Congregation Micah, a Reform Jewish synagogue, the school welcomes children of all faiths and cultures.

The public is invited to the festivities, in air-conditioning, **Sunday, August 8, 3-5 p.m.** at Congregation Micah.

Metro Councilmember at Large Ronnie Steine and Brentwood Mayor Betsy Crossley will present greetings on behalf of their governments. Straddling the line between Davidson and Williamson Counties, Micah Children's Academy is located in Nashville and in Brentwood.

*A mezuzah is a decorative case containing a small parchment scroll with two Deuteronomy passages handwritten in Hebrew. Hanging a mezuzah on doorways of the Academy entrance and each classroom fulfills the Biblical commandment to place a constant reminder of God's presence "on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" and to "teach these words diligently to your children."

Lineup of Grand Opening events:

- 3-5 p.m. -- Children's entertainment, featuring face-painting, a bouncy house and games.
- 3:30-3:45 -- Ceremonials

Prayers by Micah Rabbis Laurie and Philip (Flip) Rice; **remarks** by Micah Education Director Julie Greenberg, Academy Director Lynn Heady and Micah Board President-Elect Hope

Stringer; greetings and **presentations**.

A **rocking chair** donated and decorated by Micah's middle-schoolers will be presented to the Academy. The Infant Room chair sports painted thumbprints embellished to resemble pairs of animals heading to Noah's Ark.

From Micah congregants in their 90s to parents of a yet-to-be-born Academy enrollee, both ends of the age spectrum will participate in the **ribbon-cutting** for the much-anticipated school.

Lisa Silver, Micah's Music Director, will bless the children in song and lead the assemblage in **celebratory music**.

- 3:45-4 p.m. -- Mezuzah Hanging

Rabbis Rice and helpers will **hang mezuzahs** with time-honored blessings. "Traditionally, mezuzahs are hung at adult shoulder level, but at the Academy classrooms we'll hang them lower so the children can see and touch them," said Rabbi Flip.

- 4-5 p.m. -- **Tours** of the Academy, led by teachers and staff

Suffused with natural light and providing direct access to outdoors play areas, each classroom has all-new furnishings and equipment geared to providing the Academy's "best practices" early childhood education. Soon-to-be-completed is an all-natural, eco-friendly playscape, designed to encourage imaginative play. Several hands-on gardens, plus the on-site Little Harpeth River, will inspire creativity and adventure.

"Everything and everyone: all are committed to encouraging children's natural love of learning. Our teachers and staff have expertly customized a stellar physical, cognitive and social skills curriculum that embraces Judaic values, tradition, holidays and observance," said Heady, formerly Director of Instruction and Curriculum for Williamson County Schools.

Micah Children's Academy is part of Congregation Micah's \$1.8 million expansion, which also includes a renovated Religious School wing and additional indoor and outdoor space for educational and social functions.

At its founding 18 years ago, the synagogue adopted the words of Micah, the Biblical prophet and civil rights advocate, as its message of equality and welcome for all: "Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with thy God" (6:8).

Located in Davidson and Williamson Counties, Micah Children's Academy is at 2001 Old Hickory Boulevard, near the intersection of Hillsboro Road. Minutes from I-65 and I-40, the location is convenient to Bellevue, Belle Meade, Green Hills, Brentwood, Franklin and other

communities.

Micah Children's Academy will be open for youngsters' enjoyment and education starting August 16. For a downloadable application, tuition and schedule information, visit www.micahchildrensacademy.org or call Director Lynn Heady or Assistant Director Theresa LePore at (615) 377-9799.

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