



# Arany János Hungarian School

## Parent Handbook



# Welcome Letter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Arany János Hungarian School. Thank you for honoring us with your trust and placing your child's Hungarian language and cultural education in our hands. We will do everything to earn that trust by providing your child with knowledge, cherished memories, and valuable experiences that will stay with them for a lifetime.

Please review this handbook, which we have created with your child's best interests in mind, to promote mutual understanding and maintain a strong relationship between families and the school.

---

## Purpose and Role of the School Rules

The school rules define the conditions necessary for the school to function effectively, enabling students to learn according to their abilities. These rules also protect students' physical safety, preserve school traditions, and serve important educational purposes.

The goal is to ensure a productive and disruption-free environment for both students and educators.

---

## General Information

The **Arany János Hungarian Kindergarten and School (AJMOI)** has been operating continuously since its establishment in 1963. Currently, it is located in the **All Souls School building** (1157 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10075).

The school is inclusive, non-profit, non-religious, and politically neutral. Organizational roles (president, secretary, directors, etc.) are fulfilled voluntarily by parents.

All our teachers and kindergarten educators are certified professionals who earned their degrees in Hungary or in neighboring Hungarian-speaking regions. The curriculum is developed years in advance and tailored to the needs of our students. Teachers often work with the same class for several years, fostering strong relationships between educators and students. Many lifelong friendships are formed among the children as well.

Classes are held **once a week on Saturdays**. The educational program covers from the youngest preschool group up to the final year of primary school. Students are between the ages of **3 and 15**.

Children aged **0–3** can attend the “**Bóbita**” class, a 45-minute playful music session with parental involvement, held from **10:00 to 10:45** as part of the “Így tedd rá” program.

---

## Mission and Goals

Our primary goal is to develop students' **Hungarian language skills**, particularly speaking and reading comprehension, along with the basics of grammar. We complement this with **fundamental Hungarian history and geography**.

Students use textbooks published in Hungary and are taught in a warm, family-like environment. Through this, they gain a deep love for Hungarian culture and traditions.

Throughout the school year, we celebrate **Hungarian holidays and folk customs**, further strengthening the students' knowledge and cultural identity.

---

## School Calendar and Schedule

For the **2025/26 school year**, classes run from **September 27 to May 30**.

Classes are held **Saturdays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM**. For younger students, class structures are flexible and adapted to their needs.

A **15–20 minute snack break** is included, under teacher supervision.

The school observes **American public holidays**. For other absences, we ask that parents inform the teachers in advance.

---

## Arrival and Departure Procedures

To ensure a punctual start, we ask all parents to have their children at school **by 9:30 AM**.

Students in **Katica, Süni, Vuk, and Kutylus** groups should be escorted to and picked up from the school yard by their parents, where teachers will receive and return them.

Students in **Főnix and Grundlakók** groups gather in classrooms, where teachers welcome them. These students may leave the school **alone only with written parental permission**.

Please be punctual when picking up your child.

---

## Safety Regulations

- Students and teachers may only use areas **designated for the school**.

- Restrooms may be used **only with teacher permission**.
  - Students and parents are responsible for behavior. A **Liability Waiver** must be signed by the parents, acknowledging that students may participate in activities involving movement, art, crafts, and physical activity where injuries may occur.
  - The school is **not liable** for personal injuries or property loss.
  - Label all school supplies with your child's name.
  - The school is not responsible for **lost or left-behind items**.
  - Parents must inform the teacher if **anyone else** will pick up their child.
  - If parents consent at enrollment, the school may take and use **photos, videos, and audio recordings** of their children for informational and educational purposes. The school **assumes no financial responsibility** for these materials.
- 

## Curriculum

Students work with textbooks chosen by the teacher, supplemented by worksheets. To support learning, **homework is assigned**.

Each teacher determines necessary supplies, which parents are responsible for providing.

We ask that students come to class **prepared**, with:

- Completed homework
  - Necessary books and supplies
  - A healthy snack
  - A **change of clothes** for preschoolers
  - Any **extra items** requested in advance by the teacher
- 

## Class Groups

### **Bóbita Group (Ages 0–3)**

This parent-child playgroup introduces the youngest children to a **Hungarian language**

**environment.** The session includes rhymes, songs, and traditional lap games. It also provides a great way for **non-Hungarian-speaking parents** to engage with the Hungarian community.

#### **Katica Group (Ages 3–4)**

Using playful, experience-based methods, this group fosters early language development through folk games, dance, songs, rhymes, storytelling, and crafts in a relaxed atmosphere.

#### **Süni Group (Ages 4–5)**

Focuses on **speech development and vocabulary building**, using seasonal themes. Students explore Hungarian flora and fauna through folk games and crafts. Introduction to the **Hungarian alphabet** begins here.

#### **Vuk Group (Ages 5–6)**

This group covers kindergarten and first-grade material, including letter learning, basic math, and fine motor skills development through playful activities.

#### **Kutyus Group (Ages 7–8)**

Follows the first-grade Hungarian curriculum. Reading includes "*Erdei énekverseny*" by Nóra Majoros from the *Már tudok olvasni* series.

#### **Főnix Group (Ages 9–10)**

Focuses on **reading comprehension, spelling, and independent thinking**. Students learn about key figures in Hungarian literature and history.

#### **Grundlakók Group (Ages 11–12)**

This group reads "*A néma táltos*" by Nóra Majoros from the *Abszolút történelmi* series. Goals include improving reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills while introducing students to Hungarian history (specifically the era of the conquest) and cultural knowledge. The curriculum uses **experience-based learning**.

---

## **Enrollment Process**

There is no entrance exam, but a **language skills assessment** may be needed to determine group placement.

#### **Enrollment steps:**

- Fill out an online registration form (sent from [ajmoimanhattan@gmail.com](mailto:ajmoimanhattan@gmail.com))
- Pay the tuition fee for the semester

#### **Admission requirements:**

- Minimum age: 3 years old

- **Toilet trained**
- 

## Requirements

We expect students to wear **clean, appropriate clothing** and demonstrate respectful behavior. They should protect their own and others' safety and keep the environment clean.

Clothing should be **seasonal, comfortable**, and allow for free movement. Since students participate in arts and crafts and physical activity, we recommend **easily washable clothes** or a **spare outfit**, especially for younger children.

---

## Meals

Teachers allow time for snack breaks during class.

Parents are responsible for providing a **nutritious snack**. Please avoid bringing foods containing **peanuts**.

If a class has a student with a severe food allergy, teachers will notify parents to ensure everyone can adjust accordingly.

---

## Health Guidelines

Parents must inform the school of any **chronic illnesses, allergies, or medications** their child may need.

Children with **contagious illnesses** may be denied entry until they have fully recovered. Children must be **fever-free for at least 24 hours** before returning to school.

Please notify your child's teacher in case of **absence**.

---

## Parent–Teacher Communication

All teachers are available for regular **email and in-person** communication. To ensure classes start on time, please speak with teachers **after class or by appointment**.

Teachers send out **weekly updates** about classroom activities.

School communications are shared via:

- Newsletters
  - Email (from: [ajmoimanhattan@gmail.com](mailto:ajmoimanhattan@gmail.com))
  - **Parent WhatsApp groups**
  - The **school website**: <https://hungarianschoolnyc.com>
- 

## Contact Information

**Address:** 1157 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10075

**Email:** [ajmoimanhattan@gmail.com](mailto:ajmoimanhattan@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://www.hungarianschoolnyc.com>