Bringing the Knowledge, Values and Arts of Hinduism to Today's Children

Course Handbook
2016 Spring Semester Begins April 2

718-470-0698, www.RGDNY.org, info@rgdny.org
260-01 Hillside Ave, Glen Oaks, NY 11004
Welcome to Radha Govind Dham Shiksha. Founded with the vision of endowing our children with education in the customs, practices and traditions of Hinduism, the RGD Shiksha aims to nourish them with the wealth of India’s Arts and Cultural heritage and instill in them a lifelong commitment to Hindu spiritual values; the values we cherish as parents and wish to pass on to our children.

At the RGD Shiksha, children choose from a variety of extracurricular topics and learn the subjects of their interest from qualified teachers, thus enriching their spiritual and cultural development through traditional classes in Hinduism, Dance, Language and Music.

Children learn in the devotional environment of Radha Govind Dham where we provide a fun-filled learning experience. Held every week, Radha Govind Dham’s Shiksha classes provide a consistent, year-long extracurricular enrichment for children.

I invite you to review the descriptions of classes and guidelines presented in this handbook and use this invaluable opportunity to invest in the extracurricular education of your children by enrolling them at the Radha Govind Dham Shiksha. I also encourage you to be part of the RGD Shiksha – a non-profit organization – by being its teacher, volunteer or donor.

Thank you for your interest in the Radha Govind Dham Shiksha.

Sincerely,

Swami Nikhilanand
President
Radha Govind Dham Shiksha Teaching Staff

Radha Govind Dham’s Shiksha teaching staff is qualified and passionate about the subjects they teach. Their care and commitment in passing the knowledge they have received to not just their children but to all interested children of upcoming generations are noteworthy. RGD Shiksha welcomes its teaching staff and thanks them for their efforts.

Radha Govind Dham Shiksha Classes

During the Spring Semester of 2016, RGD Shiksha will be offering 14 classes as described in this section. We encourage students to register for as many classes as they want. Please refer to class timetable on the next page and select classes.

✔ Register for classes online at www.RGDNY.org/Shiksha and make your payment online at the end of the registration process or you can register in person at Radha Govind Dham, or by calling 718-470-0698

✔ After registering, you will receive a confirmation email.

✔ To ensure efficient use of teachers’ time, each class will have a minimum student requirement that will need to be met for that class to be offered during the semester. If you are interested in a particular class, please contact family and friends and encourage them to register as well. Similarly, classes will have a maximum student limit to ensure teacher can give proper attention to each student. Students will be placed in classes on a first come, first served basis. Please register as soon as you can to ensure successful admission to the classes of your choice.
**Sat, April 2nd - Sun, June 19, 2016**

### Ground Floor

**12:30 - 1:30 pm**
- **Mandir Seva**
  - Teacher: Rohit Sharma, Ages 6 and up
  - Fee: Free

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**
- **Hindi**
  - Teacher: Avinash Pancholi, Ages 6 and up
  - Fee: $120/semester

**2:00 - 4:00 pm**
- **Vocal & Harmonium for Adults**
  - Teacher: Anuradha Khanna, Ages 7 and up plus adults
  - Fee: $180/semester
- **Tabla (advanced)**
  - Teacher: Anuradha Khanna, Ages 7 and up plus adults
  - Fee: $180/semester
- **Vocal & Harmonium for Adults**
  - Teacher: Anuradha Khanna
  - Fee: $180/semester

**5:00 - 6:00 pm**
- **Satsang Dholak**
  - Teacher: Rohit Sharma & Jasvinder Gulati, Ages 6 and up
  - Fee: $120/semester

**6:00 - 7:00 pm**
- **Kirtan Class**
  - Teacher: Rohit Sharma
  - Fee: $120/semester

### Second Floor

**2:00 - 3:00 pm**
- **Math & Science Homework Help**
  - Teacher: Rohit Sharma, Ages 6 and up
  - Fee: $15/hour

### Saturday

**Downstairs**

**11:00 am - 12:00 pm**
- **Vocal & Harmonium for young children**
  - Teacher: Anuradha Khanna, Ages 5 and up
  - Fee: $180/semester

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**
- **Vocal & Harmonium (advanced)**
  - Teacher: Anuradha Khanna, Ages 7 and up plus adults
  - Fee: $180/semester
- **Tabla (advanced)**
  - Teacher: Anuradha Khanna, Ages 7 and up plus adults
  - Fee: $180/semester

**2:00 - 3:00 pm**
- **Vocal & Harmonium**
  - Teacher: Anuradha Khanna, Ages 6 and up
  - Fee: $180/semester

**Downstairs**

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**
- **Math & Science Homework Help**
  - Teacher: Rohit Sharma
  - Fee: $120/semester

### Sunday

**Upstairs**

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**
- **Mandir Seva**
  - Teacher: Rohit Sharma, Ages 6 and up
  - Fee: Free

**1:30 - 4:00 pm**
- **Bharat Natyam and Dance Class (Kathak)**

**6:00 - 7:00 pm**
- **Classical Dholak**
  - Teacher: Rajah Sookraj, Ages 8 and up
  - Fee: $25/hour

**Downstairs**

**2:00 - 3:00 pm**
- **Math & Science Homework Help**
  - Teacher: Rohit Sharma
  - Fee: $15/hour
Satsang Dholak
Teachers: Rohit Sharma & Jasvinder Gulati
Fee: $120/semester
Age 5 & up

Students will learn a modified version of Keharwa taal which is used to accompany most bhajans and kirtan in satang. Two variations of the taal will be introduced: one in slow rhythm and one in fast rhythm, along with their accompanying tukras. Cymbals (manjheera) play an important role as accompanying instruments. Students will learn how to accompany both the fast rhythm Keharwa taal and slow rhythm Keharwa taal with cymbals.

Rohit Sharma & Jasvinder Gulati have been playing dholak with bhajan groups in New York for a combined total of 17 years. Their focus while teaching the dholak is on uplifting the kirtan session through the quality of sound, timing and rhythm. Their method of teaching is very methodical and lively and they encourage everyone to play during the satsang in some capacity to gain the practical experience of a real time performance.

Classical Dholak
Teacher: Rajah Sookraj
Fee: $25/hour
Ages 8 & up

My journey of music started with the blessings of Devi Saraswati Ma. At the age of 8, I started to learn classical music from my father, Ustaad Rodhan Sookraj. As time went on, I started to play dholak for many satsangs and religious events. I was very fortunate to have been in company of Shri Hari Om Sharan Ji, and to have learned from him. I played both tabla and dholak for him. I am an all-rounder musician - I play harmonium, tabla, dholak, and percussions. I have accompanied such world renowned artists as Ustaad Anup Jalota and Mehidi Hassan. It is my honor to render my humble services to the Radha Govind Dham Mandir and I hope to provide upliftment to each student who comes to my classes.
**VOCAL & HARMONIUM**

Teacher: Anuradha Khanna  
Fee: $180/semester  
Age 5 & up plus adults

This course offers an introduction to the ancient art of Hindustani/North Indian classical music. Instruction will include melodic concepts such as Raag, Bandish, Bhaav, Aalaap, Taan, Sargam and rhythmic concepts such as Taal, Aavartan and their integrated use in a performance. Students will learn and practice classical and devotional song compositions based on Raag. Key benefits include development of ability to identify swara (notes), sense of sur (tunefulness) and taal (rhythm); development of ability to present a brief classical music composition and ability to appreciate and relate to Raag music. No specific knowledge or skill level of vocal/instrumental music is necessary.

Anuradha Khanna is a Hindustani Classical vocalist and a disciple of renowned vocalist Shree Vaman Acharya Ji. She has a Masters degree in classical vocals from Allahabad University. She developed an interest in music at a young age due to the influence of her father, who was a great musician and performer of classical songs, bhajans and ghazals. She has performed widely in India and the US, been featured on Disha, Sanskar, TVAsia, and ITV, and her vocals have been used in the making of documentary films. She regularly performs and collaborates with touring artists.

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**LEELA PERFORMANCE**

Teacher: Madhulika Misra  
Fee: $120/semester

Students will learn to enact leelas (Divine acts) of Bhagwan in the form of a play. Based on student enrolment, a script will be developed and each student will be assigned a role.

Madhulika Misra has a B. Sc. from Lucknow University in India. She has been employed as an educator by the East Meadow School District and the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services since 2000. She works with special needs children as well as being a substitute teacher at Maria Montessori School in Levittown. She has two daughters aged 9 and 13, and enjoys teaching children and imparting her knowledge of Hindu religion and culture.
DANCE CLASS
(KATHAK, BHARATNATYAM AND KUCHIPUDI)
Teacher: Anil Kumar Rambadri
Fee: $180/semester
Age 6 & up

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:
Diploma for Kathak classical dance, 5 year program (1977-1982).
University of Hyderabad (1989). Two semesters in Master’s program. Concentration: Kuchipudi classical dance

DANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHIC CAREER:
Received “Grade A Artist” status from the Doordarshan Government of India. Would now perform in India’s most prestigious arts and dance festivals and recitals


KIRTAN CLASS
Teacher: Rohit Sharma
Fee: $120/semester
Age 5 & up

Learn tunes and how to sing on Harmonium, Kirtans along with it’s tunes revealed by Jagadguru Shree Kripaluji Maharaj ji and sing in satsang.

Rohit Sharma has been associated with Jagadguru Shree Kripaluji Maharaj for over 10 years and teaches the tunes he learnt in satsang in a very simple and easy manner which even a beginner with no musical background can understand.

REGISTER FOR CLASSES AT: WWW.RGDNY.ORG/SHIKSHA
BENGALI

Teacher: Anita Mitra
Fee: $120/semester
Ages 6 & up

In this seminar, students will learn to understand, read, write and speak Bengali. I will begin with reviewing the Bengali alphabet and helping students achieve a mastery of common sayings and phrases. Over time, the majority of class time will be spent conversing exclusively in Bengali, creating an immersive experience for the students. My class will be very interactive - I will consistently encourage students to participate and communicate; additionally, I will provide one-on-one instruction and personalized feedback. Overall, my class will be informative, productive, and most importantly, fun! Please reach out to me with any additional questions.

Anita Mitra has been an educational professional within the New York City Department of Education for the past 19 years. While she currently focuses on teaching English as a Second Language ("ESL") to children whose primary language is either Bengali or Hindi, Anita has spent previous years cultivating a diverse set of experiences with many different types of students. Prior to her focus as an ESL professional, Anita worked closely with both learning disabled and physically-disabled students. Anita’s rich set of varied experiences, collected over 19 years, allows her to teach effectively and efficiently.

Anita earned a Bachelor of Arts (with honors) in Philosophy and a Master of Arts in Mental and Moral Philosophy from the University of Calcutta. She has completed extensive coursework covering professional early childhood education at CUNY York College and graduate-level credits with the Graduate School of Education at St. John’s University. In addition to her academic coursework, Anita has also completed 100+ hours of workshops and sessions with the United Federation of Teachers’ Professional Development Program.

MATH & SCIENCE HOMEWORK HELP

Teacher: Rohit Sharma
Fee: $15/hour

Rohit Sharma has a Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the prestigious R.V. College of Engineering in Bangalore. He has fifteen years of experience in the U.S. tutoring Math and Science students from elementary school through high school.
Hindi

Teacher: Avinash Pancholi

Fee: $120/semester

Age 6 & up

Second language and foreign language learning strategies will be applied to teach Hindi to students aged six and up. Scaffolding to promote language learning such as manipulatives and visuals will be used extensively. Multiple intelligences approach incorporating role-play, learning by doing, drawing and coloring will be applied to address needs and learning styles of all the learners as far as possible. All the four modalities of the language – listening, speaking, reading and writing – will be introduced to the students in phases. Initially, the pupils will be introduced to the letters of alphabet, some salient features of the language being learned and what way the language differs from English. As the students start acquiring the language, they will be gradually weaned away from English, as the teacher will increasingly use Hindi and encourage them to respond in the language being learned.

Avinash Pancholi has been teaching English as a second language (ESL) at Department of Education New York City Public Schools for over 18 years. As an ESL coordinator, he has taught English to students of various linguistic and cultural backgrounds; and also trained teachers. He has taught Hindi as a foreign language to native and non-native speakers of the language. As an honorary teacher, he has taught Hindi and Gujarati at a number of Indian cultural organizations. He has earned three masters degrees – an M.A. in English/linguistics from India and an M.S. in journalism from Iowa State University (ISU) and an M.S.Ed from a New York college in ESL. A winner of one gold and two silver medals from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai, and a graduate scholarship from ISU, Avinash was a professional journalist for over 12 years with prestigious international news agencies and newspapers in India and America.
MANDIR SEVA

Teachers: Rohit Sharma  
Fee: free  
Age 5 & up

Students will learn 2 things in this class:  
1) The importance of doing seva (selfless service) to God & Mandir.  
2) They will develop leadership qualities necessary to manage different departments of the Mandir. This way they can develop skills and character for their professional life in the future, all while doing priceless seva to the Mandir in a fun and devotional way.

Students will receive credit for volunteer work done at mandir to show their school and colleges.

Rohit Sharma manages many areas of Radha Govind Dham, and looks forward to sharing his knowledge with the students and inspiring them to develop their personal skills while performing seva to the Mandir.

Tabla

Teacher: Anuradha Khanna  
Fee: $180/semester  
Age 5 & up plus adults

In this course, students will learn how to “set their hand”, and how to play basic taals, kaida, paran, peshkar, tukde and tihai. This is the foundation of playing tabla, which must be mastered before moving on to higher studies.

Anuradha Khanna is a classical tabla performer and a disciple of Shree Lal Ji, Alarakha Ji, and Shree Pandey Ji Maharaj. She has a Masters degree in tabla from Allahabad University. She developed an interest in music at a young age due to the influence of her father, who was a great musician and performer of classical songs, bhajans and ghazals. She has performed widely in India and the US, and regularly collaborates with touring artists like Anup Jalota and Suresh Wadkar.
**Student Responsibilities**

- Children are required to arrive to classes at least five minutes before the class starts so that teacher can begin the class on time.
- For educational continuity and knowledge, students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Excessive absence will be discussed with parents and may result in suspension from the class.
- Students are expected to complete homework assignments and be prepared for their classes with the appropriate books and school materials.
- All children are expected to be respectful of other students, people and property.
- Students are expected to wear attire that is considered appropriate for being at a temple or attending a religious ceremony.
- Occasionally, a student will have difficulties adjusting to the school environment. Students who show consistent patterns of not conforming to the Shiksha's guidelines will be called in for a parent-teacher conference. If the problems continue, student may be suspended from the class.

**Parent Responsibilities**

- Students are expected to be at Shiksha and seated in their class five minutes before class starts. Each class lasts for one hour. Timely drop-off and pick-up is expected.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child is prepared for class (having homework done, getting materials for next class ready, etc.).
- Parents should make a concerted effort to attend any parent-teacher sessions or meetings conducted by Shiksha.
- Parents who are interested in observing their child's class should contact the teacher to arrange a mutually agreeable date.
- Any concern related to classroom or learning at the RGDNY Shiksha should be discussed with the teacher first and thereafter, submitted to the Shiksha President for consideration.
- If your child is going to miss a class, please notify the teacher as soon as you can.
- Cell phones, gaming consoles and other such distracting devices are not permitted in the classrooms.
- Parents are welcome to send a healthy snack for their child. Snacks must be strictly vegetarian.
- Please let the teachers know of anything in your child’s life which may affect his/her school experience, e.g. death of a relative, illness, new sibling, death of a pet, etc.
Radha Govind Dham  
Shiksha Calendar  
Spring Semester 2016

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Beginning of the classes week 1</td>
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<td>April 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>week 2</td>
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<td>April 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>week 3</td>
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<td>April 23 &amp; 24</td>
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<td>April 30 &amp; May 1</td>
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<td>May 7 &amp; 8</td>
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<td>May 21 &amp; 22</td>
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<td>May 28 &amp; 29</td>
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<td>June 11 &amp; 12</td>
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<td>June 18 &amp; 19</td>
<td>week 12</td>
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Register for classes at: WWW.RGDNY.ORG/SHIKSHA