
BALVIHAR 2023 ***BACK TO THE FUTURE***

AUGUST 25TH, 2022

INDIA TEMPLE ASSOCIATION / BERLIN TEMPLE

- Balvihar is part of India Temple Association, (ITA) a 501 (3c) 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 celebrate 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.
- 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

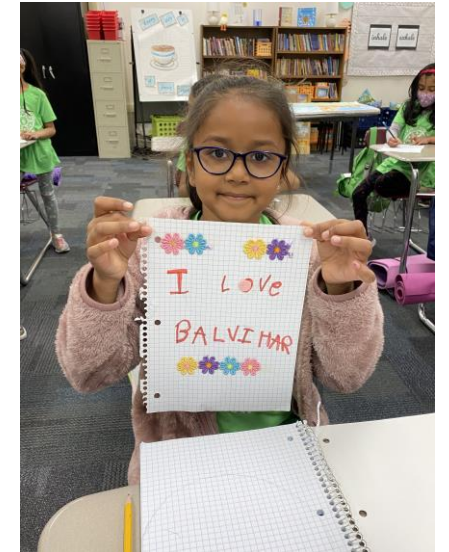
HISTORY OF BALVIHAR (DECADES IN THE MAKING)

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

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



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 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 (2022 Average 14)
- 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	Kruti Lodhavia	3rd	Vinita Ganju	5th	Malathi Shankar	8th
Reetika Sarin	Pre-K	Mahek - SL	3rd	Rashmi Raghavan	5th	Vidya Shukla	8th
Kinnari Patel	Pre-K	Shashank Sheth	3rd	Muskaan - SL	5th	Shankar Iyer	8th
Sara - SL	PreK	Punam Patel	3rd	Riti - SL	5th	Tvisha - SL	8th
Lisa Shah	KG	Saishruthi -SL	3rd	Arathi Sreenivasan	5th	Urvi - SL	8th
Taral Dadhanania	KG	Gowri -SL	3rd	Shilpa Acharya	5th	Deepti Raybagkar Malik	Hindi
Milani - SL	KG	Hima Prabhakar	4th	Rahul - SL	5th	Medha -SL	Hindi
Mital Chheda	KG	Piya -SL	4th	Sanjay Manchiganti	5th	Hemangi Chawan	Hindi
Arjun -SL	KG	Niva - SL	4th	Zindadil Gandhi	5th	Puja - SL	Hindi
Kavya - SL	KG	Anjali Neredmilli	4th	Neev - SL	5th	Deepti Goyal	Hindi
Ghata Vyas	1st	Lalitha Chamarajan	4th	Amit Patel	6th	Anu Munshi	Hindi
Sheetal Patel	1st	Kushagra - SL	4th	Ruchir Parikh	6th	Ronak - SL	Hindi
Krishani - SL	1st	Saachi -SL	4th	Saagar -SL	6th	Alpana Soni	Hindi
Vaman - SL	1st	Meeta Chaturvedi	4th	Rudra - SL	6th	Shubhra Goel	Hindi
Avani Shah	1st	Veeresh Deverya	4th	Samir Patel	6th	Ishan -SL	Hindi
Garima Thapar	1st	Gowtami - SL	4th	Tharun -SL	6th	Ashika Kapoor	Yoga
Meghna - SL	1st	Mahek - SL	4th	Shubham - SL	6th	Sheetal Parikh	Yoga
Manisha Chheda	2nd			Ramya Raman	7th		
Hetal Kansagra	2nd			Bhavesh Patel	7th		
Nesa - SL	2nd			Ramesh Viswanathan	7th		
Sanjna - SL	2nd			Riya - SL	7th		
Aroon Krishnan	2nd			Ananya - SL	7th		
Mihir Parekh	2nd						
Neel - SL	2nd						

OPERATIONS / ADMIN

Program Director: Malathi Shankar

Operations and Admin Team:

- Sagar Dalal
- Chirag Kansagra
- Mihir Parekh
- Samir Patel
- Naylesh Shah
- Ritesh Shah
- Keyur Trivedi
- Vishal Vasisth
- And many others that help out

GENERAL CURRICULUM FORMAT

- **Shlokas & Prayers:** Understanding Meaning and Recitation. Optional Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced class held 9:30 to 9:55 AM pre-session. Starts with 2nd Session.
- **Religion:** Moral Stories, Epics, Hindu Values, Gita and Foundational Principles of Hinduism
- **Culture / History:** Indian States, Geography, Indian Leaders, 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 & Architecture, Arts	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	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

ITA Balvihar Schedule -Marlton Middle School

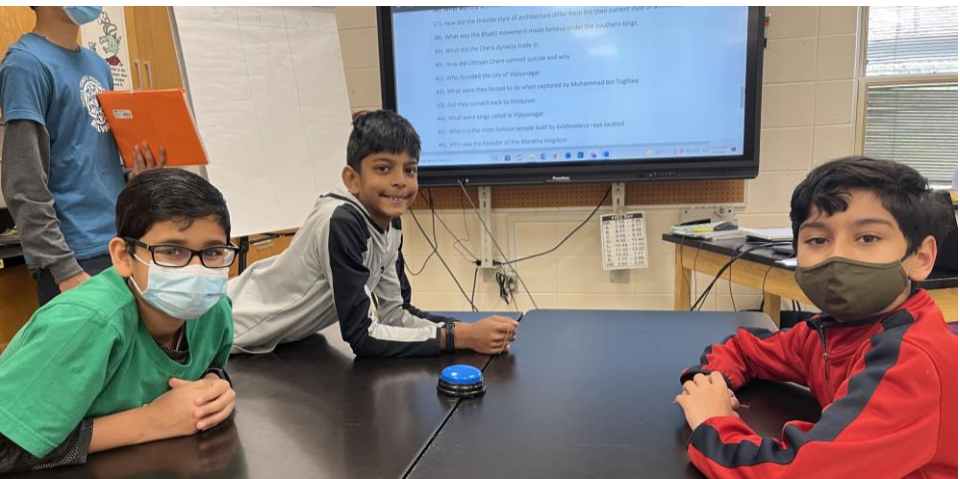
Class	10:00-10:05	10:05-11:00		11:05-11:50		11:55 – 12:10	12:10-12:30	~12:30
Pre-K Prithvi	Prayer	Yoga / Games Hindu / Snack -CAFETERIA	Transition	Crafts / Shlokas / Stories - CLASSROOM	Transition	Aarti	Lunch	Dismissal
KG Meghaa	Prayer	Stories from Panchatantra / Hindu Festivals - CLASSROOM		Yoga / Snack / 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
2nd Pavan	Yoga - GYM	Trans	Prayer	Bala Bhagavatam	Stories of Saints & Introduction to India II	Trans	Aarti-GYM Lunch Dismissal

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



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 Visa gift card for Perfect Attendance (79 recipients in 2022)
- Certificate & \$20 Visa gift card for Top Test Score (45 recipients in 2022)

MAKING BALVIHAR A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

Opportunity to Perform at Annual Day

- Each Pre-K thru 5th grade class shows learnings through dance, skits, or innovative performances
- 6th Graders Fund Raise for a Charity
- Emceed by 7th and 8th grade students

Domino's Lunch with Friends

- Kids love pizza and lunch is a great time to spend time with friends
- We also service ice cream on holidays

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 28 students each earned between 60 and 100 community service hours

ITA High School Community Service (Pilot Phase)

- Balvihar Graduates serve as volunteers at Temple Events
- Minimum 25 hour commitment



MAKING BALVIHAR A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

Opportunity to make friends & have fun

- Scale
- Maintaining class continuity
(85% annual return rate)
- Funplex
- Observe the growth of students from the same class from 1st to 8th grade



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.

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

IMPORATANT LOGISTICS: BALVIHAR & ITA CHILDREN'S EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location –(tentative)
Sept. 11	BV Session 1	Marlton Middle School
Sept. 18	BV Session 2	Marlton Middle School
Sept. 25	ITA Children's Navratri Program	ICC
Oct. 2	BV Session 3	Marlton Middle School
Oct. 9 (Prelim.)	ITA Dussehra Program	ICC
Oct. 16	BV Session 4	Marlton Middle School
Oct. 23	ITA Children's Diwali Program	Berlin Temple
Oct. 30	BV Session 5	Marlton Middle School
Nov. 6	BV Session 6	Marlton Middle School
Nov. 20	BV Session 7	Marlton Middle School
Dec. 4	BV Session 8	Marlton Middle School
Dec. 11	BV Session 9	Marlton Middle School
Jan. 8	BV Session 10	Marlton Middle School
Jan. 22	BV Session 11	Marlton Middle School
Jan 29 (Prelim)	ITA Children's Vasant Panchami	Berlin Temple
Feb. 12	BV Session 12	Marlton Middle School
Feb. 26	BV Session 13	Marlton Middle School
Mar. 12	BV Session 14	Marlton Middle School
Mar. 26	BV Session 15	Marlton Middle School
Apr. 2	BV Session 16	Marlton Middle School
Apr. 23	BV Session 17	Marlton Middle School
May. 7	Make up / Annual Day Practice	TBD
TBD	ITA Holi Celebrated	TBD
May 13	Annual Day	TBD

BACK TO BACK SESSIONS

BACK TO BACK SESSIONS

BACK TO BACK SESSIONS

ITA CHILDREN'S EVENTS

IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: TIMELINE TO FIRST DAY

- | | |
|--|---|
| Aug 28 (3-5 PM)
or
Sept 5 (6-8 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 9 | Receive first Balvihar Newsletter
Receive first day class email |
| Sep 10 | Purchase Additional Required Materials |
| Sept 11 (9:45AM) | First day of Balvihar at Marlton Middle School
DON'T BE THE PROBLEM!!! BE ON 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: DROP OFF

Drop Off

- Except Pre-K parents, other parents will not be allowed in the building at anytime.
- Parents must drop their children off at the main door between 9:40 – 9:50 AM. Early drops offs not permitted.
- Children arriving late will be asked to wait in cafeteria until the completion of morning shlokas. Children arriving after 10:30 AM will be marked absent and be ineligible for perfect attendance award.
- Please note Optional Shloka Classes begin with Session 2 (September 18th)

IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: PICK UP

Pick Up

- Children will be eating lunch at Balvihar this year. Parents will NOT be allowed during lunch.
- Pre-K to 2nd Grade Children will be escorted out at their dismissal time.
- 3rd – 8th will be allowed to exit post lunch.
- A Marlton Police Officer and Volunteers will be outside during dismissal times
- Please be on time. You must arrive at your youngest child's dismissal time. Do not tell your child to wait inside for an older sibling!
- Please park your car and walk to the front of the building to pick up your child. Do not park in driveway. You will get a ticket.
- If you need to pick up your child early, please do so before 11:45 AM. No early dismissals after 11:45 AM.

IMPORTANT LOGISTICS: PICK UP

Dismissal Times

➤ Pre-K & KG: 12:30 PM

➤ 1st & 2nd: 12:40 PM

➤ 3rd – 8th: 1:00 PM

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 9:30 am to 1:30 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

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)

Dedicated graduates from Balvihar program have the opportunity to come back and volunteer as Student Leaders. Student Leaders program offers the opportunity to build leadership, teamwork, public speaking, and teaching skills. Students are selected based on their commitment to the Balvihar program as demonstrated by their attendance, engagement and enthusiasm in the classroom and program application. Students must have 85% attendance in 8th grade in order to apply.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION

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.

HELP!

We need volunteers able willing to make an ongoing commitment 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

