

Makom:
The Place to be!
Parents Handbook
2021-2022
5782



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The Makom Vision

The Makom model is a combination of opportunities to experience Judaism in the moments when Judaism is lived, infused with ruach (spirit) and meaning. Through the use of multiple educational modalities and reflective student-centered methodologies, our program will promote life-long learning, as well as spiritual & educational growth. Centered around active, relatable, values-based, real-time and community-building Jewish learning experiences.

Adath Israel Mission Statement

At Adath Israel, our educational vision is to foster a community where Judaism is meaningful to each person, that links generation to generation, and leads to life long learning and Jewish living. Our mission is to provide diverse Jewish educational experiences for families and individuals of all ages, according to the views of Conservative Judaism as they relate to Torah and Mitzvot, prayer, the Hebrew language, the people and State of Israel and relationships between people and with God.

Among our central values we strive to promote:

Kavod Habriot / Menschlikhkeit (cultivate respect and care for oneself and others) by participating in acts of:

Tikkun Olam Tzedakah Gemilut Hasadim

(Repairing the world) (Acts of giving) (Acts of kindness)

Talmud Torah - to instill a love of Jewish learning, and to aid in the students' development of skills for full synagogue participation and Jewish practice.

Tefillah Experience

Each Saturday session of Makom we *davven* (pray) for Shabbat. On Sundays the Rabbis and faculty will lead us in *Havdalah* and prayers. This *Havdalah* service focuses on separating between Shabbat and the week days and has a lot of fun singing and reflection.

Education Committee

The mission of the Education Committee is to oversee and govern Makom. This is done in cooperation and advisement with the Rabbis and the Makom Education Director. A member of the faculty is also invited to participate on the Education Committee. The Committee is made up of members of the congregation who have demonstrated an interest in and commitment to maintaining high standards of excellence. Anyone who has such an interest is encouraged to contact the Vice President of the Committee about becoming a member. Additionally, parents are strongly encouraged to bring any concerns or questions they have to any member of the Makom committee or to the Vice President listed below.

Makom Education Committee 2021-2022 5781/2

Education Vice President -Youth and Teens (K-12)

Rumelle Scott malka99@gmail.com

Education Committee

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Education Director

Hannah Isaacs hisaacs@adathisrael.org

PTO

Another part of the mission of the Education Committee of the Schools of Adath Israel is to serve the needs of the students by fostering a partnership among the parents, the faculty, the Makom Director, and professional staff through communication, social and educational programming, and financial support.

To Parents & Caregivers: You're Our Partners in Jewish Education

The best way to ensure that your child's Jewish education "sticks" is through continued engagement and reinforcement at home. **You are our true partners in creating the best possible educational experience for your child.**

- **Prepare your child for our program.** Impress upon your child the value of learning and the influence it will have on making them a better, more knowledgeable Jew and person.
- **Make sure that your child is present and on time.** Our time together is limited—regular attendance and punctuality are essential in order to achieve continuity and foster a meaningful religious and educational experience.
- **Take an interest in the materials and notices that your child brings home.** Your interest can be incredibly motivating to your child.
- **Look for emails from the Director or teachers with updates from Makom and Adath Israel.** Ask your children what they learned and experienced, and discuss how it connects to everyday living.
- **Encourage your child to read Jewish books and participate in Jewish cultural activities.** There are many opportunities outside of Makom, including synagogue functions, youth group, and PJ Library. Ask us for more information.
- **Bring Judaism into your home** by displaying and using ritual objects.
- **Participate in Jewish learning as a family.** Attend Shabbat services, and join us for holiday celebrations and special programs. Offer your own talents and interests to the Makom community.
- **Keep the lines of communication open.** We are always eager to hear feedback, and to discuss together how to best meet your child's learning needs and interests. Any problems that come up in Makom should first be discussed with your child's teacher, and then with the education professional staff and/or the clergy. We are always happy to hear from you.
- **Further your own learning.** Ask your children what they're studying, and discuss it together. Participate in one of our Adult Education classes, Parenting the Parasha (on Shabbat mornings), or family programming.
- **Celebrate Shabbat and the holidays at home.** Prepare special foods, light candles, and recite Kiddush. Sharing a special family meal with challah and grape juice can be a beautiful way to end the week.

Meet our Teachers!

Sunday:

Linda Herring Hill- Gan-Alef (K-1st)
Jacqueline Ketels - Kita Bet (2nd)
Shir Manole - Gimel (3rd)
Ross Weisman - Dalet (4th)
Michelle Herzberg- Hey (5th)
Sam Mellits - Vav (6th)
Rabbi Andrew Markowitz- Zayin (7th)

Saturday:

Ruth Mellincoff- Gan-Alef-Bet (K-2nd)
Naveh Barlowe - Gimel -Dalet (3rd&4th)
Matt Rosenbaum - Hey - Vav (5th &6th)

Health Concerns

Members of the school administration and staff are not permitted to dispense medication of any variety to a student unless the medication has been approved for us by the parent and is accompanied by a doctor's note. All medications should be labeled with the student's name and brought to the Makom Director.

Attendance

While we aspire to 100% attendance, we understand that absences are often inevitable and unavoidable. Learning new concepts, especially Hebrew, requires consistency. If your child's attendance is sporadic, we will be in touch with you to discuss alternative arrangements, such as private tutoring (which would come at your own expense).

As our time with your child is limited, every minute counts. Please do your best to minimize tardiness and early pick up, as it is also disruptive to other students and activities.

Should you find that early dismissal is required, please follow this procedure:

- Send your child to school with a signed note explaining the reason for the early dismissal request.
- Please do not go to the areas where the classes gather. Please drive to the school entrance, call the office number, and they will call on the Walkie Talkie for your child to come to the office.
- Students will not be dismissed before a parent/guardian arrives. The student may not wait outside for early dismissal.

Makom Schedule

Saturday: In-Person
K-6th Grade 9am-12pm

Sundays: In-person
K-6th Grade 9am-12pm
7th Grade 10am-12pm

Wednesdays will be remote:
2nd Grade 4:00pm-5:00pm
3rd-6th Grades 5:15pm-6:15pm

7th Grade Wednesdays in-person
TBD

Code of Conduct

Guidelines and Expected Behavior

Students will:

- Attend Makom regularly.
- Arrive on time at the beginning of each session, and leave at dismissal.
- Come prepared with a clearly labeled back pack with all these supplies: face mask, small bottle of sanitizer and a refillable water bottle.
- Use only appropriate language and gestures.
- Act with *Kavod* (respect) toward others.
- Act with *Kavod* (respect) toward school and individual property.
- Work toward *Shalom Bayit* (Peace in the Home) by resolving any disputes with respect and kindness.
- Remain with class unless otherwise specified.
- Leave chewing gum, phones and other electronics inside backpack.
- Dress appropriately and comfortably for learning. Students should wear a Kippah or head covering. Revealing clothes or T-shirts with inappropriate comments or symbols should not to be worn at Makom.
- Additionally, each class will jointly develop its own set of rules for the creation of an optimal learning community.

Cell Phones

During Makom hours, there is no reason for a child to be using their cell phone. The school has adopted the policy used by Lower Merion School District which follows the Pennsylvania School Code S13-1317.1 which provides:

Cell phones shall be permitted under the following circumstances:

- They cannot be visible during class time.
- They cannot be used during class, unless the teacher allows it for educational purposes. .
- They cannot disrupt the class.
- A student cannot be late to class because of a cell phone call.
- To that end, children must place their cell phones in their backpacks.
- The phones must be turned off during Makom hours. If a child is caught using a phone during school hours, the teacher may confiscate it until the end of the day. If this continues, you will be contacted.

Communication

We see parents as our partners in this work.

Every Thursday afternoon the Makom News email will be sent to all the families. In this email (through constant content) we will update you with information about upcoming school events. It is very important that you read this email, since there are many details in it regarding Makom. Teachers will be sending regular blurbs through Makom News, to keep the parents informed about what they accomplished during class, some pictures, and what to look forward to in the coming weeks.

Our doors are always open. If you have a concern or question about something being taught, or if there is an issue within the classroom, please contact Hannah Isaacs, Makom's Education Director. We want to work with you to best address all educational needs.

From time to time a special notice may come home with your child with information about upcoming events and special programs. Please ask your children for anything they might have been given to bring home.

Communication is a two-way street, and one of the best educational tools we have. Please know again that our doors are always open. Any problems, ideas, or feedback is always welcome.

Hannah's Email is hisaacs@adathisrael.org and her direct office line is 610-934-1912

Makom at Home

Formerly Bringing the Discussion Home

In our effort to bring the lessons of the classrooms into the home, in Makom News, Rabbi Andy Markwitz will send home discussion questions (with some background) for you to discuss around the dinner table. The questions are designed to give you the opportunity to learn from your child and your child from you.

Discipline Policy

We are committed to ensuring a safe and secure environment in our school. If students demonstrate an unwillingness to abide by the rules established for their classroom, then the following steps will be taken:

- The teacher will develop an action plan for those children in conjunction with guidelines provided by our Makom Director, who will identify possible alternative approaches that the teachers can institute. The children's parents will be informed of the contents of this plan and will be updated on the classroom situation.
- If children continue to be disruptive, they will be asked to meet with the Makom Director and their teacher to discuss the situation.
- If the situation does not improve, the child's parents will be asked to meet with the Makom Director, the child, and the teacher.
- If there is no observable improvement, the child will be unable to attend Makom unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Any further infraction will result in the child's suspension from school. Please read and discuss this discipline plan with your child. If you have any questions about the policy, the Makom Director is always available to speak with you.

Visitation

Due to the special health regulations, Makom will not allow any parental or family visitation this year.

Arrival & Dismissal

We ask that all K-2nd grader students are dropped off in the School entrance lobby.

K-2nd Grade students will be dismissed from the School Entrance lobby.

We ask that all 3rd- 7th grade students be dropped off before the school entrance at the "tentrence". Teachers will wait for the students with signs of their grade in the Girsch Auditorium.

3rd-7th Grader students will be dismissed from the Girsch Auditorium. One adult should come to the "tentrence" to pick of their student.

Please drive SLOWLY and carefully in & out of the parking lot.

School Closing Policies:

If there is a school closing, you will receive an email from our school office. We will do our best to anticipate weather early enough, and try to be in touch on Friday before Shabbat.

Food

Due to Covid-19 health regulation and the safety of our students and staff, no food will be allowed during in-person sessions. Please make sure to feed your children well before they come to Makom.

Please send a water bottle with them in their bags.

Chewing Gum is NOT permitted in Makom

Hebrew

In order to better assist the students in acquiring the skills needed to read Hebrew, the educational staff will administer a Diagnostic Reading test in the fall to all 4th - 6th graders. The test will help with the diagnosis of individual strengths and weakness in letter and vowel recognition, letter and vowel sound discrimination and word recognition. Teachers will use the results of this test to determine the assignment for Hebrew group for each student, and how to best meet their learning needs.

Mastery of Hebrew can only be achieved through practice at home.

Such practice is a great way to be involved in your child's learning. Please listen to your children's Hebrew reading and discuss their progress with them.

Special Needs

We attend to the special needs of our students on an individualized basis. In consultation with parents, teachers, and any other involved professionals, we will do our best to meet these recommendations. The goal is to enable each child to comfortably participate in Hebrew groups with grade-level peers.

In order to help us appropriately educate your child, please provide us with any relevant information regarding special needs. If your child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), please submit a copy to the Makom Director. This helps us to best accommodate your child's learning needs.

Makom Books

Students will receive books during the first week of class. In the event that your child's book has been lost, please notify the teacher or the Makom Director immediately so that a replacement can be ordered. Parents will be asked to pay the replacement fee. Please label all books with your child's name.

Tzedakah & Gemilut Hasadim

Tzedakah (justice) and gemilut hasadim (acts of loving kindness) are two mitzvot that are central to Judaism. Tzedakah, in the form of giving spare change or small dollar amounts, is collected regularly at Makom. At the end of the year the students select an organization or cause to support with their collected funds.

Gemilut hasadim take place in various ways, including grade-level and Makom-wide mitzvah projects.

Please remind your child to bring tzedakah to Makom.

Youth Programs

At Adath Israel, we understand that a sense of belonging is as essential to building a strong Jewish identity as learning about topics and ideas. We strive to accomplish this sense of belonging at Makom, and this is also the primary function of our youth groups. Youth groups combine the social with the religious, the social action with the educational, all with an added layer of fun.

Participation in youth groups is a wonderful way for children to develop and maintain strong Jewish peer connections. We have a Kadima group for our 5th, 6th and 7th graders. Please keep an eye out for more information as the year progresses.

We welcome all students to participate and for parents to become involved in all Makom and youth activities