

Temple Beth El's Religious School and Hebrew School **FAQ Sheet**
For Fall 2020 Semester

What is the schedule of my child's classes? Please see the end of these FAQs for that information.

Why did you make a decision to go completely remote so much earlier than the public schools made their plans?

With the health and well being of our students, our families, and our teachers in mind, we knew that we would not be able to return to the building in a fashion that would promote community among all the children in a particular grade. In order to provide a well planned, quality and creative program, we had to make the decision before the public schools.

Why is school starting so late? Does it have anything to do with the virus?

The school calendar was established over a month before quarantine started, taking the High Holy Days into consideration, we always intended to begin on October 4. The total number of sessions of school is the same as the past school year.

My kid(s) are already doing so much online, I want to give them a break!

We know how challenging online learning is. We also wish we could give students a break from screen time. Given what's going on in the world today, it becomes even more important that your child(ren) have the opportunity for connecting with their Jewish community and boost their Jewish identities – even in an online world. We encourage all families that this is the time to connect rather than “take a break”.

I'm worried my child will be bored. How can you keep them engaged?

The world of education and online educational resources has changed dramatically since last spring when we pivoted in a crisis situation. Through our thoughtful process, we have created an experience in 45-minute lessons that will be engaging and interactive.

With all the uncertainty in my child's life, I worry that they are not being able to make connections with other children in the current atmosphere. How will you address this?

We are intentionally beginning every session in one Zoom meeting where students will see each other, TBE's clergy, staff and faculty. K-3rd graders will begin with t'filah (prayer) and end with Song Circle. 4th – 7th graders will begin with Song Circle and end with t'filah. In classrooms, teachers will start and end every session with warm welcome, student check in and a “ticket out the door” to give each child an opportunity to connect with each other. Community is VERY important to us. Song Circle is attended by all K-7th graders.

What if my child has a disability that limits how much they can really absorb with remote learning?

Kim Rosenthal is our dedicated Inclusion Specialist. It is her fifth school year with us and she has currently engaged in graduate school focused on a course of study in inclusion. Please partner with us to supplement your child's remote learning. We will do everything we can to be successful in this environment.

I worry about Hebrew, in particular. How can my child succeed in Hebrew while in remote learning?

We continue to honor a 1:10 ratio of teacher to student and have offered options that best suit your family's situation to attend Hebrew sessions. We also continue with self-paced skill acquisition and have created achievement levels for students to move through. No child will be left behind and no child will be stuck in a level that does not fit their individual need.

Will I need to print all of my child's materials, do I have to buy extra items this year?

You will be able to pick up (contact-free) materials that are needed for the module or Hebrew level your child is in. These items will be customized for each grade and student. If any family

needs the basics: a set of crayons, glue stick, scissors. Please contact the director of lifelong learning.

What will happen in January?

We'd like to give you an answer, but we do not know. We will continue to assess the safety and efficacy of different options. When we know the best course of action, we will communicate quickly and clearly with you.

How will attendance be handled?

The attendance policy remains the same. Teachers will take attendance at the beginning of each module lesson. Please continue to notify the school office regarding absences, late sign ons or early sign offs. This can be done with a phone call to 608-467-3239 or an email to LLcoord@tbemadison.org. If we have not heard from the family, teachers will contact the parent/guardian of a child absent after two consecutive sessions to ascertain the reasons for the absences. The teacher will inform the parent/guardian of the classwork the child has missed and will ask for cooperation in helping the child make up any necessary content.

Will there be any in person programming at all from October through December?

Children need to socialize and data shows the importance of in person experiences. This year we are purposely shifting social experiences to our amazing youth advisors that are patiently waiting for the green light to have in person programs. As soon as we can do so safely, we will offer those opportunities.

What if I have questions about school tuition?

Please contact Stefanie Kushner, our executive director, to discuss this.

Timing by Grades – via Zoom (October through December, 2020)

Religious School (4K) Sundays approximately twice a month, 8:30–9:00 am

Religious School (K–3rd Grade) Sundays 9:15–10:30 am

4K and K Students age 4 and 5 have the options of joining the 4K class or the kindergarten class for Religious School, regardless of their grade level in other schooling. Essentially, we are offering two options for 4 and 5 year olds: attend twice a month (4K) or attend weekly (K).

Religious School (4th–7th Grade) Sundays 10:15–11:30 am

Hebrew School (4th–7th Grade) Three scheduling options:

Option 1: Standard Schedule Wednesday afternoons 4:30–5:30 pm

Option 2: Alternate Schedule – to be determined with director of lifelong learning

Option 3: Flexible Schedule – to be determined with teacher

Madrachim Leadership Training Course (MLTC) (8th Grade) Sundays 10:15–11:15 am