

Noar 2020-21 FAQs

What are my options for Noar Sunday?

With the goal of making Jewish education accessible to everyone, we are offering two options this year for Sundays. Noar families have **TWO OPTIONS** (one in person and one virtual) for Sundays:

1. NOAR FAMILY, a NEW remote learning option will begin on Saturday, October 3rd.
2. NOAR SUNDAY will take place IN PERSON at Temple Sinai beginning Sunday, October 4th.

What will the in person Noar Sunday option look like?

All students will remain in their assigned bayit cohort
Please see the most recent Guidelines During Community Spread of Flu-Illnesses and COVID-19, which is updated every 6-8 weeks to be in accordance with evidence based recommendations. These protocols may change as recommendations change, and we will continue to communicate with you as our processes evolve.

In addition, we are lowering class sizes to allow each student to remain in their bayit cohort the entire time. There will be no mixing of groups and we are thinking creatively on how to integrate chugim into the bayit experience.

Why is Noar starting so late and not in August? Does it have anything to do with the virus?

The school calendar was adjusted, with the recommendation from the Youth and Family Committee, taking the High Holidays into consideration. Because Memorial day is “late” this year we have extra time in May. The total number of sessions of school is the same as this past year.

Will the in person option ever move to virtual learning?

Our goal is to remain in person. We will only move to virtual learning if our medical panel and COVID-19 taskforce decides it is no longer safe to meet in person. We are prepared to provide a robust online program for our students.

Will we be given a refund for Noar Sunday if we go virtual like we did last year?

We currently do not have an answer for this as Noar programs do need to pay teachers and staff so that we can ensure top quality programs both in person and virtually. This decision will be made if the situation arises, based on the recommendations from our leadership. We also know that these times are uncertain for our Noar families.

What if I have to keep my child home on Sunday because they are sick or are exposed to COVID-19?

We have arranged for the ability to zoom into your bayit if you are sick one week or unable to join due to exposure to COVID-19.

If you do not want your child to come into the building at all this year, our NEW Family learning program is for you!

What is Noar Family?

Noar Family is an alternative learning experience to Noar Sunday. Noar Family, a family learning experience, will provide tools for parents on how to raise mensches and teaching kids how to be mensches. Noar Family will take place twice a month on Saturday afternoons, not on Sunday mornings! By engaging in Noar Family, your entire family feels part of the community, kids are engaged with their parents and their peers, parents are part of the conversation, and everyone is part of creating positive Jewish memories.

Highlights of Noar Family:

- Twice a month on Sat afternoons, ending with Havdallah
- Families engaging in Judaism together
- Parallel learning for parents while students learn in age groups
- Cohort style small group feel, more facetime with clergy and educators
- ONE Tuition fee per FAMILY (\$650 for the year)

These are great options for Noar, but can I just do Noar Hebrew?

Students in Grades 4-6 are asked to choose a Noar option (Noar Sunday OR Noar Family) AND Noar Hebrew. Noar Hebrew cannot be done “a la carte”. We believe a full Jewish education includes what our Noar Sunday/Noar

Family program provides PLUS our Noar Hebrew. Our goal is to teach students Jewish life skills, create relationships in their Jewish community, and foster a positive connection with all Jewish teachings. Noar Sunday/Noar Family lays the Hebrew foundation for your child to dive deeper into Noar Hebrew.

What if I do not want to register for Hebrew this year?

Our Temple Sinai policy dictates that in order for a student to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Sinai, one must either be enrolled in a Jewish Day school or in both Noar Sunday and Noar Hebrew. B'nei Mitzvah dates are assigned in 4th grade, and all students must meet the requirements to receive a date.

If we have to do Noar virtually, I hesitate because 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 promise 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 Jewish community, consideration of big ideas, and a boost to their Jewish identities. This is the time to make sure your student(s) have the support of their teachers, parents, and the Noar team.

In addition, one of our goals is establishing community. We start and end every session with a Boker Kehillah (community circle) by asking "how are you?" and each child has a chance to share. In addition, at every level we are including a short "getting to know you" exercise of some kind because community is VERY important to us.

Why did you make the decision for Noar Hebrew to be virtual this year already and Noar Sunday is still planning to be in person?

Due to studies showing that singing is a high-risk activity, and singing be a crucial part of our Hebrew program, we made the decision for Hebrew to be virtual in order to protect all of our teachers and students. This is based on the recommendations from the COVID Task force, and lines up with Temple Sinai Worship policies.

What if my child has a disability that limits how much they can really absorb with remote learning, or they can't wear a mask?

Being accessible to all types of learners is a priority to us. If your child has some learning challenges, please, by all means, get in touch with our Director of Youth Learning & Engagement, Rachel Moldovan, to discuss how we can supplement your child's remote learning.