

Marlboro Jewish Center

Hebrew School Reopening Plan
2020-2021



Our Guiding Principles

In evaluating different options, we were guided by several principles:

- Lead with the **health, safety, and wellness** of all students & staff
- Provide a durable plan for the **continuity of learning**
- incorporate the Jewish values of **pikuach nefesh** (saving a life) and **dina d'malchuta dina** (the law of the land is the law)

Calendar & Format

SEPTEMBER:

Virtually “Meet” Your Teacher & Class, Test & acclimate to Zoom Learning

OCTOBER & BEYOND:

While the best plan for reopening the schools is to start virtually, our plan is to constantly monitor the situation with the goal of providing in-person opportunities as soon as feasible later on in the school year. We expect to resume in-person classes for the 21-22 academic year.

Schedule

We will be keeping the schedule to **Sunday and Wednesday** but expanding the number of sessions to accommodate smaller class sizes. Your child will be scheduled for one 45-minute session on their assigned day(s).

SUNDAY MORNING

(grades K thru 6)

Session 1: 9-9:45

Session 2: 10-10:45

Session 3: 11-11:45

Session 4: 12-12:45

WEDNESDAY EVENING

(grades 3 thru 7)

Session 1: 4-4:45

Session 2: 5-5:45

Hebrew Tutoring

Every student will be offered **a weekly 1-on-1 Hebrew tutoring session** with their teacher. There will be more flexibility with these sessions as they will be scheduled directly with your student's teacher.

Investment

Operating an online school, with smaller class sizes and individualized 1-1 tutoring for each student, is more expensive than in-person school. We need more teaching hours for grades 3-6 and we are asking our teachers to spend more time with students in the 1-1 Hebrew sessions.

Additionally, we have invested in the Jewish Interactive learning games site and training on it for our teachers. We also are planning some special programming that is not free to produce.

Investment

We are honored that you are still prioritizing your child's Jewish Education this year.

We know that many of us are feeling the pinch of reduced salaries, being laid off, and other situations. In recognition of these unprecedented times, **Hebrew School tuition for 2020-2021 will include a 20% discount.**

Grades K-2: \$400 per year

Grades 3-7: \$850 per year

Investment

The tuition reduction will appear on your ShulCloud account as a credit. You will still see the original Hebrew School charge on your account, and the 20% credit will be added as a separate line.

Hebrew School Tuition is payable any time during the school year.

Improvements for 2020-2021

We are aware that the spring of 2020 was not a positive one for many of our children. For that, we apologize. In the spring, we were in crisis mode, we now have had the time to create a robust plan including:

- Smaller Class Sizes
- Teacher Support
- Collaboration with Jewish Interactive
- Technical Support
- Ongoing Feedback Opportunities

Smaller Class Sizes

One of our biggest learnings from last spring was that the class sizes were too big. As expected, you confirmed that in your survey responses.

- We are committed to having virtual classes host **a maximum of 8-9 students per class**
- As mentioned above, we will offer each child in grades 3-6 the opportunity for individualized, **1:1 Hebrew Reading tutoring** each week with their teacher

Teacher Support

In order to ensure success this year we are taking the following steps:

- Raising the **digital teaching knowledge** & proficiency of our current teachers and staff
- Bringing in teachers **experienced with using the new technology**
- **Hiring a Master Teacher/Teacher-Mentor** who specializes in online teaching development to work with teachers throughout the year

Collaboration with Jewish Interactive

JewishInteractive.org is a website designed to provide a fun and interactive learning experience for each child at their appropriate level. Their tag line is **Joyful Jewish Learning, Anytime, Anywhere**. Through this collaboration:

- Each child will receive their own account furnished with age appropriate games.
- Students will have access to thousands of activities which reinforce and enhance both their Hebrew and Judaic Studies education.

Technical Support

One of the challenges in the Spring was the differing levels of knowledge regarding technology.

We are committed to having a **person dedicated to technical support** available during the times that school is in session.

Ongoing Feedback

During this year we will want to hear from you on a regular basis about how your child/children is/are enjoying virtual Hebrew School.

Each month you will have the opportunity to formally provide feedback.

Tell us in “real-time” what is going well and what is not. Our first feedback session will be at the end of September before formal classes begin.

Next Steps

Please join us on **Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00pm or Thursday, August 20th at 3:00pm for a Hebrew School Information Session** to discuss the plan in greater detail and ask any questions you have about Hebrew School. Click [here](#) to be taken to the Zoom meeting.

You can also [sign up](#) for one-on-one conferences with a member of the Synagogue leadership team to discuss your Hebrew School and Marlboro Jewish Center experience.

Ready to register your child(ren) for Hebrew School? Click [here](#) now!

With Gratitude

Thank you for your patience as we developed our plan for reopening the Hebrew School this year. With the constantly changing landscape this has been very challenging. **We are grateful for all of your candid feedback.**

We are so appreciative of Freya Markowitz & the Education Committee and Ari Teplitz & the Membership committee for their thoughtful input. We thank the teachers for their honest feedback. We also thank Steve Solomon and the Executive Board for their engagement. And we thank our own Beth Banks Cohn, PhD for lending her expertise in organizational consulting to guide us as we crafted this plan.