

**TEMPLE SINAI SCHOOL OF JEWISH LIFE AND LEARNING
2018-19
GENERAL INFORMATION**

Dear Parents,

We are working hard, planning an interesting, joyful, and meaningful year of Jewish education and related activities.

PLEASE KEEP IT AS A REFERENCE

Please do not hesitate to call our office (381-6890) or e-mail Ilan Adar (iadar@tsinai.org) if you have questions or concerns regarding any of the information provided in this packet.

Schedule for our School of Jewish Life & Learning:

Sunday:

Sprouts: 10:00 – 12:00

Kindergarten – 7th grade: 9:30 – 12:00

7th Grade: 12:00-2:00 (**optional instead of Wednesday**)

Keshet (8th - 10th grade): Sunday 12:00 – 2:00

Wednesday:

3rd - 7th Grade: Wednesday 4:30 – 6:00

Bogrim (11th & 12th grade): Wednesday (once a month) 6:00 – 7:15

Calendar of Events: For your convenience and to give you a “head-start” on marking your family calendar for the next school year, we posted a **tentative** School of Jewish Life & Learning Calendar-Highlights on our website. The calendar includes all special dates. Please mark your calendar accordingly. We will let you know in advance if and when changes occur, and will send you a reminder in due time.

Tuition: Please read the tuition fee structure posted on our website. Please do not hesitate to contact our office (381-6890) if financial aid is needed. All related information will be kept strictly confidential.

Student Profile Information Form (for all students):

It is imperative for us to know how we can best serve your son and/or daughter. Therefore, please provide us with the needed information on the provided form.

Policies and Procedures:

Please read the documents about our policies and procedures.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah: Information regarding the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service of your son/daughter is sent in ample time for scheduling purposes. However, if, for any reason, you have not received information when you feel you should have, please call our office (381-6890). We will be happy to help you with any questions or concerns.

Temple Sinai Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah Programs:

Kesher (8th and 9th grade): Our post Bar/Bat Mitzvah program offers a two-year curriculum cycle:

Year 1:

During this year the focus is on the “historical road map of Judaism,” during which the students, divided into two groups, “travel” along the path of their forefathers and foremothers, from the city of *Ur* to the land of Israel; from the families ruled by the elders to a nation ruled by Democracy; and from a Temple-centered religion to a religion of individuality.

The students discuss, compare, and evaluate how our history has impacted and continues to impact our present set of values, tradition, culture, and practices.

Year 2:

Year 2 is divided into two sets of curricula: The first set focuses on “how does Judaism compare to other religions.” During this course the students, divided into two groups, learn about the basic core values and traditions of five different religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, and Islam); and have the opportunity to visit their houses of worship. The second set of curricula focuses on three different subjects: Comparative Judaism (the similarities and differences between Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox Judaism); Jewish Life Cycle; and Jewish Ethical Values and Mitzvot.

The 8th and 9th grade classes are being instructed by Mr. Ilan Adar and Mrs. Pauline Rosenberg.

Community Service Hours: In addition to the course of study, and as a part of their fulfillment of Mitzvot, students of our 8th and 9th grades are expected to complete 10 hours of community service.

The second hour of Kesher is dedicated to electives. During this hour the 8th – 10th grade students are offered a variety of elective topics to choose from. The duration of each elected topic is four weeks.

Kesher students may suggest topics for the electives.

Kesher (10th Grade Confirmation class): The first hour of this class’ curriculum is centered on two subjects: The Ten Commandments and Exploration of Personal Jewish Identity. During this course, the students confront current issues, both Jewish and secular, and examine what parts of their identities are influenced by their Judaism.

The highlight of the year is the Confirmation Service. This is held on the eve of Shavuot, the holiday celebrating the time of the giving of the Torah.

At the end of the year (during Memorial Day Weekend) the Tenth grade students are provided with the opportunity to travel to New York City. The objective of this trip is to guide the students along “the path of Jewish immigration” into the United States; and to become familiar with the establishment of the Jewish community in New York City.

The 10th grade class is being instructed by Rabbi Katz and Rabbi Till.

Bogrim (11th and 12th grade): Even though the Confirmation class concludes the formal Jewish education we provide for our youth, we believe that this is not “the end.” Therefore, we provide our 11th and 12th grade students with the opportunity to continue their Jewish education. This class meets once a month on Wednesday, 6:00-7:15 p.m., for pizza, text study, and discussion of various contemporary issues.

The Bogrim class is being instructed by Rabbi Katz and Rabbi Till.

Enrollment:

Sinai Sprouts:

Sinai Sprouts is open to all Jewish children (of members and of non-members) who are 3 to 5 years old and not yet in Kindergarten;

Temple Sinai School of Jewish Life & Learning:

Temple Sinai School of Jewish Life & Learning is open to all children of congregational members. Students entering our Kindergarten program must be 5 years of age by December 1.

Keshet and Bogrim:

Temple Sinai Keshet and Bogrim programs are open to all affiliated members of our Federation’s Jewish Education of Rochester New York (JERNY) program.

Please note: A different fee structure for attending these programs is scheduled for children of non-Temple Sinai members.

School Attendance

- Students are expected to attend all classes on a regular basis. They are expected to arrive on time (at least 10 minutes before the beginning) for all classes and to remain in the building for the duration of the session unless excused by the teacher or the Education Director.

- A written request by the parent(s) must be provided for early release.
- If a child is expected to be absent from class, parents must notify the school's office and the teacher prior to such absence.
- Parents are expected to notify the school's office if their child is sick.
- Because excessive absence may affect the student's progress, and therefore, his /her participation in class, absence from more than two consecutive classes will result in having to complete "make-up" homework.
"Make-up" homework will be provided by the student's teacher.

Parents Observing Class Activities:

It is the Temple Sinai School of Jewish Life & Learning philosophy to encourage parents to observe and participate (as coordinated with the teacher) in class activities.

However, all visits **must** be arranged with the Education Director and the classroom teacher **prior** to the visit. Additionally, all visitors must respectfully cooperate with teacher's wishes while in his/her classroom.

Classroom Rules and Regulations:

- Classes will begin on time (9:30/4:30).
- Students are expected to remain on school property during school hours (unless otherwise authorized by the Education Director).
- Students will behave appropriately and respectfully toward classmates and teachers.
- Students will handle books and other classroom materials appropriately and respectfully.
- Students are responsible for keeping their classroom clean and organized.
- No food and/or drinks are permitted in the classroom unless otherwise authorized and supervised by the Education Director and/or teacher.
- All school material/s taken home must return for the next class activities (unless otherwise instructed by the teacher).

Dress Code:

- A dress code is in place to honor and respect the sanctity of the religious environment. Our students regularly participate in services in the sanctuary and should dress appropriately for this setting.
- Any style of dress, article of clothing, hairstyle, or personal presentation that interferes with or disrupts the maintenance of a learning atmosphere is unacceptable.

- Shoes are required, and students must wear some kind of reasonable footwear, appropriate to the activity for the safety of the student.
- Although encouraged during school activities, wearing a Kippah is optional for boys and for girls.

Please help our students remember that our Temple is a place of worship. Clothing, speech, and demeanor reflect their value system.

Car Pool and Parking Lot Safety:

The safety of our students is the most important concern of our school!

For everyone’s safety, please form a single line when dropping off or picking up children. This will ensure that no child needs to cross through traffic and perhaps in front of your moving car. We will continue our parking lot monitor program this year. Each family (parents) will be expected to monitor the parking lot two times a year. A list of assignments will go out with the Bulletin in September and January for the semester. In addition, monthly assignments will be printed in the Bulletin and the list will be posted in the main office.

Please **watch for your assignments**.

Late Pick-Up Policy:

Although we realize that occasionally parents will be late picking-up their children, all need to understand that such delays result in extra expense to the Temple.

Therefore, the following policy is being reinforced:

- If prior notification was not provided, ten minutes after pick-up time, the student will try to contact his/her parents or the assigned adult.
- Students will wait for their parents/ assigned adult in front of the office.
- In case of an emergency and/or an un-notified delay of more than 60 minutes after school has ended, the student/s may be taken to the address indicated by the parents (a note will be posted on the Temple’s door, and a call will be made to the parent/s’ home).

Communication:

Class Newsletter: Our teachers are asked to send a weekly email/letter to their students’ homes.

The purpose of the Class Newsletter is two-fold: First, it will inform you about the class’ activities; and second, it will open a channel of communication between parents and teachers.

Parent-Teacher: Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher (please call our office for a teacher's phone number), or the Education Director, with any question, concern, or even just to say how happy they are with their child's progress.

Home Assignments: Students attending 3rd thru 7th grade classes will bring home a weekly Hebrew reading/chanting assignment.

Parental support and cooperation is a crucial key for the completion of the assigned homework.

Open House: Please see "Calendar-Highlights" for the dates. Parental attendance at this event is strongly encouraged.

Emergency Closing: Closings due to weather will be announced on selected radio stations: WXXI and WHAM; TV station: Channels 8, 10 and 13; and via our email distribution lists.

Early Release: For security and safety reasons, as well as maintaining a protocol of occurrence, **we need to be provided with a written request** for early release of a student, signed by the parent/s. The note should be given (by the student or the parent) to the Education Director or the student's teacher.

In (hopefully) rare occasions, when a note was not sent but the student, nevertheless, needs to be released early, the parent will contact the office before taking the student out.

Any early released student must be picked up by his/her parent/s (or other designated adult) from his/her classroom or other attending location. Students will not be permitted to leave otherwise.

Special Programs:

Library: The library is an integral part of our school program. Students check out books weekly and use the library as a resource center. Parents are urged to cooperate by seeing that books are returned on time. We will appreciate any help offered by parents.

Our K – 2nd grade classes will be scheduled to visit the library every other week; and our 3rd – 7th grade classes will be scheduled to visit the library once a month.

Music Class: Our classes (K – 7th grade) will attend Music class every other week.

Family Service:

We offer Family Service on the first Friday of every month. These services are geared for fourth thru seventh grade students and their families (see service schedule for dates). However, **all** children are welcome to attend these services as well.

Shabbat Dinners:

We offer Shabbat catered dinners following the Family Service on the first Friday of every month.

Young Family Service: Once a month we offer Young Family Service, followed by a complimentary dinner, on Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. These services are geared for preschool age children thru 3rd grade students and their families (see service schedule for dates).

Concerns/Questions: Please do not hesitate to call me (381-6890) with any concern you, or your child, may have regarding the school. Whether it be the curricula, the classroom, a difficulty with a teacher or classmates, etc., please help us to serve you by addressing your concern promptly. The sooner we hear about it, the sooner we will be able to help.

Jewish/Hebrew Educational Enhancement Program for Adults: We strongly believe that the Jewish education we provide our students with is a “family endeavor.” We, therefore, encourage our parents to take advantage of the adult education program we provide weekly on Sunday morning.