



A Center for Jewish Learning & Living

**SHM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

**5784/2023-2024**

Classes for ages 1-18 years old  
New families register at [shmtemple.org](http://shmtemple.org)





**Heather Rosenthal**  
**Senior Director of Education & Engagement**  
**The Alpert-Waldman Family Education Chair**

## SHM School's Vision Statement

**Congregation Shir Ha-Ma'alot Religious School is a place where we strive to create and nurture strong Jewish Identities by:**

Establishing and sustaining a learning environment that is positive, exciting, and approachable for all our students

Providing students with Jewish knowledge and skills

Deepening an understanding of Jewish values and how they are put into action in everyday life

Creating opportunities for students to explore and develop a relationship with God

Connecting our students to each other and the Jewish community, at home and abroad

## From our Senior Director of Education & Engagement

At Shir Ha-Ma'alot, we diligently work towards the goal of creating strong Jewish identities every time we see our children. Ask any of our students and they'll tell you, "It's cool to be Jewish"!

Our school's vision guides our daily interactions with our students and their families, helping to foster deeper Jewish knowledge while also giving opportunities to engage in mitzvot (good deeds), and teaching them the value of being mentsches in their everyday lives. We do this by engaging our children in meaningful, learning experiences that promote inclusivity and enduring understanding of what Reform Judaism is all about. We do this by creating opportunities for our students to connect to the past (memory) and present and build relationships to not only those in their kitot (classes), but beyond those walls in Youth Group events, Shabbat services and family programming. We believe that these connections continue to build a stronger kehillah (community). And each of these values can also be translated in our SHM's mission statement, coined "The 4 M's"-memory, mitzvot, mensch-making and making meaning.

SHM is always striving to create stimulating opportunities for our students that will help them engage personally with learning and discovering new ways to find meaning in their Jewish identities. Our students participate in Hebrew through Movement (HTM) during their Judaic studies, where students hear Hebrew as a living language and interact and play with the language. Studies show that students learn languages best by listening for meaning even before they speak the language. Our students as young as Kitah Bet (2nd grade) also begin to mold their own learning through chuggim (electives), allowing them to decide in what medium they want to learn, whether by Sports, Bishul (cooking), Omanut (art), and more.



With all these exciting opportunities coming to our school, we are confident that the 2023-2024 Religious School year will be the best one yet! Our teachers and staff are ready to make this year a success! We have great Youth Advisors who are busy planning for the best youth group events for all our 2nd through 12th graders! And our clergy and staff are finding new ways to make Judaism come alive for our learners at all ages! Lastly, we are excited to announce our **new Religious School Principal, Ann Rubin-Saraci**, who will be adding so much value, innovation, and support to our growing kehillah (community)!

Please also know that our rabbis and I are always available to answer any questions you may have and are excited to create a meaningful year of Jewish learning for all. My door is open, and I invite you to discuss your child(ren)'s progress, strengths and challenges with me and how this community can do the best job to be supportive.

**L'shalom,**

**Heather Rosenthal**  
**Senior Director of Education & Engagement**



# Early Childhood Programs

## Tiny Tots, Torah Time for Tots, Pre-K/TK & Kindergarten

### Tiny Tots: Ages 1-2

Every Other Sunday | 10:15 - 11:15 am

### Torah Time for Tots: Ages 2-3

Every Other Sunday | 10:15 - 11:45 am

We offer two programs for toddlers and their parents: Tiny Tots and Torah Time for Tots. These “parent and me” programs provide a fun and engaging way for families to learn about Jewish holidays and traditions through play, music, art, and more. They’re also a great way to make lasting friendships within the community that will continue throughout your child’s Jewish education.



### Yeladim (Pre-K/TK)

Sundays | 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Our Yeladim program is designed to introduce our little learners to the core values of our community through the “4 M’s”. Through interactive lessons and activities, our students will learn about Memories, Mentsch-making, Mitzvot, and Making Meaning in their young lives. These values will guide them as they grow and develop as part of our Shir Ha-Ma’alot community.

### Gan (Kindergarten)

Sundays | 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Our Gan students will develop a deeper connection to Jewish traditions and holidays, as they begin to understand what it means to be Jewish today.

Kindergartener families will celebrate the start of their formal Jewish education with a Consecration service on Sunday morning, October 8, 2023.





# **Sunday School Kitot (Classes)**

**SHM is the best place to be on Sunday mornings!**

## **Kitah Alef (1<sup>st</sup> Grade)**

In Kitah Alef, our students find their place in the chain of Jewish tradition by exploring the Torah stories from creation to our prophets.

## **Kitah Bet (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)**

Kitah Bet students learn about Jewish lifecycle events, from birth to adulthood and beyond. Understanding the reasons behind Jewish customs for these events is helpful as 2nd graders begin to experience them. The curriculum includes age-appropriate discussions and a class “mock wedding.”

## **Kitah Gimel (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)**

Kitah Gimel students explore their understanding of God through a Reform perspective in the first half of the school year. Later, they learn about Israel and their Jewish identity, where they will explore Israel's geography, culture, and the best part, food. This learning is completed with their leadership of our Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration.

## **Kitah Dalet (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

In Kitah Dalet, students delve into Jewish stories and ancestors from creation to the Exodus, making connections between our Jewish tradition and becoming good people. Through understanding the lessons of Torah stories, 4th graders learn to identify moral choices and make mensch-like choices.

## **Kitah Hey (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

In Kitah Hey, students learn about the teachings of the ancient Prophets and how they guide us in making the world a more just place. Through exploring these lessons, our 5th graders become Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) warriors.

## **Kitah Vav (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Kitah Vav students will take dive into Israel education through interactive learning-centered models, where they will discover their own unique Israel connection.

## **Kitah Zayin (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Kitah Zayin students engage in transformative learning as they explore becoming adults in the Jewish community. They examine their relationships with themselves, others, and God while also researching a Jewish non-profit organization that aligns with their social justice values. The culminating activity for Kitah Zayin on Sundays is when they lead the Tzedakah Fair for the whole school. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, they join our Chai School program, where they explore their Jewish identity and participate in fun electives geared towards teens.



# Judaica

**Sundays from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm**

At our school, learning about Judaism is anything but boring! We make it come alive with interactive games, hands-on projects, and lively discussions. And our Judaica Enrichments are the cherry on top, with Hebrew through Movement, Israeli Dancing, and Music in T'filah.

But wait, there's more! On Sundays, students get to choose from a variety of exciting chuggim like Art, Jewish Cooking, and Photography. And we all come together as a community for amazing T'filah services and Shira sessions that are meaningful and fun!





# Hebrew

## Grades 3-6

Our SHM students are not only learning prayer-based Hebrew, but they're also gaining a deeper understanding of the prayers they recite and developing the skills to actively engage in services worldwide. From Kitah Gimel to Kitah Vav, our students are enrolled in one of three top-notch Hebrew programs, ensuring they become confident and knowledgeable to lead Shabbat prayers in Hebrew.



## Tuesday Hebrew

### 4:30 - 6:00 pm

**\$100 less than Sunday Hebrew!** In addition to Sunday Judaica classes, our Tuesday program has proven to accelerate prayer learning by 25%, providing students with enhanced preparation for their B'nai Mitzvah. Our Tuesday students also benefit from double the exposure to prayer and melodies, as they participate in a T'filah during each class. Plus, our weekly Tuesday dinners from 6:00-6:30 pm offer a special opportunity for our students to bond with each other. Choosing the Tuesday Hebrew option also allows for the family to sleep in on Sunday mornings since Judaica doesn't begin until 10:00 am. Join us on Tuesdays to deepen your Hebrew skills and make lifelong connections!

## Sunday Hebrew

### 8:30 - 9:55 am

With busy schedules and other midweek commitments, we understand it can be tough to fit in multiple days of religious education. That's why we offer a convenient one-day-a-week option that combines both Hebrew and Judaica studies. Your child(ren) will attend a full day of engaging and enriching classes from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm. It's a great option for families looking to streamline their weekly routine while still giving their children a strong foundation in their Jewish education.

## Individual Hebrew Instruction

### Scheduled based upon your availability

Looking for a more personalized Hebrew learning experience? Look no further than our Individualized Hebrew Instruction program! With this option, our SHM Hebrew teachers will travel to your home once a week for a 45-minute one-on-one lesson, giving your child the attention and flexibility they need to succeed. To ensure the best match between your child and our teacher, fill out a Hebrew Request form and we'll take care of the rest.



# Chai School

**Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday from 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

Dinners are \$10 per student and served from 6:00 - 6:30 pm (RSVPs required)



## Kitah Zayin (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

At SHM, we believe that B'nai Mitzvah is just the beginning of a lifelong Jewish journey. That's why we encourage all of our Bar and Bat Mitzvah students to continue their education through at least Confirmation (10th grade). Our Kitah Zayin students seamlessly transition into the Chai School program on Tuesday evenings, where they start to explore Jewish young adulthood. They have the opportunity to bond with their role models in Confirmation and post-Confirmation while building lasting friendships with their Kitah Chet (8th Grade) peers at JiFTY programming throughout the year.

## Kitah Chet (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

In Kitah Chet, students explore the Holocaust through the "Time and Space: Memorializing the Holocaust" curriculum. The course delves into the underlying human dynamics that led to the Holocaust, and how we can prevent such tragedies in the future. As part of the program, our 8th graders will lead the Yom HaShoah program on May 6th, 2024, to honor the memory of those lost in the Holocaust.

## Kitah Tet (9<sup>th</sup> Grade)

In Kitah Tet, students study Israel's history, culture, and society. We partner with the Rose Project of the Jewish Federation to join other Jewish communities in Orange County to deepen our understanding and relationship with Israel.

## Confirmation (10<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Confirmation is a transformative year for our Kitat Brit students where they affirm their commitment to the Jewish people. The students will explore how the Ten Commandments can be applied in their everyday lives, learning about themselves and their Judaism. The class is taught by Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi DePaolo and culminates in a year-end Confirmation service created and led by the students themselves on May 10, 2024 (5784).



## Kitah Sofit (11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grades) – Rappin' with the Rabbi

Our post-Confirmation program aims to keep our teens engaged and connected as they navigate their Jewish lives. Led by Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi DePaolo, our juniors and seniors will have a safe space to discuss relevant issues, be challenged, and have fun! It's an opportunity for them to feel comfortable and connected to our synagogue community.

**Save the Date** for 10th-12th Grade trip to Washington, D.C. for the URJ's L'Taken trip December 15th-18, 2023! Be on the lookout for more information soon!

## Sibling Club

For families with children in multiple grade levels attending Hebrew on Sundays, the Sibling Club is available to simplify the schedule. Parents with children in grades 3-6 who don't want to return before 10:00 to bring younger children can use this program to ensure all their children are taken care of.



## Madrichim Student Leadership at SHM!

Calling all students in grades 8-12! Want to make a difference in your community and be a role model for younger students?

Join our Madrichim program as a Guide or Teacher's Assistant on Sunday mornings or Tuesday afternoons. As a madrich/a, you'll not only enhance your Jewish knowledge and leadership skills, but also have a meaningful impact on the lives of younger children. Our Madrichim Leadership Seminar (MLS) provides madrichim the space to learn new skills in education and leadership which they can directly use in their classrooms. By attending MLS, madrichim will interact with other madrichim, develop a support network, and learn valuable life & leadership skills which will prepare them to work with diverse groups of students.

Before the school year begins, don't miss our important Madrichim Training on Sunday, August 20th, 2023!





# Special Programs and Holidays

Mark Your Calendars!

## Sukkot Family Shabbat Service & Dinner

October 6, 2023

## Simchat Torah with Kindergarten Consecration

October 8, 2023



## Teen Wellness Retreat (8th-12th Grade)

December 1-3, 2023

## Chanukah Family Shabbat Service

December 8, 2023



## SHM Family Retreat

January 12-14, 2024

## Jewish Summer Camp Fair

February 4, 2024



## Purim Shpiel and Purim Party

March 23, 2024

## Yom HaAtzmaut Israel Celebration & Last Day of Religious School

May 5, 2024



## Yom HaShoah (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Participation)

May 6, 2024

## Confirmation Shabbat Service

May 10, 2024





# Family Connections

## Parent-Child Engagement Opportunities!

We believe in strengthening Jewish families through parent-child engagement opportunities. By participating in family programming and attending Shabbat services, parents can continue the Jewish learning at home. Join us for our Family Educational opportunities throughout the year, where parents can learn alongside their child(ren).

At family camps, parents and children come together to engage in learning at the temple through various programs, such as exploring Jewish ethics, celebrating Jewish holidays, studying together, and singing and dancing. These camps offer a unique and enjoyable experience for families to learn and bond together.



**Yeladim/Gan (Pre-K/Kinder):** March 17, 2024

**Kitah Alef (1st Grade):** January 21, 2024

**Kitah Bet (2nd Grade):** October 22, 2023

**Kitah Gimel (3rd Grade):** April 28, 2024

**Kitah Dalet (4th Grade):** December 17, 2023

**Kitah Hey (5th Grade):** November 5, 2023

**Kitah Vav (6th Grade):** February 11, 2024

## Shireinu Project

The SHM Shireinu Project is alive in our Religious School! For questions about our music programs, email Rabbi Bryan Zive at [bzive@shmtemple.org](mailto:bzive@shmtemple.org).



## Youth Choir (Grades 1-12)

**Directors Rabbi Bryan Zive and Dave Roberts**

Our SHM Youth Choir is back and open to all Grades 1-12 who love to sing. Our teen members (Grades 8-12) will guide our younger singers during rehearsals on select Sundays after Religious School from 12:30-1:30 pm. The Youth Choir will perform during select Shabbat Services, so don't miss this opportunity to be part of a beautiful, fun, and dynamic group!

**The cost to join for the year is only \$36 per student to cover expenses.**



# Youth Groups

## Federations of Fun!

Get ready for an exciting year of youth group activities that will bring our children together, foster new friendships, and create unforgettable memories! Our youth groups are designed to cater to specific age groups, ensuring that each child has a meaningful and enjoyable experience. This year, we're taking our youth group events to the next level, with a commitment to making them even better than before.



### **SHMoFTY** **Grades 9-12**

**October 21**  
**November 4**  
**December 1-3**  
**January 6**  
**February 16-19**  
**March 9**  
**April 12-14**  
**May 17-18**

### **JiFTY** **Grades 6-8**

**October 28**  
**November 18**  
**December 16**  
**January 20**  
**February 24**  
**March 16**  
**April 13**  
**May 4**

### **Mini-MiTY/MiTY** **Grades 2-5**

**October 15**  
**November 12**  
**December 10**  
**January 28**  
**February 11**  
**March 10**  
**April 21**  
**May 5**







**CONGREGATION  
SHIR HA-MA'ALOT**

3652 Michelson Drive • Irvine, CA 92612  
(949) 857-2226 [www.shmtemple.org](http://www.shmtemple.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
NEWPORT BEACH,  
CA  
PERMIT NO. 272

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## **First Day of Religious School is September 10**

Prices increase July 15, 2023

Signing up has never been easier! Simply scan the QR Code below with your phone's camera to open the registration form.

