

CBE Religious School 2023-2024

FAQs

GENERAL

Q: What is the timeline for identifying, hiring and start date of a new director?

A: Shauna Peters has agreed to chair the religious school director search committee and the committee is currently scheduling interviews with candidates. The hope is to have a director hired by July 1, however, we will not hire until we have found the right candidate and we do have back-up plans in place should that not occur by the start of the school year.

Q: Who will be teaching my child?

A: Staffing is not yet complete for the fall. Many of our current teachers will be returning next year and as we identify open teaching positions we will seek to fill them. Once staffing is complete, we will communicate with enrolled families to introduce their child(ren)'s teachers.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Q: How does the new religious school model differ from the current model?

A: In addition to our plans to update the curriculum to provide a clear scope and sequence with a focus on the priority areas from our research (Jewish Culture and Identity, Community and Holidays), experiential programming will be added intentionally to the curriculum to enhance and support the learning process. Lastly, midweek learning will be offered both in person and online. The focus of midweek learning will be Hebrew with the in person option including Judaic studies and school-wide Tefillah.

Q: How do I determine whether the online Hebrew option is right for my child?

A: Knowing your child's learning style, self-motivation and attention are indicators of success with this model. You may also want to consult your child's current religious school teacher for a recommendation.

Q: Will all my children have the same online Hebrew teacher?

A: Not necessarily. This will be dependent upon staffing and scheduling.

Q: Can I change my child's enrollment from virtual midweek to in-person (or vice versa) during the school year?

A: This intention is that you are registering for the full year. However, we understand that virtual one-on-one Hebrew learning will be a new experience and may not be a fit for everyone. Therefore, we will evaluate these requests on a case by case basis to ensure students are receiving instruction in the best way possible.

For anyone requesting a move from in-person to virtual, the ability to make this transition will also be contingent upon teacher availability.

Q: Must my child in grades 3-7 attend one of the midweek options or can he/she attend Sunday only?

A: Our program is designed to be a twice a week program to provide continuity. If you have extenuating circumstances that preclude your child from participating, we will discuss your needs on a case-by-case basis.

Q: I have multiple children, must they all be registered for the same midweek option?

A: No.

CHAI SCHOOL

Q: How does the new Chai School model differ from the current model?

A: Chai School students will meet for classes monthly on Sundays, rather than weekly. The curriculum will focus on how young Jewish adults can be active participants in the CBE and Jewish community. Beyond the monthly class sessions, Chai School students will have opportunities to participate in CBE Community activities (madrish/madricha, leading services, helping in the kitchen, photography and social media for Religious School activities) and Tikun Olam (service projects) for the broader community. We are reducing the price for Chai School to reflect fewer hours of classroom instruction.

Q: How many times will students be expected to complete different types of service?

A: This is still in development as we will be seeking guidance from the future religious school director. We expect tasks requiring more advanced preparation and tasks that are more time consuming to “count” for more service than less involved tasks. We will announce more details prior to the start of the school year but we do expect there to be more than one of each item like leading services or reading Torah several times, or working in the kitchen multiples times, cleaning up or organizing the storage area for a defined number of hours, etc. to fulfill the requirement for the year.

Q: Can someone be a Madrich or Madricha without enrolling in Chai School?

A: No. The only exception is for students who are in 11th or 12th grade (beyond Chai School grade level).

Q: Can Chai School students get credit from other activities (beyond those listed)?

A: Yes. The list includes some examples. The Religious School Director will create a more comprehensive list and we students may share additional creative ideas.

Q: Can Chai School students get credit for BBYO, USY, NCSY events?

A: Yes. We think anything that connects students with the Jewish community will count for some credit, but again, details are still being worked out.

Q: Can Chai School students be paid for some of the tasks (like kitchen service)?

A: No, students will not be paid for their service. However, if students enjoy helping in the kitchen, they can be paid for service **after** they complete the required service commitment for Chai School.