



Family & Student Handbook 2023-2024

David Cohen, Director of Schools
david.cohen@templesholom.com
(203) 622-8121

Rabbi Kevin Peters, Director of Jewish Education & Youth Programs
rabbikevin@templesholom.com
(203) 542-7157

Temple Sholom, 300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830
203-542-7161 • www.templesholom.com/tslc

The Mission and Goals of TSLC Learning Center

The Temple Sholom Learning Center (TSLC) engages students in a well-rounded Jewish education. Our curriculum has been designed so that students gain the knowledge and experience they need in order to:

- ☐ Take pride in being Jewish and develop a strong Jewish identity
- ☐ Participate in and perform rituals and traditions in a synagogue and at home
- ☐ Feel a connection and sense of responsibility to Klal Yisrael (the Jewish people)
- ☐ Live their lives according to Jewish ethics and values
- ☐ Have a deep love for and connection to the land of Israel
- ☐ Be inspired to pursue life-long Jewish learning, and possess the basic skills to do so

Attendance and Service Requirements

ToT & Pre-K

- ☐ Students attend school for 2 ½ hours, one Sunday per month, from 9:00am to 11:30am.

Grades K – 2

- ☐ Students attend school for 2 ½ hours on Sunday mornings, from 9:00am to 11:30am.

** There are no weekday classes for these grades.

Grades 3 – 7

- ☐ Students attend school for a total of four hours per week, from 9:00am to 11:30am on Sundays, and EITHER Tuesday from 4:30pm to 6:00pm OR Wednesday from 4:15pm to 5:45pm.
- ☐ **3rd Graders** are expected to attend their grade level Friday night Shabbat Experience.
- ☐ **4th Graders** are expected to attend their grade level Friday night Shabbat Experience and are also expected to participate in their grade level Saturday Shabbat.
- ☐ **5th & 6th Graders** are expected to attend at least two Saturday morning Learners Minyan as well as their grade level Saturday Shabbat.
- ☐ **7th Graders** will receive a special curriculum on Sundays called *Social Action Sundays*.

Grades 8 – 12

- ☐ **Madrachim** – Madrichim are role models who can make a real difference in the religious school experience of younger students by helping them develop a positive Jewish identity and by serving as an important example of active participation in Jewish communal life. Madrichim are assigned classrooms for the duration of the school year and work closely with our Teachers as their assistants.

Student Code of Conduct

As a school community, we strive to create an atmosphere that promotes the Jewish values we teach and cherish. In order to do so in a positive and growth-oriented manner, we have developed a set of guidelines for behavioral expectations for students at TSLC based on the following principals:

PROPER RESPECT PRECEDES THE STUDY OF TORAH

TREAT OTHERS WITH RESPECT - DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU HAVE OTHERS DO UNTO YOU

TREAT LEARNING WITH RESPECT - THE MITZVAH OF STUDYING TORAH

TREAT PEOPLE'S SAFETY WITH RESPECT

TREAT PROPERTY (PHYSICAL AND INTELLECTUAL) WITH RESPECT

Discipline

Behavior that contradicts the above values, which represent the student code of conduct, shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. TSLC will attempt to first resolve these matters through conversations between students, teachers and the administration. If the matter persists or merits parent involvement, TSLC will engage the parents as well. Our intention is to maintain the integrity of the program and the experience of all of our students.

TSLC reserves the right to determine consequences for violations of the student code of conduct, including the right to suspend or expel any student. Should this occur, tuition will not be refunded. Additionally, students and their parents may be held financially responsible for any property that has damaged if applicable.

Students who feel they are being treated unfairly or with disrespect are encouraged to speak with their teacher(s) (or have their parents do so) so that the matter may be resolved appropriately. Rabbi Kevin and David Cohen are always available to meet with parents or students to discuss any concerns they may have.

Policies

Food and Beverage

Kindly eat before religious school. For the health and safety of all students, this is a **nut-free and kosher** environment and no food will be served, except challah on Sundays.

Kippot/Head Covering

The wearing of a head covering reminds us that God is always with us. Our tradition requires us to cover our heads while praying or studying sacred texts. In addition, the wearing of a kippah shows respect for one's studies, and for the sacredness of space. Therefore, boys are required to wear kippot while at TSLC, and girls are strongly encouraged to do so. Teachers may, at their discretion, allow alternative forms of head covering during certain studies, but only kippot may be worn during prayer, sacred studies, assemblies, and in the sanctuary or chapel.

Books and Supplies

TSLC will supply all necessary textbooks, workbooks, and worksheets to each student.

Technology/Hand-held Electronic Devices

The use of personal technology devices of any kind (cell phones, MP3 players, computers or any internet browsing devices of any type or size, cameras, etc...) is not allowed in class except at the explicit invitation of the teacher. Teachers may choose to have the students deposit their devices in a box at the start of class. If teachers allow the students to retain their devices during class, phones must be kept in a backpack, handbag, or pocket, NOT visible to the student or others.

Parents should avoid calling and texting while their student is in class.

If a parent needs to contact a student during school hours, please contact the school office, 203-542-7161, and we will get your message to your child.

Remini App

Parents are asked to utilize the Remini App which is a tool employed by TSLC to communicate relevant and important information to parents, including but not limited to time sensitive announcements around school closing & inclement weather, curriculum highlights, confirmation of bus departure for the Sunday Riverside Bus, etc.

Drop-Off Procedure: Week Days and Sunday

- ☐ Please drop your student(s) off in the circle at the front entrance to the building.
- ☐ If you would like to accompany your student(s) into the building, please park in the Temple Shalom parking lot and walk your student to the front door. Pre-K and K students must be walked to the door by an adult or older sibling.

Pick-Up Procedure: Tuesday and Wednesday

Use the pickup line and your student will come to your car.

Pick-Up Procedure: Sunday

Use the pickup line and your student will come to your car. Drivers must join the end of the pickup line of cars and remain in their cars. Please help to keep the line moving by advancing around the driveway circle. ToT students are picked up inside the building.

Early Pick-Up

If you need to pick up your student before the end of school, you must notify the school by 9am (Sundays) or 4pm (weekdays) by emailing David Cohen: david.cohen@templesholom.com

Student Safety

Medical Emergencies and Services

If a student becomes ill or is injured, staff will use every reasonable effort and best judgment in administering first aid measures. The school cannot dispense over the counter nor prescription medications, except for emergency medications (e.g. Epi-pen).

Safety Related to the Building

The school building is equipped with fire detection, alarm systems and an Automated External Defibrillator. Each classroom has a map that shows the appropriate evacuation route to use in the event of fire or other emergency situations. Fire drills and lockdown drills will be held each year to make certain that everyone knows and follows the proper procedures.

School Closings Due to Weather or Other Emergencies

School closings for inclement weather and will notify families through Remini. If the building cannot open for any other reason, families will be notified immediately.

Field Trips and Special Events

As part of our curriculum, a student's class may be involved in a field trip. Parents will be notified in advance and will be requested to complete a permission slip for each field trip. They may also be asked to serve as chaperones or drivers, and we would greatly appreciate a positive response.

TSLC also holds many assemblies, special events, and family education programs throughout the year. When parents and others are invited, they will be publicized through fliers, newsletters, our website, etc. ***When a program is designed to include parent-child interaction, it is important for parents to make every effort to participate.***

Parent Association

TSLC Parents have the opportunity to join the Parent Association to help foster the strength of our community by organizing social events for parents and/or families. The Chairs of the Parent Association are always looking for volunteers to participate in the various ways and there is an opportunity for everyone to become involved in the community in a way that is meaningful to them. Contact gina.cristino@templeholom.com to get involved.