



August 2020

Dear Berman-Lipavsky Religious School families,

Our team comprised of Dr. Eyal Bor, Andy Shankman, Amy Goldberg and the religious school committee are eager to share with you the key elements of our plan for Religious School, designed to ensure that we can have a meaningful year focused on community building and learning, while also protecting the health and safety of our students and staff. Thank you to everyone who participated in the family feedback survey this summer. Your input was key to developing our plan.

Guiding principles for the 2020-2021 school year:

1. A hybrid model of in person and virtual programming will meet the needs of most families. Both in person and virtual programming will be offered.
2. Flexibility is the hallmark of our offerings. Flexibility in timing and opportunities will fit your family's needs.
3. Friendships and establishing a Jewish community are key components to a student's engagement in Hebrew School. Families are also looking for opportunities to connect around shared interests, whether it be in person or virtual.
4. The safety and health of our families are a top priority.

Sunday Mornings

There are two options available for your family to select:

1. HYBRID (Pre-K-6th grades)

- Small classes meet with teachers every two weeks.
- Classes meet in person outdoors, inside or virtually depending on the pandemic or weather.
- On alternate weeks, services and song session with Cantor Blatt and electives with teachers.

OR

2. VIRTUAL ONLY (1st- 6th grades)

- Small classes meet with teachers every Sunday morning on Zoom.
- Following classes, students engage in services and song session with Cantor Blatt and electives with teachers.

More information:

- View the complete Sunday Schedule for each option.
- Full details about the curriculum are available on the Curriculum Overview Page.
- Please refer to the Religious School FAQ for more information.

Mid- Week Virtual Hebrew (All 2nd - 6th grades)

- Families will sign up through a virtual scheduling program for a 20-minute time slot once a week for individualized instruction with a Hebrew teacher.
- Times are available Monday-Friday afternoons.



Lapid Learners

The 7th grade class will continue to meet twice a month with either Rabbi Saroken or Rabbi Schwartz. They will gather either virtually or in person, outside in the pavilion, when weather allows. The full schedule will be available in the welcome packet.

Hebrew School in Your "VIRTUAL" Neighborhood

Hebrew School in Your Neighborhood satellite schools will be VIRTUAL ONLY this year. Schools will meet on their regularly scheduled day on Zoom. Students will also sign up for the mid-week Hebrew instruction at their convenience unless otherwise notified. In addition every effort will be made to offer in person, socially distant gatherings throughout the year. More information will be emailed to individual satellite schools.

Discounted Tuition

We understand that the program has shifted from a normal programming year and that families are struggling during this challenging time. Therefore, we have lowered tuition for the year. The hybrid in person tuition rate is lowered by 25% of last year's tuition and the virtual only option is 50% of last year's tuition. Please see the tuition schedule for rates.

Next Steps

Now that we have established a structure for the year, we will continue to work through all of the details necessary to make for a safe, fun and meaningful time together. Before the opening day of Religious School on Sunday, October 18, we will keep refining our plans and be in touch with you to share details.

Next Steps:

1. Complete registration online through the Beth El website- www.bethelbalto.com
2. Once the Hebrew School office receives your child's registration, we will send a fill in form with information for:
 - a. Choice of HYBRID or VIRTUAL ONLY
 - b. Elective choices
 - c. Hebrew information (Mon-Fri 3-6 pm)
3. Registration will auto enroll for the 2nd semester. If you decide to change courses for the spring semester, please inform the school office IN WRITING by email before the end of the calendar year.
4. You will receive a welcome packet via email as we get closer to opening day.

Thank you for partnering with us to create positive Jewish learning experiences for your children. Please email Amy Goldberg amy@bethelbalto.com with any questions or concerns.

Stay Healthy and Safe,
Amy Goldberg, Religious School Director
Dr. Eyal Bor, Director of Education
Andy Shankman, Religious School Manager