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Parent Handbook

5784

2023-2024

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The mission of the Nathan and Hilda Katzen Center for Jewish Learning at Temple Sinai is to provide Jewish learning for all members of our Temple community, no matter their age, abilities or background. We provide education to create a community of learners who can meaningfully participate in a lifetime of Jewish Peoplehood, Spirituality, Caring, Social Justice and Learning.

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SCHOOL COVID POLICY The reality of Covid-19 means that, to assure everyone’s continuing health and safety, we require up to date vaccines and boosters. Masks are optional as we acknowledge many people choose to wear masks for health issues and we support all of our families. For full Temple Sinai guidelines [click here](#).

Schedule

NextDOR	Sundays	PreK – Grade 8	9:30 AM – 12 PM (with mid-morning snack)
	Sunday Hebrew	Grades 3 -6	11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
		Grades 9, 11 &12	12:15 PM – 1:30 PM (with lunch)
	Mondays	Grade 10	6 – 7:30 PM (with dinner)
Hebrew	Wednesdays	Grades 3 - 6	4:30 – 6 PM

Attendance

Next DOR is intentionally structured to pack a lot into a short amount of time, which allows more flexibility in scheduling Jewish learning around other activities. Please do your best to ensure that your child comes for each session. This will support both your child’s learning and the learning of the other students in the course who will be depending on your child’s participation in group projects.

For Hebrew School, mastery of any skill requires regular practice. Our Hebrew program focuses familiarity with prayerbook Hebrew and on reading skills. Each class builds on the one before, so regular attendance is crucial.

If your child will be absent on any given day, please phone the school office at 412.421.7039.

Punctual attendance makes a difference. Late arrivals disrupt class and take away precious time from a limited schedule. Please help us give your child the best learning experience by arriving on time.

Early Dismissal: We recognize that there are times when our students need to leave early. The following procedures will ensure your child’s safety and the least disruption to the class environment:

- The student must come to school with an explanatory note from a parent/guardian. The note must include the reason and time of dismissal along with the name of the person picking up the child.
- The note should be presented to the office at the beginning of the class. All students being dismissed from school early must be picked up by a parent or guardian in the building. Parents must first check in with the office. No student will be allowed to leave the building, even to wait for a ride, without a parent/guardian.

Visitors: Visitors are not permitted in classrooms without prior authorization by the Religious School Administration.

Drop-off and Dismissal

These procedures are designed to ensure maximum safety for all of our children. Please help us keep our children safe by following these procedures.

Drop-off

All students must enter Temple Sinai through the Krieger Entrance on Forbes Ave. Please ensure that your child enters the building. You are welcome to bring your child into the classroom.

Dismissal

Sunday

PreK – 2 students are dismissed from the classroom to a parent/guardian or older sibling.

Children in grade 3 and above may leave their classroom at the conclusion of the day without further supervision of the school staff unless otherwise instructed by the parent or guardian. Younger students may come to the Krieger Entrance as a class for pick up.

Please notify the office of any changes to regular dismissal routine.

Wednesday Hebrew School

To meet your child in the building, park on the street and come up to the school.

If your child is walking to his/her next destination, please provide the school office with a written note of permission or send an email to Dhaber@TempleSinaiPGH.org.

To pick up your children in a car, without coming into the building, follow the guidelines below:

- The **carpool line** assembles on Kittanning Way, the street behind the Temple. If running late, please call ahead.
- Right turn only from Wightman St. onto Kittanning Way. If there is overflow onto Wightman St., keep to the right side of the street to avoid blocking traffic.
- Form a line starting at the Temple entrance. Please be respectful to our office staff and neighbors when waiting for your child, allowing them enter or exit their parking spots/garages. To do this, leave space in front of driveways or parking spots so that residents/staff may use them. Please remember that if a driver in front of you is not moving up, it may be to abide by this courtesy.
- Turn RIGHT out of Kittanning Way onto Murdoch St. to prevent bottlenecks on exit.
- As always, general rules of the road are in effect on public streets.
- **There is no in-car pick up on Forbes Avenue or Murdoch Street. It is too dangerous at this hour.**

Wednesday Afternoon Dismissal Map

Right turn ONLY to exit onto Murdoch.

Please stay to the right of Wightman St. to allow traffic to pass by.

Please leave space for our neighbors to get in and out of their driveways.

Kittanning Way

Right turn ON from Wig

Students will wait here with supervision for pick-up.

Temple Sinai

Other Properties

Children walking home with prior written permission are dismissed onto Forbes.

No Double Parking

Forbes Avenue

not to scale



Special Needs

If your child has special needs, please inform the Religious School of those needs at the beginning of the year or when they arise. Since each child is different, we would be happy to partner with you to create a positive, Jewish learning environment for your student.

Behavior

Students are expected to act respectfully towards teachers and peers. If students are unable to do so, they will meet with the Education Director. During this meeting, the student will telephone a parent to inform that parent of the meeting and the events leading to it. The student will then return to class. If behavior does not improve, parents will be asked to come to the Temple for a conference.



"In the World to Come," taught Rabbi Zusya of Hanipol, "they will not ask me: 'Why were you not more like Moses our teacher?' They will ask me: 'Why were you not more like Zusya?'"

How can your child be the best version of himself/herself?

Emergency School Closings

Midweek School closings generally follow the decisions of the Pittsburgh Board of Education.

- If public school is canceled due to inclement weather, school is canceled.
- If public school enacts early dismissal due to inclement weather, school is canceled.
- If public school enacts late start due to inclement weather, school will most likely occur (depending on later weather conditions).
- Religious School might be canceled even if public school is not. Check with the Temple website, your email, television/radio, or call the Temple.

Sunday morning closings will be announced on the radio, television, and Temple website (www.templesinaipgh.org).

Religious School is either opened or closed; we do not delay openings.

Summer Jewish Learning

The end of school does not necessitate the end of Jewish learning and living for the summer. Take advantage of the relaxing pace of summer to:

- Light Shabbat candles and have a special meal
- Conclude Shabbat with Havdalah
- Visit the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC
- Spend the day in the Lower East Side of New York (don't forget to stop at Gus' Pickles)
- Visit the Jewish Museum in NYC
- Take a day trip to the Maltz Museum in Cleveland
- Do family mitzvah projects
- Come to Temple
- Read a Jewish Book



Summer Jewish Living

The joy of Jewish living need not end in May when the school year ends. Many of our students have continued their Jewish growth by participating in summer programs sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). Our regional camp, Camp Harlam (in Kunkletown, PA), is just a car ride away, but it feels like a different world, one where there's excitement for Jewish living and enthusiasm for services. Each URJ camp offers a wide variety of activities, competitive with other camps. However, no other camps provide the love of Jewish living and learning, friendship and fun, as do these camps.

We know that Jewish summer camps of all sorts provide opportunities for growth and learning along with the development of deep foundations in Jewish living. We encourage you to consider other Jewish camps as well, especially those run by our JCC.

Our high school students can join other Jewish teens from around the country on summer journeys to Israel sponsored by NFTY (the North American Federation of Temple Youth, an affiliate of the URJ). These six-week tours make Judaism and Jewish history come alive through a wide range of experiences.

Brochures for all these programs are available in the Nathan and Hilda Katzen Center for Jewish Learning. Ask the Rabbis for their recommendations.