

Dear Religious School Families and Teachers,

“Find yourself a teacher and a friend, and judge all people favorably” (Pirkei Avot 1:6). Beth El’s Religious School stands on these three things; teachers, friends, and faith. We’ve learned since March that teachers do so much more than teach content. Our teachers build community, teach their “children” life lessons, and impart their Torah. Our friends encourage us to try new things, to be our whole selves, and to have fun. They are why our children beg to come back to school. Finally, faith is what sustains us. This spring you put your faith in Beth El, in our Religious School, and in our teachers. You had faith that we could move our school online and “make lemonade without any lemons.” You had faith, and we made it through together.

Now, I need you to have faith again. We would like nothing more than to see your kids at Beth El every week in person. However, due to COVID-19, that will not be possible. *Pikuach Nefesh*, saving a life, is one of the most important values in Judaism, and at Beth El, ensuring the physical safety of our families comes first. We have therefore developed a program that we hope will meet the needs of our diverse families and students. This is an experiment, based on our best thinking, to meet the challenges of this time.

This year, **Beth El’s Religious School will take place this year ONLINE on Sundays between 10am-12pm and Wednesdays between 6pm-8pm** (exact timing and scheduling will vary by age and grade, but all learning will be SYNCHRONOUS). **Religious School will begin on Sunday, September 13th.** This decision was made in conjunction with synagogue leadership and the RSY Team.

We are blessed at Beth El with a beautiful outdoor campus, and we have an opportunity for our students and their families to learn together safely outside under the portico and in the Chapel in the Woods. We’ve developed a program called **The Tent: Outdoor Jewish Learning and Living** which will allow every grade an **OPTIONAL opportunity to learn and to be together with social distancing between September 13th and November 22nd.** **The Tent is also optional for teachers. Parents must RSVP** for their family or child in order to attend the Tent. Students and teachers who cannot attend the Tent will have the opportunity to Zoom into the program OR to participate in the same program online instead of in person led by a teacher or TA.

If you are a parent of a student in grades 7-12, please look out for an additional e-mail from me on Friday with details regarding 7th grade and the Teen Program (Note that 7th grade is not part of the Teen Program).

In the FAQ you will find TENTATIVE schedules for K-6th Grade for Sundays and Wednesdays. We will be having **Parent Meetings on Tuesday, August 4th and Thursday, August 6th at 7pm for parents in grades K-6.** Please join us to share any questions or concerns you might have. Zoom links will be sent out next week. Please see our FAQ in the attached link for commonly asked questions. As always, feel free to e-mail me at bromano@bethelhebrew.org or to give me a text or call on my cell at 985-607-4698. I’d LOVE to talk to you over the phone or via Zoom.

We are Beth El. And so are you.

I hope to “see you” soon!
Take care and best wishes,

Rabbi Bailey

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[BETH EL RS PLAN FAQ](#)

Important Dates

August 23- Parent Orientation via Zoom (more info TBA)
August 30- Bringing Beth El Home Bag Pick Up (more info TBA)
September 13-First Day of School

TENTATIVE

The Tent Calendar K-6

10-11AM under the Portico or in the Chapel in the Woods

September 13- Kindergarten
October 4- 1st Grade
October 11- 2nd Grade
October 18- 3rd Grade
October 25- 4th Grade
November 8- 5th Grade
November 15- 6th Grade
Nov 22- Kindergarten