

Information About The Hebrew Tabernacle Hebrew School 2017-18

Attendance

Since Hebrew School meets only once a week, continuity depends upon students' regular attendance. We also need to know if your child is going to stay home so that s/he is accounted for. If your child will miss a class, please call the Hebrew Tabernacle office (212 568-8304) or send an email to HToffice@nyc.rr.com, copying Shelly Koy skhspr@gmail.com and your child's teacher, to inform the school of your child's absence and to find out what studying your child can do at home in order to keep up with the classwork.

Tzedakah

Learning is a mitzvah, a privilege and a joy. As an expression of gratitude for the privilege and joy of learning, the children will be giving tzedakah before each afternoon of study. The students will be deciding on one or more worthy causes to support with the funds from their tzedakah contributions. If each child can bring one dollar for tzedakah every time s/he comes to Hebrew School, that would go a long way towards raising money for the charitable cause. Of course, any amount your child contributes would be greatly appreciated and used towards our fund-raising effort.

Classwork and Homework

Each teacher will send a weekly e-mail to the parent(s) of the students in her/his class to give a brief synopsis of what was covered in class and what the homework assignment is. Once (or even twice) a week is not sufficient exposure to acquire or retain language skills. Therefore a small amount of homework will be assigned to give your child the means to practice Hebrew during the week as well as reinforce other parts of our curriculum. Also, please note that it is a policy of the Hebrew School not to give tests, although impromptu quizzes may be given at times to determine how well a class is learning the material.

If you can make the time, please do assist your child with Hebrew School homework. Nothing would please us more than to know that parents and children are studying together. We encourage inter-generational study at home as a component of the curriculum for every grade level in our school.

If you think that the homework assigned to your child is unclear or inappropriate, please contact Shelly and the teacher right away.

In addition to weekly homework assignments, we encourage you to help your child learn to recite daily morning, meal-time and bed-time prayers so that they may be encouraged to develop an "attitude of gratitude" and to give them opportunities to use their Hebrew. We say the blessings for the foods we eat before snack at each session.

Snack and Safety

Hebrew School snack time begins at 4:00 pm; assembly is at 4:15 and class begins at 4:30. If your child cannot arrive in time for snack, please provide him/her with a snack before coming to Hebrew School. These snacks should be kosher. **Children are not permitted in the building prior to 4:00, unless an adult stays with them, as there is no adult available to supervise children before 4:00.**

You have indicated on your registration forms the person(s) who is(are) authorized to pick up your child after Hebrew School. If a different person is coming to pick up your child, please send a note or an email, signed by a parent, indicating so.

You may also, in writing to the Principal, authorize your child to leave the Hebrew School and go home without an adult. If your child's arrangements change, please let us know in writing. If you are going to be late picking up your child after her/his class is over (5:30 for Aleph students, 6:00 pm for all other students), please call the office and let us know (212 568-8304).

Shabbat and Festivals

Our Hebrew School curriculum encourages the children to participate in Festival and Shabbat services. Our hope is for children to learn about and experience Shabbatot and Festivals when they actually occur, in adult synagogue services and in educational programs for children held on Shabbatot and Festivals. Students always benefit from joining adults, worshipping together and hearing the Shabbat or Festival prayers.

Hebrew School students are encouraged to try and follow along. ***We are very excited to continue the monthly Friday Night Family Services and bi-monthly Tot Shabbat services this year!*** In addition, we are starting 2 new programs.

The first is our **Shabbat Youth Group** which will take place on selected Friday nights simultaneously with an **adult service** in the Sanctuary. The two groups will come together in the sanctuary to conclude the service and enjoy dessert together. This will be followed by an **activity hour** for the children and a **Wine Bar** for the parents. The evening will end at about 9 PM. The **Shabbat Youth Group** will be led by HT Board member Mitch Gershonowitz who originated the plan for this program.

The second new program will be shortened Saturday morning services followed by a light lunch, **Rosh Chodesh Study** and a game room for kids. The study will be led by HT member Julie Stevens. See the Hebrew School Calendar for the schedule of these programs.

Books

As part of our Simchat Torah services (see the HS Calendar), Hebrew School students are called up one by one to receive their books for the upcoming year of Hebrew School. Then, they are blessed by their parents and by the entire congregation for embarking on a year of study. This is a very moving ritual, along with joyous dancing with the Sifrei Torah, and an awesome reading of the very end and beginning of the Torah. Occasionally a child loses a Hebrew School workbook, homework folder or textbook. If this happens, please let us know right away so that we can replace it without much delay.

Open School Day

In the middle of the school year you will have the opportunity to observe your child's class in session and participate in the learning.

Stress

Many adults in New York are experiencing a good deal of stress. Children in New York City also seem to be under a lot of pressure. We understand that just getting to Hebrew School and remaining until 6:00 pm may add to children's stress. We hope, however, that the experience of learning (for its own sake) will outweigh the stress that the logistics pose. We hope that Hebrew School will feel like reading for pleasure; deeply engaging and renewing, not depleting. If the pleasures of learning are not outweighing the stresses, please let us know.

Problems/Questions

If you have a question or concern about your child's Hebrew School class or homework, please discuss it with the teacher and with our Hebrew School principal, Shelly Koy. If you have a question or a suggestion about the logistics of the Hebrew School program, please contact Shelly Koy. We will also be forming a Hebrew School Committee composed of parents of Hebrew School students. If you wish to volunteer to serve on this committee, please contact Shelly.

Please do not allow a problem to fester. Call for help as soon as you perceive a problem and we will try to solve the problem before it grows.

Life-Long Jewish Learning

Life-long learning for adults is as important to us as Hebrew School is for children. Each year we offer numerous opportunities for adult study of Torah led by Rabbi Gale and others such as sermons, oneg-Shabbat discussions and *shirurim*, Shabbat morning study of the weekly portion, adult education classes, library books, etc.

Interfaith Families

Hebrew Tabernacle Hebrew School welcomes students from diverse family backgrounds who are interested in learning about and honoring Judaism. According to the Reform movement, if the child has one Jewish parent and was entered into the Covenant through a ceremony of naming, that child is Jewish.