

About Hebrew Tabernacle Hebrew School 2018-19

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 our curriculum. Also, please note that it is our policy not to give tests. 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 (5:30 for Aleph students, 6:00 pm for all other students), please call the office and let us know (212 568-8304). Please also call/text Shelly (917)435-5815

Shabbat and Festivals

Our Hebrew School curriculum encourages all children to participate in Festival and Shabbat services. Our hope is for students to learn about and experience Shabbat and Festivals when they actually occur. Children are invited to attend and participate in adult synagogue services and in educational programs created specifically for their age group held on Shabbat and Festivals throughout the year. 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 Tot Shabbat services this year!*** The schedule for the year will be available soon,

Books

Books and supplies are provided to all Hebrew School Students. 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. There is a Hebrew School Committee composed of parents of Hebrew School students. If you wish to be involved on this committee, please contact **Sara Silver, sarasilver7@gmail.com**.

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.