

# Information About Hebrew School 2019/20

## **How much Hebrew language will students be learning? What else is in the curriculum?**

Our Hebrew school has a wide ranging curriculum. Students study Torah; Israel; Jewish life and values, history and identity; mitzvot (commandments); and Hebrew and prayers.

Students learn the skills needed to **decode** the Hebrew language. Decoding is the process of looking at a printed word and being able to say it correctly. Decoding Hebrew is the ability to recognize the basic Hebrew letters and vowels that make up a word. As a student progresses in ability, they will also know what the word means and recognize it in context.

## **What's included in Hebrew School tuition?**

Everything your child needs to participate at Hebrew School will be supplied to them. Each Hebrew School class has their own dedicated teacher for that year. Instruction, books, and all classroom materials are supplied. Students are given a healthy snack before class begins. Also **new this year** included in Hebrew School tuition is the monthly Family Services and the community dinner that follows.

## **Arrival, Dismissal and Safety**

Hebrew School begins at 4:00 pm for both Mondays and Wednesdays classes. On Mondays, children are not permitted in the building prior to 4:00 pm, unless an adult stays with them, as there is no adult available to supervise children before 4:00 pm. On Wednesdays you may sign your child up for The EARLY DROP OFF PROGRAM from 3 pm-4 pm. If you would like more information about our Hebrew School Early Drop Off Program please email Loren at [loren.ht23@gmail.com](mailto:loren.ht23@gmail.com).

Dismissal from Hebrew School for students in the Aleph class is 5:30 pm. All other students (Bet, Gimmel, Dalet, Hay, Vav and Zayin) dismiss at 6 pm.

You have indicated on your registration form the person(s) who is(are) authorized to pick up your child after Hebrew School. If a different person who has not previously been authorized 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 pm for Aleph students, 6:00 pm for all other students), please call the office and let us know (212 568-8304).

## **Classwork and Homework**

Each teacher will send a weekly email to the parent(s) of 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 the 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 bedtime 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.

### **Books and Supplies**

Everything your child needs to participate at Hebrew School will be supplied to them. 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.

### **Attendance**

Since Hebrew School meets only once a week, continuity depends upon students’ regular attendance. We also need to know if your child will not be attending. 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](mailto:HToffice@nyc.rr.com), copying Shelly Koy [skhspr@gmail.com](mailto: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. Students will bring home their own decorated tzedakah box to be used to collect family tzedakah throughout the week. Classes 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 they come 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.

### **Snack**

All children are offered a healthy snack. 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 a snack, please provide him/her with a snack before coming to Hebrew School. These snacks should be kosher.

**Please send your child to Hebrew School with a reusable water bottle.**

### **Family Shabbat and Festivals**

Our Hebrew School curriculum includes student participation in Family Shabbat services and festivals. Our hope is for children to learn about and experience Shabbat and Festivals when they actually occur, both in adult synagogue services as well as the child friendly family services and holiday celebrations. 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. **The cost of these community dinners is included in your Hebrew School tuition.** We are very excited to continue the monthly Friday night Family Services and Tot Shabbat services this year!

#### **Family Services:**

**Sept. 27 Family Service**

**Nov. 1 Gimmel and Vav presenting**

**Dec. 6 Bet and Hay presenting**

**Jan. 10 Aleph and Dalet presenting**

**Feb. 7 Gimmel and Vav presenting**

**March 20 Bet, Dalet, and Hay presenting**

**May 1 (Siyuum)**

**Tot Shabbat: Sept. 20, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 3 and 24, Feb. 14 and 28, March 13, April 24, May 15, June 5**

### **Simchat Torah**

As part of our Simchat Torah services (see the HS Calendar), Hebrew School students are blessed by Clergy and 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.

### **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 City are experiencing a good deal of stress. Children in 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 together 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, and more!

### **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.

# Hebrew Tabernacle Hebrew School

## What's NEW this year?

### **★School Pick up and Early Drop Off Program** **for Wednesday Students**

Families with students who are enrolled in Aleph, Bet or Gimmel classes and attend PS 187, Dos Puentes or Muscota who need help getting to Hebrew School, please inquire with Shelly or Loren regarding school pick up and transportation options. Students who are picked up from school must enroll in the Early Drop Off Program. The cost to enroll in the Pick Up and Early Drop Off Program is \$375. At this time Hebrew Tabernacle is unable to offer this service on Mondays.

### **★Early Drop Off Program for Wednesday Students**

Hebrew School begins at 4 pm. An early drop off is available this year to Wednesday students from 3 pm-4 pm. This hour will include time for snack, an organized physical activity and homework help. Students must be signed up to attend this early drop off hour; the cost is \$375 for the full Hebrew School year. At this time Hebrew Tabernacle is unable to offer this service on Mondays.

### **★A “Greener” Hebrew School**

Parents and students have asked if Hebrew School can lessen its environmental footprint. Our answer is YES! And with your help we will. To this end we are asking that every Hebrew School student bring a reusable water bottle with them to class every week.

# Hebrew Tabernacle

## Online Resources

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## Hebrew School Families

**<https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-life/family/parenting>**

This site was created and is maintained by the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) with assistance and contributions from scores of professionals and lay leaders in Reform congregations throughout North America, as well the URJ's many affiliates.

**<https://www.jqyouth.org/>**

JQY (Jewish Queer Youth) is a nonprofit organization supporting and empowering LGBTQ youth in the Jewish community.

**<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/new-york-city>**

The Jewish Virtual Library is a comprehensive online resource on Jewish history, politics and culture.

**<https://www.cjh.org/>**

The Center for Jewish History in New York City provides a collaborative home for five partner organizations: American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum, and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

The partners' archives comprise the world's largest and most comprehensive archive of the modern Jewish experience outside of Israel.

**<https://www.hebrewpodcasts.com/>**

A podcast format presents a unique way to learn Hebrew. It allows the listener to learn and practice while doing other things such as getting from place to place, exercising, doing chores, or even resting. The podcast prompts the listener to repeat phrases out loud which is an excellent way to consolidate them into memory.

**<https://www.memrise.com/courses/english/?q=Hebrew>**

This course aims to teach both vocabulary and grammar for modern Hebrew.

**<https://tlv1.fm/podcasts/streetwise-hebrew-show/>**

A bite-size podcast showcasing modern Hebrew and its slang.