

Information About Hebrew Tabernacle

Hebrew School 2020/21

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 for in-person classes?

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 included in Hebrew School tuition is the monthly Family Services and the community dinner that follows. Students are expected to attend these monthly Family Services. The Aleph class however is only required to participate in two services.

What about tuition and virtual classes?

While we are optimistic that soon we will be able to begin in-person activities, for now all Hebrew School classes will be taking place virtually for the safety of our students and teachers. Virtual Hebrew School classes are robust and filled with the same curriculum, social engagement and fun that students have come to know in person. Each Hebrew School class still has their own dedicated teacher for that year.

Instruction, books, and all classroom materials are also supplied. We will schedule a time when you may pick up your child's supplies from Hebrew Tabernacle.

We will miss our community time together, such as the Family Service dinners. However, we will be creating safe and creative ways to involve your family at Hebrew Tabernacle and with your child's Hebrew School friends. When possible, we will absolutely make up for lost dinners and time together!

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.

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, 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. 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.

Virtual 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. We will be celebrating virtually for now and feel that participation in these moments are still an important part of Hebrew School. Students always benefit from joining adults, worshipping together and hearing the Shabbat or Festival prayers. Hebrew School students are encouraged to attend. Be it virtually or eventually in-person, we are very excited to continue the monthly Friday night Family Services and Tot Shabbat services this year!

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. Our children have also felt the weight of the last months. We understand. 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.

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

Online Resources

for

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.