

FAQ SHEET

TBD RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: HOME EDITION

When does Religious School begin this year?

TBD Religious School: Home Edition will begin on Sunday, October 4th. All classes which have a Sunday component begin on this day. Classes which do not have a Sunday component will begin on Tuesday, October 6th. See the Calendar of Events.

What is the schedule of my child's classes?

Please see the Weekly Schedule of Classes.

Why did you make a decision to go completely remote before the public schools made their plans?

With the health and well-being of our students, your families, your extended families, and our teachers in mind, we decided that we would not be able to return to the building in a fashion that would promote community among all the children for the fall season.

You have enough uncertainty in your life right now; we wanted to give you the certainty of Jewish online learning.

Why is religious school starting so late? Does it have anything to do with the virus?

We are starting after the High Holidays to give families a chance to adjust to their secular school schedules. TBD will be providing meaningful holiday activities to families starting at the end of August including an All Grade Remote Family Holiday Program for Sunday, September 13th 10:00-11:00am. Please keep an eye out for emails regarding family holiday activities.

My kid(s) are already doing so much online, I want to give them a break!

We know how challenging online learning is. We also wish we could give students a break from screen time. Given what's going on in the world today, it becomes even more important that your child(ren) have the opportunity for Jewish community, consideration of big ideas, and a boost to their Jewish identities. This is the time to make sure your children maintain their connection to their teachers and TBD.

I'm worried my child will be bored. How can you keep them engaged?

As is our goal when we are in the building, we will include different modalities to present content, ranging from videos to games to having students stand up and participate in a short “scavenger hunt” to find something relevant to the topic, to giving each child the opportunity to teach (share their knowledge or experiences with their classmates) to using our breakout room capability for small group discussion and prayer practice. This past spring we only scratched the surface of ideas that are available. Our teachers have been working all summer to learn not only all that Zoom can do, but also to learn best methods for teaching remotely.

With all the uncertainty in my child's life, I worry that they will not be able to make connections with other children in the current atmosphere. How will you address this?

We have included in our schedule “Snack and Chat” time online. Each class/grade will have the opportunity for 15 minutes to connect online with their peers in a less structured but supervised environment. Snack and Chat sessions are scheduled immediately before or after their regular class. See the Schedule for details. In addition, at the start of each class, teachers will be including a short “getting to know you” exercise as community is VERY important to us. Also, prior to the beginning of our school year, teachers will reach out to students to get to know them and understand their needs.

What if my child has a disability that limits how much they can really absorb with remote learning?

Please, by all means, get in touch with our Assistant Director, Dr. Margie Gursky, to discuss how we can supplement your child's remote learning with private or semi-private brief, socially distanced, sessions in our building, as is deemed safe and feasible by the temple leadership.

I worry about Hebrew, in particular. How can my child's teacher listen to them practice in the short time they are in remote learning?

We are offering three different modes for learning Hebrew:

First, the Hebrew portion of class time in weekly remote learning will be devoted to introducing new material and review.

Second, each Hebrew teacher will be scheduling weekly 15-minute PRIVATE sessions (by FaceTime, Zoom or phone) with all students, second through seventh grades, to listen to them and to assist them individually. Families have found this valuable as nobody needs to wait their turn to read in class. To ensure your children's success in Hebrew learning, it is imperative that you prioritize these private Hebrew sessions. Our teachers do everything they can to schedule sessions that work for you and your family, please be mindful of their time as well. If you need to change or cancel your child's private Hebrew session, please let them or Dr. Gursky know as soon as possible. Please be aware that as soon as religious school returns to in-person learning, only students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades will continue to have individual Hebrew lessons.

Third, for those students who need more individual attention, we will be offering extra tutoring remotely (outside of class time) with our student aides.

Will I need to print all of my child's study materials, like I did this past spring?

You will be able to pick up (contact-free) bags customized for each grade that include textbooks and other learning materials that your child will need for school.

The students used to have *t'filah* (prayer) assemblies and music. What will happen to those?

Through small group sessions (breakout rooms), teachers will lead students in *tefilah* (prayer) as well as other music.

Later in the school year, we will plan *tefilah* (prayer) assemblies that will be led by our older students on Zoom. Once it is safe to return to in-person learning, we will schedule music with our music teacher, Joann Kaplan.

Does this mean there will be no group school programming in the building at all from October through December?

At this time, all programming will be held online. As soon as the temple leadership allows, we will start looking at the possibility of PACT Family Foundation Programs as well as other Family Experiences in-person. (All family programming online or in-person is for your child(ren) with an accompanying adult.)

What will happen in January?

We'd like to give you an answer, but we do not know. Our temple leadership will continue to assess the safety and efficacy of different options. When we know the best course of action, we will communicate quickly and clearly with you.

What if I have questions about school tuition?

Please contact Robin Kain (robin@tbdcommack.org), Rabbi Klafter (rabbibhk@tbdcommack.org) or Cantor Halpern (cantah@gmail.com) to discuss your Temple account.