

HEBREW SCHOOL

I see the light at the end of the tunnel. Masks are coming off and hugs abound! I am looking forward to a Hebrew School year starting in September that looks a little more 'normal.' That being said, it's important to learn some lessons from the ordeal we have all just experienced. We need to use the successes we discovered to inform us regarding approach and priorities. There will be some changes going forward in the OZHS structure and format.

First off, we found out that remote sessions work great for Hebrew learning! So, this coming year, Hebrew language acquisition will continue to happen online in small, concentrated lessons where a teacher will meet one-on-one, one-on-two and in some rare cases, one-on three with students for a half hour each during our traditional Wednesday class time, 4:00 – 6:00 pm. If teachers and students find a more convenient time to meet online, that can also happen. In addition, we are moving SUPER Electives to Sundays. No more need to get your kids to OZ on Wednesdays!

So what does Sunday look like? We'll start off at 9:15 am with students meeting with their peers in grade classes (in person!). There they will get a chance to delve into our monthly themed curriculum through myriad modalities – movement, art, frontal teaching, games, outdoor time, music with Cantor Steve and more. At 10:35 all classes will come together for Junior Congregation and music with Cantor Steve. It will be amazing to sing as a group again! We will incorporate movement and meaning in our prayer time together. At 11:00 our third through seventh graders will attend SUPER Electives by choice. We've got a great slate of options for the fall including a SUPER Elective all about trees, a theater option and one about Jewish prayer and mindfulness that even our third graders would enjoy! While our older students are in SUPER Electives, our kindergarten, first and second graders will meet with Cantor Steve for music, then have snack and supervised play. Our day will end at 11:45, leaving plenty of time for families to get out and hike, ski, or however else they'd like to spend the rest of their Sunday.

OZHS will continue to focus on Jewish culture, tradition and history and, never fear, the Desert Tent Jamboree, Mitzvah Day and all school Passover events will stay with us as well! We are looking at outdoor learning experiences, family Shabbat options and we are already planning plenty of family engagement opportunities starting in just a few weeks! Look for more information about our summer fun events on the OZ website or OZ Family Facebook group.

Registration for OZHS should be open by mid July. Planning is always made easier by your early enrollment!

The first day of Hebrew School is Sunday, September 12!

Enjoy and go and hug someone!

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