



Class Offerings for 2019-2020 (5780)

Kindergarten Connection:

(Monthly, dates to follow) Sunday 9:15am-11:00 am

This monthly program is custom tailored to engage our youngest learners in fun and meaningful experiences that will spark a passion for Jewish learning. The goal of Kindergarten Connection is to connect young families and their children to our temple community and create a pathway to Jewish teachings and traditions through story telling, art, song and play. Our Kindergarten classroom provides a warm and welcoming environment to explore new ideas and create lasting connections to Judaism inside and outside of our temple walls.

Kindergarten Connection meets on Sunday once per month and is FREE and open to the community.

1st Grade/2nd Grade Combo Classes

Sunday 9:15 am-11:00 am or

Tuesday 4:15 pm-6:00 pm

Students in our first and second grade combination 2-year program continue to form the foundation of their Jewish education by exploring "Jewish building blocks". Our curriculum teaches stories from the Torah, introduces rituals of the holidays and acquaints our learners with Israel. Our emphasis is on interactive, hands-on and project based learning. Taking part in Jewish traditions while in class contributes to the bedrock of our students' young Jewish Identities. At Temple Shaaray Tefila, we believe in learning by doing! For instance becoming the characters and acting out the story of Purim, is more meaningful and memorable than simply reading about it! Each class begins with tefila in the sanctuary with the entire school community, thereby unveiling to them, prayers for Shabbat and B'nai Mitzvah. This year we will be introducing a more structured aleph-bet curriculum. Your child will have an opportunity to "get a jump" on Hebrew learning! We have structured a 2-year rotating curriculum so that all projects and lessons are unique and fresh.

Grades 1 and 2 meet one day per week.

3rd Grade

Sunday 9:15am-11:00am or

Tuesday 4:15pm-6:00pm

During this year, Hebrew studies and the early Books of the Torah are our main focal points. Our studies surround bible stories and the lessons and values they teach. One of our goals is for our learners to begin to understand how Torah's moral and ethical themes may help guide them in their interactions with others. Each class begins with tefila in the sanctuary with the entire school community, thereby unveiling to them, prayers for Shabbat and B'nai Mitzvah. This is the year that Hebrew reading really begins to take shape. Children in 3rd grade are so excited when they begin to recognize Hebrew words such as Shabbat and Challah! By the end of this year, they will have

learned the entire aleph-bet and will be able to read basic Hebrew words. We are adept at addressing all learning styles and offer a wide variety of modalities and activities to aid in effective learning. We are project based and create interactive lessons so that we may reach all learners.

Our 3rd graders come to religious school one day per week.

Junior Choir will meet Sundays at 8:45am-9:15am, prior to Religious School and Mondays during class time for our Ma'ariv students

Sibling group will meet from 11:00am-12:15pm. This is an extended time therefore, feel free to have your child bring homework, if you like.

4th, 5th and 6th Grade Class Descriptions

- 1) The "traditional" two day-a-week model means that learners will attend class:
 - Sunday 9:15am-11:00am / Tuesday 4:15pm-6:00pm
 - Each day, the learner's time is divided between two educators, one specializing in the Judaica/Culture curriculum and the other specializing in Hebrew. Learners remain with the same group of peers, in the classroom, but have the wonderful opportunity to learn from two different educators each day. Other opportunities to learn as one community take place during tefila in the sanctuary and during music.

- 2) The "Mishpacha" Sunday only program is an innovative model of Jewish education that has successfully expanded over the past years. The highlights of this program include:
 - Sundays 9:15am-12:15pm
 - Learning is not just for the kids! Approximately, 3 times per year, parents come for the last 45 minutes of class to participate in joint learning with their children. This mandatory parent education piece is a way to learn and connect with other members of our temple community. At least one parent must participate with a student on Mishpacha learning days. This aspect of the program is facilitated by one of our Rabbis, education staff members or speakers. The families who have participated in the "Sunday only" model have loved their experiences and often talk about what a unique opportunity it is to spend time together on Sunday mornings. They have expressed that they felt part of a wonderful community and enjoy the chance to interact with our clergy, educators and each other in this special way.

- 3) Ma'ariv: Evening Class
 - Monday 4:15pm-7:15pm
 - This NEW option meets **once a week** in school where both Culture and Hebrew will be covered. If you choose this option, pizza dinner will be provided for your child. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions. In addition, we will have music, and a relaxing Jewish mindfulness session to rejuvenate after a long day. There will be 2-3 major projects or events (completed during school hours) to which parents will be invited. Please contact me, Liz Marlowe, with any questions about this new and innovative offering at emarlowe@templest.org
 - **Junior Choir** will be available as part of our music, with Kenny Green, portion of our evening

Important Dismissal Information for Monday Evenings

- We have planned a staggered dismissal for our Ma'ariv program (grades 4, 5 and 6) and our students in Grades 7-12: 7:15pm and 7:25pm, respectively, to avoid an overcrowded waiting area.

CHAI Program: 5th and 6th Grade only

4) We are once again offering our CHAI (Computer Hebrew Advanced Integration) class

- Learners attend Religious School on **Monday 4:15-6:00pm for 5th grade** and **Tuesday 4:15-6:00pm for 6th grade**. While in the building, they, with their Judaica/Culture educator, will spend the majority of time doing the Judaica/Culture curriculum. This extended time will allow for project-based learning, a more comprehensive differentiated learning experience and the opportunity to bring different approaches into the classroom.
- The Hebrew component consists of using technology at home. There are weekly assignments that may be completed in a time frame that works for your child. Students have weekly meetings with their teacher and a small group of other learners, a "chavrutah", via video-conference for 15-20 minutes. These small group meetings serve as your child's Hebrew class. If your child is independently motivated, this would be a good option for your family. Please contact me, Liz Marlowe, to make sure it is the best fit for your child.
- Bagel Bunch

If you have a child who has learning/emotional issues that make learning in a traditional Religious School classroom difficult, this program is for you. We will be offering a program for 30-45 minutes every week. We will create an individualized program that meets your child's needs to help develop a connection to TST and to Judaism. Together we will learn and explore in a safe nurturing environment. Prior approval for the Director and submission of IEPs or any other relevant documentation will need to be submitted. Please contact Liz Marlowe at emarlowe@templest.org or 914 307-0481.

Monday Night Live! Grades 7-12

Monday 6:30 pm-7:30 pm, with optional dinner from 6:00pm-6:30 pm

7th Grade

7th graders meet with the same group of students and rotate to a different educator in four week blocks. At the end of each block there is a final project illustrating advanced knowledge of the subject covered in the four-week period. We begin together for dinner, as one community, and then proceed to class. Some areas of study include Israel, the power of language and guarding one's tongue (Shmirat Ha'Lashon), current events, Holocaust speakers and environmental issues, all from a Jewish perspective.

8th grade

Our 8th graders remain in one group with one educator for the duration of the school year. The focus is on social action projects that the students will participate in throughout the year. Additionally, areas of discussion and study are relevant and timely issues that affect middle school students with an emphasis on ethical dilemmas and lively debates.

9th grade

Our 9th graders remain in one group with one educator for the duration of the school year. They will focus on "Jewish Identity", Israel, comparative religion and study different sects of Judaism. They will experience guest speakers with differing perspectives on religious life, customs and social issues in the world. Environmental issues, anti-Semitism, hands-on social action, current events and cooking are part of the 9th grade curriculum.

10th grade

Confirmation is a special year. During class with Rabbi Greenberg, our students explore a variety of Jewish topics from a more mature perspective. Confirmation class also includes a mandatory 4 day/3 night trip to RAC (Religious Action Center) in Washington, D.C. The end of the year is celebrated by a meaningful service and a special dinner surrounding the Holiday of Shavuot.

11th-12th grade

Monday 6:30 pm-7:30 pm (approx. twice a month), with optional dinner from 6:00pm-6:30 pm. Post Confirmation students, led by Rabbi Jason Nevarez, learn about various critical topics, whether local or global, through a Jewish lens. Many lessons taught are devoted to helping our 11th and 12th graders prepare for their transition into adult life. From speakers to experiential, hands-on learning and in depth discussions it is one of the richest learning experiences we offer our teens.

Additional post-B'nai Mitzvah opportunities:

Rosh Hodesh: It's A Girl Thing - monthly dinner/program just for girls, various groups by grade. This experiential education program is currently touching the lives of almost 4,000 girls across America. The program uses Jewish teachings and practices in a five-year cycle of curricular materials to give girls a safe place to articulate their deepest concerns, consider the impact of gender on their daily lives, have fun and be "real" with their peers.

Shevet Achim: The Brotherhood - monthly dinner/program just for boy's 8th-10th grade. The young men explore what being Jewish means to them in the context of being male. The boys report that the experience offers them a more honest, relevant and cool way to participate in the Jewish community. The group helps to encourage socializing with other Jewish young men in middle and high school and offers a sense of belonging to a Jewish community of peers.

Madrichim (Teacher's Assistants)

Students in 8th-12th grade may apply to our Madrichim (guides) program. While they work at the temple, they may work in a classroom, tutor Hebrew, or assist in office work. This is a wonderful opportunity for your teen to become a role model for our younger students, learn leadership skills, and assist in all areas of pedagogy. For students who are in 8th, grade hours are applied to community service. Students who are in grades 9-12 may choose community service hours or a paycheck.