September 2022

Dear Parents and Students,

We are very excited to begin another year of learning together. In the months ahead, we will grow and learn together as we look at our world through a Jewish lens. We will explore over 3000 years of traditions and wisdom, and learn how to cope with our complex and ever-changing world. Our hope is that your child will share what they have learned with you and that our families will incorporate those lessons into daily living in a Jewish home environment.

Plans are underway for an exciting year! We have worked during the summer to make our curriculum strong. Our teachers look forward to working with your children, and our rabbis and the School Board Committee are also prepared to support your family educational experience.

Please know that we are here to help in any way. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to contact me via email, mindy@federationonline.org or by calling me at, 708-466-1031.

Mindy Miller, Principal

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Many of the programming ideas, policies and plans for our school come as a result of the combined efforts of our School Board Committee. The School Board Committee holds monthly evening meetings. The committee is represented by three members of each congregation.

**School Board Committee**

Jeremy Friedberg

 Dana Graves

Quynh Kirschner

Saren LeCompte

Richard Marks

Jill O’Brien

 **2022-2023 FACULTY**

Rabbi Mariana Gindlin

Rabbi Gidon Isaacs

Mindy Miller, Principal

**Sunday School Faculty**

 Pre-K/K/1st Grade Katelyn Marks

 2nd/3rd Grade Marsha Weiner

 4th/5th Grade Yadin Isaacs

 6th Grade Vivian Zimmerman

 Music Rabbi Cantor Gindlin

 **Hebrew School Faculty**

Rabbi Cantor Gindlin

Rabbi Isaacs

Mindy Miller

Vivian Zimmerman

 **SCHOOL POLICIES**

In order to achieve the goals we all have for your children, the following policies have been established. All of these policies come under the category "creating an environment for learning". Please do your best to adhere to these policies and to explain them to your children so as to maximize our ability to teach effectively and influence for a lifetime.

 **OUR EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS**

While it is true that our school is a supplementary one, it is nonetheless a school. We, therefore, have certain expectations of students. We are asking that parents see to it that their child(ren) meet the following expectations:

1. Attendance at all sessions is expected. ALL absences will require a contact from the parent (phone call, text or email). In addition to an attendance issue, this is also a safety issue. Should a child not arrive at either Hebrew or Sunday School, we may need to know where they are and that they are safe. If your child is not in the classroom AND there has been no parent contact notifying us of his/her absence, we will make an attempt to reach you by phone.
2. Compliance with safety rules and respectful behavior is required. The Temple/Synagogue is a place of worship, and the building--both inside and outside--must be treated as such. The Sanctuary is to be regarded as the special place it is; mischievous behavior in the Sanctuary will not be tolerated.
3. Students are expected to treat teachers, staff and other students with respect. Discipline will be handled in a progressive manner, with the teachers handling all initial misconduct. More serious behavioral difficulties will be referred to the Principal and appropriate parental contact will be made.
4. As we are providing a Jewish education, we are looking to the parents to help set the tone for why their children are attending this School. While we hope that our programs and activities will offer much to enjoy, primarily we are concerned with providing education in Judaism and its teachings. Satisfactory completion of all assignments is required for advancement into the next grade.
5. Students are expected to bring back with them any books taken home for class.
6. Students should be in class on time and should remain in attendance through the end of the school session. We understand that conflicts will occur, but please provide advance notice of any changes when able.
7. Students should not use their electronic devices for personal use during school hours.

**OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR FAMILY COMMITMENT**

Religious School enrollment is a voluntary choice made by the student and parents. Once the decision is made, there should be a family commitment to participate.

Full tuition payment is expected at the time of registration. If there are financial difficulties which necessitate a payment plan, arrangements will need to be discussed with your congregation, not the principal or office staff. All information will be considered to be confidential.

Class attendance is a vital element along with preparation of assignments and completion of any work projects.

A student must complete our Religious School through 7th Grade and be in good standing with their respective congregation to be eligible to be in good standing with their congregation prior to selection of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date.

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| Schedule: |
| Religious School | Grades K through 6 | Sunday 9:00-11:30 AM |
| Hebrew School | Grades 3-6 | Sunday 9:00-9:45 AM |
| Hebrew School | Grades 3-6 | Wednesday 4:30 – 5:45 PM |

**Early Dismissal:**

We ask for your cooperation regarding early dismissal. If you absolutely need to have your child leave class early, we must know about it. Please tell us in advance and give a note to your child for the teacher. Your child will be brought to the door at the time you specify for pick-up. The doors to the congregations are always locked. Someone will only be at the door during the start and end of religious school times.

**Homework:**

Homework is occasionally assigned in Sunday School or Hebrew School by the teacher with the expectation that it will be done. Absence is not an excuse unless the homework is based upon something given out in class which is not found in the student text or workbook.

# **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

# Kindergarten/1st/2nd Grade - Holidays, Shabbat, Synagogue & Kindness

# 3rd/4th Grade - Israel, G-D, Community

# 5th Grade - Life Cycle Events

6th Grade - Jewish Hero, Jewish Values, Israel

 **HEBREW SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

 *Our Hebrew curriculum is prayer-based and builds from year to year.*

2nd Grade (During Sunday School) –Learning letters, vowels, reading simple words and phrases.

3rd Grade - increased vocabulary, vowel sounds, basic prayers and writing practice.

4th - 7th Grade will work on prayers that are based from their own home congregation.

Either reform or conservative.

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 **Requirements for Bar/Bat Mitzvah’s**

In order to be eligible for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at any of our two congregation’s students must be enrolled in both Sunday School and Hebrew School. Students must attend four years of Hebrew School. Home Schooling is not recognized for B’nai Mitzvot. Private tutoring in place of Hebrew School does not meet the four year requirement. If transferring from another recognized congregational program, students must meet with our congregational rabbis to assess their Hebrew level and place them in the appropriate grade level. Eligibility for Bar/Bat Mitzvah is under the discretion of Rabbi Gindin and Rabbi Isaacs. Preparation for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service takes place with each home congregation.