

February 2019

Dear JLP Families,



We are excited to once again offer our innovative scheduling design for the 2019-20 school year. Our two principal goals for our children remain the same:

- Provide as much individualized help learning to read Hebrew as possible.
- Create a sacred and creative space for our children to learn the importance and beauty of Jewish connection to history, ritual, one another, and the future, while becoming active learners charting their own Jewish course.

As you read through the attached material, you will see that the greatest emphasis in the Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew) classes is ensuring that each child is instructed in a small, individualized and dedicated learning environment. This program offers extreme flexibility while maximizing our teaching time and potential. New this year, we added Hebrew pods all day on Tuesday to continue to assist you in your complicated scheduling. Additionally, we know that the Shoreshim program (Roots-Judaics and Prayer) will provide our children with the necessary foundation to become connected to the Jewish world throughout their lives. Now more than ever in our contemporary Jewish journey, it is important for us to teach our children in significant ways and help them see that commitment to our shared history and purpose is essential to the future of our people. This coming year's theme comes from the Psalms. "The world is built on chesed (kindness)" will help us remind the children that above all choosing kindness is a Jewish virtue and a much needed value in our world today. Throughout the year, we will challenge the children to add their kindness to a chorus of chesed, finding ways to make the world a better place.

We invite any questions you may have, but encourage you to thoroughly read through ALL of the material. We know you will find that this program first, offers our families extreme flexibility, while maximizing our teaching time and potential. If your child has any

Please consider the following before you register:

- 1) Which day will your child be coming for their Shoreshim (Roots-Judaic, Prayer) class? (Monday or Tuesday). This applies to students in grades K-6. You will be guaranteed a spot on the **day** you choose.
- 2) What are your two preferred time slots for your Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Class)? This applies to students in grades 3-6. You can choose to have your children in the same or different time slots based upon their individual schedules.
- 3) Who are the members of your carpool? We will do everything we can to try and accommodate carpools.
- 4) If you are entering third grade, are you a member? You must be a member to register, please contact Gail Milchman our Executive Director at 973-994-2290 or gmilchman@tbanj.org.
- 5) If you are in K,1,2 and are NOT a member, please use the paper registration form in lieu of online registration.
- 6) If your child is in seventh grade, will the child be attending Monday afternoon or Tuesday evening?

B'Shalom,

***Melissa Weiner, Director of Jewish Learning
Abby Silverman, & Michelle Barishaw, Co-Chairs,
Board of Education***



JLP Scheduling Options Schematic 2019-2020

Times	Monday K-7		Tuesday K-6		Tuesday Evening GRADE 7	Thursda y 3-6	Optional Care 3-6
3:15-4:00 pm	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6		Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6			Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6	
4:00-4:45 pm	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6	Shoreshim Classes for K-7th grade with two dismissal times, 5:30 with additional childcare available until 6:15 pm at no additional charge	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6	Shoreshim Classes for K-6th grade with two dismissal times, 5:30 with additional childcare available until 6:15 pm at no additional charge		Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6	Optional Care Available from 4-6:15 pm, please call for pricing
4:45-5:30 pm	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6		Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6			Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6	
5:30-6:15 pm	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6		Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6		5:45 pm-7:15 pm Mechina 7th Grade Class	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6	
6:15-7:00 pm			Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6	Extra Tutoring Support may be requested			
7:00-7:15 pm			Extra Tutoring Support may be requested				



[More Detailed Explanations](#)



[Shoreshim Classes](#)

Shoreshim means roots. Classes offered on Monday or Tuesday (from 4-5:30 PM), allow students to explore their roots, and begin the process of planting their own roots that will stand them well as they grow and navigate the path toward Jewish adulthood. TBA's Jewish Learning Program aims to help students develop a Jewish identity and a lifelong desire to learn about Judaism. The school will offer a challenging curriculum and dynamic learning environment, weaving core elements of Jewish literacy into lessons and projects that foster curiosity, creativity and compassion. Students will gain knowledge and skills crucial for applying Jewish ethical principles in daily life and becoming active participants in the Jewish community. Students will be exposed through hands on, project based learning to Torah, Jewish art, history, Israel, Prayer, music, art, modern Hebrew, holidays and Jewish values. Staff specialists, including teachers of music, tefillah (prayer), Jewish Makerspace (STEAM), modern Hebrew and a young Israeli emissary (Rishon) who spends the year working with our children. Students are placed in grade level classes and given opportunity to be with friends in an effort to build community and enhance the informal and experiential nature of the learning environment. Students are expected to be in attendance at 80% of Shoreshim classes. Failure to meet the minimum requirement may result in additional long term assignments.

[Mercaz Ivrit \(Hebrew Center\)](#)

Hebrew links us with more than 3,000 years of identity as a distinct people. Even after we dispersed throughout the world without our own land or government, our use of Hebrew as the language of Torah and prayer united all Jews as one people. We teach Hebrew to continue this link – across time and space – in worship and study. With that in mind, the JLP is excited to offer an opportunity for our families. After four years of studying the trends and growth in our students, the Board of Education and the professional staff has determined that our children learn Hebrew best in small, individualized learning groups. Mercaz Ivrit groups meet once a week for 45 minutes. Classes are limited to 5-6 students. No friend requests will be granted for these groups. These small groupings are designed to teach the children to decode and read Hebrew and lead them in their preparation towards B'nai Mitzvah. Please note that prayer skills are covered both here and in Shoreshim Classes. Children will be assigned a group based on the top two time slot choices. Students must be in attendance at a least 80% classes. Failure to attend the minimum required classes may result in need for additional tutoring at the family's expense.



[FAQs](#)

Why don't you accept friends request for Mercaz Ivrit? Class placement for Mercaz Ivrit is based on time/date preference as well as Hebrew level and administrative discretion. These 45 minute classes are kept small (5-6 students) so each student can receive a more individualized experience. NOTE: Carpool requests do not ensure that students will be in the same class, only that they will attend at the same time

Mercaz Ivrit Placement: I listed choices for Mercaz Ivrit but now my child's schedule has changed. How do I change that? When do we find out our class assignments? What if we need to change it? As you might imagine, it is a Herculean task to place 400 students into classes based on time preferences, class size constraints, and levels. We will not assign you a time slot that was not listed in your choices; however, we cannot process your registration until you have selected two (2) different choices. As soon as you know of any changes to your child's schedule (and Mercaz Ivrit preferences) please contact Brenda Small (bsmall@tbanj.org). You will be notified of your child's time slot as soon as registration is complete in August.

I have more than one child in grades 4-6, will I need to make several trips to the temple, or will they be placed in the same time-slot for Mercaz Ivrit? We will place siblings in the same time-slot for Mercaz Ivrit. If you need your children in different time slots, please let us know! The middle of the week is a challenge for us. Is there an alternative to Mercaz Ivrit? It is possible to choose private tutoring for your son/daughter instead of our dynamic, individualized mid-week Hebrew program. To do so, please contact Melissa Weiner as soon as possible to meet and discuss this option of hiring one of the JLP tutors at your expense. JLP tuition must still be paid. Students opting out of the Mercaz Ivrit program will need to complete a grade level assessment periodically throughout the year. Additionally, please keep in mind private tutoring is an additional expense and handled directly between the family and the approved JLP tutor. You are still required to attend one of the Shoshanim days.



Temple B'nai Abraham Jewish Learning Program

Child-Focused, Individualized Learning

Grades K,1 2

Shoreshim (Roots-Judaics and Prayer)

Monday , 4:00-5:30 PM OR Tuesday 4:00-5:30 PM

Optional supervised care from 5:30-6:15 PM offered for those in need of additional childcare

Grades 3-6

Requirement 1: Shoreshim (Roots-Judaics and Prayer)

- Monday , 4:00-5:30 PM OR Tuesday, 4:00-5:30 PM
- Attendance mandatory for students in grades 3-6
- Children attend one session per week for the year
- Optional supervised care from 5:30-6:15 PM available for those in need of additional childcare

Requirement 2: Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Center) Small group individualized Hebrew training leading toward B'nai Mitzvah.

- Choose 1, 45 minute time slot per week
- Offered Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays (see attached schedule)
- Children attend one 45-minute session per week for the year
- Families will be asked for their top two time slots

Alternative to Mercaz Ivrit

For children who cannot attend Mercaz Ivrit classes we offer the option of working with a private tutor. It is up to the family to choose the tutor from the JLP approved tutor list and set the schedule and cost (which is additional to the JLP tuition and is handled privately between the family and tutor).

Families will be responsible for monthly in person check-ins with JLP staff

to make sure that the child is progressing towards B'nai Mitzvah satisfactorily.

Optional Program: Geshher Club (Bridges)

Need a place for your child on Thursdays? Please call the office and we can help arrange for child care here at TBA during the hours of 4-6 pm.

Requirement 3: Shabbat Together

TBA believes that practicing skills learned in our program is an essential part of the training for B'nai Mitzvah. Youth Learner's Minyanim take place 6 Shabbat mornings a year OR families may choose to attend the main sanctuary service. We ask the children to attain 6 Shabbat services a year at TBA to reinforce their learning.
Grades 3-6

Options Overview:

Option A: Monday Shoreshim Classes with Tuesday Mercaz Ivrit
Option B: Monday Shoreshim Classes with Thursday Mercaz Ivrit
Option C: Monday Shoreshim Classes with Private Hebrew Tutor (Additional costs)
Option D: Tuesday Shoreshim Classes with Monday Mercaz Ivrit
Option E: Tuesday Shoreshim Classes with Thursday Mercaz Ivrit
Option F: Tuesday Shoreshim Classes with Private Hebrew Tutor (Additional costs)

Grade 7

Requirement: Mechinah (Transitions)

Meets weekly Choose one: Mondays, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm OR Tuesday evenings , 5:45-7:15 PM (with dinner at additional charge)

This course aims to help students explore Human Behavior, Jewish Identity, Holocaust Studies, Israel Connectedness, Project Based Learning, while also offering one on one tutoring towards B'nai Mitzvah at parental request. The completion of the seventh grade year is a