



2020-2021

Jewish Learning Program
Registration Information Packet

Spring 2020



Dear JLP Families,

We are excited to once again offer our innovative scheduling design for the 2020-21 school year. Our 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.
- To keep our children safe and healthy-spiritually, emotionally and physically

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 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday 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. We believe being part of a synagogue demonstrates the importance of community in times of uncertainty. This coming year's theme comes from the Hebrew word RUACH, which translates as wind or spirit. Our hope is that our children each finds their Jewish spirit here. We do this through care and attention to their emotional needs as well as capturing their imagination, questioning and enthusiasm for learning.

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 learning issues that we can address together to make our program accessible and helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me. A link to register on-line through Chaverware will be emailed to you in the SPRING. If you need help registering on line, please contact the office at 973-994-3950. In order to expedite the procedure, please finalize your carpool and scheduling plans before you register. We will finalize placements in August, as well as determine our building usage per the CDC and NJ Department of Education.

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.
- 2) What are your three 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. This class is 45 minutes. Classes meeting minimal enrollment will take place in person or online. Online classes meet Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. In person classes meet Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.
- 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 non-member PDF registration form in lieu of online registration.
- 6) If your child is in seventh grade, will the child be attending Monday afternoon, Tuesday afternoon or Tuesday evening? Classes subject to minimum enrollment.

B'Shalom,

Melissa Weiner, Director of Jewish Learning

Abby Silverman, & Michelle Barishaw, Co-Chairs, Board of Education

JLP Scheduling Options Schematic 2020-2021

Times	Monday K-7		Tuesday K-7		Wednesdays 3-6	Thursday 3-6	Sunday
3:15-4:00 pm	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online		Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online		Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; online	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online;	2:00-4:15pm, Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6, On-line only.
4:00-4:45 pm	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online	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; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online	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; online	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online	
4:45-5:30 pm	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online		Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online		Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; online	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online	
5:30-6:15 pm	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online		Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online		Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; online	Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online	
6:15-7:00 pm		Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew Classes) Grades 3-6; In-person at TBA <u>OR</u> online	Extra Tutoring Support at TBA may be requested				
7:00-7:15 pm			Extra Tutoring Support at TBA 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 either in person at TBA or online. Classes require a minimum enrollment of 3 children, and are limited to 5-6 students. If your requested time does not attract at least two other children from your grade, we will move on to your second choice option. 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 three 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 friend 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 300 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 three (3) 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! Is there an alternative to Mercaz Ivrit? In addition to in person classes at TBA, we are also offering on-line classes (for Mercaz Ivrit only). We are pleased to offer Sunday online classes from 2:00-4:15. Additionally, it is possible to choose private tutoring for your child 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 Shreshim days.

Can I complete my requirements all in one day? Can I attend Shreshim and Mercaz Ivrit on the same day? We believe that shorter blocks of learning offer the most benefit to acquiring Hebrew language therefore, YOUR CHILDREN MAY NOT attend Shreshim Classes and Mercaz Ivrit on the same day, EVEN IF YOU CHOOSE THE ONLINE MERCAZ IVRIT OPTION.. This allows for the children to be fully attentive and better engaged in their learning environment. If you need to discuss a personal matter, please contact the Director of Jewish Learning.

What will I do during the time of my child's Mercaz Ivrit? We welcome parents to visit the parent lounge for coffee and tea, free Wi-fi, and occasional minicourses lead by our staff and clergy. Siblings welcome as well. What if my child has significant learning challenges and/or behavior challenges? We believe ALL our children regardless of need should be able to access education. We are happy to meet with you to develop an IEP for your child to help them be successful here in the JLP.



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)

- o Monday , 4:00-5:30 PM OR Tuesday, 4:00-5:30 PM
- o Attendance mandatory for students in grades 3-6
- o Children attend one session per week for the year
- o 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.

- o Attend one 45 minute time slot per week (Either in person at TBA or on line).
- o Offered Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday, Thursdays or Sundays (see attached schedule)
- o Children attend one 45-minute session per week for the year
- o 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 Mondays and Tuesdays from 5:30-6 or Thursdays from 3:15-6:00? Please call the office and we can help arrange for child care here at TBA during the hours of 4-6 pm. As long as our building and classes are in session, there is no charge for this service.

Requirement 3: Shabbat Together

TBA believes that practicing skills learned in our program is an essential part of the training for B'nai Mitzvah. Families should attend the main sanctuary service on Friday and/or Saturday mornings. We ask the children to attend the following Shabbat (Friday or Saturday) services each year at TBA to reinforce their learning. Grades 3-6:

Grade 3: 3 Services

Grade 4: 4 Services

Grade 5: 7 Services

Grade 7: 7 Services

Options Overview:

OPTION	SHORESH (1.5 HOURS)	MERCAZ IVRIT (45 MINUTES)
OPTION A	MONDAY	TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY OR SUNDAY
OPTION B	MONDAY	PRIVATE TUTOR*
OPTION C	TUESDAY	MONDAY OR WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY OR SUNDAY
OPTION D	TUESDAY	PRIVATE TUTOR*

Grade 7

Requirement: Mechinah (Transitions)

Meets weekly Choose one: Mondays OR Tuesdays, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm OR Tuesday evenings , 5:45-7:15 PM (with dinner at additional charge). MINIMUM ENROLLMENT REQUIRED TO HOLD CLASSES.

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 requirement of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

Special Circumstances

The Jewish Learning Program recognizes that our families and students may have individual concerns or needs. These may be everything from IEPs, 504s, family circumstances and scheduling issues. Please be sure to be in touch with Melissa Weiner, Director of Jewish Learning to discuss anything specific to your child or family. Our goal is to make Jewish education accessible to each and every child and family. We are "HEAR" to listen and to help!

Registration

REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN IN THE SPRING. YOU WILL RECEIVE A LINK TO ONLINE REGISTRATION. If you have any issues with the online registration, we are happy to help. Please call 973-994-3950. Families in Grades 3-6, will be notified of your Mercaz Ivrit (Hebrew class) time slot in August. You are guaranteed one of your top three requests. Placements will be based on: 1) Date you submitted registration 2) Multiple children attending (siblings and carpools are accommodated). Carpool: Please have any important conversations with carpools and within your family prior to registration. We will do our best to accommodate your needs. Please call us with questions. Our aim is to make our program work for our families, and we are happy to talk through schedules, carpools and concerns. We can be reached at 973-994-3950 OR bsmall@tbanj.org.