



**2020 – 2021**

**5781**

**Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School  
of Har Zion Temple**

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***THE JANE FISHMAN GRINBERG  
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL  
OF  
HAR ZION TEMPLE***

***MISSION STATEMENT***

We strive to nurture excellence in Jewish education and a lifelong love of Jewish learning, to impart to our students and their families the skills to be practicing Conservative Jews and to enrich their understanding of Judaism.

All of these efforts are guided by

TORAH, AVODAH & GEMILUT HASADIM

## ***AIMS & GOALS***

### **Our goals are to produce:**

- ✧ Jews who express pride in their heritage, who are excited about being Jewish and who observe and practice Jewish traditions.
- ✧ Jews who enthusiastically support and participate in the life of the synagogue, their Jewish community and their community at large.
- ✧ Jews who are familiar with the rituals and customs associated with Shabbat and the Holidays.
- ✧ Jews who see themselves as an important link in the chain of Am Yisrael.
- ✧ Jews who have a clear understanding of the nature of prayer and are comfortable with the prayer book, and who, themselves, participate in Tefilah with Kavanah.
- ✧ Jews who can explain and live by the important values/mitzvot which have guided Jews for centuries.
- ✧ Jews who understand the place of Hebrew in Jewish tradition.
- ✧ Jews who affirm their historic bond to the Land of Israel, who visit Israel and who work for its well-being.

## **THE JANE FISHMAN GRINBERG RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHEDULE AND POLICY**

This is the planned schedule for 2020-21. It is subject to change depending on health department guidelines. Going the extra mile to offer the Har Zion community the very best in Jewish education along with great value and flexibility...that's what The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School of Har Zion Temple is all about!

**Aleph  
Grade 1**                      **Sunday Only**  
**9:15AM-11:00 AM or**  
**11:15 AM-12:15 PM online only**

**Bet-Hay  
Grades 2-5**                      **Sunday in school 9:15AM-11:00 AM**  
**Sunday on line Bet, Gimel 9:15-10:45 AM**  
**Dalet 11:00-12:15 PM**  
**Hay: 9:15-11:00 AM**

**Hebrew Tuesday - 4:00 PM-6:15 PM (35 min group during this time)**  
**One on One Hebrew- schedule individually**

**Vav-Zayin  
Grades 6-7**                      **Tuesday, 4:00-6:00 PM**  
**Sunday and Shabbat programs to be announced**

**Vav will also have 9+ Me at 9:30 on scheduled Sundays**

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

### **PRIMARY GRADES**

Gan (kindergarten): there will be no Gan in 2020-21

Aleph (first grade)

This foundations program for our youngest students is a Sunday morning program. Alongside the warm, nurturing environment of our teachers, we will incorporate movement, art, and music into the educational program to enrich and enliven the learning. The main educational goals of this program are Hebrew language acquisition, synagogue skills as well as beginning prayer competence and Shabbat and holiday home rituals and observances.

### **Elementary Department, Bet-Hay (grades 2-5)**

Students attend both Sunday and Tuesday sessions each week and will each have a one on one online Hebrew tutorial once per week. Bet begins our Jewish Studies curriculum called Etgar Yesodi. The first year of this program focuses thematically on Holidays and Values. The curriculum was developed by the Jewish Theological Seminary and has the goals of building on students' prior knowledge and current experiences, empowering students to articulate positive Jewish identities, building breadth and depth in students' understanding and observance of Judaism, and incorporating findings of research in Jewish education. Teachers participate in training and ongoing professional development with other educators from around the country who also teach this curriculum. Bet students begin to learn to decode the Aleph-Bet and build on the Hebrew vocabulary for Jewish life introduced in previous years. Bet students participate in daily *tefillot*, or experiential prayer services, that allow them to build their skills as well as develop their spiritual selves as part of a praying community.

Gimel, Dalet and Hay continue their studies in the Etgar Yesodi curriculum, building on skills and attitudes developed in previous years. Gimel will continue with the Holidays and Values units begun last year, and while cycling through the year long Jewish calendar, they will experience more in-depth learning and new activities in each unit. Dalet will study the Year 2 of Etgar Yesodi, titled "My Story", through units on *Zikaron: My roots, my memories*, *Brit: my beginnings and my name*, *Berakhot: my blessings*, *Tokhehah: improving my friendships*, as well as sharing my talents with others, and developing my relationship with G-d. Hay studies the Year 3 of Etgar Yesodi, titled "Our Story", through units on Jewish community in the classroom, synagogue, surrounding area and the world Jewish community, including a study of modern Israel. Each of these units includes some Hebrew

reinforcement, Jewish text study, and multi-sensory, project-based learning similar to what was experienced last year.

All elementary students will also study prayer, *tefillah*, and have the opportunity to participate in meaningful, experiential prayer services in their Jewish studies classrooms. This allows them to build their skills as well as develop their spiritual selves as part of a praying community. Due to the health situation, there will not be large group in person prayer services in 2020-21.

Gimel, Dalet and Hay students are assigned to Hebrew levels based on their decoding skills as assessed periodically over the course of the year. They are in mixed grade, small group classes that allow teachers to focus on group learning of prayers and individual practice in decoding. This year there will be special activities online that will be announced.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

On Tuesdays in the classroom, all middle school students will spend time in the Middle School Learner's Lounge, an informal, discussion based classroom setting facilitated by Norman Einhorn and Mark Levy, focusing on Current Events, Antisemitism, Holocaust and Israel.

Vav students also study Jewish Ethics, Torah Trop, and Jewish ritual, while Zayin students study Jewish History and Heroes.

On Sundays, Middle School students attend 10 designated morning programs either at Har Zion or on field trips. Vav students also participate in Hazzan Vogel's 9+ Me pre-bnai mitzvah program on these dates, and the other programs include various active learning, hands-on activities, trips and special events.

Middle school students will have a weekly small group Hebrew tutorial to work on particular prayer competencies.

## **Madregot**

Har Zion Temple is resolutely committed to the idea of educating any and all Jewish students. We welcome any family who has a child with special needs to be in touch

with us. Any student who requires a one-on-one assistant will receive that service while other children will be assisted by resource teachers in the classroom with other students. The Madregot program is supervised by special needs trained teachers and the Director of Lifelong Learning.

### **HEBREW PROGRAM**

- ✧ There is 100% accountability for The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School of Har Zion Temple in this area. Every child stands before the main congregation to read, in Hebrew, at his/her Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- ✧ One of our primary goals is for our students to be knowledgeable and feel comfortable as they participate in synagogue services. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to prepare our students to read fluently.
- ✧ Please prepare motivating, challenging activities to accomplish our objective -- fluent reading of the Hebrew
- ✧ All children will be assessed throughout the school year. Please be sure to follow instructions that are given to you by the Hebrew coordinator.

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE:**

Our goal is to create a school culture where children want to attend regularly; where they are appropriately engaged and motivated by the learning, activities, and camaraderie with their classmates, and where they feel at home at Har Zion Temple. We realize that conflicting activities sometimes arise. We are pleased each time a child comes to school and we miss them when they are not there. Teachers will reach out to check in when students miss frequently.

- Attendance in school is crucial for successful learning and therefore we strongly recommend that students should not miss more than 25% of the year's learning.
- Families will receive updates about attendance during the school year.
- If a student's attendance is below the required level, the family/student will be asked to meet with the DLL to discuss how the time missed can be made up.
- Should there be extenuating circumstances affecting a student's ability to meet this requirement, the family is requested to submit a letter to the DLL.

### **OPEN SCHOOL POLICY**

While we pride ourselves on always welcoming our parents into the school to visit, for 2020-21, no parent will be permitted in any of the school hallways or classrooms due to COVID 19 restrictions. (details in Safety Protocols document)

### **COMMUNICATION WITH THE HOME**

- ✧ Elementary grade level teachers will be expected to communicate with parents regularly with a summary of what is happening in the classroom and what will take place as well as several occasions to remind them of upcoming events and programs.
- ✧ Student reports will be sent home at mid-year and end of school year.
- ✧ Parent teacher conferences will take place when requested and by appointment.

### **DISCIPLINE**

- ✧ Please help us by explaining to your children that students' respect for one another, the faculty, the school, and the physical plant is part of their responsibility. Students must be encouraged to exercise self-control and to limit undue noise or rowdiness in classes, halls, assemblies, services, etc.
- ✧ Students who do not comply with teacher requests and expectations, or are repeatedly disrespectful will be sent to the office where they will be held accountable. Depending on the situation, parents may be called to pick up the child from school.

### **Zoom Etiquette**

This is a working list of expectations for our online classrooms, in order that our zoom classes will be safe learning spaces for all of our students. Parents are requested to discuss this with their child and help partner with the teachers to assure a conducive learning environment for all children.

- ✧ Join your class on time. Talk to your friends politely until the teacher is ready to begin. Teachers will give time for students to reflect on their days and share what is going on in their stay at home lives.
- ✧ Students should work in a quiet part of the house, free from distractions
- ✧ Students are expected to have cameras on during the zoom class.
- ✧ Teachers may mute students who are verbally disruptive. Just like in person, students are to be respectful of teachers and fellow students.
- ✧ Students may not graffiti on the shared screen with annotations. Teachers will disable this feature if it is abused.
- ✧ Attendance will be taken and submitted.
- ✧ Teachers reserve the right to remove a disruptive student from the zoom



call if they fail to be respectful when requested repeatedly. Such cases will be shared with Dr. Schatz and Rabbi Shawn and parents will be notified.

### **HOMWORK**

The concept of “homework” and “schoolwork” is different during this time. Most lessons will take place in real time, whether in school or online. There will also be follow up work to do, videos to watch, and projects to complete when not with the whole group. Occasionally Hebrew teachers will assign reading practice.

### **CLOSE OF SCHOOL DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

- ✧ If serious, adverse weather conditions make it too dangerous for car travel, The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School of Har Zion Temple will close.
- ✧ If the Lower Merion District Schools close or dismisses early due to bad weather conditions, our school will be closed. Check your email or text messages for these announcements.
- ✧ We will use Remini and email to notify you of school closings, if you would like to be included, please email [jfgrs@harziontemple.org](mailto:jfgrs@harziontemple.org) with your name and mobile number.
- ✧ If the school is closed, we will also utilize our constant contact emailing system to notify you and the students.

### **JFGRS SCHOOL FOOD AND ALLERGY POLICY**

At The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School, we recognize that food is an important and enriching part of our Jewish tradition and can play an exciting role in creative teaching. We try to honor this positive role of food in our curriculum and community celebrations, while maintaining, as our top priority, the need to keep our students safe. With the proliferation of allergies and food sensitivities this becomes a task requiring our utmost attention.

We therefore ask that parents, faculty and students **adhere strictly to the following food policy:**

Parents are responsible for ensuring that our records on food allergies and other important medical issues are updated, both when registering students annually for school, and throughout the year, as they become aware of any changes in a student’s medical status.

Parents of students with food allergies are asked to provide an allergy action plan, with two copies of your student’s photo to the school office at the start of the

school year, or as soon as possible after the condition is diagnosed. Parents are also encouraged to personally notify their children's teachers of the food allergy.

If medication is needed as part of the allergy plan, parents must supply us with that medication, the prescription, and a signed permission to administer the treatment.

If your son or daughter has a known food allergy, which you have indicated on his/her medical form, the teacher will contact you in advance of any class activity involving food.

*In a classroom where there is a child with a life-threatening food allergy, there must be no food containing that allergen in the classroom.*

Aside from regular snack provided by the school, food may be offered in the K-7 classroom in conjunction with curriculum, or used selectively for celebrations. Teachers must have the advance approval of the Director of Lifelong Learning in order to serve any food.

When a food label states "may contain.." or "processed in a facility that also processes...", it is assumed that the allergen is present.

Teachers will be trained in the use of an epi-pen and have an action plan to implement if they suspect a possible allergic reaction.

Parents please do not send in snacks/treats to be shared. If there is a special occasion please contact the Director of Lifelong Learning

Parents should assume that food may be present at school and family education events where parents are expected to be in attendance with their kids. On such occasions the event sponsor will make every effort to create a safe environment (making food labels available when possible, asking for food providers to avoid nuts and nut oils), however, ultimately, the nature of our vibrant and well-used space means that we can't prevent all exposures. We ask for the support of our community, but parents are responsible for the safety of their children at such events.

Please also remember that all packaged food must have a kosher symbol on it. We ask that you only send dairy or parve items with your children to school.

## **Electronic Devices Policy**

**The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School recommends students do not bring phones and other electronic devices to school on a regular basis (other than 6th and 7th graders participating in the Learners Lounge with Norman Einhorn). If we are going on a school trip or have an activity where we think it would be recommended, we will communicate that to you.**

Please note: If a student uses technology in a manner which is disruptive to the educational environment, the school reserves the right to temporarily suspend or completely revoke the privilege of technology use for that student, including personal electronic devices and school computers.

- Cell phones/iPods/mp3' players, and other electronic devices must be kept in a student's pocket or in their backpack unless given explicit permission from a teacher or staff member to bring it out. Each class will have a central location to "check" devices for the duration of the class. Students may not use a personal cell phone or camera to record video or take pictures of others in school or on the school bus unless given explicit permission from a teacher or staff member. This includes photographing friends during school hours.
- Parents and guardians are asked to please refrain from texting or calling your child's cell phone during the school day. **Students are not permitted to text or use their cell phones during the school day and receiving a call or text from a family member puts your child in a difficult position.** Phones are available in the office for students to use if they need to call home. Parents and guardians are welcome to call the office at any time if they need to get a message to their child. Our office staff will facilitate this communication.

**The school will not be responsible if these devices are lost, damaged, stolen, or misplaced.**

Below is the protocol for students who are not adhering to the expectations for electronic devices as stated above:

**1st Intervention:** If an adult needs to intervene, the student will be instructed to check their device with the teacher. In addition to this measure, Dr. Schatz or Rabbi Shawn will be notified.

**2nd Intervention:** If an adult needs to intervene a second time, the student will be instructed to turn the device off and take it to the school office and will be required to pick up the electronic device at the end of the school day. Parents will be notified if this happens.

**3rd Intervention and beyond:** If an adult needs to intervene a third time a parent/guardian will be required to pick up the phone from the school office.

### **Carpool Arrival/ Dismissal Safety**

In order to safely manage the orderly drop-off and pick-up of your child/children at school, it is necessary to follow the procedures described below:

#### **When dropping off a student**

Drive down the center aisle of the school parking lot. Turn left and stay in a single lane, keeping to the right side of the driveway. Pull up to the entrance/exit and allow your child/children to exit the vehicle. Pull back into the center of the driveway (to the left) and exit. This year due to the COVID-19 safety protocols you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire prior to drop off and you will be met at your vehicle to verify that it has been done before any children may enter the school.

#### **When picking up a student**

Drive down the center aisle of the school parking lot. Turn left and stay in a single lane, keeping to the right side of the driveway. Pull up as far as possible to the right side of the driveway and form a single lane of traffic. Please leave just enough space between your car and the car in front of you so that you can pull out to the left and exit when your child/children enter your car. Please stay in this single lane and move your car ahead when the space in front of you becomes vacated or when directed to by the teachers. Once your child/children are in your car, pull out to the left and follow the driveway to the right and the main exit.

- **Please Drive slowly!**
- **Pick-up will not be allowed within the 15 minutes before official dismissal on Sundays (10:45-11) and Tuesdays (5:45-6:00).**
- **No child will be allowed to walk through the hallway to exit at the main entrance or the Glassner entrance (near the Berkowitz Auditorium) These doors are now alarmed.**
- **Picking up children from the main entrance or Glassner entrance is**

**absolutely prohibited.**

- **This rule must be followed to maintain a safe dismissal and to guarantee the security and well being of our children.**

**THE ONLY EXIT FOR OUR CHILDREN IS FROM THE SCHOOL LOBBY.  
THIS IS THE ONLY EXIT THAT HAS  
TEACHER SUPERVISION.**

**No child is ever to walk onto the parking lot alone**

### **Carpool: Arrival, Dismissal during Pandemic**

School staff will utilize the following procedures each day for the arrival and dismissal of children.

- There will be separate arrival/dismissal locations, for different shifts and classes. Designated arrival/dismissal locations include:
  - The Upstairs school entrance for Bet-Heh /2-5th grades on Sunday.
  - The Downstairs school entrance for Aleph/1st grade on Sunday.
  - The Upstairs school entrance for vav-zayin/6-7th grades on Tuesday.
- If feasible, we recommend that older individuals (e.g., grandparents) or those with serious underlying medical conditions not drop off or pick up children, as they are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Early pick up: Parent may enter the school lobby and see the attendant to call the child down for early dismissal. Parents do not go to classrooms to retrieve children, nor should they call students on a cell phone or tell them to meet in the lobby at a particular time. Students must remain in their classroom until regular dismissal time (and leave under the supervision of the teacher) or until an adult follows the above procedure.

Emergency: Call the office and ask for Dr. Schatz or Rabbi Shawn in case of emergency and the parent will not be able to pick up at dismissal time or needs a child to know about alternate after school plans.

### **Financial Policies/ Membership**

In order for us to process your child's application for the 2020-2021 religious school year, the following financial obligations to Har Zion Temple must be in order: 1. All 2019-2020 synagogue membership dues, Noreen Cook Center, Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School, Day Camp (if applicable) tuitions, and all other fees must be paid in full at the time this application is presented to the school office. 2. A valid (current) membership must be maintained throughout the school year for all students in the JFGRS unless said student is registered in the Madregot Program. It is, therefore, understood that if accepted, your 2020-2021 membership dues will be paid in full by September 1, 2020. Har Zion Temple policy requires that every family signed up for any of our schools must either pay their membership dues and school tuitions for the current year in full by September 1, 2020, or sign up for automatic installments by credit card or ACH. Families who require financial assistance should contact Gavi Miller, Executive Director.

#### **CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY:**

No refunds will be issued and/or credit transferred to any other division of Har Zion Temple for any reason. Exceptions to this policy can only be made with written approval by the Executive Director. For the Year 2020-2021, Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we will be in touch with you as the situation changes and financial decisions are made by the Board of Directors of Har Zion Temple with regard to tuition refunds due to Covid.

Please note that if there are any special circumstances or problems of which the school should be aware, please contact our Director of Lifelong Learning.

This application is a legally binding contract. All financial obligations owed to Har Zion Temple for the above named child are the responsibility of both parents. Any exceptions or special circumstances require the prior written approval of the Executive Director.

**Special for Covid 19: health and safety: Please see separate document: JFGRS Guidance for Reopening**