



2021 – 2022

5782

**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 2021-22. 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!

**Gan/Aleph
Grades K-1**

**Sunday Only
9:15AM-12:15 PM**

**Bet-Hay
Grades 2-5**

**Sunday and Tuesday
Sunday-9:15AM-12:15 PM
Tuesday - 4:15 PM-6:15 PM**

**Vav-Zayin
Grades 6-7**

**Tuesdays, 4:15-6:15 PM
9 Sundays, 9:15 AM-12:15 PM
Weekly Online Hebrew group to be scheduled
3 Friday night programs
3 Shabbat morning programs**

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

PRIMARY GRADES

Gan/Aleph (Kindergarten, 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 Hebrew reading is taught both days. 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 in prior years.

All elementary students will also study prayer, *tefillah*, for reading, chanting, understanding, and making personal connections through prayer to G-d and the synagogue community. They will have the opportunity to participate in meaningful, experiential prayer services during school each week. This allows them to build their skills as well as develop their spiritual selves as part of a praying community.

Gimel, Dalet and Hay students are assigned to small group Hebrew reading levels based on their decoding skills as assessed periodically over the course of the year. Our well-rounded curriculum and school culture includes art, music, Israel, and other special activities, trips and *chesed*, or acts of kindness activities throughout the year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Tuesdays in the classroom, all seventh graders will spend time in the 7th grade Learner's Lounge, an informal, discussion based classroom setting facilitated by Norman Einhorn, focusing on Current Events and Israel. The other classes for our oldest students will be a study of antisemitism and the Shoah, and a class in Jewish ethics using the rabbinic texts from Pirke Avot.

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

On Sundays, Middle School students attend 10 designated morning programs either at Har Zion or on field trips. Vav students and their parents also participate in pre-bnai mitzvah programs with Rabbi Shawn and Hazzan Vogel 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.
- ✧ Students are periodically assessed by their Hebrew teachers and any concerns will be shared with you. Additionally we are able to advance children into the next level when appropriate.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

We believe that socializing and “doing/being Jewish” must be more than the classroom and school experience. To supplement our educational program and family customs Har Zion will also offer to our children - Shabbat and holiday programs, youth group activities in the form of Saturday night or Sunday afternoon “parent night out” programs, and opportunities for social action. We encourage you and your children to participate!

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 school administration 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 Dr. Schatz.

OPEN SCHOOL POLICY

While we pride ourselves on always welcoming our parents into the school to visit, for 2021-22, 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 escorted to the school office to speak with an administrator.

Zoom Etiquette

In the event that we hold classes on zoom on occasion, this is a reminder of Zoom Etiquette that we established during the pandemic.

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.

HOMEWORK

While we understand that our children are fully programmed and we don't want to add to that burden, occasionally Hebrew teachers will assign some 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 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 Administration 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 Dr. Schatz.

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 in the elementary school do not bring phones and other electronic devices to school on a regular basis. Middle School students (grades 6-7) will be able to use their phones for certain in-class lessons, but may not use them for other purposes. At their discretion, teachers may collect and hold cell phones for the duration of a class. 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.

- All electronic devices must be kept in the 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 their 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.

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 (12:00-12:15) and Tuesdays (6:00-6:15).**
- **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

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 2021-2022 religious school year, the following financial obligations to Har Zion Temple must be in order: 1. All 2020-2021 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 2021-2022 membership dues will be paid in full by September 1, 2021. 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, 2021, 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.

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