



EXPERIENCES & EXPECTATIONS
FOR FAMILIES OF
YOUTH LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

5781
2020-2021

Dear Families,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year, 5781. Our goal is to create a meaningful learning environment for children and families. We strive to create a welcoming community in which our students, families, and faculty will explore our Jewish traditions and inspire one another to develop a strong Jewish identity. As a member of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), we are proud of the integration of our formal and informal learning programs into the Youth Learning and Engagement (YLE) Department of Temple Emanu-El, which includes formal and informal learning, youth groups and our partnership with URJ Youth and URJ Camps.

This will be a year unlike any other, but we will rise to meet its challenges and take advantage of its opportunities. We will find new ways to connect to each other, innovative ways to learn, and show *kavod* (respect) in everything we do. Please make sure to refer to the special Covid-19 supplement, and changes to the policies (marked in yellow) so that you can understand the ways we are protecting our health.

This handbook for families of students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade serves as an overview of our opportunities for children and families. Please take some time to read about our programs, policies and procedures. Our doors are always open to answer your questions and receive your feedback. Thank you for your partnership as we begin our new school year together.

With our warmest wishes for a good and sweet year,

L'shalom,



Samara Schwartz
Director



Samantha Eichert
Assistant Director



Jackie Hernández
Administrative Assistant

Table of Contents

Youth Learning and Engagement at Temple Emanu-El	4
Youth Learning and Engagement Vision	5
Youth Learning and Engagement Committee	5
Weekly Religious School Schedule, Curricular Goals, and Program Opportunities	6
<i>Ma'ayan</i> for students with disabilities	6
Kindergarten through 2nd Grade	6
3 rd Grade	7
4th Grade & 5th Grade	8
6th Grade	9
7th Grade	10
8th & 9th Grades	11
10th Grade	13
11th and 12th Grades	14
3rd-8th Grades Midweek Hebrew Pods	15
Calendar	16
Religious School Attendance Expectations	16
Drop-off/pick-up and early dismissal	17
Books and Materials For YLE	17
Home Practice Expectations	17
Inclusion	17
Food Allergies	18
Lost and Found	18
Attire	18
Handheld Electronic Devices	18
Family Programs	19
<i>Tefillah</i> (Prayer) during Religious School	20
<i>Tzedakah</i>	20
Communication	20
Weekly Youth Learning & Engagement Emails	20
Updates and Recognition Kgn-6th Grades	20
Social Media	20
Emergency Closings	21
<i>Shabbat</i> Worship	21

Worship Opportunities	22
B’nai Mitzvah.....	23
Youth Groups.....	24
Parent Learning Opportunities	25
Parking Lot Procedures.....	26
Contact Information.....	27
COVID-19 Supplemental Addendum	28
Class Pods	28
Modifications to In-Person Learning.....	28
Arrival and Dismissal	29
Drop off Procedures.....	29
Health Screenings and Temperature Checks.....	29
If Symptoms are Exhibited.....	30
Food	30
Travel Out of State	30

Youth Learning and Engagement at Temple Emanu-El

Youth Learning and Engagement at Temple Emanu-El includes all Jewish education and activities for our youth in Kindergarten through 12th Grade:

- Programs offered: (details and descriptions of each program in **Weekly Religious School Schedule, Curricular Goals, and Program Opportunities**)
 - Kindergarten through 5th Grade students
 - *Ma'ayan* Program- options for students with disabilities or special educational needs including mainstream and a self-contained classroom.
 - *Nisayon* (Experience) for 6th Grade
 - *HaMakom* for 7th through 12th Grade
 - Confirmation for 10th Grade
 - *Mitzvah Corps* for 8th and 9th Grades*
 - *Café Torah* for 11th and 12th Grades*
 - *Beit Panim* for 8th through 12th Grade
 - *Madrichim* Leadership program for 8th through 12th Grade
- Youth Group:
 - Extreme *Yeladim* for 3rd and 4th Grade
 - Extreme *Bonim* for 5th and 6th Grade
 - Junior Advisors for 7th and 8th Grade
 - TEWTY for 8th through 12th Grade
- Moving Traditions
 - “*Rosh Hodesh*: It’s a Girl Thing!” for middle school girls
 - “*Shevet*: Tribe” for middle school boys

1

¹ *programs with an asterisk are currently on-hold during the pandemic and will be offered when safe to run.

Youth Learning and Engagement Vision

Conceive of every child as an individual *neshama* (soul), a unique individual and soul, and treat that child according to his or her particular needs, while affirming the ultimate importance of community;

Create an atmosphere of joyful, dynamic learning that touches the spirit as well as the mind of the learner; while encouraging family participation and creation of a *kehillah kedoshah* (holy community);

Commit to excellence and consistency in curriculum, teaching, and imparting information regarding our Jewish people's history, literature, spirituality, culture, values, and ethics, incorporating these Jewish ideals into our everyday lives;

Challenge our clergy, staff, faculty, students, and parents to live according to the highest values of our people --to treat one another ethically, responsibly, sensitively, respectfully, and fairly;

Create young Jewish people who will leave our Temple imbued with a joyful and deep understanding of their Jewish identity; and who will be forever committed to living a joyous and meaningful Jewish life wherever their life-paths take them;

Create a partnership between the Early Childhood Education Center and the Religious School so that the transition from one stage of learning to another fosters continuity.

Youth Learning and Engagement Committee

This committee partners with the clergy and the education team to examine and enhance our current offerings for youth learning and engagement. Together we ensure the implementation of our vision for Jewish education, Kgn-12th grade, supporting the work of the school and youth groups.

Committee responsibilities may include: strategic planning and the transformation of our learning environment, curriculum development, family programming and involvement, social action, event planning, and fundraising.

The committee meets a few times a year and meeting dates and times will be published in Youth Learning and Engagement monthly emails. For more information or to join the committee, contact [Deb Carberry](#).

Weekly Religious School Schedule, Curricular Goals, and Program Opportunities

***Ma'ayan* for students with disabilities**

Meets Sunday mornings 8:45-10:45 AM, approximately twice a month.

- Classes for children with disabilities taught by a Jewish certified special education teacher.
- Each *Ma'ayan* student is paired with a teen to assist them inside and outside the classroom.
- Curriculum: An introduction to Jewish holidays, traditions, history, prayers, and the Hebrew language.
- Students participate in *Tefillah* services and *Shirah* (music) each time they meet.

Kindergarten through 2nd Grade

Kgn-2nd Grades will meet on Sunday mornings with both in-person and online options available for families to choose at their comfort. In person classes will be at maximum 10 students per class. In the event your child is unable to attend in-person learning (for health or other reasons), virtual learning will be available on a weekly basis.

Kgn & 1st Grade Judaics Curriculum: Focuses on discovering holidays, exploring our Temple, and our very first Torah stories

2nd Grade Judaics Curriculum: A deep dive into the Jewish holidays, an exploration of our own Jewish identities, and values

Kgn-2nd Grades Hebrew & *Tefillah*:

- Hebrew Curriculum: Hebrew Through Movement, Me and My Family, Classroom Hebrew and pre-reading skills.
- *Tefillah* (prayer) Curriculum: Prayer readiness, songs of welcome and blessing. *Barchu*, *Shema*, *Oseh Shalom*. Students participate in *Tefillah* (prayer) services and *Shirah* (music) every Sunday.

Sample schedule for our Virtual Only Learners

8:30-9:15 AM - Virtual Tefillah together
9:15-9:45 AM - Stretch break
9:45-10:00 AM - Hebrew Through Movement
10:00-10:45 AM - Virtual Class Time

Sample schedule for our In-Person Learners

8:30-9:15 AM - Virtual Tefillah together
9:15-9:45 AM - Commute/Daily Check-In time
9:45-10:00 AM - Class Time
10:00-10:15 AM - Hebrew Through Movement (teacher Zooms into the room, facilitated by Classroom Teacher)
10:15-10:45 AM - Class Time

3rd Grade

3rd Grade will meet on Sunday mornings with both in-person and online options available for families to choose at their comfort. In person classes will be at maximum 10 students per class. In the event your child is unable to attend in-person learning (for health or other reasons), virtual learning will be available on a weekly basis.

Sample schedule for our Virtual Only Learners

8:45-9:15 AM - Virtual Tefillah

9:15-9:45 AM - Stretch Break

9:45-10:45 AM - Judaics and Hebrew

Sample schedule for our In-Person Learners

8:45-9:15 AM - Virtual Tefillah

9:15-9:45 AM - Stretch Break

9:45-10:45 AM - Judaics and Hebrew

NEW THIS YEAR: Families with children in 3rd Grade may elect an additional mid-week in person or virtual (by family preference) Hebrew pod at no additional cost. Each pod is 45 minutes long, no more than 6 children to a pod, designed to continue Aleph-Bet learning and support Hebrew Decoding.

- Judaics Curriculum: *Torah* Stories: Creation to the Exodus, Holidays
- Hebrew Curriculum: *Alef Bet*. The Hebrew Alphabet
- *Tefillah* (prayer) Curriculum: Same as Kgn-2nd grade plus *Yotzer Or*, *Mi Chamocha*, *Amidah*, *Sh'aila Sh'Kaita* (the silent question). Students participate in *Tefillah* (prayer) services and *Shirah* (music) every Sunday.

Youth Group: Extreme *Yeladim* for 3rd and 4th graders

4th Grade & 5th Grade

4th and 5th Grades will meet on Sunday mornings, virtually, from 8:45-10:45 AM, plus one 45 minute pod of Hebrew, either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in one of the time slots per day (details on midweek below).

Sample Sunday Schedule

8:45-9:15 AM - Community Tefillah
9:15-9:20 AM - Transition
9:20-9:30 AM - Community Building Exercise
9:30-10:05 AM - Judaics
10:05-10:10 AM - Transition
10:10-10:45 AM - Prayer Content

Midweek Classes

Hebrew pods will meet midweek in person or virtually, by family preference. Pods are maximally 6 students. This will allow intense focus and personal attention to take place.

4th Grade Curriculum

- Judaics Curriculum: *Torah* Stories: From Sinai to the Nation of Israel, *Mitzvot*: Word and Thought, Jewish Lifecycle, *G'milut Chasadim*: Acts of Loving Kindness
- Hebrew Curriculum: Building blocks for Blessings and *Tefillah* – prayer Hebrew
- *Tefillah* Curriculum: Same as Kgn-3rd grade plus *siddur* skills and exploration of prayer meanings

4th Grade Youth Group: Extreme *Yeladim* for 3rd and 4th graders

5th Grade Curriculum

- Judaics Curriculum: The History of the Jewish People, *Mitzvot*: Holiday (observance and rituals), *Ahavah*: Loving One Another
- Hebrew Curriculum: Hebrew for prayer, the core rubrics of a prayer service
- *Tefillah* Curriculum: Same as Kgn-4th grade plus *siddur* skills and exploration of prayer meanings

5th Grade Youth Group: Extreme *Bonim* for 5th and 6th graders

6th Grade

6th Grade *Nisayon* (experience)

Our 6th Grade program is called *Nisayon*. *Nisayon* means experience and this year will be a year of fun, immersive Jewish experiences for your 6th grader and your entire family!

6th grade is divided into 3 core components.

Hebrew

Hebrew instruction will take place in person or virtually (by family preference) during 45 minute Hebrew pod rotations of class sizes no larger than 6 children. Hebrew instruction will continue to focus on reading and prayer skills.

Individual prayer lessons in preparation for bar and bat mitzvah readiness will begin approximately 4-6 months prior to your child's date, and are coordinated by our clergy's administrative staff. These lessons are in addition to, not in lieu of, your child's classroom learning. For questions about the b'nai mitzvah process, please contact our B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, Joanne Pass, at jpass@tewnj.org.

Our 6th Grade Judaic studies will take place online, on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45 PM.

To create one unified 6th grade community, students will learn Judaics from our 6th grade team of teachers.

The themes of Middot (Jewish Virtues and Ethics), Shoah (Holocaust Studies), and Comparative Religion, will frame a year of edu-tainment, with an emphasis on K'lal Yisrael (Jewish people-hood and comparative Judaism) and Eretz Yisrael (the Land of Israel).

Sample Judaics Schedule

6:30-6:45 PM - Community Building

6:45-7:45 PM - Judaics

PLUS MONTHLY NISAYON EXPERIENCES (dates and programs in the Registration Materials)

A schedule of monthly programs and Shabbat experiences complement the core curriculum. This creates a sacred community of learners in which our children develop their own sense of Jewish identity building a connection with Jewish ritual and practice. Some programs are for 6th grade students only and others offer a family the opportunity to learn and celebrate together. Families are expected to choose 6 or more of these programs that meet your family's interests and needs, based on the content and schedule. The schedule of events will be available at the time of registration. Experiences in the fall are online, with hopes for in-person experiences as the year progresses. Our Supplementary Registration Form will offer an update of program dates/times previously presented in the spring.

Youth Group: Extreme *Bonim* for 5th and 6th graders

7th Grade

Meets online Tuesday nights from 7:30-8:45 PM, with hopes for in-person experiences as the year progresses. The curriculum focuses on viewing the adolescent's world through a Jewish lens - Our Jewish Stories, Our Jewish Lives, and our Jewish Values.

Students pre-b'nai mitzvah who want to keep their prayers fresh, may elect to join a Hebrew pod at no additional cost.

Youth Group: Jr. Advisors - Assist at Junior Youth Group events for 3rd - 6th graders

8th & 9th Grades

Our 8th and 9th Grades enter post-b'nai mitzvah programming and we offer several different options to engage your teen. See below for the ways our teens can get involved!

Madrichim program

Students in 8th-12th Grades apply to serve as role models and teaching assistants on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Sundays in the younger grades of our programming. Based on parent comfort, they may be madrichim either in person or virtually. Madrichim assignments will include individual student support, small group support, classroom support, technology assistant, tefillah engagement squad, office support, photography and publicity, community building, and limited teaching responsibilities for experienced madrichim.

HaMakom (The Place) - Meets virtually on Tuesdays 7:30-8:45 PM

Highlights of the year will be...

- Cantor's Cafe
- A Modern Look at Israel
- A Celebration of Diversity within the Jewish Community
- A deep dive into our Community Learning Theme

Sample Schedule

7:30-7:45 PM - Community Building

7:45-8:45 PM - Discussion, Programming and Inter Relational Learning

Mitzvah Corps The Mitzvah Corps program is a program designed to look at Social Action through a Jewish lens. Throughout the year participants will volunteer together, learn about why, as Jewish Teens, they have the responsibility to make the world a better place, and how to donate money in a Jewish way.

Currently, Mitzvah Corps is on hold until circumstances change, and is subject to JFS decisions. If we are able to restart Mitzvah Corps, we will do so, and charge at that point on a prorated basis. If you have already been billed, we will refund that charge or apply it to other Temple activities at your choice.

Popping up New - *Beit Panim!* (an opportunity to physically gather)

This on-ramp to teen engagement is for our families who desire an in-person opportunity once a month. It will meet Sundays from 11:15 AM-12:30 PM. Classes will meet outdoors as weather permits, and involve Jewish learning and hands-on engagement with our professional staff. Registration is required in advance of each event to ensure proper health and safety measures, as well as supplies and staffing. No last minute attendance can be accommodated. There will be a total of 8 events throughout the year.

Programs may include such things as a round-table discussion on racial prejudice in the modern age, standing up against Anti-Semitism, exploring *tzedakah* as teens, and other opportunities to gather in person, discuss relevant and important topics, and have hands-on experiences through the year.

8th Grade only-pre-b'nai mitzvah, may add a midweek Hebrew pod at no cost to them (in person or virtual, at family preference)

Youth Groups: **Jr. Advisors** - Assist Junior Youth Group events for 3rd-6th graders
 TEWTY –Temple Emanu-El of Westfield's Temple Youth
 NFTY-GER– Regional events throughout the year

10th Grade

Our 10th Grade continues with post-b'nai mitzvah programming and we offer several different options to engage your teen. See below for the ways our teens can get involved!

Madrichim program

Students in 8th-12th Grades apply to serve as role models and teaching assistants on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Sundays in the younger grades of our programming. Based on parent comfort, they may be madrichim either in person or virtually. Madrichim assignments will include individual student support, small group support, classroom support, technology assistant, tefillah engagement squad, office support, photography and publicity, community building, and limited teaching responsibilities for experienced madrichim.

HaMakom (The Place) - Meets virtually Tuesdays 7:30-8:45 PM (Confirmation)

A close examination of the student's Jewish identity, exploring topics of God, sexuality, justice and spirituality. Social Action projects, which continue to be a priority for our Confirmation Class, will happen as health and safety permit.

Confirmands typically participate in the L'Taken Seminar in Washington DC. Students have the opportunity to impact our political process as they share their views on social justice topics with decision-makers on Capitol Hill. Our Confirmands will embark on our beloved L'Taken Seminar in the 2021-2022 school year so long as the RAC is running the program. Throughout the year, we will work with the RAC to create meaningful programming and relationships while building the anticipation for next year!

HaMakom Confirmation Sample Schedule

- 7:30-7:45 PM - Community Building
- 7:45-8:45 PM - Confirmation Learning

Popping up New - *Beit Panim!* (an opportunity to physically gather)

This on-ramp to teen engagement is for our families who desire an in-person opportunity once a month. It will meet Sundays from 11:15 AM-12:30 PM. Classes will meet outdoors as weather permits, and involve Jewish learning and hands-on engagement with our professional staff. Registration is required in advance of each event to ensure proper health and safety measures, as well as supplies and staffing. No last minute attendance can be accommodated. There will be a total of 8 events throughout the year.

Programs may include such things as a round-table discussion on racial prejudice in the modern age, standing up against Anti-Semitism, exploring *zedakah* as teens, and other opportunities to gather in person, discuss relevant and important topics, and have hands-on experiences through the year.

Youth Groups: **TEWTY** –Temple Emanu-El of Westfield's Temple Youth
 NFTY-GER– Regional events throughout the year

11th and 12th Grades

Our 11th and 12th Grade continues programming and we offer several different options to engage your teen. See below for the ways our teens can get involved!

Madrichim program

Students in 8th-12th Grades apply to serve as role models and teaching assistants on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Sundays in the younger grades of our programming. Based on parent comfort, they may be madrichim either in person or virtually. Madrichim assignments will include individual student support, small group support, classroom support, technology assistant, tefillah engagement squad, office support, photography and publicity, community building, and limited teaching responsibilities for experienced madrichim.

HaMakom (The Place) - Meets virtually Tuesdays 7:30-8:45 PM

Highlights of the year will be...

- Standing together as Marginalized Communities (with a guest expert)
- Taking your Judaism to College and Beyond
- A deep dive into our Community Learning Theme

Sample Schedule

- 7:30-7:45 PM - Community Building
- 7:45-8:45 PM - Discussion, Programming and Inter Relational Learning

Cafe Torah Meets 1-2 times a month at the Westfield Diner with clergy
Discuss hot topics through the lens of Jewish ethics and values.

Cafe Torah is on hold until circumstances change. If we are able to restart Cafe Torah, we will do so, and charge at that point on a prorated basis. If you have already been billed, we will refund that charge or apply it to other Temple activities at your choice.

Popping up New - *Beit Panim!* (an opportunity to physically gather)

This on-ramp to teen engagement is for our families who desire an in-person opportunity once a month. It will meet Sundays from 11:15 AM-12:30 PM. Classes will meet outdoors as weather permits, and involve Jewish learning and hands-on engagement with our professional staff. Registration is required in advance of each event to ensure proper health and safety measures, as well as supplies and staffing. No last minute attendance can be accommodated. There will be a total of 8 events throughout the year.

Programs may include such things as a round-table discussion on racial prejudice in the modern age, standing up against Anti-Semitism, exploring *zedakah* as teens, and other opportunities to gather in person, discuss relevant and important topics, and have hands-on experiences through the year.

Youth Groups: **TEWTY** - Temple Emanu-El of Westfield's Temple Youth
 NFTY-GER - Regional events throughout the year

3rd-8th Grades Midweek Hebrew Pods

The available time options vary by grade/ cohort. Below is a list of all days/times. For specifics unique to your child's cohort, please look at our registration information.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
2:30-3:15 PM	2:30-3:15 PM	2:30-3:15 PM
3:30-4:15 PM	3:30-4:15 PM	3:30-4:15 PM
4:30-5:15 PM	4:30-5:15 PM	4:30-5:15 PM
5:30-6:15 PM	5:30-6:15 PM	5:30-6:15 PM
6:30-7:15 PM	6:30-7:15 PM	6:30-7:15 PM

Calendar

The Youth Learning and Engagement calendar is online and can be downloaded. Please always refer to this calendar to see when school is in session.

To access our Google Calendar from any web browser:

Go

to: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=ZTRtbTlvcm9jMDFpMHNyYcm4wbDRmcTY5Z2tAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xILmNvbQ>

To add the Religious School Calendar to your Google calendar:

1. Open your Google Calendar on any browser.
2. To the right of **Other Calendars**, click the drop down arrow - **Add by URL**.
3. Paste this ICAL link into the field and click, **Add Calendar**:
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/e4mm9oroc01i0srrn0l4fq69gk%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>

You will now be able to view the Youth Learning and Engagement calendar within your own Google calendar.

To add calendar subscriptions to your iPhone or iPad:

1. Launch the **Settings app** on your iPhone or iPad.
2. Tap on **Mail, Contacts, Calendars**.
3. Tap on **Add Account...** under the **Mail section**.
4. Tap on **Other**. Then Tap on **Add Subscribed Calendar** under the **Other section**.
5. Enter or copy in the server location of the calendar:
<https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/e4mm9oroc01i0srrn0l4fq69gk%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics>
6. When you are finished, tap on the **Done button** in the upper right hand corner. The subscribed calendar will now appear in the Calendar app.

Religious School Attendance Expectations

"The day is short; the work is plentiful." (Pirke Avot)

We look forward to seeing each student at every session. Class attendance is a vital element to learning and creating a sense of community. Students who do not attend regularly will have difficulty keeping up with the curriculum and the social component. We expect 70% attendance from all participants. Please help us by:

- a. Notifying the [YLE School](#) office in advance if you anticipate an absence,
- b. Notifying the [YLE School](#) office as soon as possible if any unanticipated absence, such as an illness, occurs.

Our Judaics lessons are interactive and experiential. Therefore, it is difficult to provide alternative activities for students to learn the content in the event of an absence. We will do our best to provide resources and information on the missed content so that your child can become familiar with the Judaics content that is taught in his or her absence. Students will be expected to practice between class sessions and keep up with missed lessons in the event of an absence, using our Online Learning Center or the Temple website. **In the event that your child is feeling unwell, please stay home and make use of our online learning and virtual classrooms whenever available (details in our Covid-19 Supplement)**

Drop-off/pick-up and early dismissal

While we realize that there may be times when it is necessary for your child to arrive late, or to leave early, please understand that this can be disruptive for the rest of the class. Whenever possible, please try to make other arrangements. Our online learning options are always available to you.

If your child must arrive late, there is a ten minute grace period during which our classes are starting. If you will be more than 10 minutes late, you **must** call the YLE office upon arrival and someone will greet you to do our Covid-19 entry check. (908)232-6772

If your child must leave early, we ask that you send a note to the teacher indicating the time that you will be picking up your child. Please park your car and call the School Office (908) 232-6772, to sign your child out. Then a member of our staff will escort your child from the classroom outside to meet you. For reasons of health, we cannot permit adults to enter the building.

Books and Materials For YLE

Students will be provided with textbooks, resources and materials for their use and are brought home at the end of the year to help your child to build a personal library of Jewish resources.

Individual teachers may have specific supply requests, i.e. spiral notebooks for journaling, etc. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you directly if there are specific supplies needed for a class.

Home Practice Expectations

In 3rd-6th grade, there will be Hebrew home practice assigned after each session. As is the case with learning any new skill, successful Hebrew learning requires regular practice. In order to maximize the students' learning experience, we offer the following guidelines regarding home practice:

- Studies indicate that brief and frequent review is most effective in leading to success with language learning. Students in 3rd-7th grade should spend at least 15 minutes, 3-4 times per week, on their Hebrew studies. Hebrew home practice for 3rd -6th graders will involve using a computer to access the [Behrman House Online Learning Center](#) or [Temple website](#).
- Attendance with your child at Friday night or Saturday morning services will also go a long way in reinforcing what your child is learning, as well as put it into context and practice.

Even if you cannot read Hebrew, you can still listen to your child read and give encouragement. You can even ask your child to help you learn to read Hebrew. All recordings of our blessings and prayers are on the Temple website as are copies to download of the prayers.

Inclusion

Temple Emanu-El is proud to host the *Ma'ayan* program for children with disabilities. More information about *Ma'ayan* can be found in the section, **Weekly Religious School Schedule, Curricular Goals, and Program Opportunities**.

We also strive to create an inclusive learning environment within our mainstream YLE School classrooms. In class and/or pull-out support as well as replacement instruction is available to our students who have disabilities. *Madrichim*, teen teaching assistants, serve as one-on-one support as needed for individual students and our Inclusion Coordinator will work with parents to provide modified instruction whenever possible. If we are unable to meet the needs of an

individual student within the mainstream classroom, our Coordinator will work with parents to determine if *Ma'ayan* placement will better meet the needs of your child.

Food Allergies

Presently, no food will be served or allowed at YLE activities to encourage mask wearing and help prevent the spread of Covid-19. When that changes, please be aware of the following.

Some of our students have life-threatening food allergies. There is an opportunity for parents to communicate this information during the registration process. We will strive to keep each child safe by aiming to eliminate all nuts from our school. We cannot completely guarantee a nut-free environment since other activities and programs occur at Temple Emanu-El outside of school hours. We will, however, maintain a nut aware environment in our classrooms during school hours. Food provided to students by the school will not contain peanuts or tree nuts. Parents will be notified in advance if food will be served during a class or grade-level program. Parents are welcome to provide an alternate, safe food for any program involving food so that a child with an allergy may fully participate. Communication between home and school is essential for the safety of all of our students. We request that any food sent to school to be shared with other students also be peanut and tree nut free.

Please note: TEWTY (our senior youth group) manages a snack and drink vending machine outside of the Community Room. The foods in this vending machine may contain allergens. Please speak with your child about food allergy safety if you wish to provide money for your child to buy a snack from the machine. **Currently, the snack and drink vending machines will not be available for use.**

Lost and Found

Any items left behind during school hours are kept in the school office. Feel free call us and we will search for your missing item.

Attire

We uphold the Jewish value of *tzniut*, modesty. Please follow your secular school's dress code when attending Youth Learning and Engagement or youth group events. Cleats are not permitted.

When students are asked to participate in Friday night or Saturday morning *Shabbat* services on the *bimah* we ask that they dress appropriately. This includes slacks or fingertip length skirts or dresses. Jeans, shorts, t-shirts, sweatshirts and flip-flops are not appropriate attire on the *bimah*. All students are invited and encouraged to wear kippot.

Handheld Electronic Devices

From time to time, our faculty utilizes electronic devices or other technology as part of their lesson planning. Students may even be invited to use their personal devices to enhance a lesson or activity. The use of electronic devices, such as cell phones, iPods, and video game players is not permitted during the hours of YLE, **unless specifically directed by faculty**. Students are encouraged to keep video game devices at home. If students choose to bring an electronic device to the Temple, the power switch on the device must be turned "off" when students arrive in class. These devices may not be turned "on" until school is over or unless specifically directed by faculty. If a student does not follow this policy, the device will be held by the teacher and returned at the end of class. If a device needs to be taken from a student a second time, the device will be returned at dismissal to the adult picking up the student. If a

medical exception to this policy is necessary, we ask that the family contact the School office and inform the classroom teacher in advance so that we may maintain the students' privacy during class time.

Family Programs

Your participation enriches your child's Youth Learning and Engagement experience and can be rewarding for your family as well. Family programs are included in several of our elementary school grades. These programs will take place on Sunday mornings during YLE School hours, 8:45-10:45 AM, and are designed as an opportunity for our students and parents to learn together as well as for class families to get to know one another.

Grade	Program Name
Kgn-1	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i>
Kgn-1	<i>Havdalah</i>
2	Counting Our Blessings
3	The Great God Hunt
4	<i>Sefer Li</i> (my book)
4	Late Night Learning ^{2*}
5	Starting My Mitzvah Journey

² 4th Gr Late Night occurs on a Friday evening

***Tefillah* (Prayer) during Religious School**

Kgn-5th Graders will participate in age-appropriate and interactive *Tefillah* services every Sunday led by our clergy.

6th Graders will participate in a *Tefillah* service on Wednesday nights led by our teen song leaders and education staff.

All students are invited to wear *kippot* (skullcaps) during services. We encourage students to bring in a *kippah* from home and keep it in their backpack. No sharing of *kippot* is allowed. The Temple will provide a *kippah* on request, which then belongs to the child.

Please note: at the current time, all tefillah will be virtual.

Tzedakah

One of the many *mitzvot* (commandments) we are commanded to fulfill is *tzedakah*. *Tzedakah* means “justice” and it is the collection of money that we regard as an important Jewish obligation to the community. Our school has had the privilege of sending donations to many different organizations. We encourage each child and their family to contribute to the school’s *tzedakah* fund through their own motivation and resources. We collect *tzedakah* on all days when school is in session.

Communication

Weekly Youth Learning & Engagement Emails

Each week we send out an email for reminders and updates on school events, youth groups and Temple programs for families. This email is sent using an email list created in Constant Contact. If you are not receiving these emails, or accidentally unsubscribe, contact Jackie Hernandez at jhernandez@tewnj.org.

Updates and Recognition Kgn-6th Grades

Parents of Kgn-6th grade students will receive periodic emails from the YLE. This email may include what was recently covered in class and online practice assignments to be completed at home. It may also include a special recognition of your child’s recent accomplishments.

Social Media

Youth Learning and Engagement has a Facebook group and throughout the year we post pictures of school days, retreat weekends, Youth Group events and more! To join us on Facebook, please search for "**Temple Emanu-El Youth Learning and Engagement**" on Facebook and click on "**Join Group**." This is a closed group, therefore your request to join must be approved by our administration and anything that is posted remains private to the group.

Emergency Closings

In the event of an emergency school closing for weather related or other reasons, an automated phone call will be made to the phone number you provided on your registration. You can also learn about emergency closings by visiting the [Temple website](#) or calling 908-232-6770, press 6. Any last minute decisions regarding closing of the YLE will also be communicated via email through our Constant Contact groups.

Shabbat Worship

At Temple Emanu-El, we want our students to be comfortable at services and increase their appreciation for meaningful worship. As part of our YLE Education program, students are expected to attend *Shabbat* worship services either on a Friday night or a Saturday morning. Attending services helps to reinforce the prayer curriculum in our school by allowing the children to practice what they are learning, as well as providing an opportunity for students to join in as part of our Jewish community. Please see below for grade-specific attendance expectations:

Grade	Service Attendance Expectation
K/1	attend a minimum of 1 service this school year
2nd	attend a minimum of 2 services this school year
3rd	attend a minimum of 3 services this school year
4th	attend a minimum of 4 services this school year
5th	attend a minimum of 5 services this school year
6th*	attend a minimum of 6 services this school year, choosing from among the services listed below as well as <i>Nisayon Shabbat</i> events and other Temple Emanu-El <i>Shabbat</i> services
7th*	Please see <u>The Madrich</u> for specific <i>b'nai mitzvah</i> service expectations. (Questions about the <i>b'nai mitzvah</i> program should be directed to the office of the Senior Cantor.)
8th – 12th	Continue to join our community for worship through and beyond <i>b'nai mitzvah</i> preparation, complementing our TEE worship experiences with NFTY <i>Shabbat</i> worship at weekend events. 9th Graders are strongly encouraged to attend the Friday <i>erev Shabbat</i> worship led by our Confirmation class, as well as the service of Confirmation.

*Students who begin *b'nai mitzvah* preparation during their 6th grade year should follow the *b'nai mitzvah* preparation guidelines, as noted in The Madrich, our *B'nai Mitzvah* Family Handbook.

Worship Opportunities

Here are some of the many *Tefillah* opportunities at Temple Emanu-El:

Day/ Time	For whom	Name of Worship	Description
1st Friday night of the month 7:45 PM	Children and adults of all ages	<i>Shabbat Hallelu</i>	A spirited, musical worship experience filled with song led by our Cantor and lay musicians/prayer leaders. It offers a mix of contemporary and traditional music and is often attended by 400-500 congregants. It is not unusual for dancing to "break out" in the aisles during the service!
4th Friday night of the month 6:00 PM	Children and adults of all ages	Fourth Friday	This Shabbat experience includes a pre- <i>oneg</i> of wine, cheese, hors d'oeuvres and kid-friendly refreshments, a festive <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> service beginning at an earlier start time and ending at 7:00 PM to allow for a family Shabbat meal in homes and/or the synagogue.
Typically 3rd Friday night of the month 6:00 PM	Families of students in pre-K – 2nd grades	<i>Shabbat B'yachad</i>	Families are invited to join together with us for a light <i>Shabbat</i> dinner, followed by a service, filled with song, prayers and stories. It's an interactive <i>Shabbat</i> experience that is prayerful for both kids and adults.
3rd Friday night of the month 7:45 PM	Children and adults of all ages	<i>Zimrat Shabbat</i>	This is a musical service with guitar and percussion that creates an easy listening and communal environment for prayer. It includes special readings, offering moments of self-reflection and personal prayer.
Monthly on Saturday morning 9:00 AM	Families with students ages 2-6 years old	Tiny Tot <i>Shabbat</i>	An hour-long <i>Shabbat</i> morning experience for young children and their families which includes singing, dancing with the Torah, snacks, a special craft activity and lots of fun!
Weekly on Saturday morning 10:30 AM and 10:45 AM	Children and adults of all ages	<i>Shabbat</i> Morning Worship	This service usually includes a <i>b'nai mitzvah</i> celebration and all are welcome to attend. Led by the Rabbi and Cantor, the service is a traditional <i>Shabbat</i> morning worship. <i>Torah</i> and <i>Haftarah</i> are chanted and the Rabbi leads a study session on the weekly <i>Torah</i> portion. Main sanctuary service begins at 10:30 AM. Service in Brody Chapel begins at 10:45 AM.
2nd Saturday morning of the month 9:00 AM	Children and adults of all ages	<i>Simchat Shabbat</i>	This service is led by a Rabbi and two song/prayer leaders. It combines contemporary and traditional music and prayer. Torah is read and there is considerable participation by lay members of the congregation. This service is followed by a study session on the weekly <i>Torah</i> portion.

For a full schedule of worship services, please check the calendar on the [Temple website](#).

B'nai Mitzvah

Questions regarding *B'nai Mitzvah* information should be directed to the Senior Cantor's office. More information can be found in "The *Madrich*," our *b'nai mitzvah* family handbook.

Youth Groups

In *Pirkei Avot* we learn, “Provide for yourself a teacher and get yourself a friend; and judge every person towards merit.” These three values permeate our youth groups. Each time we join together we act as teachers for each other. We welcome all opinions and learning styles as we always try to insert Judaism into every event. Our participants learn from our teachers and our teachers learn from our participants as we create an open learning environment for everyone. It is easy to create an environment of lifelong learning when each participant feels safe sharing their opinions and learning new things. Each youth grouper makes many friends from nearby and far away that will last them a lifetime as they participate in one of our youth groups.

We invite our youth to make new friends in a warm and welcoming environment where everyone is judged fairly during our events.

Grades	Name of Youth Group	Description
3rd and 4th	Extreme <i>Yeladim</i> (children)	Monthly social events alternating between inside the temple building and adventures at a location outside the building.
5th and 6th	Extreme <i>Bonim</i> (builders)	Monthly social events alternating between inside the temple building and adventures at a location outside the building.
7th and 8th	Jr. Advisors	An opportunity for 7th and 8th graders to give back to the community and serve as role models for Extreme <i>Yeladim</i> members. Our Jr. Advisors will have the opportunity to join us at our Extreme <i>Yeladim</i> events and help us lead programs.
8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th	TEWTY Temple Emanu-El of Westfield Temple Youth	The TEWTY leadership cabinet will plan monthly events with guidance from the clergy. Twice during the year, the board meeting will be open to the general TEWTY members to share their input.
9th, 10th, 11th and 12th plus one 8th grade event	NFTY-GER National Federation of Temple Youth - Garden Empire Region	NFTY-GER brings together Reform Jewish teens from our region. Members come together several times during the year for learning, worship and fun to help young Jewish adults build and strengthen lifetime ties with each other and Reform Judaism. More about NFTY-GER ; NFTY-GER calendar

Moving Traditions: *Rosh Hodesh* It's A Girl Thing Program, Shevet for Boys

This program uses Jewish teachings and practices to give middle school tweens a place to feel safe, articulate their deepest concerns, consider the impact of gender on their daily lives, have fun, and be ‘real’ with their peers. Through discussion, arts & crafts, creative ritual, games and drama, the tweens along with our Moving Tradition Facilitators, draw on Jewish values and a gender lens to explore the issues tweens care about most, such as body image, friendship, relationships, family, competition, and stress.

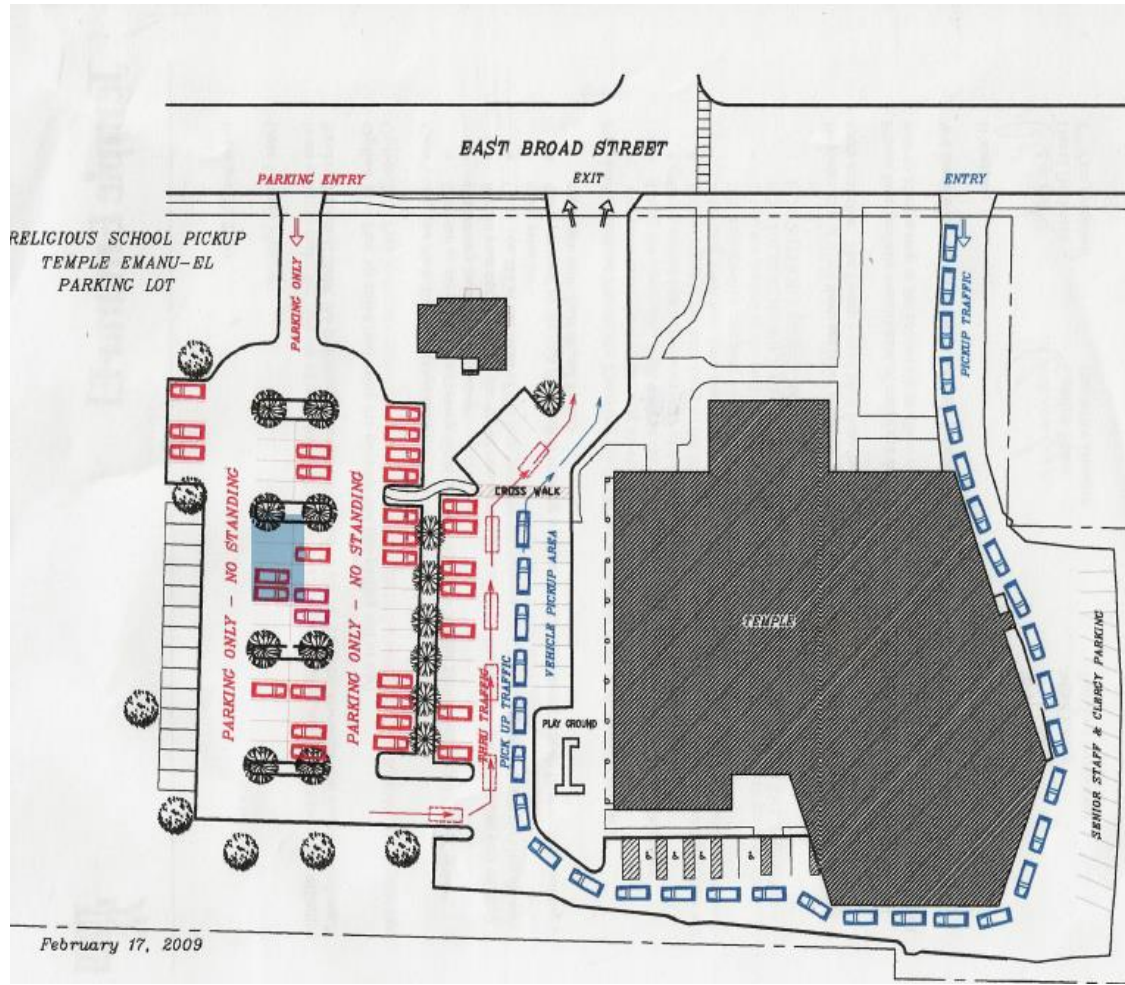
Parent Learning Opportunities

Parent learning opportunities at Temple Emanu-El are intended to enhance your Jewish experiences as well as the experience for your family. It will give you the tools necessary to answer questions that your kids may have about our religion and culture and will model for your children the importance of Jewish learning. Many of these courses **are** perfect for interfaith couples, non-Jews, and Jews looking for adult-level learning about our Jewish faith and culture. There will be several course offerings this year. Please watch your email for more information and registration.

If you have any questions about our parent learning opportunities, please feel free to reach out to [Rabbi Victor Appell](#) 908-232-6770 x115.

Parking Lot Procedures

Please refer to our COVID-19 Addendum for information about pickup and drop off procedures. Below find a map for directions on how to enter/exit from the Temple Parking Lot.



Contact Information

Staff Contact information:

Our doors are always open to our students and their families. We welcome and appreciate your partnership in our children's education. Here is the contact information for our professional staff. If you have an urgent matter that requires an immediate response, please contact the school office at 908-232-6772 or email our administrative staff:

Religious School Office

Title	Name	Email
Director of Youth Learning & Engagement	Samara Schwartz	sschwartz@tewnj.org
Assistant Director of Youth Learning & Engagement	Samantha Eichert	seichert@tewnj.org
Administrative Assistant	Jackie Hernández	jhernandez@tewnj.org

COVID-19 Supplemental Addendum

Temple Emanu-El's Youth Learning and Engagement (YLE) programs act in compliance with best practice regarding the health and safety of all participants, families, faculty, and staff. All COVID-19 related policies are based on recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and our local Westfield Department of Health (DOH). We will continually adjust our program's policies and procedures to align with the current guidance from these agencies. Updates to our policies will be provided to families via email from the YLE. We require that all families and staff follow state and local regulations related to COVID-19. This includes but is not limited to quarantine requirements stemming from family travel and any other ordinances.

Class Pods

Teachers and *madrichim* will be assigned to and remain with their class pod for the entirety of the school day. There will be a maximum of 10 children and 3 adults per physical class space. Children and staff will not interact physically with any other class pod. Any floating specialists (music, Hebrew through Movement, *tefillah*) will offer their classes in a digital framework, even if the children are meeting in person. Indoor and outdoor learning spaces will be occupied by one class pod at a time, with cleaning and sanitizing procedures in place between groups.

Modifications to In-Person Learning

Classes will be encouraged and permitted to work outside when the weather permits. Learning experiences may take place in TEVA as well as other designated outdoor spaces, covered with pop-up tents when needed. When working inside, maintaining good airflow will be encouraged. Please send your child dressed for the possibility of being outdoors.

Children will be provided with individualized supplies as much as possible (eg: their own play-doh, crayons, markers, etc). Sharing of supplies will be strictly limited. Shared or collectively stored items will be properly cleaned and sanitized between uses. No communal fidgets can be provided this year - families may send a personal fidget for their child's own use. If you would like that fidget to be stored in the building, it must be clearly labelled and in a plastic bag.

Close person to person contact will be limited as much as possible. Table seating will be spread out, and children will be required to keep a 6-foot social distance from each other.

All staff members and students are required to wear face masks during the school day. Masks must be worn at all times indoors and also worn outdoors in situations where it is difficult to maintain a social distance of 6 feet from others. Masks should: fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; allow for breathing without restriction; be able to be laundered and machine-dried without damage. If wearing a mask is not manageable, we will ask that you make use of our distance learning options.

Arrival and Dismissal

Parents, visitors, vendors, and prospective parents or employees will not be allowed to enter the building during operating hours, unless for emergencies. We will be instituting car lines for drop off and pick up. In some cases, instead of a car line, teachers may bring the children to designated parking spaces in the parking lot and will release the child to their designated pick up person.

Drop off Procedures

- Prior to arriving at the building each day, you will be required to fill out an on-line health screening form.
- All members in the car over the age of 2 MUST be wearing masks
- The driver of the car will roll down the window where the child/ren are located
- A temple “screener” will be dressed in proper PPE with a mask, and gloves
- The “screener” will perform a temperature check for each student using an infrared, no touch thermometer and then ask the parent/caregiver a list of required questions (see below)
- If child/ren are approved to enter school: they will proceed to their classroom, disinfecting hands along the way. In the case of young children, an escort will be available.

For Sunday pickup, or other crowded pick-up times as announced, no parents may enter the building. A staffer with a walkie will be at the carpool line. Parents will roll down the window to give their carpool number, or otherwise clearly display their child’s name and carpool number. The child will come out to the car. In the case of young children, an escort will be provided.

Health Screenings and Temperature Checks

All children and staff will be screened daily prior to being admitted into the building. Parents MUST keep their child home if they exhibit any signs of illness and if they are sick or not feeling well. The screening will be for the following symptoms and families must provide their responses honestly with regards to not only their child but for every member of their family. If one child or family member exhibits any of the symptoms, then that child and his/her siblings will not be allowed to enter the building.

- If anyone in the household has been in close contact with someone that has been positively diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days
- If the child has received any fever reducing medication
- Fever of 100.4 or above
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Headache, muscle pain, chills, repeated shaking with chills, new loss of taste or smell

If Symptoms are Exhibited

If a student or employee develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school, they will immediately be moved to an isolated room. Parents/caregivers will be notified to pick up the student immediately and upon arrival, the student will be escorted to the family's vehicle. Employees will go home immediately.

Parents and sick employees should seek medical advice within 48 hours and schedule a COVID-19 test as needed. Students and employees who exhibit symptoms cannot return to school until they provide documentation from a medical provider indicating testing was negative and there are no other restrictions. Even if the test is negative, the student or employee must be free of ALL symptoms for a minimum of 72 hours before returning to school. If the test result is positive, individuals must complete a period of isolation as directed by their doctor and the health authorities. The YLE will follow direction from local health authorities on contact tracing and quarantining, which may include requiring that the student's entire class (including teachers and madrichim) also quarantine for 14 days.

If a student has been in known close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (e.g. a parent, caregiver, playmate, or sibling), they must self-quarantine for 14 days and immediately inform the school. The student's class will not be required to quarantine if it is not necessary.

If a student or a member of their family develops COVID-19, their entire class will be under quarantine for 14 days and those students will receive Distance Learning during this time. The infected student's siblings will also be required to quarantine for 14 days, however that sibling's class will not be under quarantine, unless it is necessary. The YLE follows direction from authorities on contact tracing and quarantining and as a result, requirements may change.

We respectfully ask for parents and caregivers to **be prepared for children to be sent home** for illnesses and symptoms that, in previous years, would be considered minor (e.g., colds or allergies). If a child is absent for a class for any reason, we will offer opportunities for them to engage in on-line learning by opting into our online options for the duration of the illness.

Food

In order to minimize food handling by staff, and maximize mask wearing, the school will not provide any food for your child this year. Given the limited time in which our students will be together, we also ask that you not send food or drink with your child unless there is a legitimate medical need.

Travel Out of State

Staff members or families that travel out of state must comply with NJ State self quarantine mandates. It is expected that parents traveling out of state for work or pleasure to a state that is on NJ's Travel Advisory list will quarantine in their home for 14 days, remaining socially distant from their children that attend our program. If they are unable to remain socially distant, then their children must also quarantine for 14 days. The family is required to inform the school if they travel to a state that is on NJ's Travel Advisory list.