

Dear Religious School Families,

“Find yourself a teacher, and acquire for yourself a friend, and judge all people favorably” (Pirkei Avot 1:6). This piece of Jewish wisdom and Beth El’s Religious School stand on these three things; teachers, friends, and faith. We’ve learned since March that teachers do so much more than teach content. Our teachers build community. They teach their “children” life lessons, and they impart their Torah. Our friends encourage us to try new things, to be our whole selves, and to have fun. They are why our children beg to come back to school. Finally, faith is what sustains us. This Spring you put your faith in Beth El, in our Religious School, and in our teachers. You had faith that we could move our school online and “make lemonade without any lemons.” You had faith, and we made it through together.

Now, I need you to have faith again. As we look towards the fall, we would like nothing more than to see your kids at Beth El every week in person. Given the realities of COVID-19, however, that will not be possible. Pikuach Nefesh, saving a life, is one of the most important values in Judaism, and at Beth El, ensuring the physical safety of our families comes first. We have therefore developed a program that we hope will meet the needs of our diverse families and students. This is an experiment, based on our best thinking, to meet the challenges of this time, and we appreciate your continued input and feedback.

This year, Beth El’s Religious School will take place ONLINE on Sundays between 10am-12pm and Wednesdays between 6pm-8pm (exact timing and scheduling will vary by age and grade, but all learning will be SYNCHRONOUS). Religious School will **begin on Sunday, September 13th**. This decision was made in conjunction with synagogue leadership and the RSY Team.

We are blessed at Beth El with a beautiful outdoor campus, and we have an opportunity for our students and their families to learn together safely outside under the portico and in the Chapel in the Woods. We’ve developed a program called **The Tent: Outdoor Jewish Learning and Living** which will allow every grade an **OPTIONAL** opportunity to learn and to be together with social distancing between September 13th and November 22nd. Parents must RSVP for their family or child in order to attend the Tent. Students and teachers who cannot attend the Tent will have the opportunity to Zoom into the program OR to participate in the same program online instead of in person led by a teacher or TA. Kindergarten through 3rd Grade students must be accompanied by at least ONE parent. Siblings may attend but require an RSVP.

If you are a parent of a student in grades 7-12, please look out for an additional e-mail from me on Friday with details regarding 7th grade and the Teen Program (Note that 7th grade is not part of the Teen Program).

In the FAQ you will find **TENTATIVE schedules** for K-6th Grade for Sundays and Wednesdays. We will be having Parent Meetings on Tuesday, August 4th and Thursday, August 6th at 7pm for parents in grades K-6. Please join us to share any questions or concerns you might have. Zoom links will be sent out next week. Please see our FAQ in the attached link for commonly asked questions. As always, feel free to e-mail me at [REDACTED] or to give me a text or call on my cell [REDACTED]. I’d LOVE to talk to you over the phone or via Zoom.

We are Beth El. And so are you.

I hope to “see you” soon!
Take care and best wishes,
Rabbi Bailey

Important Dates

August 23- Parent Orientation via Zoom (more info TBA)
August 30- Bringing Beth El Home Bag Pick Up (more info TBA)
September 13 First Day of School

TENTATIVE

The Tent Calendar K-6

10-11AM under the Portico or in the Chapel in the Woods

September 13- Kindergarten

October 4- 1st Grade

October 11- 2nd Grade

October 18- 3rd Grade

October 25- 4th Grade

November 8- 5th Grade

November 15- 6th Grade

Nov 22- Kindergarten

TENTATIVE

Sunday and Wednesday Class Schedules:

Kindergarten

10-10:15 Tribe Time (Jewish Social Emotional Learning)

10:15-11 Class

11-12 Small Group or One on One Learning

*Small Group/One on One schedules will be given out at the beginning of the year.

1st Grade

10-10:15 Tribe Time

10:15-11 First Hour

11-11:15 Break

11:15-12:00 Second Hour

2nd Grade

10-10:15 Tribe Time

10:15-11 First Hour

11-11:15 Break

11:15-12:00 Second Hour

3rd Grade

10-10:15 Tribe Time

10:15-11 Class

11-11:15 Break

11:15-12:00 Class

Sunday

4th Grade

10-10:15 Tribe Time

10:15-11 First Hour

11-11:15 Break

11:15-12:00 Second Hour

5th Grade

10-10:15 Tribe Time

10:15-11 First Hour

11-11:15 Break

11:15-12:00 Second Hour

6th Grade

10-10:15 Tribe Time

10:15-11 First Hour

11-11:15 Break

11:15-12:00 Second Hour

7th Grade ONLINE

10-10:15 Tribe Time

10:15-11 First Hour

11-11:15 Break

11:15-12:00 Second Hour

Wednesday

4th Grade

5:30-6 Canteen

6-6:15 Tribe Time
6:15-7 First Hour
7-7:15 Break
7:15-8:00 Second Hour

5th Grade
5:30-6 Canteen
6-6:15 Tribe Time
6:15-7 First Hour
7-7:15 Break
7:15-8:00 Second Hour

6th Grade
5:30-6 Canteen
6-6:15 Tribe Time
6:15-7 First Hour
7-7:15 Break
7:15-8:00 Second Hour

7th Grade
5:30-6 Canteen
6-6:15 Tribe Time
6:15-7 First Hour
7-7:15 Break
7:15-8:00 Second Hour