

Religious School FAQs

When do the different grades meet?

Each grade meets once per week. As your family begins preparing for a bar or bat mitzvah, other programs and/or meetings with the rabbi and/or cantor will be scheduled in addition to weekly religious school attendance. The meeting days for the different grades are below. Note that the Family School meets on Sunday, no matter which grade(s) the family is enrolled in.

A complete school schedule for 2018-2019 is on the reverse of this page.

Traditional Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2:

Mondays 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Enrichment for above grades plus PreK:

Mondays 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Traditional Grade 3

Mondays 4 – 6:00 p.m.

PreK for 4s and young 5s

Mondays, monthly 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Traditional Grades 4 and 5:

Tuesdays 4 – 6:30 p.m.

Traditional Grade 6:

Sundays 9 – 11:30 a.m.

Kadimah (Grades 7 through 12)

Mondays 6:45 – 8:30 p.m.

Family School (Grades 3, 4, 5, 6)

Sundays 9 – 11:30 a.m.

What is Monday's Enrichment all about?

This class is for students enrolled in PreK, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2d grade, which meets from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Mondays after their regular session. If you (or someone else in your carpool) also have a 3rd grader attending, or you'd just like to pick up at 6, this bridges the "gap" of time between dismissals while maintaining a learning environment for the younger children.

This class serves families with children in more than one grade on Mondays, and the time is spent purposefully, with an experienced teacher.

What is the "Family School?"

As a jewel in the crown of our educational programming, the Family School program stands as a testament to what we believe in, as a school and as a congregation. It speaks directly to the part of our mission statement that we "...dedicated to the never-ending process of Jewish learning." The Family School is unique in that a parent or another adult family member attends with their children on Sunday mornings – practicing Hebrew, praying, singing, *noshing* (of course) and learning together. We urge you to find a way to be a part of the Family School for at least one year during your child's religious school education; it speaks to the moral imperative that we have as parents to maintain the chain of our people "from generation to generation."

Is Kadimah the same as religious school?

Kadimah (which means "moving forward" in Hebrew) is for students in Grades 7 through 12. Our teens discuss hot topics, argue moral issues, cook Jewish foods, dance, sing, meditate, and learn conversational Hebrew, to name a few of the Monday night options available in addition to their grade-level "core" classes. Beginning in their tenth grade year, students can travel to Washington, D.C.'s Religious Action Center and lobby their representatives and senators. At the end of the tenth grade year students are confirmed, and at the end of their twelfth grade year, a special graduation ceremony is held. **Kadimah Grade 7 attendance is required for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah service to be held at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom.**

Are There School Attendance Requirements?

The policy applies beginning in 4th grade and applies to students who are celebrating their bar/bat mitzvah in our sanctuary with our clergy. A student can be absent (unexcused) a maximum of 10 times a year. (Leaving early or arriving late may result in partial absence(s) being counted.) Our goal is for students to become a part of the community that they will eventually lead in prayer. If you have any questions about the consequences for excessive absences and/or any other questions about the attendance policy, please call the school office.

What about my younger child?

Our monthly preschool is open to students who are 4 years old and 5 year-olds not yet in Kindergarten. The children explore the holidays and basic Jewish principles through cooking, stories, songs, and crafts. Class is open both members and non-members, with a discounted fee for members. For children younger than 4, we welcome you to inquire about our programming for young families. And check out the website for family-friendly holiday celebrations and service times.

What about all my other questions?

We are happy to hear from our families, members and prospective members alike. Please call our educator, Rebecca McVeigh at 201-512-1983 or email her at schoolatbethhav@optonline.net