

BHSS Religious School FAQs

What is the schedule of my child's classes?

Please see the end of these FAQs for that information.

Why did you make a decision to go completely remote so much earlier than the public schools made their plans?

With the health and well-being of our students, your families, your extended families, and our teachers in mind, we knew that we would not be able to return to the building in a fashion that would promote community among all the children in a particular grade, for the fall season.

You have enough uncertainty in your life right now; we were ready to give you the certainty of Jewish online learning.

Why is school starting so late? Does it have anything to do with the virus?

The school calendar was established and voted on by the Education Committee over a month before the quarantine started, taking the High Holidays into consideration. Because Memorial Day is "late" this year we have extra time in May. The total number of sessions of school is the same as this past year.

My kid(s) are already doing so much online, I want to give them a break!

We know how challenging online learning is. We also wish we could give students a break from screen time. Given what's going on in the world today, it becomes even more important that your child(ren) have the opportunity for Jewish community, consideration of big ideas, and a boost to their Jewish identities.

This is the time to make sure your student(s) have the support of their teachers and BHSS.

I'm worried my child will be bored. How can you keep them engaged?

As is our goal when we are in the building, we will include different modalities to present content, ranging from videos to games to having students stand up and participate in a short "scavenger hunt" to find something relevant to the topic, to giving each child the opportunity to teach (share their knowledge or experiences with their classmates) to using our breakout room capability for small group discussion. This past spring we only scratched the surface of ideas that are available.

With all the uncertainty in my child's life, I worry that they are not being able to make connections with other children in the current atmosphere. How will you address this?

We start and end every session with "how are you?" and each child has a chance to share. In addition, at every level we are including a short "getting to know you" exercise of some kind because community is VERY important to us.

What if my child has a disability that limits how much they can really absorb with remote learning?

Please, by all means, get in touch with our Director of Education Rebecca McVeigh to discuss how we can supplement your child's remote learning with private or semi-private brief, socially distanced, sessions in our building.

I worry about Hebrew, in particular. How can my child's teacher listen to them practice in the short time they are in remote learning?

As we did to great success this past spring, each Hebrew teacher will be scheduling 10-minute PRIVATE sessions with your child to listen to them and to assist them individually. Families have found this valuable as nobody needs to wait their turn to read in class. Up until now, that has been done via FaceTime or Zoom or by phone, but if your child needs in-person Hebrew assistance, we will find a way to make that happen. The Hebrew portion of class time in weekly remote learning will be devoted to introducing new material and review.

Will I need to print all of my child's study materials, like I did this past spring?

You will be able to pick up (contact-free) tote bags customized for each grade that include textbooks and other learning materials that your child will need for school through December, including something fun for Chanukah. Also included will be (for the younger children especially) a set of crayons and a glue bottle or glue stick, depending on what the teachers are planning.

What if I don't have time to really help my child with complicated projects, or to monitor them when they're in class?

Any craft we include will be able to be done by the child alone. Once they log in to class, our teachers are responsible for them and will handle questions and provide technical support to the extent that they are able.

What will happen in January?

We'd like to give you an answer, but we do not know. We will continue to assess the safety and efficacy of different options. When we know the best course of action, we will communicate quickly and clearly with you.

The students used to have *t'filah*, and music. What will happen to those?

As you may know, singing is particularly difficult to teach/lead remotely. BUT, Cantor Josh will be offering a *t'filah* (prayer service) every other week, as a part of class time, that will include music so that the students will be able to pray and sing along. (All the words they need will be on the screen.) He will also do some simple music sessions with the younger students. You can look forward to hearing your child(ren) praying and singing with their screen.

How will attendance be handled?

The policy established by the Education and Ritual committees remains the same (for more information please go to <https://www.bethhaverim.org/religious-school/> and scroll down.) School Assistant Laura Miller will be at each session for grades 3 through 7 at the start of class to take attendance, and the teachers will confirm with her after class. In addition to the weekly and daily reminders of class login information, we will continue to alert you as quickly as we can if your child is not in class (and you have not told us ahead of time) so that they can still log in.

For private Hebrew sessions, although attendance will not be taken, understand that your child's progress depends on regular check-ins and that our teachers do everything they can to schedule sessions that work for you, so please be mindful of their time as well.

Does this mean there will be no group school programming in the building at all from October through December?

We are looking at the possibility of a grade-level *t'filah* for you to attend with your child, for one example. (All programming would be for the child and an adult.) Please let Rebecca McVeigh know if this is something you would be interested in.

What if I have questions about school tuition?

Please contact Iris Greenberg, our executive director, to discuss this.

Timing by Grade – via Zoom

Family School – 10:15 a.m. Sundays (1 hour)

Traditional 6th grade – 9:00 a.m. Sundays (1 hour)

K/1 – 4:30 p.m. Mondays (30 minutes)

2 – 4:00 p.m. Mondays (45 minutes)

Traditional 3rd grade – 5:00 p.m. Mondays (45 mins)

Traditional 4th grade – 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays (1 hour)

Traditional 5th grade – 5:15 p.m. Tuesdays (1 hour)

Kadimah (grades 7-12) – 7:00 p.m. Mondays (1 hour)