



TEMPLE CHAI
RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL



2020/2021

Pre-Kindergarten – 12th Grade



Sundays
9:00am - 12:15pm





Students will experience Judaism in soulful and spiritual manner.

Students discover what Judaism feels like, how it tastes, how it smells, and how it sounds.
Students will live Judaism through art, stories, technology, and hands-on discovery.
Students will see Judaism as a breathing culture that nourishes mind, body, and soul.

Students will develop a community with their peers.

Teachers provide an environment where friendships are formed and nurtured.
Students learn from and make discoveries with their classmates and peers.
Our teen madrichim (teacher aides) serve as positive role models to our students.

Students will learn to read Hebrew and recite prayers that connect them both to the past and to Jewish people around the world.

Students start learning Hebrew words and letters in Pre-Kindergarten.
Beginning in 2nd grade, students start to develop a strong Hebrew foundation.
Hebrew lessons are student-centered so each reader can work at his/her own pace.
Students come to understand that Hebrew is a gateway into a deep, empowering culture that bonds them to their community and to Israel.

Curriculum, Schedules, and Tuition

Pre-K (Ktantanim), Kindergarten (Gan Yeladim), and 1st Grade (Kitah Aleph)

Our focus with our youngest students is to provide them with an environment in which they will have fun, make friends, and begin to learn what it means to be Jewish. Our teachers incorporate games, projects, music, stories, and hands-on activities to foster our students' Jewish identity and their sense of belonging at Temple Chai and in the Jewish community. Using the *Hebrew Through Movement* program, students are taught Hebrew letters and basic vocabulary in order to help prepare them for the more formal Hebrew study which begins in 2nd grade.

All of our students spend 15 minutes every week participating in community building activities (*mitchabrim*) with their classmates and 30 minutes singing and learning about prayer with Cantor Wolman.

Sample Sunday Schedule for Pre-K, Kinder, and 1st Graders

9:00 - Let's Discover Judaism/Project Period
10:15 - Kabbalat Shabbat/Snack/Recess
10:30 - Music and T'fillah with Cantor Wolman
11:00 – *Hebrew Through Movement*, Hebrew games, and vocabulary building
11:30 - Story-time
11:40 - Mitchabrim (Let's Connect) and wrap-up activity
12:15 - Dismissal

Tuition

Pre-K: \$100

*Pre-K is free for members with students currently enrolled in our ECC.

Kindergarten: \$300

*Kindergarten is ½ price for members with students who are graduates of our ECC.

1st Grade: \$775

2nd Grade (Kitah Bet) & 3rd Grade (Kitah Gimel)

Continuing with our *Let's Discover Judaism* program, our 2nd and 3rd graders will use hands-on learning to study holidays, customs, middot, Torah, tzedakah, tikkun olam, and mitzvot. Our teachers incorporate art, movement, cooking, creative writing, and imaginative play to lay the foundation for more advanced Judaic study for these young students in years to come. The 2nd and 3rd grade students will work with a Hebrew teacher each week to learn to read Hebrew using our *Hebrew Through Movement* program. Our 2nd grade students learn basic Hebrew reading skills and our 3rd graders work on becoming fluent readers. Both grades take at least one field trip each year to perform a mitzvah project.

Our students spend 15 minutes every week participating in community building activities (*mitchabrim*) with their classmates and 30 minutes singing and learning about prayer with Cantor Wolman.

2nd Grade (Kitah Bet) Sample Sunday Schedule

9:00 - Hooray for Hebrew /*Hebrew Through Movement*
9:50 - Let's Discover Judaism/Project Period
10:50 - Kabbalat Shabbat/Recess/Snack
11:10 - Music and T'fillah with Cantor Wolman
11:40 - Project Wrap Up/Story time
12:00 - Mitchabrim (Let's Connect)
12:15 - Dismissal

3rd Grade (Kitah Gimmel) Sample Sunday Schedule

9:00 - Hooray for Hebrew/*Hebrew Through Movement*
10:10 - Let's Discover Judaism/Project Period
10:50 - Kabbalat Shabbat/Recess/Snack
11:10 - Music and T'fillah with Cantor Wolman
11:40 – Israel Project
12:00 - Mitchabrim (Let's Connect)
12:15 - Dismissal

Tuition

2nd Grade Tuition: \$775

3rd Grade Tuition: \$800

4th Grade (Kitah Dalet)

This is the year when our students put their Hebrew reading skills to work as they begin to learn prayers and blessings. They will use music, technology, and activities to explore the meanings of prayers and gain a strong Hebrew foundation, giving them the confidence and knowledge to take on the challenges of becoming a Bar/ Bat Mitzvah.

Our 4th grade students will also spend the year learning about how the Torah applies to their everyday life and the importance of Gimilut Chasadim (Acts of Loving Kindness). They spend 15 minutes every week participating in community building activities (*mitchabrim*) with their classmates and 30 minutes studying and singing with Cantor Wolman. Along with all of that, these students help organize and run our annual Mitzvah Mall.

In 4th grade, our students get to join us for the Hebrew School retreat in Prescott as well as attend a shabbaton event here at Temple Chai.

5th Grade (Kitah Hey) and 6th Grade (Kitah Vav)

Students in 5th and 6th grade will be working on an advanced Hebrew curriculum in which they will study prayers and blessings and engage in activities that will give them a deeper understanding of our traditional Shabbat service.

Students in these grades will also be working on an advanced Judaic Studies curriculum which will be taught using an experiential approach. Along with holidays and doing at least one mitzvah project, students will also be studying the following topics:

5th Grade

Jewish Middot (Values) and Israel Today: Using STEAM to Learn About Israel

6th Grade

Jewish Life Cycles and Israel History

Our 5th and 6th graders participate in our *Chuggim @ Chai* program (electives). They also join us on our school retreat in Prescott, AZ and begin gathering with other 5th graders and their families throughout the year in preparation for their bar/bat mitzvah.

In 6th grade, our students and their parents get to attend a special B'nai Mitzvah retreat.

Tuition

4th Grade: \$1,100

5th Grade: \$1,100

6th Grade: \$1,100

7th Grade (Kitah Zayin)

Our focus with our 7th graders is to educate them while also giving them time to further cement the bonds they have made with their Jewish friends. They will use the backdrop of the Holocaust to study human rights in one class and they will discuss and discover Jewish values and ethics in their second class. They also participate in a Leadership class in which they use the concepts of Krav Maga to build leadership skills. These students will also continue to brush-up on their Hebrew skills and begin training to become a madrich or madricha.

Seventh graders participate in our *Chuggim @ Chai* program (electives). The *Chuggim @ Chai* program is explained in more detail below. They also join us on our school retreat weekend at Camp Stein in Prescott, AZ.

7th Grade (Kitah Zayin) Sample Sunday Schedule

9:00 - Chuggim
9:45 - 1st Hour Class (Holocaust or Ethics)
10:30 - Leadership
11:30 - 2nd Hour Class (Holocaust or Ethics)
12:15 - Dismissal

Tuition

7th Grade: \$750

Chai School
8th-12th Grade
9:30am-12:00pm

Temple Chai's Chai School is a fun and interactive program that allows our teens to learn, explore, and bond with other Jewish teens. Class topics include ethics, tolerance, tikkun olam, relationships, community, life skills, and much more. Our 8th and 9th graders meet 3 times a month, 10th graders meet every Sunday, and 11th and 12th graders meet one time each month. Please see the "special programs" section of this packet for information on the local and national youth group and madrichim opportunities.

10th Grade Confirmation

In 10th grade, students will move from the brit of fate to the brit of faith. The students discuss issues such as relationships, community, commitment, and real-life Judaism.

The class has speakers and field trips throughout the year, including a trip to Washington DC through the Religious Action Center's L'Taken Social Justice Seminar. The year concludes with the 10th graders leading their families and their community in a beautiful Havdalah service.

Tuition

8th and 9th Grade: \$350

10th Grade: \$600

11th and 12th Grade: \$250

Special Programs

Kindergarten Consecration

The consecration ceremony marks the beginning of a child's formal Jewish study. It is a chance for our community to recognize and honor our youngest learners. Our kindergarten students are called up to the Bima where they recite the Sh'ma and are blessed by the clergy. They are presented with a certificate and a miniature Torah to commemorate the ceremony.

PreK-3rd Grade Sefer Safari

Parents join their students for this morning of learning, writing, and noshing. Families work together to create a book that is meaningful and personal. This annual program promotes the reading of Jewish books and the telling of Jewish stories for our young students. "Sefer" is the Hebrew word for book, and this event will surely be a "Reading Safari (Adventure)."

B'yachad

"B'yachad" means "Together."

At different times throughout the year, parents are invited to join their student as the school gathers as a community to learn and create together.

Religious School Committee

The Temple Chai Religious School Committee is made up of dedicated parents who meet monthly with Ariela Ben-Dor and Amanda Campbell to examine issues, create and complete projects, and help make an already amazing school even better.

3rd/4th Grade Shabbaton

The 3rd and 4th grade Shabbaton is mini-retreat that gives students a unique opportunity to bond with each other, experience Shabbat with friends, connect with amazing high school and adult role models, and gain a new level of comfort with their synagogue

6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Family Retreat.

Our 6th graders and their family members who are preparing for their b'nai mitzvot are invited to join us for this special weekend of sharing stories, learning and playing together, strengthening old friendships, and making new connections.

Chuggim @ Chai – Elective Classes

Chuggim (electives) provide our 5th-7th graders with an opportunity to learn about Judaism in a way that speaks to them as unique learners. Our students get to strengthen bonds with old friends, create connections with new friends, and explore Jewish culture through outlets that are conducive to their individual learning style. Some examples of chug options are...

Guitar and Song-Leading
Cooking Bamitbach
Omanut (Art)
Maccabiah Sports
Krav Maga (Israeli Self-Defense)
Drama
Israeli Dance
Mad Science

4th-7th Grade Retreat

Students will spend 2 days celebrating Shabbat in a beautiful setting at Camp Stein in Prescott, AZ. The retreat helps our students strengthen their community. It provides a positive Jewish environment in which we can live our values of torah, tradition, Hebrew, and Israel. For these reasons and more, the retreats are an integral part of the school year. The programming is fun, social, interactive, and educational. Together with teachers and clergy, our students spend the weekend singing, dancing, playing games, challenging themselves, praying, thinking, reflecting, doing arts and crafts, and more.

Family Retreat

Join other Temple Chai families for a weekend of relaxation and fun in Heber, AZ. We spend three days playing and praying together in a peaceful setting with our clergy and families with kids of all ages.

Tikkun Olam Day

This special day gives our families the opportunity to volunteer at various organizations around our community. We will participate in a morning of *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world and helping to make it a better place.

Kol Chai Youth Choir for 3rd-7th Graders

Our older students can join Cantor Wolman for an hour after school on Sundays to create music and friendships together.

Ellen Woodnick Mitzvah Mall

The Ellen Woodnick Mitzvah Mall is run by our 4th grade students and families. This project is intended to promote *G'milut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness) and to provide a meaningful gift-giving alternative. The Mitzvah Mall is a fair of non-profit organizations, similar to a vendor fair. Our students and families "shop" at local and national charities to "purchase" gift certificates that are donations to the charities.

PB and Fluff

Every year on Christmas Eve, the Temple Chai community comes together to assemble thousands of peanut butter and fluff sandwiches which are then donated to St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen.

TCTY

Temple Chai Temple Youth is the Reform choice for youth groups and is connected with the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY). TCTY provides high school students with a chance to gather in a social atmosphere while celebrating Jewish events and performing acts of Tikkun Olam.

Madrachim

Madrachim are teacher assistants. Our teens can come and work with the younger students in our religious school on the Sundays that they do not have Chai School class. Teens help with teaching, supervising, role-modeling, and helping our young students engage in Jewish education.

Temple Chai Religious School Philosophy

Students will experience Judaism in soulful and spiritual manner.

At Temple Chai, our students are given the opportunity not just to learn about Judaism, but to experience it through many different lenses. In order to foster a lifelong connection to Judaism, they are given chances to experience what Judaism feels like in their souls, what it looks like in their hands, what it tastes like, what it smells like, and what it sounds like. Our students “do Judaism.” It is not enough to learn about mitzvot. They are performing mitzvot. It is not enough to learn about what food we eat on holidays. They are preparing and eating the food. We do not assume that our students will open their hearts to Judaism simply because their parents do. The magic happens when students discover their Jewish identity within their own human identity. We facilitate this by providing them with learning opportunities that are experiential and that appeal to learners of all varieties. The learners, not the teachers nor the texts, are the center of our educational goals. We focus on hands-on discoveries, technology, and student-led discussions, not just in the lower grades, but with our older students as well. Experiencing the living, breathing culture of Judaism allows us to feed the souls of our students, not just their minds.

Students will develop a community with their peers.

In order to foster a Jewish community among our students, we give them ample opportunities to form friendships. We give them the chance to exchange ideas and share opinions. We focus on relationships, not just encounters. Students at Temple Chai are given a chance not just to learn side-by-side with their peers, but to learn from their peers. The forming of relationships is prioritized so our students connect to their Judaism in a way that is meaningful and lasting. Students are given the time, space, and structure to form relationships. Our classes are taught in a way that fosters friendships and socialization so their experiences here are relevant and valuable to them. We are proud to make Temple Chai a place where children have the opportunity and the guidance to build strong, lasting friendships. Along with teaching curriculum, teachers focus on lessons and activities that allow friendships to form. Although it follows many variant models, both structured and unstructured socialization time occurs every time we gather together.

Students will learn to read Hebrew and recite prayers that connect them both to the past and to Jewish people around the world.

By teaching our students to decode Hebrew letters and recite prayers and blessings in Hebrew, we are providing them with a link to their ancestors, to their community, and to future generations. In order to make this process successful and enjoyable for students, we begin to establish a strong Hebrew foundation in our 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms, teaching our young students who are eager and able to learn. Then, when our students reach 4th, 5th, and 6th grade they are more confident and our teachers are able to raise their expectations. Also, to help our students learn, we give them more independence and base their Hebrew studies on what their ability is as a Hebrew reader. They are encouraged to acquire their Hebrew knowledge at a pace that is comfortable and safe for them. Our Hebrew classrooms are student-centered places where learners are encouraged to work at their own pace at a level that suits them best. The classroom is a place where students can work and bond with their peers. Advanced readers and struggling readers alike work side-by-side on material that is appropriate for their level. Hebrew is a gateway into a deep, empowering, engaging modern and ancient culture and the more knowledge we give our students in this area, the stronger will be their bond to their culture and to Israel.

