

Fall 2023

Shalom Students and Families,

*Bruchim Ha-ba'im*, ברוכים הבאים Welcome! Thank you for choosing us as your spiritual community! You are about to embark on an exciting journey in Arizona's only accredited religious school. We are honored to be working with you and your family.

Hebrew School meets on Thursday afternoons (all students entering grades 3 through 7), between the hours of 4:15 to 6:00 p.m., and on Sundays between the hours of 9:30-noon (for students in grades Preschool through 8). Our B'nei Mitzvah students will be meeting on Saturday mornings 8:45-noon (instead of on Sundays). Students in grades 9 and 10, will begin on Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00 followed by classroom assignments for those who are in the Madrichim (Teachers' Aides) Program.

Living in the digital era, we as educators continue to learn to enrich our students' experiences in new ways. After offering hybrid learning for the last three years, we concluded that our students' interests are best served either when they are all in person or all on Zoom. We recognize the need to continue to offer both options to accommodate the various schedules of our families. That is why beginning in the fall, Hebrew School will meet in person on Thursday afternoons. For our distance learning community, we will continue to offer the online Hebrew@home program on a different day of the week.

We will also be integrating the use of cell phones (when appropriate), tablets, and other electronic devices into our program to ensure different learners can engage in ways that they were not able to do in the past. The staff will be using tools such as virtual display boards, Flipgrid, Nearpod, Padlet, Quizlet, online quiz games, and more to enhance our students' learning experience. Our portable computer lab will allow us to enhance our teaching both in Hebrew and in the Religious School, and will ensure we can accommodate a larger number of students at any given time.

This year, we are adopting the theme of *מִדּוֹר לְדוֹר* Mi-dor l'dor (from generation to generation). We plan to start by bringing together various congregants to share their talents with our students and their parents. There will be opportunities for some ongoing electives that our students can participate in as well as events that will take place in the congregation to help strengthen our relationships and build a stronger community for years to come.

Our partnership with the Yachdav Program in Israel will continue to take place this year. Students in various grades will be corresponding and meeting over zoom several times throughout the year.

I invite each and every family to connect and with us and be involved in creating the best learning environment for our children.

I look forward to working with you and your family,

B'virkat Shalom,  
**Rina Liebeskind**  
Education Director