

Congregation Sha'aray Shalom

Religious School Opening Information 2023-2024

Dear Religious School Families:

We are so excited to welcome you back to in-person learning beginning on **Sunday, September 10th**. We are looking forward to welcoming our new and returning students and parents and to the start of a wonderful new year.

During our opening day, we will have a special program for parents which will run concurrently with our first day of class. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with parents from your child's class, learn about special programs during the upcoming school year and hear from Deb Newhouse, the chair of our Education Committee. Parent involvement is key to the success of our school program. **Please plan to be with us on September 10th. We will provide the breakfast and coffee ☺**

Religious School Sunday Schedule

9:00-10:30 am Preschool Through Third Grade
 11:00 am-12:30 pm Fourth Through Sixth Grade
 11:00am-12:00 pm Seventh Through Tenth Grade (Confirmation)
 12:00pm-12:30 pm Seventh Through Tenth Grade Lunch*

2023-2024 Religious School Staff

We are blessed with a talented and dedicated religious school staff:

Preschool/

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Pre-K | Jenny Fisher |
| Gan/K | Anna Shapiro |
| Aleph/1 | Ellen Tenenbaum |
| Bet/2 | Janette Furman |
| Gimel/3 | Jennifer Flashner |
| Dalet/4 | Sara Zwicker |
| Hey/5 | Janette Furman & Ellen Tenenbaum |
| Vav/6 | Toby Wolk |
| Zayin/7 | Ronit Goldstein |
| Chet/8 | Stephanie Gertz |
| Tet/9 & Yud/10 | Cantor Steven Weiss & Rabbi Eric Berk |
| Hebrew Specialist | Shoshana York |
| Special Needs | Ellen Tenenbaum & Kelsey Kosak |
| Arts Coordinator | Hilary Ridge |
| Madrichim Coordinator | Julie Fox |

Sunday Administrator Tena Tanderes
 School Administrator Stacy Parker
 Youth Director Aaron Fox

Thursday Afternoons (Virtual Through Zoom) – 4:00-5:00 pm First day of school – Thursday, September 14th

Our midweek program will commence on Thursday, September 14th. Each of our classes in grades 3-6 will meet with their teacher for one hour on zoom,

Religious School Services

Once a month on Sunday mornings, our preschool through third grade students will participate in a short worship service led by the Rabbi and Cantor as well as Ethan Warhaftig, who will once again be assisting us with music. The 4th through 6th grade students will participate in services to assist them with prayer learning and proficiency. We are excited to be able to worship, share stories and celebrate holidays with all our students. **A complete schedule will be distributed following the opening of the school.**

Friday Night Shabbat Dinners & Kiddush

Throughout the fall, we will invite various grades to join for Shabbat dinner prior to services. Students will assist us with the leading of the Shabbat Kiddush at the start of the service.

Dinners will be held at 6:15 pm for services that begin at 7:00 pm.

Friday, October 13 – 6th & 7th Grades

Friday, October 20 – 4th & 5th Grades

Friday, January 19 – 2nd & 3rd Grades

Shabbat L’Kulam Services

We are so proud of our students who assist with leading our Shabbat Morning worship with confidence and Hebrew skill. Our tradition is that the two grades below the one leading assists with providing the Shabbat lunch following the service.

Shabbat L’Kulam services will be held on the following dates:

Saturday, January 20th – 6th Grade/4th & 5th Grades Assist, sponsor lunch

Saturday, February 3rd – 5th Grade/2nd Grades Assist, sponsor lunch

Saturday, March 2nd – 4th Grade/1st & 3rd Grades Assist, sponsor lunch

Saturday, March 16th – 3rd Grade/Kindergarten & Pre-K Assists, sponsor lunch

Shabbat Service Requirements

Families are encouraged to worship together at Congregation Sha'aray Shalom. The Service experience combines singing and learning, promotes Hebrew fluency, along with comfort and familiarity with Jewish religious practices, and helps build a sense of commitment and community - all of which are crucial for young Jews growing up on the South Shore. Because service attendance is essential to gaining proficiency in the curriculum, **students are required to attend religious services on a regular basis.**

The following are the number of Friday or Saturday services students are expected to attend during the school year:

Kindergarten through 2nd Grade – 4 services

3rd Grade through 7th Grade – 8 services

8th Grade through 10th Grade – 8 services including Confirmation

Only Shabbat services (Friday or Saturday) attended in-person at Congregation Sha'aray Shalom count toward the fulfillment of the service requirements. Attendance and participation in Shabbat L'Kulam Services and KIDushat Shabbat (for preschool through 2nd grade) will count towards this requirement.

"First Friday" Shabbat Service and Dinner

In order to accommodate families with younger children, we are introducing a once a month "First Friday" service and Shabbat dinner. These services will be held beginning at 6:00 pm on the first Friday of the month and will be followed by Shabbat dinner.

First Friday services will be held on:

Friday, September 1st

Friday, October 6th with Consecration for our Kindergarten, and new students

Friday, November 3rd

Friday, December 1st

Friday, January 5th

Friday, February 2nd

Friday, March 1st

Friday, April 5th

Friday, May 3rd

Friday, June 7th

KIDushat Shabbat Services

For our youngest members and their families, we offer a series of KIDushat Shabbat services on Saturday mornings throughout the year. These services are 30-40 minutes in length and include a story, art project and a little Shabbat snack. KIDushat services will be held on Saturday at 9:00am

October 14th

January 20th

March 16th

May 18th

Family Programs

We are excited to engage with both parents and students during our grade level family programs throughout the year. Family programs will take place on Sunday mornings.

Family programs will be held on the following dates:

Sunday, January 7th at 9:00 am – Grades Preschool-Kindergarten (Shabbat)

Sunday, January 21st at 9:00 am – Grades 2 & 3 (Shabbat)

Sunday, January 21st at 11:00 am – Grade 4 (Shabbat)

Sunday, March 17th at 11:00 am – Grade 5 (Mitzvot/Mitzvah Projects)

Madrichim “Student Assistant” Program

We are looking forward to welcoming back our new and returning Madrichim “student assistants” who provide an extremely important role in assisting our classroom teachers while also learning valuable classroom management and educational skills that will help them as they get older. Madrichim commits to assisting during specific sessions throughout the year and can be used as fulfillment of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah Mitzvah project requirement. We have a wonderful group of dedicated students for the coming year. But we can always use more!

If your child is interested in serving as a Madrichim this coming year, please contact our program coordinator Julie Fox (juliebachfox@gmail.com.)

Room Parents

Parent involvement is a key component of our religious school program. It is imperative that each class have a designated parent who will assist with coordination of special programs and events. Please consider volunteering! The Education Committee, under the direction of Deb Newhouse (debnew1000@gmail.com) coordinates our school volunteer program. Thank you!

Special Events

We have several special programs planned for the coming year and others in process. Programs this year include:

Friday, October 6th at 6:00 pm – “First Friday” Shabbat Service with Consecration and Dinner

Sunday, October 8th at 10:30 am – Simchat Torah Celebration

Sunday, October 22nd at 10:30 am – Blessing of the Animals (in CSS parking lot)

Friday-Sunday, November 17-19 – A weekend of Celebration in honor of Cantor Weiss

Sunday, December 10th at 5:00 pm – Congregation Sha’aray Shalom Chanukah Celebration

Friday, January 26th at 6:00 pm – Tu B’shvat Seder, Shabbat Service & Dinner

Sunday, March 24th – Purim Carnival

Sunday, May 5th – Mitzvah Day & Last Day of School

Visiting Author Visits

Thanks to a fund established in memory of Joseph & Betty Saunders, we are pleased to offer a series of in-person author visits throughout the coming year for both students and parents. More specifics will be forthcoming. Copies of the books will be distributed to those to attend the program.

We look forward to another wonderful year of learning and celebration as a sacred community. And we especially look forward to seeing you on Sunday September 10th as we begin our new Religious School year.

L’Shana Tova!



Cantor Steven Weiss



Rabbi Eric Berk