

Dear Kol Ha'Emek Families,

I'm sure you've been waiting with bated breath to find out what's happening with Hebrew School this year. I feel the same way! 😊 In the face of much uncertainty, my goal is to make sure your children stay connected with their Jewish peers, maintain the Hebrew they've learned, nurture their Jewish identities, and continue developing the skills to meet challenges in a way that is consistent with Jewish values. While doing all of this, we need to keep our community healthy and vibrant. Therefore, Hebrew school will start remotely for most students and in-person for the youngest students until it becomes too cold to meet outside.[1] Although we are not meeting inside the Roth Center, we will gather monthly outdoors for socially-distant Jewish activities. The details are laid out below. If you're ready to sign up right away, please go to <https://www.uvjc.org/hebrew-school-registration-form/>.

We are trying to make this experience as normal and positive as possible. The reality is that this requires extra planning from teachers and staff, extra attention and help from parents, and more patience and flexibility from students. We need your commitment to help your children stay six feet apart during in-person activities, get connected on electronics for Zoom classes, stay focused during Zoom classes, and do the assigned home study.[2] Likewise, we are committed to keeping you in the loop, answering your questions, supporting you as you help your children with their home study (we know some folks' Hebrew is rusty or non-existent) and being as flexible as we can in order to accommodate everyone's needs. Please understand that this letter is our best guess at what will be possible and that it is subject to change.

For the youngest grades, we are planning to meet outdoors under a tent or pavilion in a location to be announced soon. We are still making plans for what happens when the weather gets cold.

- **Kitah Koof and Aleph (PK-1st graders)** will meet on Sundays under two 10 x 30 wedding tents or a pavilion from 10 to 10:45 am. Students and teachers must wear masks and sit two per table at opposite ends. We will sanitize the tables and chairs between the two classes. Each student will have their own labeled box of classroom supplies (pencils, markers, scissors, etc.). We will not serve food. The children must use the bathroom at home before they come (except for

emergencies). Additionally, if interested, they may meet individually with Micki Sand-Loud (their teacher) for Hebrew for 10 minutes once or twice a week at a time to be scheduled by each family with Micki.

- **Kitah Bet (2nd graders)** will meet on Sundays under two 10 x 30 wedding tents or a pavilion from 11 to noon. They and their teachers must wear masks and sit two per table at opposite ends. We will sanitize the tables and chairs between classes. Each student will have their own labeled box of classroom supplies (pencils, markers, scissors, etc.). We will not serve food. The children must use the bathroom at home before they come (except for emergencies). Additionally, they will meet individually with Natalia Callaghan (their teacher) for Hebrew for 10 minutes once or twice a week, via Zoom, at a time to be scheduled by each family with Natalia.

Our 3-7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have been learning about online teaching and exploring our new curriculum from ShalomLearning which is designed to be used both virtually and in person. This new curriculum has wonderful slides, videos, games, songs, and activities. We have some school supplies (pencils, markers, glue stick, crayons) available if your child(ren) need those things; please let me know and I will deliver them.

- **Kitah Gimel (3rd graders and 4th graders who did not attend Tuesdays last year)** will meet as a group via Zoom for Judaic Studies on Sundays from 10:15-10:45 am and on Tuesdays from 4-4:30 pm. Additionally, they will each meet individually with Aryeh Lande (their teacher) for Hebrew for 10 minutes once or twice a week (depending on interest) at a time to be scheduled by each family with Aryeh.
- **Kitah Dalet (4th graders who attended Tuesdays last year and 5th graders)** will meet as a group via Zoom for Judaic Studies on Sundays from 10:15-11 am and on Tuesdays from 4-4:45 pm. Additionally, they will meet individually with Ben Katz or Alex Rockmore (their teachers) for Hebrew for 10 minutes once or twice a week at a time to be scheduled by each family with one of the teachers.

- **Kitah Hay (6th graders)** will meet as a group via Zoom for Judaic Studies on Sundays from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm and on Tuesdays from 4-5 pm. Additionally, they will meet individually with Sophia Gawel (their teacher) for Hebrew for 10-15 minutes once or twice a week at a time to be scheduled by each family with Sophia.
- **Kitah Zayin (7th graders)** will meet as a group via Zoom for Judaic Studies on Sundays from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm and on Tuesdays from 4-5 pm. Additionally, they will meet individually with Hayley DeLugach (their teacher) for Hebrew for 10-15 minutes once or twice a week (depending on interest) at a time to be scheduled by each family with Hayley.

In addition to these virtual meeting, we are planning to hold socially distanced in-person gatherings once a month. These gatherings will count on having parents participate and assist with maintaining social distance:

- September: apple picking and gleaning for donation to The Haven
- October: Sukkah/Simchat Torah party
- November: Jewish scavenger hunt outdoors at the Roth Center
- December: Hannukah candle lighting at the Roth Center
- January: Tu Beshvat snow shoeing adventure on the golf course
- February I: Rosh Chodesh and Lunar new year moon-watching party
- February II: Purim Costume parade
- March: Afikoman treasure hunt outdoors at the Roth Center
- April: Lag B'Omer campfire with s'mores at Occom Pond
- May: Shavuot cheesecake picnic and teacher appreciation

We are living through a pandemic with daily fluctuations. We are making every effort to maximize your child's Jewish education and we hope that you will be flexible and patient if, for any reason, we need to adjust the above plan.

Please note that the attached calendar goes through December. We will send out the winter/spring calendar as we see how things go in the fall.

Rabbi Mark is available and happy to meet with you and your *mishpacha* (family) at your convenience. This could be just to check in on the health and welfare of your family or to set up a customized session based on your interests (Hebrew, Judaism 101, personal questions, etc.) Please email him directly: [rabbimarkm@gmail.com](mailto:rabbimarkm@gmail.com)

To register for Hebrew School, please go to <https://www.uvjc.org/hebrew-school-registration-form/> to register for school.

*L'shana tova v'briah*, (a happy and HEALTHY New Year),

-Melissa

	Sundays & holidays	Kol Ha'Emek School Calendar 5781 (2020-21)	Tuesdays
September	13-Sep	First week of Sunday and Tuesday school	15-Sep
	Sun 13-Sep	Family Day: 2 pm apple picking and gleaning at Poverty Lane Orchards, 98 Poverty Lane, Lebanon NH	
	Sun 20-Sep	Rosh Hashanah family service at 10 am	
		Regular Tuesday school	22-Sep
	27-Sep	Regular Sunday and Tuesday school	29-Sep
	Mon 28-Sep	Yom Kippur family services at a time TBA	
October	4-Oct	Regular Sunday and Tuesday school	6-Oct
	Sun 11-Oct	Family Day: Sukkah and Simchat Torah party	
		Regular Tuesday school	13-Oct
	18-Oct	Regular Sunday and Tuesday school	20-Oct

	25-Oct	Regular Sunday and Tuesday school	27-Oct
November	1-Nov	Regular Sunday and Tuesday school	3-Nov
	8-Nov	Regular Sunday school	
		erev Veteran's Day - no Tuesday school	10-Nov
	Sat 21-Nov	All-school shabbat via Zoom on Saturday at 10 am	
	22-Nov	Regular Sunday school	
	29-Nov	Thanksgiving Vacation - no Sunday or Tuesday school	24-Nov
		Regular Tuesday school	1-Dec
December	6-Dec	Regular Sunday and Tuesday school	8-Dec
	13-Dec	Regular Sunday and Tuesday school	15-Dec
	Sun 13-Dec	Family Day: sundown in-person candle lighting at Roth	
	20-Dec	Regular Sunday and Tuesday school	22-Dec
	27-Dec	December vacation	29-Dec
	3-Jan	December vacation	

[1] This will give these students a chance to meet their teachers and get oriented before they have to switch to a remote model. We will wait as long as possible to switch.

[2] Nobody functions well for long on Zoom, so classes will be shorter than in-person meetings and teachers will be assigning more activities to be completed at home.