



Religious School

2016/17 - 5777

Rabbi: Michael Gotlieb

Cantor: Samuel Cohen

Director of Education & Youth Programming:
Sharone Weizman, M.A. Ed
eddiretor@km-synagogue.org

Head of K1 and Early Childhood Programming:
Masha Savitz
earlychildhood@km-synagogue.org

1715 21st Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404
(310) 829-0566

SCHEDULE

K-1st Grade: Tuesday, 4:00pm-6:00pm (Childcare available 6-6:30pm)

2nd-7th Grade: Tuesday, 3:45pm-6:30pm

1 Sunday a month, 9:00-12:30pm

1 Saturday a month, 11:00-12:00pm

Thursday (Supplemental), 4:00-6:00pm

Shabbat B'Yachad Family Shabbat Programs: Please see calendar

Family, Ohr L'Olam & Holiday Programs: Please see calendar

Kadima- Monthly

8th-10th Grade Westside Chai/USY: Please see calendar

Our Religious School



Our KM Religious School understands the needs of today's children and families. We offer an experiential Religious School program that meets the expectations of different types of learners. Our vision is to expand the mind and open the soul, endowing each child with a passion for lifelong learning, and a fundamental appreciation of what it means to be Jewish today. Our school values family education and bridging the gap between school, home, and community.

Our Religious School will provide a safe place for kids and a sense of belonging and community through innovative learning styles including curriculum that synthesizes the arts, affective and cognitive ideas, as well as informal and formal experiences. Our school philosophy is to get the students up and out of their seats. If you were to walk into one of our classrooms you would see learning centers, debates, games, singing, movement, film, art, and other interactive learning modalities. Each student will grow to understand and appreciate his or her Jewish identity, culture, religion, heritage and sense of self within a larger Jewish community.



We believe that students should begin their Jewish education with our Early Childhood programming and remain in school through our Westside Chai/USY Programming. Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah does not mark the conclusion of one's studies, rather it indicates acceptance of the adult responsibility and privilege of continued study. We encourage our students to continue their education as a Lifelong Learner.

Director of Education & Youth Sharone Weizman

Ms. Sharone Weizman received her Master's in Education, Bachelor of Literature in Hebrew Letters, and Bachelors in Jewish Studies, from the University of Judaism (AJU), where she graduated Summa Cum Laude. Ms. Weizman has 20+ years experience as a Jewish educator in both formal and informal settings, including: Director of Education, March of the Living Director, school administrator, teacher, curriculum developer, family and adult educator, Youth Group Director, and summer camp/retreat leader and counselor. She has an extensive knowledge of Judaism and speaks Hebrew fluently. She places a strong emphasis on active learning techniques and experiential education for the school's curriculum and programming because she understands that through interactive experiences positive Jewish memories are formed.

Family Education



All parents are encouraged to get involved in family education because we believe that through cooperation, family supporting school and school supporting family, we can teach our children that Jewish living is an important part of their lives. Because we care about our families, we will try to be sensitive to your needs and desires by encouraging parent involvement, support and feedback. We offer a variety of family holiday programs, *Ohr L'Olam*, Shabbat programming for all ages, Shabbat dinners, Shabbat lunches and Havdalah nights, 3 part B'nai Mitzvah Series for families and special programming including a family beach day and Havdalah on the beach. These informal educational experiences engage the entire family in lifelong learning.

Curriculum



Our progressive school curriculum is guided by timeless Jewish values. Our spiral curriculum (selected core topics) is reintroduced at deeper cognitive levels as students advance to higher grades. These topics focus on God, Torah and Israel. They also include: Hebrew literacy and basic conversational Hebrew, Jewish text study, Jewish history, *Mitzvot* and holidays. Our resources are carefully selected

each year to enhance our curriculum and to engage our students. Our teachers use both modern and time-tested techniques in classroom management and curriculum presentation.

Students will be taught the richness and beauty of their diverse Jewish heritage, traditions, and Hebrew language through prayer and basic conversational Hebrew. We integrate informal learning with formal education at all grade levels, including Judaica, Hebrew and T'fillah with music, drama, art, family educational programs, Shabbatot, and Camp Ramah experiences.

K-1st Grade

This year the K/1 class bursts with activity and learning as students are introduced to the aleph bet; learning vocabulary and Hebrew words! We experience Jewish holidays, Torah stories, while creating Jewish art to bring and use at home proudly. We learn through playing educational games- with a constant array of engaging projects weekly.

2nd-7th Grade

Our unique Religious School programming allows for instruction in two-three academic areas with teacher specialists. Classes include spoken and written Hebrew Language, Prayer/Songs and Judaica, including God, Torah, Israel, Values, Jewish holidays and Jewish lifecycle. Our 2nd-7th Grade students work with specialists in music, Hebrew, Judaica, art, drama, dance and *Tefillah* with our Cantor. We provide excellent teacher/student ratios with small classes, several instructors, and Madrichim (teacher assistants) in each class. Our students learn Hebrew and prayer through an interactive computer lab program which allows our students to play games at home and practice their Hebrew in-between class sessions. Students move through the Hebrew program at their own pace as we incorporate multiple levels of learning in one classroom with varying modes of instruction and teachers. Our school also has several on-site Hebrew Tutors.

Camp Ramah - Shabbaton

Students in grades 3-7 will have a fantastic Shabbaton experience at Camp Ramah in Ojai, where sports, hikes, and activities take place alongside prayer services and discussions as part of our school enrollment which is included in your school fees.

Hebrew Tutoring Program

Students who join our Religious School after 4th Grade, or need additional help with reading Hebrew are invited to our supplemental Hebrew Ulpan class which meets on Thursdays from 5-6pm. The goal of this class is to get our students reading at or beyond class level in only 10 weeks. Led by Neomi Nemanim- using differentiated learning.



Hebrew Through Movement

Students will learn Conversational Hebrew Through Movement, games and activities. This fun "out of your seat" experience requires no Hebrew reading or prayers to join. This Supplemental program meets on Thursdays from 4-5pm. Led by Yafit Josephson - using interactive learning techniques.

B'nai Mitzvah Program

Our 5th-7th Grade students and families meet 3 times a year for an interactive BM workshop facilitated by our Rabbi and Cantor, with dinner and a themed art activity.

B'nai Mitzvah Preparation

Begins 10 months prior to BM with a weekly BM tutor, mastering all of the appropriate blessings, prayers, Torah portions and readings. The last 3 months of training will be individualized with Cantor Cohen, in addition students and families will meet with Rabbi Gotlieb to discuss the students D'var Torah.

Trope Program

This lifelong skill is offered to advanced students on Thursdays with Cantor Cohen to help master Torah chanting for students B'nai Mitzvah and the rest of their lives.

Choir with Cantor Cohen

Students are encouraged to join our Choir which meets weekly on Thursdays from 5-6pm. Led by Cantor Cohen.

Tuesday Evening Services

Parents are invited to attend our services from 6:00-6:30 pm with their children in Grades 2-7. Each week our Rabbi starts us off with an inspiring weekly D'var followed by interactive services and songs with students in each grade leading the prayers. In addition, our students enjoy a story or lesson on the weekly Torah portion. Don't miss out on these engaging family experiences!

Sunday Morning Shacharit Services

Our families and students pray together as a *Kehillah* (community) once a month on Sunday mornings. These enriching interactive *Shacharit* services will include prayer, song and Torah Study from 12:00-12:30 pm.

Kadima Youth Group

Youth Group provides a chance for students to hang out with one another at activities and events. Programs include beach days, PJ Havdalah sleepovers, amusement parks, SATO (*Social Action Tikkun Olam*), weekend kinnusim, Saturday night activities, Sunday activities following RS and more...

Kadima: Grades 3-7

Contact: Director of Education and Youth Programming at 310 829-0566
or e-mail eddirector@KM-synagogue.org

