

WESTCHESTER JEWISH CENTER
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
2018-2019

Table of Contents

Introduction Letter	Page 3
Classroom Electives Enrollment Procedure	Page 4
Overview of Classroom Electives	Page 5-6
Description and Dates of Electives	Pages 7-9
Synagogue-Wide Programs	Page 10
Family Activities	Page 11-12
Elective Registration Form	Page 13

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to present the enrichment packet for the Religious School for the 2018-2019 school year. In this packet, you will find information on Religious School enrichment programs. Please review the packet as soon as possible as there are dated materials that need to be returned to the school office by the end of May. **Each Religious School student is required to participate in four or more enrichment programs over the course of the year.** Enrichment programs are organized into the following three categories:

- **Electives: Classroom-Based Learning** - Electives vary by grade and range from 3 to 5 weeks long. Topics include Nature and Judaism, 100 Hebrew Words, Hanukkah Sing Along, Mitzvah Club, and Jewish Art. In addition, for the first time this year, we are excited to be offering a Virtual Hebrew elective for students in our 4th, 5th and 6th grades. While electives are generally filled on a first-come, first-serve basis, students that were on a wait list last year for an elective, that is being repeated this coming school year, receive priority for that elective.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

1. All electives are **free of charge** (covered by regular tuition). Think of them as fun afterschool programs for our Religious School children.
 2. It is highly recommended that each Religious School child choose **two electives, a cultural elective as well as an elective that incorporates Hebrew into the course** in order to build upon their Hebrew reading skills. The Hebrew reading and prayer electives, marked with a * on the schedule, are meant to supplement the Religious School Hebrew curriculum.
 3. For students who have very busy schedules during the week, we recommend choosing a Sunday morning elective before school begins at 10:00 am.
- **Synagogue-Wide Programs** - These programs are designed to engage the whole family in the WJC experience. Friday night family services with dinner and Purim services are just a few examples of the lively opportunities WJC offers to families in our congregation.
 - **Family activities** - We encourage the Religious School community to expand their Jewish educational experience beyond the school and the synagogue. Performing mitzvot as a family, conducting Jewish rituals as a family at home, are some examples of family activities.

Each student is required to complete an enrichment program in each of the three categories. Each student may choose their fourth enrichment program from any of the three categories. As a reminder, it is recommended that the fourth enrichment program be chosen from the classroom-based learning section.

If you are new to WJC Religious School and would like help choosing what electives are best for your child, please feel free to call me at (914) 698-2966.

Thank you,
Aleza R. Kulp
Education Director and Synagogue Program Coordinator

CLASSROOM-BASED LEARNING ELECTIVES

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

1. Please fill in the enrollment form (one per Religious School student) and return to WJC school office no later than May 31, 2018. The enrollment form can be found either at the end of this packet or at <https://goo.gl/forms/LSynqdSMRVjc1jf43>
2. All registration for classroom electives is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Any student that was on a wait list for an elective last year and that elective is being repeated this school year, will receive priority for that elective *as long as enrollment is submitted by May 31, 2018*.
3. An e-mail confirmation will be sent to each family during the month of June with a list of the course(s) enrolled.
4. Registration for each course will be processed in the order received, and every attempt will be made to meet all requests. If a request cannot be met, the family will be notified as soon as possible.

ENROLLMENT POLICIES

1. Each Religious School student is required to enroll in a minimum of one course elective during the school year.
2. There is no maximum number of courses a Religious School student may enroll in for the school year. Students can enroll in as many electives as they would like.
3. Religious School students are required to attend each weekly course. Students who miss more than 25% of an elective will not receive credit for the elective.
4. Courses are free!! All courses are included as part of Religious School tuition.
5. If at any time during the course of the 2018-2019 school year a student has a change in schedule and needs to change the course he/she has registered for, please call the school office to arrange a different elective (pending availability).

OVERVIEW OF CLASSROOM-BASED LEARNING ELECTIVES 2018-2019

ELECTIVE CHOICES IN ORDER OF DATE AND GRADE

**Reminder: All Students are encouraged to take two electives: one cultural and one Hebrew
(Hebrew language electives are noted with an asterisk.)**

Kindergarten	
Nature and Judaism	Thursday, October 11, 18, 25; November 1, 8
Noah and the Animals	Monday, October 15, 22, 29
I have a Little Dreidel	Monday, November 19, 26; December 3
Let's Discover	Tuesday, January 29; February 5, 12, 26
Jewish Art	Thursday, February 28; March 7, 14, 28; April 4

1st grade	
Nature and Judaism	Thursday, October 11, 18, 25; November 1, 8
Noah and the Animals	Monday, October 15, 22, 29
I have a Little Dreidel	Monday, November 19, 26; December 3
Let's Discover	Tuesday, January 29; February 5, 12, 26
Jewish Art	Thursday, February 28; March 7, 14, 28; April 4

2nd grade	
Nature and Judaism	Thursday, October 11, 18, 25; November 1, 8
All about Shabbat*	Monday, October 15, 22, 29
Hanukkah Sing Along*	Monday, November 19, 26; December 3
Latkes and Lego	Tuesday, November 20, 27; December 4
Let's Ask the Rabbi	Thursday, January 10, 17, 24, 31
100 Hebrew Words*	Thursday, March 7, 14, 28; April 4
P ² : Purim and Passover*	Sunday, March 10, 17, 24; April 7

3rd grade	
Kahoot is a Hoot!	Sunday, October 28; November 4, 18
All about Shabbat*	Monday, October 15, 22, 29
Hanukkah Sing Along*	Monday, November 19, 26; December 3
Let's Ask the Rabbi	Thursday, January 10, 17, 24, 31
100 Hebrew Words*	Thursday, March 7, 14, 28; April 4
P ² : Purim and Passover*	Sunday, March 10, 17, 24; April 7

4th grade	
Kahoot is a Hoot!	Sunday, October 28; November 4, 18
Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, October 16, 23, 30
Hanukkah Sing Along	Monday, November 19, 26; December 3
Virtual Hebrew*	Tuesday, February 5, 12, 26; March 5, 12
Mitzvah Club	Monday, March 4, 11, 18, 25
100 Hebrew Words*	Thursday, March 7, 14, 28; April 4
WJC Times: Moses and Miriam Visit WJC!	Tuesday, March 19, 26; April 2, 9

5th grade	
Kahoot is a Hoot!	Sunday, October 28; November 4, 18
Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, October 16, 23, 30
Virtual Hebrew*	Tuesday, Nov 6, 13, 20, 27; Dec 4
Jews of Chelm: Famous Yiddish Stories	Monday, November 5, 19, 26
Virtual Hebrew *	Tuesday, February 5, 12, 26; March 5, 12
Mitzvah Club	Monday, March 4, 11, 18, 25
WJC Times: Moses and Miriam Visit WJC!	Tuesday, March 19, 26; April 2, 9

6th grade	
Mitzvah Club	Monday, October 15, 22, 29; November 5
Tallit and Tefillin*	Tuesday, October 16, 23, 30
Virtual Hebrew*	Tuesday, Nov 6, 13, 20, 27; Dec 4
Jews of Chelm: Famous Yiddish Stories	Monday, November 5, 19, 26
Kosher Cooking: Recipes Remembered	Monday, January 7, 14, 28; February 4, 11
Law & Order: Hammurabi and Moses	Monday, March 11, 18, 27

7th grade	
Mitzvah Club	Monday, October 15, 22, 29; November 5
Tallit and Tefillin*	Tuesday, October 16, 23, 30
Latkes and Lego	Tuesday, November 20, 27; December 4
Kosher Cooking: Recipes Remembered	Monday, January 7, 14, 28; February 4, 11
Law & Order: Hammurabi and Moses	Monday, March 11, 18, 27

Classroom-based learning electives marked with an * connects to the Hebrew curriculum

See following pages for dates and description of each elective

REGISTRATION DUE MAY 31, 2018

ALL FORMS ARE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS

SUNDAY ELECTIVE COURSES

COURSE	GRADES	TEACHER	DATES	TIME
Kahoot! is a Hoot	3rd – 5th grade	Ziva Wagner	October 28; November 4, 18	9:00 – 9:45 am
Kahoot! is a great way for us to test our knowledge! With a friend or on a team, we will test our knowledge on Torah and holidays. We may even create our own Kahoot! so we can test one another on random Jewish facts. Come have fun in this elective!				
P²: Purim & Passover	2nd – 3rd grade	Ziva Wagner	March 10, 17, 24 April 7	9:00 – 9:45 am
There is so much to learn about both holidays! Children are invited to come hear the story, bake some goodies, and even create their very own Megillat Esther and Haggadah! Come join in the P ² fun!				

MONDAY ELECTIVE COURSES

COURSE	GRADES	TEACHER	DATES	TIME
All about Shabbat	2nd – 3rd grade	Ziva Wagner	October 15, 22, 29	4:15 – 5:15 pm
We will celebrate Shabbat together as we learn about its many wonderful customs and traditions. If you love art, music, games and food, come join us for loads of fun!				
Mitzvah Club	6th – 7th grade	Gail Koller	October 15, 22, 29 November 5	4:00 – 5:00 pm
Help make the world a better place while having fun with your WJC friends and elders at the Sarah Neuman nursing home. Activities may include: share and compare family trees, play indoor sports, play other games, and make and eat a delicious treat. Students will have input on the planning.				
Noah and the Animals	K – 1st grade	Eileen Fortuna	October 15, 22, 29	4:15 – 5:15 pm
Noah, “he built him, he built him an Arky, Arky”. Why did Noah build the Ark? Come learn why and how Noah, his family and the animals lived together on the Ark. Through stories and hands-on activities, we will experience the wonder and delight in the story of Noah’s Ark.				
Jews of Chelm	5th – 6th grade	Aleza Kulp	November 5, 19, 26	4:15 – 5:15 pm
Jewish humor is rooted in tradition. One popular humorous tradition from Eastern Europe involved tales of the people of Chelm, a town reputed in these jokes to be inhabited by fools. The jokes were almost always centered on silly solutions to problems. We will read together stories by Sholom Aleichem and other entertaining tales that teach us about Judaism.				
I Have a Little Dreidel	K – 1st grade	Julie BenAvram	November 19, 26 December 3	4:15 – 5:15 pm
There are so many great ways to celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah! Together we will play dreidel, learn the letters in Hebrew, sing songs, and enjoy some delicious latkes. We hope everyone will join in on the fun!				
Hanukkah Sing Along	2nd – 4th grade	Cantor Goldberg	November 19, 26 December 3	4:15 – 5:15 pm
Hanukkah is such a fun time of year! There are so many so many fun songs to learn in Hebrew and English. Together we will sing some traditional favorites and learn some new songs. At the conclusion of our elective we will join together on Shabbat Hanukkah with the WJC congregation and lead everyone in a medley of songs.				
Kosher Cooking: Recipes Remembered	6th -7th grade	Julie BenAvram	January 7, 14, 28 February 4, 11	4:15 – 5:15 pm
We will be preparing the recipes and sharing the stories of Holocaust survivors as a way of honoring them and affirming the concept of "Never Forget". We will also be discussing the role of food and recipes as markers of identity, reminders of relationships, and as connections to community through ritual.				

MONDAY ELECTIVE COURSES CONTINUED

Mitzvah Club	4th - 5th grade	Gail Koller	March 4, 11, 18, 25	4:00 - 5:00 pm
Help make the world a better place while having fun with your WJC friends and elders at the Sarah Neuman nursing home. Share memories such as your funniest memory, games that were played back in the 1930s, and the funniest thing you ever did, while doing an art project, playing games, recording oral histories and preparing and eating a delicious treat! Students will have input on the planning.				
Law & Order: Hammurabi and Moses	6th - 7th grade	Cantor Goldberg	March 11, 18, 25	4:15 - 5:15 pm
How do we decide what's fair and just? In this elective, we'll look at how ancient Babylonia and ancient Israel approached these issues, and see how the Torah is aware of the Code of Hammurabi but makes significant changes to it, based on very different ideas about justice. We'll bring what we've learned in Social Studies about the Ancient Near East to help us understand the Torah in a new way.				

TUESDAY ELECTIVE COURSES

COURSE	GRADE	TEACHER	DATES	TIME
Tallit and Tefillin	6th - 7th grade	Rabbi Segelman	October 16, 23, 30	4:15 - 5:15 pm
Tallit and Tefillin are more than ritual mitzvot. They are spiritual tools that we use to enhance our experience of prayer. Most people just "scarf" the tallit and don't think about it much. Most people shy away from the thought of wrapping ourselves in the leather straps of Tefillin. In this elective, we will explore not only the technicalities of these symbols but we will reach deeper to understand and appreciate their spiritual, even mystical power in Jewish life (and particularly in the life of a Jewish teenager.)				
Sibling Rivalry	4th - 5th grade	Rabbi Adir	October 16, 23, 30	4:15 - 5:15 pm
Ever had an argument with your brother or sister about who gets to be on the iPad? Well, there may not have been iPads but siblings have been arguing with each other for as long as we can remember. In this class, we'll learn together with Rabbi Adir about some of our most famous pairs of siblings in the Torah, their fights, and what we can learn from them to try to help us in our own lives with siblings.				
Virtual Hebrew	5th - 6th grade	Julie BenAvram	November 6, 13, 20, 27 December 4	4:00 - 4:30 pm
Reading Hebrew is not an easy skill. While we learn the letters and vowels in school and try to instill a level of fluency, we know that the Hebrew language is not easy for everyone to grasp. Together students in 5 th and 6 th grade will have the opportunity sign in on line from home and practice their Hebrew reading skills. This is a great way for students to reinforce what we are learning at WJC!				
Latkes and Lego	2nd and 7th grade	Aleza Kulp	November 20, 27, December 4	4:15 - 5:15 pm
Does your child love the holiday of Hanukkah? Does your child like to play with LEGO? If the answer is yes to both questions, than this elective is perfect for your child! Together we will learn about the <i>chanukiyah</i> and its' eight branches. Once we build our LEGO model, we will enjoy making latkes together and even add some special ingredients!				
Let's Discover	K - 1st grade	Penny Linden	January 29 February 5, 12, 26	4:15 - 5:15 pm
There are so many parts of being Jewish that we want to explore! Each week we will discover a different aspect of Judaism including the holidays, the synagogue and Shabbat. We will also discover together ways we can thank G-d by reciting different blessings.				

TUESDAY ELECTIVE COURSES CONTINUED

Virtual Hebrew	4th - 5th grade	Julie BenAvram	February 5, 12, 26 March 5, 12	4:00 - 4:30 pm
Reading Hebrew is not an easy skill. While we learn the letters and vowels in school and try to instill a level of fluency, we know that the Hebrew language is not easy for everyone to grasp. Together students in 4 th and 5 th grade will have the opportunity sign in on line from home and practice their Hebrew reading skills. This is a great way for students to reinforce what we are learning at WJC!				
WJC Times: Moses and Miriam visit WJC	4th - 5th grade	Eileen Fortuna	March 19, 26 April 2, 9	4:15 - 5:15 pm
Ever wonder what it was like to live during the time of Moses and Miriam? Be a slave to Pharaoh? Wander in the desert? Be free in the land of Israel? Join us as we read, discover, write and draw about that time in our Jewish history. Together we will create our own newspaper to share with family and friends.				

THURSDAY ELECTIVE COURSES

COURSE	GRADE	TEACHER	DATES	TIME
Nature and Judaism	K - 2nd grade	Gail Koller	October 11, 18, 25 November 1, 8	4:15 - 5:15 pm
We will be learning about nature through games, books, crafts, and even snacks! Weather permitting, we will go outside for a nature scavenger hunt and other nature games. Nature themes may include bats, bees, and rocks.				
Let's Ask the Rabbi	2nd - 3rd grade	Rabbi Segelman Rabbi Adir	January 10, 17, 24, 31	4:15 - 5:15 pm
Children are naturally curious and have a built-in desire to learn and understand G-d and the world around them. In this elective, children will be given the opportunity to ask the questions in a safe and friendly environment. Prior to each week children will be able to submit questions to both Rabbis. Two sessions will be spent with each Rabbi.				
Jewish Art	K - 1st grade	Penny Linden	February 28 March 7, 14, 28 April 4	4:15 - 5:15 pm
In this wonderfully creative and educational elective, we will study the art of famous, and not so famous Jewish artists. We will explore the styles of the artists through viewing and discussing their works. The children will then create their own art inspired by the artists using a variety of materials. The most important aspects of the art activities are exploration, discovery and individual creativity as the children learn and create.				
100 Hebrew Words	2nd - 4th grade	TBD	March 7, 14, 28 April 4	4:15 - 5:15 pm
In this exciting and engaging elective, students will be given the opportunity to enrich their Hebrew vocabulary skills through various games and conversations. During elective course, we will focus on clothing, colors, body parts and food. At the end of the 4 weeks, our goal is to get to <i>may-ah meelem</i> , 100 Hebrew Words!				

Synagogue-Wide Programs

Religious School students are required to participate in a minimum of one synagogue-wide program during the course of the year. These programs are designed to engage the whole family in the WJC experience, enriching your connection to the WJC community.

Based at WJC, these programs will range from enjoying Kabbalat Shabbat, to working together on a mitzvah program, to participating in special cultural learning opportunities. As events appear on the synagogue calendar, Religious School families will be notified via e-mail about these programs.

While we encourage our families to attend WJC weekly Shabbat services and students in 3rd – 6th grade are required to attend the Religious School Shabbat Learning Program, it is important to note they are not considered part of the enrichment program.

Examples of these programs may include, but are not limited to:

1. WJC Family Shabbat Services and Dinners (unique Friday evening family service and organized dinner)
2. Purim Megillah reading
3. Simchat Torah celebrations
4. WJC community wide celebrations i.e., Hanukkah, Purim, Israel Independence Day
5. PJ Library programs
6. Yom Hashoah Memorial Service
7. Brotherhood World Wide Wrap
8. WJC Mitzvah programs such as “Help the Hungry”
9. Project Ezra Luncheon
10. Project Ezra Passover Food Delivery

Unsure if a WJC program you attended with your child counts as a synagogue-wide program? Contact Aleza with questions.

Family Activities

Jewish memories spent with our families are often the most powerful, meaningful, and long-lasting. During the course of the year, each Religious School student is required to participate in a minimum of one family activity. The goal of this enrichment area is for families to expand together their Jewish educational experience beyond the Religious School and synagogue.

Our Religious School families vary in their observance levels, customs and traditions at home. With the family activity enrichment area, you are encouraged to look inward as a family and consider how you can broaden your family's relationship with Judaism. It is important to note that Shabbat services and other various holiday programs held at WJC are not considered a family activity for the purpose of the Religious School enrichment program. The goal of enrichment is to help the family take on new rituals in their homes or new memories. We want our families to branch out and try new Jewish activities together outside the synagogue.

Below are some suggestions of dynamic, positive experiences that are designed to connect families to their Jewish heritage, strengthen family bonds, and enhance a child's Jewish identity. Of course, please feel free to contact the Education Director with your own ideas of how your family would like to fulfill this enrichment area.

Examples of Family Activities include one of the following:

Shabbat

- Enhance your Shabbat experience: light Shabbat candles and recite the blessing as a family, recite the blessings over the wine and challah before Friday evening dinner
- Bake challah with your child for Shabbat
- Bless your child(ren) on a Friday night
- Light a Havdalah candle and recite the blessings at sunset on Saturday evening
- Spend a Shabbat afternoon (or part of an afternoon) together relaxing at home without the TV, computer, telephone, video games, or other electronics
- Invite family members or friends over for a Shabbat dinner or other Shabbat activity

Mitzvot

- Use a tzedakah box at home and discuss as a family how to donate the money
- As a family, clean out a closet and donate clothes and/or toys to those in need
- Volunteer your time as a family together at a local soup kitchen
- Purchase and hang Mezuzot on all outside doors of your home
- Visit a Shiva house and help the family have a minyan in their home
- Participate in Project Ezra food delivery in the Lower East Side www.projectezra.org
- Volunteer to help take a nursing home resident (either from Sarah Neuman or another facility to a Shabbat or holiday service)

Holidays

- Eat a meal or dessert in a Sukkah (feel free to use the WJC sukkah if empty)
- Learn about the holiday of Purim and bake hamantaschen together
- Deliver Mishloach Manot to friends and family for the holiday of Purim
- Make latkes, jelly doughnuts, play dreidel and discuss the story of the Maccabees at Hanukkah time
- Plant a tree as a family in honor of Tu B'Shevat
- Clean out the kitchen together and discuss the holiday traditions to prepare for Passover
- During Passover, cook together special foods for the holiday such as matzah brie
- Celebrate Israeli Independence Day together: attend a parade or other celebration, have a party, make a flag, learn the national anthem "Hatikvah"

Visit Museums with Jewish content

- Tenement Museum, NYC www.tenement.org
- Museum of Jewish Heritage, NYC www.mjhnyc.org
- Jewish Museum, NYC www.thejewishmuseum.org
- Jewish Children's Museum, NYC www.jcm.museum
- Yeshiva University Museum, NYC www.yumuseum.org
- National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia www.nmajh.org
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C. www.ushmm.org

Other

- Read PJ Library books together as they arrive monthly
- Visit the WJC library together, explore the shelves and take something home to borrow
- Interview a grandparent or older relative or friend and learn about their experience being a Jew in the USA, discuss how things have changed over the years, what is the same, what is different
- When visiting another country on a family vacation, take time to visit a local synagogue, Jewish neighborhood, and/or museum of significance to Jews (e.g., Anne Frank house, local Jewish museums, etc.)
- As a family, attend a NYC Jewish Film Festival Movie (sponsored by the Jewish Museum of NY)