

WESTCHESTER JEWISH CENTER
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
2019-2020

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Dear Parents,

I am pleased to present the enrichment packet for the 2019-2020 Religious 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. 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. A few examples of topics include Israel Dancing, Let's Explore Israel, PJ Our Way Book Club, Mitzvah Club, and Let's Discover Marc Chagall. In addition, we are excited to once again be offering a Virtual Hebrew elective for students in our 3rd, 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. In this booklet we have listed electives for the entire school year. Families will choose NOW by May 31, 2019 for any electives offered beginning in October that conclude in December, 2019. In November, families will be able to choose electives being offered from January – May, 2020.
 2. All electives are **free of charge (part of tuition)** for Religious School students.
 3. 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.
 4. For students who have very busy schedules during the week, we recommend choosing a Sunday morning elective that meets from 9:00 – 9:50am 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. While it is recommended that the fourth enrichment program be chosen from the classroom-based learning section, students may choose their fourth enrichment program from any of the three categories.

If you would like help choosing what electives are best for your child, please feel free to be in touch at (914) 698-2966.

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

CLASSROOM-BASED LEARNING ELECTIVES

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

1. Registration for all electives being offered from October, 2019 through December, 2019 can be found on line here. Please fill in the enrollment form no later than May 31, 2019.
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, 2019*.
3. A postcard 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 2019-2020 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 2019-2020

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	
Let's Explore Israel	October 28 and November 4, 18
Too many Latkes	December 2, 9, 16
Jewish Art	January 9, 16, 23, 30 and February 6
All about Passover	March 17, 24, 31
Israel Dancing	April 21, 28 and May 5

1st grade	
Let's Explore Israel	October 28 and November 4, 18
Jewish Book Club: Shabbat	November 26 and December 3, 10
Too many Latkes!	December 2, 9, 16
Jewish Art	January 9, 16, 23, 30 and February 6
All about Passover	March 17, 24, 31
Israel Dancing	April 21, 28 and May 5

2nd grade	
Let's Discover Marc Chagall	November 7, 14, 21
Jewish Book Club: Shabbat	November 26 and December 3, 10
Oh, Hanukkah!*	December 2, 9, 16
It's a Mitzvah	January 9, 16, 23
Matzah Madness*	March 19, 26, and April 2
All things Israel*	April 21, 28 and May 5

3rd grade	
PJ Our Way Book Club	October 29 and November 12, 19
In the beginning....	November 3, 17, 24
Let's Discover Marc Chagall	November 7, 14, 21
It's a Mitzvah	January 9, 16, 23
Virtual Hebrew*	March 2, 16, 23, and 30
Matzah Madness*	March 19, 26 and April 2
All things Israel*	April 21, 28 and May 5

4 th grade	
PJ Our Way Book Club	October 29 and November 12, 19
In the beginning....	November 3, 17, 24
Virtual Hebrew*	January 28, February 4, 11, 25 and March 3
Is Coke Kosher?	March 1, 8, 15
Mitzvah Club	March 2, 16, 23, 30
Israel Music*	April 21, 28 and May 5
Building Jerusalem out of LEGO	April 27 and May 4, 11

5 th grade	
Virtual Hebrew*	October 29 and November 12, 19, 26
Rhythm and Ruach*	January 21, 28 and February 4
Fiddler on the Roof	January 13, 27 and February 3
Virtual Hebrew*	January 28, February 4, 11, 25 and March 3
Is Coke Kosher?	March 1, 8, 15
Mitzvah Club	March 2, 16, 23, 30
Israel Music*	April 21, 28 and May 5
Building Jerusalem out of LEGO	April 27 and May 4, 11

6 th grade	
Mitzvah Club	October 23, 30 and November 6, 13
Jews in Sports	November 18, 25 and December 2
Virtual Hebrew*	October 29 and November 12, 19, 26
What makes you so special?	December 3, 10, 17
Rhythm and Ruach*	January 21, 28 and February 4
Fiddler on the Roof	January 13, 27 and February 3
What happened in 1948?*	February 11, 25 and March 3

7 th grade	
Mitzvah Club	October 23, 30 and November 6, 13
Jews in Sports	November 18, 25 and December 2
What makes you so special?	December 3, 10, 17
Rhythm and Ruach*	January 21, 28 and February 4
Fiddler on the Roof	January 13, 27 and February 3
What happened in 1948?*	February 11, 25 and March 3

Electives marked with an * connects to the RS Hebrew curriculum
 A minimum of 6 students is encouraged for all electives to be offered (except Virtual Hebrew).

See following pages for dates and description of each elective

REGISTRATION FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER ELECTIVES ARE DUE ON MAY 31, 2019

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

SUNDAY ELECTIVE COURSES

COURSE	GRADES	TEACHER	DATES	TIME
In the Beginning....	3- 4th grade	TBD	November 3, 17, 24	9:00 - 9:50 am
Join us as we explore the very beginning stories of the Bible. We will watch as the world is beautifully fashioned, and meet our forefathers. We will explore all different family dynamics and experience as the earth is struck by the greatest flood ever. This elective is sure to impart a wellspring of early on information to the students, and hopes to leave them thirsting for more from the books that follow.				
Is Coke Kosher?	4th - 5th grade	TBD	March 1, 8, 15	9:00 - 9:50 am
This elective is a great opportunity for the students to become better versed in the laws and customs of Kashrut. We will take time to understand the meaning behind the rules of meat and milk, kosher fish, and all different kosher symbols. We will explore the rules of a kosher kitchen, including separate pots and utensils. The students will have an opportunity to create their own kosher menus...from soup to nuts! In addition, they will learn how to create a kosher shopping list! This elective will be both highly informative and lots of hands on fun!				

MONDAY ELECTIVE COURSES

COURSE	GRADES	TEACHER	DATES	TIME
Let's Explore Israel	K - 1st grade	Betty Moallem	October 28 November 4, 18	4:15 - 5:15 pm
Come join us as we tour the land of Israel! We will visit the holy city of Jerusalem, including a special prayer at the western wall. We will move on to Hebron, the city of our forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We will continue with a swim in the Dead Sea, a visit to the boats in the port city of Haifa, take a look at the exciting night life in Tel Aviv, and much more! This elective promises to be a fun filled, educational experience for all.				
Jews in Sports	6th - 7th grade	Adam Bender	November 18, 25 December 2	4:15 - 5:15 pm
"Jewish," "sports" are two words that do not often go together naturally. We all know about Sandy Koufax, but there are Jewish stars found in many sports and generations. During this elective, we will share together our knowledge and love for sports and the Jews who played them, this includes sports in Israel as well. We will also look at how sports have played a role in our Jewish history with a focus on the 1972 Olympics in Munich.				
Too Many Latkes	K - 1st grade	Julie BenAvram	December 2, 9, 16	4:15 - 5:15 pm
Join Morah Julie for fun and exciting afternoons celebrating Hanukkah. This elective will involve multi-sensory activities all around the upcoming holiday. Children will have the opportunity to play dreidel, enjoy making delicious latkes! Join us in the fun!				
Oh, Hanukkah!	2nd grade	Betty Moallem	December 2, 9, 16	4:15 - 5:15 pm
As the holiday of Chanukah approaches, we will read together various Chanukah stories that are engaging for children and share the traditions of the holiday. We will also create our own Chanukah booklet that each child will be able to take home at the end of the class.				
Fiddler on the Roof	5th - 7th grade	Aleza Kulp	January 13, 27 February 3	4:15 - 5:15 pm
The musical "Fiddler on the Roof," teaches us about life for Jews in the early 1900's. It deals with issues of love, parenting, tolerance and tradition in ways which appeal to everyone. The story centers on Tevye and his attempts to find a balance between his Jewish beliefs and outside influences on his family. During our class, we will watch clips from the movie, discuss various themes and challenges Tevye faces in his life. We will also read the famous tale, <i>Tevye and his Daughters</i> , by Shalom Aleichem one of many Tevye stories written in Yiddish literature.				

MONDAY ELECTIVE COURSES CONTINUED

Virtual Hebrew*	3rd grade	Julie BenAvram	March 2, 16, 23, 30	4:00 - 4:30 pm
<p>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 3rd 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!</p> <p>*For any families who would like their child to participate in this elective and require supervision, please contact Aleza</p>				
Mitzvah Club	4th - 5th grade	Gail Koller	March 2, 16, 23, 30	4:00 - 5:00 pm
<p>Help make the world a better place while having fun with your WJC friends and elders at the Sarah Neuman nursing home. What is your funniest memory? What games were played back in the 1930s? Who were the hot singing groups back then? Come find out while doing an art project, playing games, recording oral histories and preparing and eating a delicious treat! Participating students will have input on the planning.</p>				
Building Jerusalem out of LEGO	4th - 5th grade	Aleza Kulp	April 27 May 4, 11	4:15- 5:15 pm
<p>We all love to build and create with LEGO! Join us as we look at the different gates to the Old City in Jerusalem. As we become the architects of Jerusalem, we learn about the four quarters in the Old City and its' history.</p>				

TUESDAY ELECTIVE COURSES

COURSE	GRADE	TEACHER	DATES	TIME
PJ Our Way Book Club	3 - 4th grade	Eileen Fortuna	October 29; November 12, 19	4:15- 5:15 pm
<p>Join us for the next chapter in PJ Library. PJOW offers the gift of exceptional books, with Jewish themes, to kids ages 8.5-11. We will be reading one-two books in this elective that reflect Jewish contemporary life or some valuable aspect of Jewish experience. Inspiration from the books we read will reflect in our discussions, writing, crafts, game and puzzle making. Students will also have a chance to write reviews and blogs to post on the PJOW website and a chance to apply to be selected to be a Design Team Member for PJOW.</p>				
Virtual Hebrew*	5th - 6th grade	Julie BenAvram	October 29; November 12, 19, 26	4:00 - 4:30 pm
<p>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 5th - 6th 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!</p> <p>*For any families who would like their child to participate in this elective and require supervision, please contact Aleza</p>				
Jewish Book Club: Shabbat	1st - 2nd grade	Eileen Fortuna	November 26 December 3, 10	4:15 - 5:15 pm
<p>Got Shabbat? Come get that Shabbat feeling deep in your heart! Magical things will happen when we sit down together and read stories about Shabbat. We will discuss values and traditions that are important to the children and their families. Cooking, crafts and music will round out this elective.</p>				
What makes you so special?	6th - 7th grade	Rabbi Arnowitz	December 3, 10, 17	4:15 - 5:15 pm
<p>Is this course title an insult as in, "You think you don't have to try hard - what makes you so special?" or a supportive statement, like "this is what makes you so special." Of course it is both - that way you read it is all about perspective. Join Rabbi Arnowitz as we use Jewish text and tradition, video clips and stories to explore why we see the world and ourselves in a positive or negative light and learn how to better embrace the positive. Together we will create a project to help others see the positive in themselves and others too. (The exact nature of the project will be up to the participants - it could be a video, a game, skit or something else we think of together).</p>				

TUESDAY ELECTIVE COURSES CONTINUED

Rhythm and Ruach*	5th - 7th grade	Cantor Goldberg	January 21, 28 February 4	4:00 - 5:00 pm
Take the lead at Rhythm and Ruach! We'll learn about the Friday evening service, learn and review its music and plan the service together. Students should attend all three elective sessions and the service on Friday February 7 2020. Students who play a musical instrument are invited to bring it but all students are invited to participate.				
Virtual Hebrew*	4th - 5th grade	Julie BenAvram	January 28 February 4, 11, 25 March 3	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 - 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! *For any families who would like their child to participate in this elective and require supervision, please contact Aleza				
What happened in 1948?*	6th - 7th grade	Rabbi Segelman	February 11, 25 March 3	4:15 - 5:15 pm
In this elective, we will look back at the creation of the State of Israel and the many steps that it took for the Jewish people to call Israel a homeland. Together, we will look at the Balfour Declaration, learn about the life of Theodor Herzl and David Ben Gurion and the Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948. We will look at various documents, maps and read various historical texts that teach us about the establishment of our Jewish homeland.				
All about Passover	K - 1st grade	Julie BenAvram	March 17, 24, 31	4:15 - 5:15 pm
Matzah, Macaroons and everything in between!! Passover abounds with both laws and customs! In this class we will learn about Passover while cooking some delicious treats. Together we will learn about the symbols on the Seder plate, review the Mah Nishtanah and enjoy some goodies that will become part of your Passover meal and enhance your own family traditions.				
Israel Music*	4th - 5th grade	Cantor Goldberg	April 21, 28 and May 5	4:00 - 5:00 pm
We'll work on our Hebrew reading by learning and singing classic Israeli songs that Israelis and Jews around the world all sing and adore. The group will decide together how to present what we've learned.				
Israel Dancing	K - 1st grade	Diane Holsten	April 21, 28; May 5	4:15 - 5:15 pm
This class will teach children traditional Israeli folk dances. Dances taught will be appropriate for the age level and motor skill level of the children in the class. No prior dancing experience is necessary.				
All things Israel	2nd - 3rd grade	Julie BenAvram	April 21, 28; May 5	4:15 - 5:15 pm
Take a tour of Israel and visit some of the most treasured cities in Israel! Together we will learn about Jerusalem and visit the holy city. We will stop by Tel Aviv for a good falafel and then take a swim in the Dead Sea! This class promises to give an appreciation of Israel and all that our homeland has to offer!				

WEDNESDAY ELECTIVE COURSE

Mitzvah Club	6th - 7th grade	Gail Koller	October 23, 30; November 6, 13	4:00 - 5:00 pm
<p>Help make the world a better place while having fun with your WJC friends and elders at the Sarah Neuman nursing home. What is your funniest memory? What games were played back in the 1930s? Who were the hot singing groups back then? Come find out while doing an art project, playing games, recording oral histories and preparing and eating a delicious treat! Participating students will have input on the planning.</p>				

THURSDAY ELECTIVE COURSES

COURSE	GRADE	TEACHER	DATES	TIME
Let's Discover Marc Chagall	2nd - 3rd grade	Penny Linen	November 7, 14, 21	4:15 - 5:15 pm
<p>In this creative art elective the children will learn about the life and art of artist Marc Chagall. His art will be studied and analyzed. The children will produce art in the style of this famous artist. The most important aspects of this art activity are exploration, discovery and individual creativity as the children learn about this wonderful Jewish artist.</p>				
Jewish Art	K - 1st grade	Penny Linden	January 9, 16, 23, 30 February 6	4:15 - 5:15 pm
<p>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.</p>				
It's a Mitzvah	2nd - 3rd grade	Diane Holsten	January 9, 16, 23	4:15 - 5:15 pm
<p>When we ask our children what it means to do a mitzvah, they usually feel it is a good deed. However, the Hebrew word mitzvah does not mean "a good deed" in that sense. Mitzvah literally means "commandment." In fact the Torah tells us that there are 613 mitzvot. What are these commandments? We will look at different mitzvot together and create our own book that can be used to teach others about some of the commandments from the Torah.</p>				
Matzah Madness	2nd - 3rd grade	TBD	March 19, 26 April 2	4:15 - 5:15 pm
<p>Come learn all about the holiday of Passover! During our time together, we will visit WJC's very own Matzah Laboratory, play holiday games and learn all about the customs and celebrations of the holiday!</p>				

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. Rhythm and Ruach Friday Evening Service
3. Simple and Soulful Shabbat Service
4. Purim Megillah reading
5. Simchat Torah celebrations
6. WJC community wide celebrations i.e., Hanukkah, Purim, Israel Independence Day
7. PJ Library programs
8. Yom Hashoah Memorial Service
9. Brotherhood World Wide Wrap
10. WJC Mitzvah programs such as “Help the Hungry”
11. Project Ezra Luncheon
12. Project Ezra Passover Food Delivery

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)