



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM
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Religious School Subcommittee Report

Temple Beth Shalom COVID-19 Task Force

These recommendations are based on the prevailing conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic in Central Ohio as of August 2020. These recommendations are in effect through at least November 1, 2020. The Task Force will review its recommendations in late October, at which time potential changes may be considered based on the course of the virus.

Background Information:

- In the spring of the previous (5780) school year, from March 22 to May 17, 2020, Temple Beth Shalom's (TBS) Religious School adapted to an all-virtual program due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Virtual Zoom classes were successful, with participation close to in-person attendance in the spring. By the end of the year, the program included virtual all-school tefilah, music with Gail Rose, K-9 classes (including 3rd-6th grade Hebrew), and 10th-12th grade time.
- Rabbi Benjy and Rabbi Lenette, Cantorial Soloist Gail Rose, Administrator Angelo Dunlap, and musician Marc Rossio led all-school tefilah.
- Youth group advisors Angelo Dunlap and Abby Wurmbrand created virtual junior and senior youth group events which were well attended.
- As the number of COVID-19 cases in Ohio has remained high, public school districts are considering or have already implemented hybrid and all-virtual options.
- All Jewish religious schools in Columbus, Ohio are considering hybrid and all-virtual options.
- With an enrollment of over 250 students, reopening the Religious School for in-person classes is considered high-risk. Furthermore, activities such as singing and sharing materials present opportunities for COVID-19 transmission.

Outcomes:

- TBS's Religious School will begin the 2020/5781 school year with an all-virtual program to protect its students teachers.
- Teachers will meet August 30, 2020 for a virtual Teacher Orientation. Teachers will be provided with resources on how to effectively use Zoom as a tool for teaching.
- Parents and students will be provided with materials on how to properly use Zoom.
- Religious School will begin the year with opening day on September 13, 2020. Religious School sessions in September and October will be fully virtual.
- The schedule of virtual classes, events, and programs will attempt to mirror the in-person experience as closely as possible. Classes will be held over Zoom.
 - ◆ Rabbi Lenette and Religious School staff will help implement online resources and access points for families and teachers to virtually connect with the curricula.
 - ◆ Virtual experiences will include the hallmarks of TBS Religious School, including all-school tefilah, midweek Hebrew on Wednesdays, adult learning, and electives.
 - ◆ The madrichim program will remain a vital component of TBS Religious School, and faculty will ensure madrichim are still utilized in virtual learning classrooms.
 - ◆ The Junior and Senior Youth Group Advisors will continue to provide monthly virtual youth group events, as well as collaborate with community partners for larger virtual youth group opportunities.

- ◆ In accordance with safety measures and protocols, Religious School leadership will plan monthly in-person programming available to all Religious School families.
- ◆ In consultation with TBS leadership and the COVID-19 Task Force, clergy and staff will determine whether Religious School Services, such as grade Shabbatot and Confirmation services, will be done virtually or postponed until we are able to have services in-person.
- Religious School faculty will send books and other materials directly to students' homes for use. The Temple will procure devices such as refurbished laptops and internet hotspots for families in need.
- The Religious School Subcommittee will meet in mid/late October to reevaluate and determine if the school should remain virtual through the end of 2020. If it is determined that it is safe to begin meeting in person, safe guidelines for a hybrid in-person program will be developed in conjunction with TBS's COVID-19 Task Force.
 - ◆ Another assessment will take place over winter break (after December 13), to assess the winter/spring.
 - ◆ Rabbi Lenette and Executive Bobby Covitz are in contact with Columbus JCC and JCC New Albany leadership. If we are able to resume some form of in-person learning, we will work with them to ensure harmonious protocols with JCC New Albany schools and the safety of the Columbus Jewish community at large.