



West End Synagogue

Jewish Family Life and Learning (JFLL)
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www.westendsynagogue.org

July 14, 2018

Dear JFLL, High School and Kef Kids Parent(s),

We are excited and thrilled to begin another year of JFLL as a West End Synagogue family.

This coming year we have some changes to our program so please read this letter carefully.

Our WES educational program is special because it is not “religious school.” For many people, both words can be daunting and can have negative associations. People get scared of the word “religious” and students shy away from anything that has to do with “school”. Our program is called JFLL (Jewish Family Life and Learning) because we believe that Jewish education is not only about the student but about the whole family and its relationship to our synagogue and the greater Jewish community.

We have programs for students of all ages! In addition to our weekday curriculum for school age children, our Shabbat and holiday programming for the whole family is what makes our JFLL program complete. Our comprehensive [color-coded calendar](#) will help you make sure you make the most of our programming!

Families with kids aged 0-4 are encouraged to:

- attend weekly Tot Shabbat services Saturday morning at WES
- attend First Friday @ 6 service/potluck Shabbat dinner (eat @ 7)

Families with kids in pre-K to 2nd grade are encouraged to:

- attend First Friday @ 6 service/potluck Shabbat dinner (eat @ 7)
- register for “Kef Kids” - our innovative Shabbat based-learning program. Please visit our website for more information, and for our [color-coded calendar](#) for the Saturdays @ 2-3:30pm.

For kids in grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 We hold our JFLL classes Tuesday afternoons from 4-6pm, featuring fun, interactive, hands-on learning, following the philosophy of “whole person learning” that emphasizes “knowing, doing, believing and belonging.” In addition to our regular Tuesday classes, we expect students and their families to take part in the following:

- attend the First Friday @ 6 service/potluck Shabbat dinner (eat @ 7)
- **attend Shirat Shabbat services every third Saturday morning at WES!** Beginning in October, Shirat Shabbat is returning with Hazzan Ayelet.
- 5th-7th grade families: attend one additional Shabbat program or service at WES (Torah study, Friday night service, or Shabbat/holiday service) and attend B’nei Mitzvah family programming (visit our website for details) *Please Note that all Bnei Mitzvah students are

expected to complete the ENTIRE 7th grade year of JFLL*

For kids in grades 8 -12: Manhigut Teen Leadership Program and Religious Action Center (RAC) Trip.

THIS YEAR THE RAC TRIP IS ON JANUARY 25-28 2019. Send your \$100 deposit in to the WES office in now to hold your spot. (Grade 9 and up only)

Our teen program focuses on what it means to be a Jewish leader. Classes meet twice a month. These classes are open for kids in 8th grade and up. This year we will be continuing this exciting teen program here at WES with our creative educator Rachel Oshrin. With the great success of this pilot program last year, there will be a **registration and fee going forward** so that we can continue to sustain this excellent programming! The dates for the teen program with Rachel Oshrin are in the calendar [coded purple](#).

Madrichim Program: We invite all children of members ages 13 and up to become Madrichim, assistant teachers on either Tuesday evenings 4-6 pm or Saturdays during Kef Kids. Please let me know if your teen is interested in becoming a Madrich.

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Youth Groups And Volunteer Opportunities: We have two youth group programs here at WES. Our Teen Senior Youth Group for 8th graders and up, and our Junior Youth Group for grades 4-7. The goal of the youth program is to create community amongst our students. Friends of students who are not WES members may attend certain events. Approximately once a month we have fun and engaging events such as: bowling, Havdalah and a movie, or working at a soup kitchen.

Students in grades 6 and up may volunteer to work with the youth program during the High Holidays, Chanukkah, and Purim for community service credit. Please [contact me](#) if you are available to volunteer.

Now it's time to register for the 2018-19 school year. Register [online](#) by August 15, so we can order books and supplies in time for the start of school. Please refer to our website www.westendsynagogue.org for enrollment instructions.

The school year begins in October . The full yearly calendar is now [COLOR CODED!](#) MOST correspondence will be via email. Please make sure to check your email often! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or email me. I look forward to a wonderful year filled with learning and joy.

L'shalom,

Hazzan Ayelet Porzecanski

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