



### Welcome to Stephen Wise Free Synagogue!

We are so thrilled that you are going to be joining our community and we can't wait to get to know your whole family. Our synagogue is an incredibly warm and dynamic place, and I believe that you will find our Religious School to be another shining example of that!

Our Religious School is ready to welcome your child for the 2021–2022 school year. Below is some helpful information that we encourage you to read through carefully before filling out the registration form:

- In order to enroll in our Religious School, you must be a member. Please make sure you have started the process of becoming a member and have the membership application. We will not be able to fully process your child's Religious School registration form until your membership in our synagogue is confirmed. To learn more about our membership process, dues, and forms, you can reach out to our membership coordinator, Donna Levine.
  - If you haven't attended one of our information sessions, you can register [HERE!](#)
- In 2021–2022, you will have multiple options for Judaica classes, both in person and virtually. Students will attend Judaica once per week at one of the following times listed below:
  - PreK/K Taste of Religious School: IN PERSON on Sundays @ 9:30-10:30am (weekly)
  - Grades K-2
    - IN PERSON on Sundays @ 9-11am OR Mondays @ 4-6pm
    - VIRTUAL on Sundays @ 10am-12pm
  - Grades 3-5
    - IN PERSON on Sundays @ 9-11am OR Mondays @ 4-6pm
    - VIRTUAL on Sundays @ 10am-12pm
  - Grades 6-7
    - IN PERSON on Sundays @ 11:30am-1pm OR Wednesdays @ 4-5:30pm
    - VIRTUAL on Tuesdays @ 4-5:30pm
- For students entering Kindergarten, we have two choices: Taste of Religious School class (an introductory class that is one hour each week) or Kindergarten Class (2 hours each week). To learn more about the curriculum for this class (or any other), please visit our [website](#).
- Tefilah (for 3–5) and Tarboot (for K–2) will be INCLUDED in the time that your child attends **Judaica** class, whether they attend virtually or in person.
- Hebrew lessons (for Grades 3-7) will take place virtually and in small groups or chevruta. We were so successful during 2020-2021 in our small, online Hebrew groups and are excited to continue to develop this program next year! In August, we will send out a form to select times that will work for your child's virtual Hebrew lessons. Hebrew lessons will take place on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays next year.

*Please keep in mind that any student in Grades 4-7 who did NOT attend our Religious School or Portals program during the 2020-2021 school year, will be assessed on their Hebrew skills over the summer. They may also be given some additional Hebrew lessons*

*in order to get them to an appropriate skill level. There will be an additional charge of \$500 added to your RS tuition for all of these services.*

- In order to ensure our in-person classes are safe and with appropriate physical distancing, and that our virtual classes are as conducive for learning, we will be capping our class sizes (both in person and virtual). We will monitor registration and open wait lists for classes. If you register for something that is at capacity, you will be notified that you are waitlisted for that day/time. Classes will be filled based on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED basis.  
*Please also keep in mind that exact class sizes per classroom is something that we will continue to work on throughout the summer as CDC recommendations and guidelines will likely keep changing.*
- Our registration form is ONLINE. Please fill this out carefully and let us know if you have any issues with the form. To finalize your registration, you will need to send in a check with your deposit of \$250 per student. (We cannot take credit card payments for Religious School tuition.)
- The registration form will include a place to select your child's Judaica class. Please do your best to select the one that works best for your child. If you need to switch at any time before the year starts, you will need to speak with our Operations Coordinator, Devorah ([religiousschool@swfs.org](mailto:religiousschool@swfs.org)).
- We will continue to offer our [Portals Program](#) (one-on-one) for 3<sup>rd</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> graders. Please note that you will need to choose the PORTALS form to register for that program and you will only be able to register one child per form submission.
- Filling out the registration form and sending in your deposit **before July 1** means paying a lower tuition rate! **All registration will go up \$50 after July 1.** (If you need financial assistance, please fill out your registration form and make an appointment with Sandy Divack Moss, our Executive Director, as soon as possible.)

We know that thinking ahead seems impossible, but we need your help to make next year as successful as possible — and the easiest way to help us do that is to register so we can start counting your child as enrolled now! Enrolling earlier helps us to hire (and re-hire) our teachers sooner, order supplies in advance and even create classroom set ups. If you plan to join us in 2021–2022, please register as soon as possible so we can be ready to welcome your child.

**As always, if you have questions or concerns, you can reach out to me at any time.**

[Register for Religious School Here](#)

[Register for Portals Here](#)

See you for the start of Religious School on **September 12!**

Sincerely,

**Rabbi Rena Rifkin**

**Director of Youth Education**