

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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We hope this FAQ will answer your questions about the Youth Learning + Engagement program at Temple Emanu-El. Should you have further questions, please reach out to the YL+E Staff at yle@tedallas.org or (214) 706-0021.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Q: Why is there a new schedule?

A: The new schedule prioritizes small group learning with 8-10 children, allowing for more individualized instruction and deeper relationship building. The new schedule also allows for teens-only space, creating a sense of belonging and ownership for our teens.

Q: What times are drop-off and pick up?

A: Specific grade level drop-offs are:

K-6

Kindergarten through 6th grade drop off is 9 a.m. and pick up is 11 a.m. If your child is staying for childcare, or if your 3rd through 6th grader is staying for Hebrew Emanu-El, pick up is 12:30 p.m.

7-12

7th through 12th grade drop off is 10:30 a.m. and pick up is 12:30 p.m. If your child works in the Madrichim program, drop off is 8:45 am.

Q: Can I do one drop off and pick up for all of my children, regardless of age?

A: Yes!

K-6

Kindergarten through 6th grade students who need to be picked up at 12:30 p.m. should sign up for childcare (\$180 per semester). Childcare will include snack and opportunities for social interaction. Students are encouraged to bring a book, homework, or something to do. Registration details will be sent closer to the beginning of the school year.

7-12

7th through 12th grade students needing to be dropped off at 8:45 a.m. should sign up for the Madrichim (teacher's assistant) program [here](#).

Q: Is drop off/pick-up via carpool or do I walk my kids in?

A: Currently due to COVID protocols, all students will enter the building via carpool. Staff/madrichim will be on hand to help all grade level students find their way. Carpool instructions will be sent closer to the start of the school year.

Q: Can my 7th through 12th grader be a madrich/ah if they are not enrolled in the 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. classes?

A: Yes, though we highly encourage enrollment in both!

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COVID-19

Q: When will I know about COVID protocols for YL+E?

A: Temple's COVID Task Force and Medical Advisory Team will release updated COVID protocols closer to the beginning of the school year. We will be in contact with you as soon as details are finalized.

Q: What if our family wants to continue attending remotely?

A: Though there will not be a formal option on the registration form, if your family needs to remain remote for health or safety reasons, please be in touch with [Hannah Rubin-Schlansky](#).

Q: Are there going to be bagels?

A: We miss bagels just as much as you do, and as soon as COVID protocols allow it, we will bring back the bagels.

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STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Q: Can you accommodate my child with learning differences, special needs, or disabilities?

A: Yes! We are proud of our award-winning Lomdim program, which ensures all students, regardless of ability, are able to participate in YL+E. For more information, contact Lorraine Friedman , Director of Inclusion.

Q: What will my child learn this year?

A: Your child will continue to learn about Jewish holidays, values, stories, history, God, lifecycles, and more! With the addition of electives, your child will have the opportunity to connect Judaism to things that are relevant in their daily lives.

Q: What will happen during t'filah?

A: T'filah (worship) is a weekly prayer experience focused on teaching students how to pray, giving them an opportunity to pray, and exposing them to Jewish music and opportunities for spiritual practice.

Q: How will my child interact with clergy?

A: Clergy are an integral part of our program and will be present with small groups, teach classes and electives, and facilitate *t'filah* (worship).

Q: With the schedule change, how will my child participate in Temple's youth choir, Kol Shir?

A: Kol Shir is available for 2nd through 6th graders. Kol Shir will meet weekly from 11-11:30 a.m. on Sundays.

Q: Will we still have noshery (mid-session snack and hang time)?

A: Though we will no longer have noshery, teachers will provide information on their individual plans for snack prior to opening day.

Q: What will happen during Kindergarten through 6th grade childcare?

A: Childcare will include snack and opportunities for social interaction. Students are encouraged to bring a book, homework, or something to do.

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REGISTRATION AND THE PARENT PORTAL

Q: How do I register my child for YL+E?

A: [Click here](#) to register your child for the 2021-2022 year. You will need your Temple log-in information.

Q: Where can I find a class list?

A: After the YL+E Team completes small group placement, you can access your child's group list by logging into the [Parent Portal](#), selecting your child from menu on the top left, selecting "courses," and then "roster."

Q: How can I upload a picture of my child to the Parent Portal?

A: Log into the [Parent Portal](#), select your child from the menu on the top left, select "contact card," then "about." Upload the photo by selecting "edit photo."

Q: Who do I contact with further questions?

A: We are one stop shopping! Just email yle@tedallas.org or call (214) 706-0021 and you will be connected with the appropriate person.

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SMALL GROUPS

Q: How will small groups be chosen? Will you honor friend requests?

A: Small groups are chosen based on friend requests and input from previous teachers. We do our best to accommodate all requests. If your forms are submitted prior to June 30, the Early Bird and scholarship deadline, we guarantee one friend request.

Q: In what ways will my child interact with others who are not in their small group?

A: Once we are able to gather safely, we will build community and relationships among grade levels through a variety of ways, including:

- Including multiple grade levels in t'filah;
- offering electives for students 3rd grade and up via mixed grade levels;
- resuming whole grade level programming; and

- having teachers partner with other small groups for certain activities or lessons.

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ELECTIVES

Q: What are the electives?

A: There are a variety of electives designed to pique the interest of your child. Electives will center around things our students already know and love – music, cooking, STEAM, theater, Torah study, fine arts, sports, and more. Electives are all about showing our students that almost anything can be viewed through a Jewish lens!

Q: Does every student take electives?

A: Yes! Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade will rotate through the same electives with their small groups. Students in 3rd through 9th and 11th through 12th grades will choose an elective each semester. 10th grade Confirmation students are required to take Confirmation as their elective.

Q: What if there aren't any electives my child is interested in?

A: We do our best to have a broad selection of electives. We ask that you encourage your child to try something new, but if your child can't find an elective they are interested in trying, please reach out to [Shira Stevenson](#).

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HEBREW EMANU-EL

Q: How are Hebrew Emanu-El groups formed?

A: Hebrew Emanu-El groups are not necessarily the same as Sunday small groups, though there may be some overlap. We form these groups using the information you provide on the registration form. You will have the opportunity to choose your preferred time and day. Hannah Rubin-Schlansky will be in touch with as she creates Hebrew Emanu-El groups.

Q: Are Hebrew Emanu-El groups meeting at schools?

A: While this has been an option in the past, due to COVID we are unsure at this time if this will be an option. We will keep Hebrew Emanu-El families posted as new information is available.

Q: Can my child be in a Hebrew Emanu-El group on Sunday?

A: Yes! There are a limited number of spots in Hebrew Emanu-El groups at Temple on Sundays from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Groups also meet on weekday afternoons all over the city!

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NEW TO YL+E

Q: Are there other opportunities that Temple offers for Jewish connection outside of the YL+E program?

A: Yes! We encourage our families to join us on Shabbat with [Family Shabbat experiences](#) for all ages, join us for congregational [holiday celebrations](#), join a [Sh'ma Emanu-El](#) small group, or get involved in one of our [Social Justice](#) initiatives. We also have adult and parent education sessions, engagement events through our Youth and Teen Emanu-El communities, and guest musicians to jam with throughout the year. Watch your email and [check our website](#) for more information!

Q: What is “madrachim”?

A: Madrichim is the Hebrew word for “guides” and is the name of the program that places 7th through 12th grade students in leadership roles in YL+E. “Madrach” refers to a single, male or non-binary teen, while “madrachah” refers to a female. “Madrachim” refers to more than one teen and is also the name of the program. Madrichim serve as teacher’s assistants in classrooms, assist in the office, develop programs or lessons, assist with music and t’filah and more! Most importantly, they are incredible role models for our younger students who want to grow up to be just like them!

Q: What is “t’filah”?

A: T’filah is the Hebrew word for worship, and here it refers to a weekly experience facilitated by clergy and staff that creates opportunities for students to



connect to God and the spiritual world around them through prayer, silent mediation, mindfulness practices, music, and more.

Q: What is Kol Shir?

A: Kol Shir is Temple's youth choir for 2nd through 6th grade students. Kol Shir meets for rehearsals weekly when YL+E is in session and includes performances throughout the year.

Q: There are so many people in charge! Who do I go to with specific questions?

A: Every member of the YL+E Team is equipped to either answer your question or connect you with the person who can. General inquiries can be directed to yle@tedallas.org or (214) 706-0021. You can also [visit our website](#) to learn more about the YL+E Team and who does what.

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