

TOURO SYNAGOGUE

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & UPTOWN HEBREW



Parent Information

Welcome to Touro Synagogue Religious School! Please read through the Parent Information below which touches on various aspects of our program. If you have any questions at all, please be in touch with Rabbi Silverman or Anna Federline throughout the week in the Synagogue office at 504-895-4843. On Sunday mornings our office will be staffed by Ms. Michelle Neal.

A Typical Day of Religious School

9:00am-11:30am

Religious School starts at 9:00am and finishes at 11:30am. **Drop-off and pick-up for Religious School will take place at our SAINT CHARLES AVENUE entrance.** An off-duty NOPD officer will be here each week to help direct traffic and make sure cars and humans are able to navigate the process safely. You may drop off your child anytime after 8:50am – but please no earlier, as teachers are using their last few minutes for preparations and might not be able to be in the room with students who arrive before then.

At pick-up, please pull your car up along the Saint Charles Avenue entrance and wait in your car. Rabbi Silverman or one of our teachers/teaching assistants will come to your window and ask for your child(ren)'s name(s) – this is to avoid anyone being parked in the line for too long. If you would like to walk in and pick up your child(ren), you are more than welcome to park along a side and collect them yourself.

A Typical Day of Uptown Hebrew

4:00pm-5:30pm

Uptown Hebrew (UH) begins at 4:00pm and finishes at 5:30pm. Students may begin arriving anytime after 3:30pm, unless they have made other arrangements for supervision with Rabbi Silverman. One of our teachers will be present in the Jacobs Social Hall from 3:30 to 4:00 to supervise students who would like to play some games or socialize. A *light* healthy snack will be provided to all students. There will also be a quiet room available for any students who wish to do some homework or read.

Please **drop-off your students at the GENERAL PERSHING AVENUE entrance**, as Cypress Academy may still be finishing up their own end-of-the-day carpool procedures. **Pick-up will be at 5:30pm at the SAINT CHARLES AVENUE entrance**, just like Sunday mornings at Religious School. If you would like to walk in and pick up your child(ren) yourself, please park on a side street and not in the carpool line.

Uptown Hebrew “Late Nites”

5:30pm-7:00pm

On four Wednesdays throughout the year, Uptown Hebrew will be extended for a Late Nite program. On these days, dinner will be served for all students. While we are determined to serve food that is balanced and nutritious, please make sure to inform Rabbi Silverman or one of the office administrators if your child has any dietary needs or restrictions. We want to make sure everyone has something to eat!

Following dinner, all students will take part in a special program focusing on using their Hebrew skills and connecting them to other areas of Jewish life. These programs may pertain to holidays occurring around the same time of year as the Late Nite program, or might have to do with worship, community, history, Israel, or a number of other topics. ***While we hope all students will be able to participate in the Late Nite programs, we completely understand if it is too long of a day for your child(ren).*** Please make the best decision for them and you – just be in touch if you know of any absences (this helps with planning for dinner and supplies).

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Early Dismissal

The safety and security of our students is paramount to any other of our goals. To that end, we need to know where to find each child during our time together on Sundays and Wednesdays. **If you need to pick-up your child early for any reason, it is imperative that you stop into the main office and sign them out before taking them from the classroom.** Parents who arrive at the classroom with getting an early dismissal form will be asked to do so before leaving. We never want there to be any doubt of how to account for all of our students.

Shabbat Club – 6th Grade Only

6:00-7:30pm (Fri) or 9:30-11:30am (Sat)

While preparing to become Bar or Bat Mitzvah, sixth grade students take part in a monthly “Shabbat Club” experience meant to help familiarize them with the services in which they will take part and help lead at their own ceremony. These sessions take place during Touro Synagogue’s Shabbat services and alternate each month – Friday nights every other month and Saturday mornings every other month. During Shabbat Club, students will be together with the main service for a portion of the time and alone as a small group (with Rabbi Silverman) for a portion of the time. **Please note:** We recognize that Saturdays might be the only mornings of the week for students to sleep in or relax. Therefore **when Shabbat Club happens on a Saturday morning, there will be NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL for 6th graders on Sunday.** Enjoy the morning off ☺

Attendance and Absences

We know that every family and every individual follows their own rhythm and flow, and ultimately makes the best choices for how to spend their time. We love when we are bursting at the seams because of full attendance, and we know that sometimes other things come up on weekends and after school. **If you know your child(ren) will be absent on any given Sunday or Wednesday, it is always much appreciated to know about it in advance. Please call or email the Religious School administrative team (Rabbi Silverman and Anna Federline) as soon as possible.**

Snacks

Most students begin to feel hungry during the morning of Religious School and after their day at school on Wednesdays. **Please pack a healthy nosh for your child on both Sundays and Wednesdays. While we are not a nut-free environment, we ask that you make an effort to send items that are nut-free as often as possible.** Fruit, string cheese and healthy gummies are a great way to make sure your kids get the energy they need without a lot of clean-up required. We try very hard to have snacks available for kids who forget to bring something, but we can’t guarantee there will always be something to provide. Please don’t forget to pack something for them!

Mark Your Calendars (right now!)

Uptown Hebrew Late Nites:

October 19; December 14; March 8; April 26

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

September 4 (Labor Day); **October 2** (Rosh Hashanah); **October 23** (Simchat Torah at Daneel Park!); **November 27** (Thanksgiving); **December 18 and 25** (Winter Break); **January 1** (Winter Break); **February 19 and 26** (Mardi Gras); **April 9 and 16** (Passover)

UPTOWN HEBREW WILL NOT BE IN SESSION THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

October 12 (Yom Kippur); **November 23** (Thanksgiving); **December 21 and 28** (Winter Break); **January 4** (Winter Break); **February 22 and March 1** (Mardi Gras); **April 12 and 19** (Passover)

Religious School Contact Information

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