



Mission, Rationale, and Goals

2022-2023/5783

Rimon Mission Statement

Rimon is committed to learning that embraces, inspires, and matters to all of our learners:

- We **embrace** each learner where they are and as they are, welcoming them to feel part of something bigger.
- We **inspire** each learner to learn about Judaism and themselves, using tools rooted in our tradition to become their best selves.
- We **matter** by inviting our learners to build a community of friends who respect each other and work together to improve our world.

Rationale

Our Reform Jewish tradition puts much emphasis on the holidays of the Jewish year, as well as the active pursuance of justice for our world. Our holidays, based on ancient history and more contemporary history, teach us about our past, present, and future. Within each of the holidays that we observe and celebrate throughout the year, we find מצוות. מצוות (commandments) have been passed down from generation to generation since receiving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. The Jewish holidays help guide us through the year and the mitzvot associated with each, guide us on not only becoming our best selves but, by helping to make our world a better place.

Goals:

The goals of Rimon include pluralism, community-building, and voice and choice.

Pluralism:

Rimon aims to be a place whose learners may come from diverse ethnic, racial, religious-identity, political tendencies and/or social groups. Learners and their families maintain participation in and development of their traditions and special

interests while cooperatively working toward the interdependence of the home, Temple Sholom, and their communities. The outcome includes elements of interdependence, development, and cooperation among our learners and their families. We offer the space for our learners and their families to make Reform Judaism choice based on knowledge and guidance.

Community-Building

Our Rimon learners come from as far south as the Penn-Delco School District and as far north as the North Penn School District. Most, if not all of our learners, have limited connections to other Jewish kids. This is why *community-building* is such a focal point of Rimon. Building connections between our learners is as important as the lessons and skills they gain. This is the reason why we group our learners by two grades!

Voice and Choice

Research informs us that learners are more engaged and, therefore, more successful at internalizing material when they are involved in the learning process. This includes experiencing voice and choice in both the focus of the learning including the activities with which they engage and projects they may design. Student-centered engagement and PBL offer students these opportunities.

At Temple Sholom, we strive to provide our learners and their families with tools to understand the Jewish past, connect to the Jewish present, and become an integral part of the Jewish future. We acknowledge and celebrate that our learners and their families connect to Judaism in different ways. It is our goal to invite all ages into the conversation as they explore, investigate, question, and experience the richness of Reform Judaism. We seek to create experiences that will enable all learners and families to be challenged, exhilarated, and energized by the power of Jewish ideas, community, and tradition.