



Mission, Rationale, and Goals

2023-2024/5784

Rimon Mission Statement

Rimon, our youth learning program, is designed to embrace, inspire, and hold meaning for all of our learners while promoting community and friendship through exciting learning experiences:

- We **embrace** each learner where they are and as they are, welcoming them to feel part of something bigger.
- We **inspire** each learner to explore and discover their Judaism using values rooted in our Reform Jewish tradition.
- We **matter** by inviting our learners to build a community of friends who respect each other and work together to improve our world.

Rationale

לְמִידָה וְמַעֲשֵׂה בְשִׂמְחָה! — **Learning and Doing with Joy!**

Throughout the ages we, as a Jewish people, have learned from the past to understand today and look to the future. Our Reform Jewish tradition has its roots in *Traditions, Rituals, Sacred Spaces and Community*. Our collaborative curriculum design team has identified these broader themes as our focus for the first semester of the Rimon 5774 year.

Social Justice, Social Action and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) are among the central tenets of Reform Judaism. As a collaborative curriculum design team, we have identified Jewish values and social justice as the focus of our second semester of the Rimon 5784 year.

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 outcomes include 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 choices based on knowledge and guidance.

Community-Building

Our Rimon learners come from as far as 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 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.