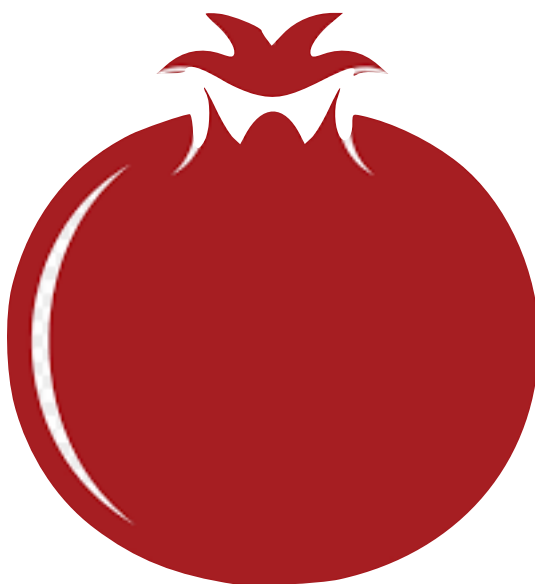




Inspiring the Mind! Nurturing the Heart! Changing the World!

2023-2024/5784

Family Handbook



55 N. Church Lane
Broomall, PA 19008
(610) 356-5165

Rabbi Peter Rigler
Cantor Jamie Marx
Lori Green, Education Director
Beth Berkowitz, Rimon Assistant
Evan Gold, Education Co-Chair
Joshua Young, Education Co-Chair

When a pomegranate grows,
its seeds fill it up leaving no space,
much different than other fruit we know
that have some extra space or inedible parts.
Just as the pomegranate fills all available space -
so, too, do we wish for our children to fill every
ounce of themselves with the sweetness of our
Reform Jewish tradition.

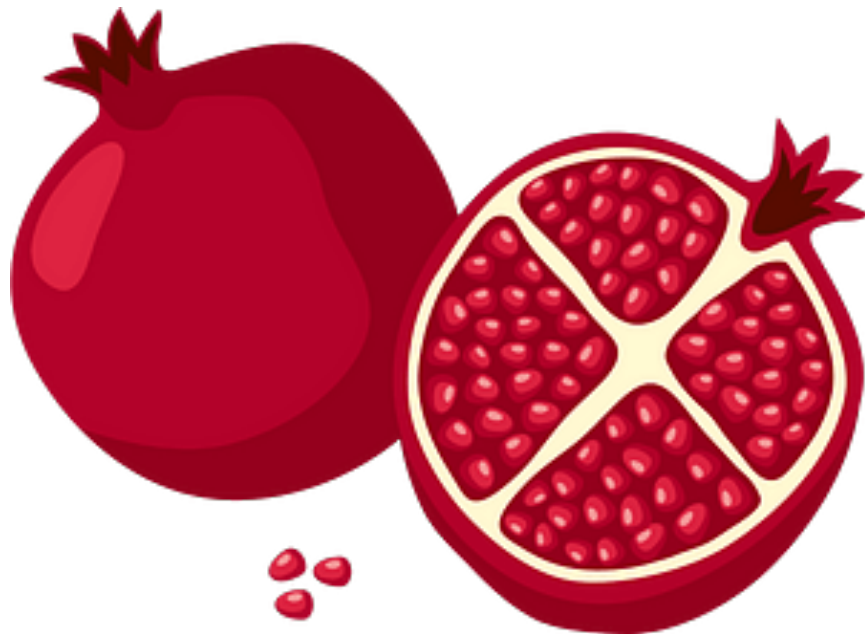



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Welcome!

ברוכים הבאים!

A Jewish education is one of the most precious gifts you can give your child! Connecting with Judaism will introduce values to sustain them, a community in which to celebrate life's successes, and support when in need. At Temple Sholom, we place the highest values on the tenets of Reform Judaism, supporting and meeting each student and family where they are.

At  we believe inspiring children to learn and grow in their love of Jewish learning. Our entire team is dedicated to helping students develop a strong sense of community and friendship at Temple Sholom. Through innovative, student-centered curriculum, our learners investigate and explore all that is wonderful in our Jewish history, heritage, and practice. Learning side-by-side with dynamic, interactive educators and madrichim (youth staff) our children grow and thrive through creative, fun, and intentional educational and engagement.

 is the Hebrew word for *pomegranate*. The rabbis tell us that there are 613 seeds in a pomegranate, the same number of mitzvot (commandments) that are in our tradition. At Rimon, we come to know these mitzvot and how we can embody them in our everyday lives. By doing so, we inspire the mind, nurture the heart, and help change the world.

Temple Sholom's Rimon Kindergarten through 12th grade program nurtures our learners to engage in joyful learning, feel connected to their Judaism, and enable them to see their world through Jewish eyes.

We all come from different backgrounds and experiences. Rimon is a place to celebrate and lift up that richness for all our learners and their families.

I am both blessed and honored to join with you on this sacred journey. Remember, my door is always open!

b'Shalom,

Lori

Lori Green, Education Director

Enrollment Requirements

In accordance with the policy and position articulated by the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) regarding enrollment in Reform religious schools, we embrace and maintain the following position:

A student registered in Temple Sholom Religious School should not be enrolled in the religious education and/or religious training programs of other religions or faith communities.

Admission to Rimon at Temple Sholom is open to all children whose parents/guardians are members of Temple Sholom. Our mission is to help our children build a foundation and teach Judaism as a faith that is lived, enabling our students to see themselves as participatory members of the Jewish community and embracing a relationship with God, Torah and Israel.

B'nei Mitzvah Requirements

Students must be enrolled in the Rimon program through the year of the B'nei Mitzvah

Becoming B'nei Mitzvah is an exciting life-cycle moment for emerging teens. This is the *beginning* of adulthood! We want every student to feel comfortable with their skills as well as comfortable in our sanctuary and on our *bimah*. In order to achieve this students must reach Hebrew mastery to the best of their ability through our Rimon program. Every child, regardless of ability, is invited to become a B'nei Mitzvah at Temple Sholom. (Please speak with Cantor Marx or Lori Green with any questions or concerns.)



Mission and Goals

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 (Why?)

Our Reform Jewish tradition is founded on informed choice with the goal of becoming our best selves - helping each of us to make our world a better place. In order to reach this goal our Kindergarten through 12th grade learners explore, investigate and reflect on our past, find personal meaning in those lessons for today, and look toward the future. We put much emphasis on Torah and contemporary history through the lessons they teach. Through the holiday cycle we observe and celebrate throughout the year, we find **מצות**. Mitzvot **מצות** (commandments) have been passed down from generation to generation since receiving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. The study and action of these mitzvot **מצות** help us to make the world a better place through social justice and social action. Education at Rimon is considered to be a life-long process that emphasizes the partnership between parents, synagogue and school.

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 between their 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 south as the Penn-Delco School District and as far north as the North Penn School District. Many of our learners have limited connections to other Jewish friends their age. 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 that 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.

We Are Here for ALL of our Learners

Rimon is an inclusive and sacred learning community that welcomes and celebrates the uniqueness of each individual and family.


To that end, we are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all families, respecting and welcoming equally all races, sexual orientation, gender identities, family structures, and religious backgrounds.




Our Jewish tradition teaches that one should “teach a child according to their own path.” The welcoming learning environment at Rimon strives to make Jewish education accessible to all children. Our faculty and madrichim (teen aides) work hard to ensure that every child has the opportunity to engage alongside their peers.

Although Rimon does not have a dedicated special needs program, we do make every effort to accommodate the needs of every child. We welcome you to begin a conversation with us. Please contact Lori Green, Education Director to find out how we can work together to provide a meaningful Jewish education for your child.

Rimon Hours!

Our  office is located in the main office of Temple Shalom's lobby, and is managed by our capable and friendly Rimon Assistant, Beth Berkowitz. Beth is happy to help you in any way possible. If at any time you have questions or concerns, feel free to call the office at 610-356-5165. Our education hours are:

 **Rimon Sunday** (K - 5th gr.) 9:30 - Noon (calendar to be provided)

 **Rimon Hebrew** (4th - 6th grades)

**Hebrew will take place in 45 minute, small-group sessions*

Monday: 5:30 - 6:15 pm or
6:15 - 7:00 pm or

Tuesday: 4:00 - 4:45 pm or
4:45 - 5:30 pm

Gesherim Sunday (6th grade)
9:30 - Noon (calendar to be provided)

Rimon Noar (7th and 8 grades)
Monday: 7:00 - 8:30pm

JLF (9th - 12th grades)
Mondays: 7:00 - 8:30pm



Sunday Schedule K - 5



"A Week"	9:30-9:45	9:45-10:00	10:00-10:20	10:20-11:45	11:45-Noon
Bonim (IBuilders)	Kehillah Boker	למוד (Learning)	Song Session (sanctuary)	למוד (Learning)	Kehillah Sof
"A Week"	9:30-9:45	9:45-10:20	10:20-10:40	10:40-11:45	11:45-Noon
Chaverim (Friends)	Kehillah Boker	למוד (Learning)	Song Session	למוד (Learning)	Kehillah Sof
"A Week"	9:30-9:45	9:45-10:40	10:40-11:00	11:00-11:45	11:45-Noon
Olim (Ones Moving Up)	Kehillah Boker	למוד (Learning)	תפילה (Tefillah)	למוד (Learning)	Kehillah Sof

"B Week"	9:30-9:45	9:45-11:45		11:00-11:40	11:45-Noon
Bonim (IBuilders)	Kehillah Boker	למוד (Learning) Library, Song Session (prior arrangement required!)		Chugim	Kehillah Sof
"B Week"	9:30-9:45	9:45-11:45		11:00-11:40	11:45-Noon
Chaverim (Friends)	Kehillah Boker	למוד (Learning) Library, Song Session (prior arrangement required!)		Chugim	Kehillah Sof
"B Week"	9:30-9:45	9:45-10:40	10:40-11:00	11:00-11:40	11:45-Noon
Olim (Ones Moving Up)	Kehillah Boker	למוד (Learning)	תפילה (Tefillah)	Chugim	Kehillah Sof



Bonim(Builders)

Kindergarten and 1st Grade
Sunday Mornings 9:30 am - Noon

The Hebrew word *Bonim* means “builders”. Our Bonim learners will do just that – *build* friendships and a foundation of Jewish knowledge that will continue to *build* for a lifetime. Your child will join with other Kindergarten and 1st graders to take a deep dive into topics that excite and engage. Each year we have an overarching “theme of the year”. This year’s theme is –“Learning with Joy”. Through student-centered learning including music, stories, art, interactive play and more, your child will engage in lively learning activities that will stimulate their curiosity. Community, traditions and rituals, sacred places, holidays, Hebrew “experiences”, social action and *mitzvot* will be just some of the topics that they will explore. How can we connect all of this to everyday lives? We will encourage our learners to ask questions and make connections between Jewish tradition and today’s world.

As a family, you will have opportunities to join your child for special programs such as holiday celebrations, social action programs, family learning and more!

What will a typical Sunday morning of Rimon look like for my child? Each Sunday morning learners are greeted by name and join together for *Kehillah Boker* (Morning Community). It is a time for each child to share something about the past week, ask a question, or just say “shalom” to their friends. After this, the joyful work of learning begins! To end the morning *all* of our Sunday learners (and their families) come together in our sanctuary for *Kehillah Sof* (End of Community Time).

On a rotating schedule of weeks, your child and their friends will:

- Engage with *Hebrew Through Movement* – (please see the Hebrew page)
- Visit our Temple Sholom library
- Participate and engage with age-appropriate *tefillah* (prayer experiences) in our sanctuary, led by our song leaders with visits by Rabbi Rigler and Cantor Marx
- Participate in *chugim* (clubs) of their choice
- Enjoy a snack of challah and juice along with reciting blessings



Chaverim (Friends) 2nd Grade and 3rd Grade *Sunday Mornings 9:30 am - Noon*

Chaverim means “friends” in Hebrew. *Chaverim* works together to build *friendships* as they work in large and small groups to dive into explorations that excite and engage.

Each year Rimon learning is guided by an overarching “theme”. This year’s theme is –“Learning with Joy”. Through music, stories, art, creating, innovating, asking LOTS of questions and reflecting on the topic your child will engage in lively discussions that encourage them to make connections between Jewish tradition and today’s world.

As a family, you will have opportunities to join your child for special programs such as holiday celebrations, social action programs, family learning and more!

What will a typical Sunday morning of engagement look like for my child?

Each Sunday morning learners are greeted by name and join together for Kehillah Boker (Morning Community). It is a time for each child to share something about the past week, ask a question, or just say “shalom” to their friends. After this, the fun of exploration begins! To end the morning our Sunday learners (and their families) come together in our sanctuary for Kehillah Sof (End of Community Time).

On a rotating schedule of weeks, your child and their friends will:

- Engage with *Hebrew Through Movement* – a joyous and movement-filled experience that introduces your child to the sounds of Hebrew
- Visit our Temple Sholom library
- Participate and engage with age-appropriate *tefillah* (prayer experiences) in our sanctuary, led by our song leaders with visits by Rabbi Rigler and Cantor Marx
- Participate in *chugim* (clubs) of their choice
- Enjoy a snack of challah and juice along with blessings



Olim (Those Moving Up)
4th Grade and 5th Grade
Sunday Mornings 9:30 am - Noon

Olim ("those moving up") is the perfect description for this age group. Your child is moving up physically and intellectually while also beginning to question the world around them. *Olim* builds on this growth by encouraging your child to ask lots of questions and make the learning their own. Student-centered learning and Project Based Learning design will invite your child to work with their peers to ask big questions, participate in inquiry, plan, create, reflect, revise and, ultimately, present their ideas to an authentic audience. Broadly, your child will learn about the yearly holiday cycle, Torah, God ideas, Israel, and Hebrew.

As a family, you will have opportunities to join your child for special programs such as holiday celebrations, 4th Naming Ceremony, social action programs, family learning and more!

Each year Rimon learning is guided by an overarching "theme". The "theme" that will guide this year is "Learning with Joy". Community, traditions and rituals, sacred places, holidays, social justice, social action and *mitzvot* are among the topics that they will explore.

Each Sunday morning learners are greeted by name and join together for Kehillah Boker (Morning Community). It is a time for each child to share something about the past week, ask a question, or just say "shalom" to their friends. After this, the collaboration and investigation begins. To end the morning all of our Sunday learners (and their families) come together in our sanctuary for Kehillah Sof (End of Community Time)

On a rotating schedule of weeks, your child and their friends will:

- Participate and engage with age-appropriate *tefillah* (prayer experiences) in our sanctuary, led by our song leaders with visits by Rabbi Rigler and Cantor Marx
- Participate in *chugim* (clubs) of their choice
- Enjoy a snack of challah and juice along with blessings

Gesherim (Bridges)

6th Grade and their Families

Meets 9:30am – Noon

(Two times per month – once as students only
and once student and their parent(s))



The word *Gesherim* means *bridges*. As a 6th grader, your child is *bridging* the span between childhood and pre-teen. This is a special time for you and your child.

Although 6th graders continue to attend mid-week Rimon Hebrew, they will no longer attend the “traditional” Sunday Rimon program. What they *will do* is, along with their families, enter an experience that will lead them to start their own future Jewish journey into adulthood.

Gesherim is a unique program designed to guide you and your child, both separately and together, on a path to B'nei Mitzvah and beyond. Led by a dynamic and experienced educator, your child will meet monthly with their peers. Additionally, students and parent(s) will meet monthly as a group. Each gathering will build upon the important elements of starting the process of Jewish “adulthood”. Experiences will include in-house gatherings, field trips, and social action opportunities and time with Rabbi Rigler and Cantor Marx.

The strand that ties all of this important work together is a personal Torah project. Each family will meet with Rabbi Rigler to be introduced to and seek understanding of your child's Torah portion for their B'nei Mitzvah. Torah project presentations will be scheduled either mid-year or at the end of the year, depending on the date of their B'nei Mitzvah.

The sixth grade year is a time when all of pre-teens have a common goal...to become a B'nei Mitzvah. Often, thinking about this goal is not only how the adults in their life support them but their peers, as well. We want to provide opportunity for our 6th graders to gather as a social group where they can have fun and lean on each other during the pre-B'nei Mitzvah year.



Consecration

Our learners first steps into Jewish learning at Temple Sholom is a time for celebration! Consecration, a rite of passage for new students in Kindergarten through 5th gr. at Temple Sholom, publicly recognizes this commitment to Jewish life and learning. As students are welcomed onto our bimah they receive a special gift and blessing to commemorate this moment.

Fourth Grade Naming Service

Students in our 4th gr. Bet class have entered a new chapter in their Jewish journey. The first year of formal Hebrew education is a first step to becoming knowledgeable participants in Jewish worship. This beautiful ceremony, unique at Temple Sholom, celebrates the beginning of formal prayer education while linking our learners to both past and future generations.

Sixth Grade “Move Up”

The end of the sixth grade year marks the beginning of a new and exciting step in a student's Jewish journey. During the seventh grade year many of our students will celebrate their B'nei Mitzvah. They will also become members of our high school Rimon Noar program leading them to Confirmation. As young adults in Rimon Noar (7th and 8th grade) students will build upon the lessons they learned in the early years and will become “prosumers” (producers and consumers) of their education.

B'nei Mitzvah

B'nei Mitzvah is a rite of passage for all young Jewish adults age thirteen or older. This beautiful and meaningful ceremony celebrates a student's first steps into Jewish adulthood. At Temple Sholom we encourage all of our students to take part in this life-cycle event by completing the requirements for a public ceremony which include enrollment in our religious school through the B'nei Mitzvah year and completion of our three-year Hebrew program along with Torah studies with Cantor Marx.

Confirmation

Confirmation is a **twelfth-grade** “coming of age” ceremony that celebrates a young adult's emergence into Jewish adulthood. Much more so than B'nei Mitzvah, the student who has continued their education is prepared to discuss, question, debate, and LIVE their Reform Judaism as they continue on to college and beyond. The bonding that occurs during this pivotal year creates life-long relationships that are evidenced during the beautiful Confirmation ceremony.

Hebrew Kind. - 7th gr.



Rimon Hebrew

At Rimon, Hebrew learning begins in Kindergarten and continues through the B'nei Mitzvah year. Hebrew is the language of our people and the language of prayer. At Rimon, our goal is to guide your child to value the Hebrew language and, to value and engage in prayer (tefillah) in ways that are exciting and meaningful. To that end, we have designed a Hebrew program that touches the whole person: mind, body, heart, and spirit.

Kindergarten through 3rd Grade

Your child will spend their early years engaging with the sounds of the Hebrew language by listening, understanding, and doing (practicing) during the Sunday morning Rimon program.

Hebrew Through Movement

Based on best practices for ESL – (*English as a Second Language*) *Hebrew Through Movement* introduces your child to the sound of Hebrew while introducing them to everyday and holiday-related vocabulary. It is both engaging and fun for our learners! New vocabulary is added each year.

Age-Appropriate Prayer Experiences

Cantor Marx and our song leaders lead our Kindergarten – 3rd grade learners in age appropriate tefillah incorporating vocabulary from Hebrew Through Movement whenever possible.

Word of the Week and Letter of the Week

Each week a new letter is introduced and “posted” on an interactive Lego wall in the school hallway. Throughout the year, learners will have the opportunity to “build” a representation of something that begins with the Letter of the Week out of Legos.

Additionally, the Word(s) of the Week will be posted in the school hallway and introduced/used by the teaching staff whenever appropriate.



Rimon Hebrew

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades

Experience has proven that it is not the *length* of time but the *quality* of time that our learners engage with Hebrew that results in Hebrew mastery.

Therefore, our mid-week Hebrew classes are 45 minutes with a choice of days and times.

4th Grade - Bet

Hebrew Side by Side is a Hebrew curriculum based on the sound-to-print model of learning letters and vowels leading to decoding of words. *Hebrew Side by Side* is intended for your child to progress at their own pace along with one-on-one teacher support.

Learners typically complete the *Hebrew Side by Side* curriculum in late winter or early spring. They then move onto the Rimon- "Bet" book to begin engaging with Shabbat, holiday prayers and blessings, and learning to read *and* understand the message of each prayer and blessing.

Class-led Shabbat Service

4th graders will have the opportunity to lead a Friday night Shabbat service at Temple Sholom. The purpose for participation in this service is to build a comfort-level on our bimah with those in attendance.

Word the Week

Each week a new word is introduced having relevance to an upcoming holiday or to Judaic content. Words are posted in the school hallway and used in the classroom.

5th Grade - Gimel

With a solid foundation of decoding skills your 5th grader will dive into Hebrew mastery of the *Shabbat* evening and *Shabbat* morning prayers and blessings while continuing to review holiday prayers and blessings. Hebrew mastery not only includes the ability to read or chant a prayer, but includes making personal connections to the prayers or blessings. What is the prayer about? How do I connect to the prayers or blessings and what do they mean to me?

Word the Week

Each week a new word is introduced having relevance to an upcoming holiday or to Judaic content. Words are posted in the school hallway and used in the classroom.

Class-led Shabbat Service

5th graders will again have the opportunity to lead a Friday night Shabbat service at Temple Sholom. The purpose for participation in this service is to continue to build a comfort-level on our bimah while leading the congregation in worship.

6th grade - Gesherim

As a 6th grader, your child will review the prayers and blessings covered in 4th and 5th grades while taking a deep dive into the prayers of the *Torah* service. Along with learning to chant the *Torah* blessings and *Haftarah* blessings, your child will explore the rituals surrounding the *Torah* service.

Class-led Shabbat Service

6th graders will have their final opportunity to lead *Shabbat* services from our bimah. The importance of class-led services is to ensure that your child feels comfortable and “at home” on Temple Sholom’s *bimah*. This is *their bimah*!

Word the Week


Each week a new word is introduced having relevance to an upcoming holiday or to Judaic content. Words are posted in the school hallway and used in the classroom.

7th grade - Rimon Noar

As a 7th grader your child will begin the B'nei Mitzvah tutoring process under the direction of Cantor Marx approximately six months before their B'nei Mitzvah.



Let's Stay in Touch!

Communication between staff, students and parents is of utmost importance! In our world today there are so many ways to communicate...by phone, by email, through websites, through newsletters, etc. Here is a snapshot of the many ways that communication takes place at  and how you can keep in touch with us!

Each week you will receive an email that will share important information for you, our parent(s). This include upcoming Rimon events, calendar for the next few weeks, a short piece on the Torah portion of the week and more!

Additionally in this email will be a message from your child's Learning Guides (teachers) letting you know all about what your child and classmates are doing at Rimon.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR:

Lori Green

(610)356-5165 email: educator@temple-sholom.org

RIMON ASSISTANT:

Beth Berkowitz

(610) 356-5165

email: rimon@temple-sholom.org

Our doors are always open! Do not hesitate to call Lori or Beth regarding any questions or concerns you might have.

Although our doors are always open, please understand that during school hours we are often in the classrooms. PLEASE FORGIVE US IF WE ARE UNABLE TO GIVE YOU OUR FULL ATTENTION during Rimon hours. BY MAKING AN APPT. AHEAD OF TIME WE CAN ENSURE THAT YOU WILL HAVE THE PERSONAL ATTENTION YOU DESERVE!

SHABBAT is a sacred time for everyone. We request that you not contact us on Shabbat unless it is an emergency.

Rimon Noar & JLF Teen Engagement

7th - 12th grades



Rimon Noar and JLF are all about relationships. These programs are where 7th-12th grade teens come together to share and continue their connections to Temple Shalom, their Jewish touchpoints, and their friends. Rimon Noar and JLF are designed to meet teens where they are.



Rimon Noar and JLF provide unique, innovative, and engaging opportunities. We want our teens to develop tangible life skills that will enable them to share their voices and passions as they continue to grow their individual and collective Jewish identity.

Why Teens attend Rimon Noar and JLF...

- *Tikkun Olam* - a commitment to make the world a better and more just place through social justice and social action.
- *Kehillah* (community) - being part of a supportive, accepting, and interdependent thinking community.
- *Preparation* - building knowledge and skills to navigate the college years and beyond through Jewish values and the tools for ethical decision-making.

What will teens gain by attending Rimon Noar and JLF?

- *Tangible Life Skills* - participation in Rimon Noar enables teens to practice important skills for college and beyond such as, public speaking, debate, and advocacy.
- *Relationships*- not only with other teens but with adults who they will see as mentors in their future endeavors.



7th grade

During the first part of the year, 7th graders will explore the Holocaust through the lens of human behavior. Through film, primary sources, and discussion, learners will wrestle with important themes and issues. During the latter part of the year teens will choose their own path through electives.

8th grade

During the first part of the year 8th graders will “meet” the Prophets and begin to develop their own thoughts on issues such as social justice and ways to impact their world. During the latter part of the year, teens will choose their own path through electives.



9th - 12th grade

Jewish Leadership Fellowship (JLF)

JLF is a unique and powerful ten-month program for all 9th – 12th grade Temple Shalom teens. Led by Rabbi Rigler, teens will engage in social justice and advocacy, taking activism to the next level through study, immersive experiences, volunteering, and sacred partnerships. We will empower our teens to take leadership of our sacred heritage as they:

- Strengthen their own understanding of social justice and systems of oppression from a root cause perspective.
- Build leadership skills to organize for social change.
- Cultivate their Jewish identity and values by connecting Judaism with social justice, using Jewish texts and history as a guide.
- Participate in hands-on community work with local organizations.
- Engage in active and unbiased listening, hearing the stories and struggles of those who we will encounter.

- Journey with us through **TZEDEK AMERICA** as we travel to Arizona and the Texas border. We will see first-hand what it means to come through immigration to the U.S. Speak with immigrants and interact with them. Teens will learn, explore, and find their own voice and inspiration to continue to create impactful change upon their return.
- Join teens from around the U.S. as we travel to Washington, D.C. for the RAC (Religious Action Center) L'Taken Teen seminar. This four-day experience immerses teens in exploring social justice issues that face us today. Finding their own passions and teens will have the opportunity to visit Capital Hill and share their voices.

Mission:

Creating a program that engages Temple Sholom's teen population in connecting Jewish and social justice values.

Enduring Understandings:

"Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof/Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue, that you may live, and inherit the land which the Lord your God gave you." (Deut. 16:18-20)

The world is made up of stories; it's not made up of facts.

These stories are always changing. They are the raw materials of life and the spirit. What you see in the past is dependent on what you are able to see now. The art of starting new conversations is the art of giving voice to narratives of the past and present.

From the time of the prophets, the pursuit of living in a just society has been at the core of our mission as a Jewish people. How we apply these ancient values in each and every generation is our challenge as Reform Jews.

More Opportunities for Teen Engagement

At Rimon it's all about *ENGAGEMENT!* We seek to provide opportunities for our teens to stay connected in ways that work for them. Whether you are a member of Rimon Noar or JLF or not, check out these additional opportunities.

The Madrichim Team

The Madrichim Team program is designed for 8th - 12th graders who enjoy working with children ages 5 to 12 in our Sunday Rimon program and/or our weekday Hebrew program. Madrichim working in our program are integral members of the Rimon faculty and serve as aides, assistant teachers, and tutors for our younger children. Being a member of this very special group of teens builds leadership, education, and management skills. Please speak to Lori Green for additional information.

Rimon Song Leaders

Under the leadership and direction of Cantor Marx, the Rimon song leaders play a critical role in our Sunday Rimon program. Teens learn song leading and teaching skills with Cantor Marx. They teach and lead our K - 5 students in joyful song and teach and lead weekly tefillah (prayer) services on Sunday mornings. The skills that these teens learn and the gift of Jewish music they provide to others is wonderful. Please contact Cantor Marx for additional information.

ToaSTY

Temple Sholom's Youth Group, ToaSTy, is a member of NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth) and invites ALL 8th - 12th graders to participate. ToaSTy is teen-led with the support and direction of our Youth Group Director, Marissa Kimmel. Overnights, trips and more await!



Student and Parent Responsibilities

Cell Phones

Cell phones are a wonderful piece of technology that keep us connected to others. The use of cell phones can also be a distraction to learning. Therefore, cell phones are *not* to be used in the classroom by students *unless* the classroom teacher instructs students to use of the phones for educational purposes! If a student is using a cell phone to make a call, answer a call, text message, or play a game the teacher will take the cell phone and return it at the end of class. If you need to reach your child in an emergency, please call the main office.

Communication

It is vitally important that communication between faculty, students, parents, and "administration" take place on a regular basis. By doing so, our students, our families and our school can achieve the highest levels of Reform Jewish Education possible. The education of each and every child is our primary goal. To that end, keep the lines of communication open!

Between School and Families

Today we are a technology driven, instant communication society. As such, most communication that you receive from our school will be in the form of emails, as well as information that is sent to all families each week. Please make sure that the school office has your up-to-date email address....and check your email often. Occasionally, families have questions that can best be answered in a voice-to-voice communication. To ensure that you talk to the person who can best answer your questions, please direct specific questions to the following people:

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Dates
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Questions
Billing Questions
Classroom Concerns
Lifecycle Issues or Concerns
School Administrative Issues
All Other School Questions

Beth Berkowitz, Rimon Assistant
Cantor Jamie Marx
Betsy Blackburn-Goslin, Bookkeeper
Your child's classroom teacher
Rabbi Peter Rigler
Beth Berkowitz, Rimon Assistant
Lori Green, Education Director

Early Dismissal

We have so little time to engage and share with your child that every minute is precious. We do, realize that it is occasionally necessary to pick up your child early. If you need to pick up your child before the end of the school day you must send a note and come into the office to pick up your child and sign them out!

Student and Parent Responsibilities

Guests & Class Visitation

Due to liability and insurance we request that students *do not* bring guests to school. *Parents* are always welcome to visit the classroom...by giving us prior notification.

Homework

Homework is appropriate when it is meaningful, motivated, directed and assigned for the purpose of learning by doing. Assignments will always be realistic in their duration keeping in mind the demands of a child's secular schoolwork load. Keep in mind, especially when it comes to Hebrew, reinforcement at home makes all the difference!

School Closings

The decision to close Religious and/or Hebrew school is made jointly by the Executive Director and Education Director. This decision will be made by 7:45 am. on Sunday morning. Weekday closings follow the Marple-Newtown School District unless inclement weather begins later in the day. In the event of such a situation, the decision to close school will be made jointly by the Executive Director and Education Director. You will be notified in the case of inclement weather.



Student and Parent Responsibilities

Snacks

During Sunday Rimon *all* children will receive a snack of challah and white grape juice. Please be sure that we are informed of any food allergies that your child may have.

Please remember that we are a nut and tree-nut free building!

Student Evaluation

Temple Sholom faculty work hard at creating an atmosphere where children like being Jewish, have positive Jewish experiences...and succeed! We praise them, challenge them and encourage each child to work to their ability. We offer opportunities to learn new skills and explore ideas in a safe, yet challenging environment. If a child is experiencing difficulty, we will let you know. If a child needs extra attention, we will address each child and each situation on an individual basis. As Rimon is a partnership between the parent(s), teacher and child, we ask that you inform us of any difficulty *you* are seeing with your child.

Assessment of student progress is a combination of formal and informal assessment by the student and the classroom Jewish Learning Guide/Teacher. A "Progress Report" will be sent to all Hebrew students two times during the year...once in January and again in May. ALL learners will receive a cumulative Progress Report at the end of the year.

Tzedakah



Tzedakah (the opportunity to do righteous deeds for others) is actually a commandment. Through monetary contributions, non-perishable food items for the hungry, or clothing for the needy. *Tzedakah* is at the heart of Reform Judaism and at Rimon. We hope you will help your child participate. Tzedakah is collected during every Sunday and weekday session.

