

August 10, 2020

Dear Hebrew High Families,

Our Hebrew High faculty and staff are committed to bring you the highest quality Jewish education possible. While this year must look different than past years, our focus remains on building a teen community and offering engaging and diverse programming. We've been very busy preparing an innovative, creative, interactive and fun Jewish education program for the upcoming year.

The safety of our students and teachers is paramount, along with the continuity of a reputable, quality Jewish education program we are known for. **As a result, we have decided that Hebrew High will be held virtually this year.** If it is possible, we will offer in-person social opportunities in small groups. We will reassess this decision as the year continues and will make the switch to in-person when it is possible. Hebrew High will begin on Wednesday, October 14, 2020.

Our goal is to foster a community that will meet online or small in-person groups, **if possible.** This plan will evolve as things in our community change and reflects our best thinking to meet the challenges of this time. For the 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> graders, we are going to structure Wednesday evenings around two periods:

- The first hour of the evening will be “*Limmud*,” where students will select one class from a variety of choices. We are focusing on providing classes that address current issues such as racial injustice and the elections, and will also include student favorites such as cooking and art. Being online gives us the opportunity to expand our teaching pool and bring in experts from around the country.
- The second period of the evening will be “Community Time,” and will focus on providing students with an opportunity to get to know each other and socialize. Each week students will be able to choose from structured activities such as Jewish trivia and scavenger hunts or less structured activities such as grade-level hang out time.

We will continue to offer the same classes for our Post-Confirmation (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade) students as we did last year because they were well-liked and can be moved online. Each week will look different, but the class titles will remain the same: “The Luggage You Need- The Baggage You Don't: Packing Your Jewish Self for the Real World” and “The Tea About College: Big Questions, Casual Conversations.” We are also planning to offer Houses of Worship visits in the Spring for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, **if possible.**

We are continuing to offer Hebrew for Credit. This class will meet online from 5:00-7:00pm on Wednesday evenings. You can register for Hebrew for Credit on the Hebrew High registration form.

You can register for Hebrew High by visiting our website: [www.hebrewhigh.org](http://www.hebrewhigh.org). While the school structure is different than in past years, we will continue to provide a *kehillah* (community) for our students, staff and families. Creating this community and having a sense of belonging is an asset in today's time. We look forward to the 2020-2021 school year with you!

Stay well,

Megan Harkavy

