

Beth-El Religious School Supplementary Hebrew Q & A

Parents, we've heard your feedback and have created a fantastic B'nai Mitzvah preparatory Hebrew program that is convenient and flexible for everyone!

What's it all about?

Our Supplementary Hebrew program is a semi-private virtual Hebrew model that has replaced our old Afternoon Hebrew School model. Each week, our 4th-7th grade students study in small groups on Zoom with a Hebrew tutor for 30 minutes in addition to attending Sunday morning Religious School classes.

What will my child be learning?

Tutors focus on making sure students are able to read and comprehend key Hebrew prayers and blessings that they will be leading on the bima as they become B'nai Mitzvah. Our 4th grade students typically spend part of their first year of lessons reviewing letters, vowels and roots before focusing on prayers. Ultimately, our students will be able to read and understand the liturgy. They will be equipped to walk into any synagogue around the world and take part in and lead Jewish prayers with confidence and joy.

What if my child isn't sure if he/she wants a B'nai Mitzvah?

Even if your child is not sure if he/she will have a B'nai Mitzvah, we consider these Hebrew skills an essential part of growing into a Jewish adult.

What's so good about this Hebrew model?

This Hebrew model allows for students to gain much more individualized attention as they study Hebrew. This model also allows for scheduling flexibility for our families, as these weekly lessons will take place at an agreed-upon time between tutors and families. Plus, these lessons require no schlepping!! Students attend lessons from the comfort of their own homes.

When do Hebrew groups meet?

Hebrew groups meet every week that Religious School is in session, (except opening and closing weeks of school). When Religious School is on break, students will not have Hebrew group lessons.

Beginning the second week of Religious School, all 4th-7th grade students will be placed into small Hebrew groups and assigned a Hebrew tutor that they will work with for 30 minutes via Zoom each week. Hebrew tutors will coordinate with their groups to find a weekly time for tutoring that works for everyone.

What if my child cannot attend any of the times the tutor suggests?

We do ask that families be as flexible as possible, as our tutors are working hard to accommodate everyone.

Is my child required to attend?

Yes. In order to have a B'nai Mitzvah at Beth-El, students must be enrolled in Religious School and Supplemental Hebrew from 4th-7th grades.

What is the minimum requirement?

This coming 5785 school year, Hebrew groups will meet on Zoom for 27 sessions. Students are required to attend at least 22 of those sessions. If a student misses more than 5 sessions, they will be required to make-up their Hebrew lesson at their expense (\$45/lesson) with their Hebrew tutor.

How do we register for Hebrew?

When you register for Religious School, please also be sure to select the option for Small-Group Hebrew as well. Once we receive your registration form, we will make sure your child is placed in a Hebrew group based on grade and ability. When

the school year begins, we will assess student Hebrew levels to make sure they are placed properly and in groups where we feel they will excel as much as possible.

What if my child is already working privately with a B'nai Mitzvah Tutor?

We usually have students begin working privately with B'nai Mitzvah tutors about 9-10 months prior to their scheduled B'nai Mitzvah date. Once a student begins working privately with his/her B'nai Mitzvah Tutor each week, he/she is no longer required to attend weekly Supplemental Hebrew on Zoom. He/she IS still required to attend morning Religious School classes. Students must be enrolled in Supplemental Hebrew until they reach this point. Please note, B'nai Mitzvah tutors must be approved by Rabbi Zimmerman and Cantor Shoshana Kaikov.

Have more questions?

Feel free to contact Cantor Shoshana Kaikov at shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org.