



Dear STS Religious School (STSRs) Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021/5781 Year!

Our innovative program utilizes multiple learning styles and modalities to provide Jewish learning and living in a variety of environments, such as camp, classrooms, kitchen and stage. The focus of the 2020-2021 year will be Conversational Hebrew and Hebrew Reading Fluency. STSRs teachers will be trained to teach students in "outside the box" ways that integrate many fun activities while learning key concepts and values of Judaism. It is my mission to improve the STSRs program to ensure the highest standards that our families deserve. That is why I always spend time watching, listening and learning from you on the best ways to improve our program so that it will reach a level of excellency that will continue to provide quality education with a special emphasis on building a cohesive STSRs community!

At the heart of our program is the **STSRs Core Curriculum** in which Project Based, Interactive Learning is a key component. Students in each grade will be empowered to engage in projects that culminate in a special activity at the end of each quarter of the school year. In addition to the core curriculum, there will be a number of different activities planned for next year to provide our families with social gatherings, tikkun olam projects and communal learning.

Our goal is for our students to benefit from the opportunity to deepen friendships through experiencing Judaism in real time during our excursion days and Shabbat retreats. K-2nd grade families will enjoy some partnering activities with Temple Aliyah. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, Camp Ramah retreat will be canceled until further notice. If the guidelines will allow, we will get together for a family camp.

The foundational Hebrew language acquisition for our K-2nd grade students is provided via a language acquisition strategy in which students will learn Conversational Hebrew by hearing and responding to Hebrew commands, learn Hebrew vocabulary and phrases related to the topic of the week such as holidays, synagogue, colors, seasons, and more. Our 3rd – 7th Grade students will continue to build Hebrew liturgical reading fluency through dedicated Hebrew learning time in class and individually per their need.

Here's what to expect for the coming year:

- **Team Madrichim Program:** STSRs graduates and any STS teen members who are interested in acquiring leadership skills should participate in this program. Throughout the year Madrichim will be responsible for various programs while accumulating points which can be transferred to scholarships

Shomrei Torah Synagogue Education Center

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towards approved Jewish programs they wish to attend. Students who need to work towards community service hours will begin accumulating their points once accomplishing their school's requirements.

- **Tuesday Pizza:** Families can preorder a special meal including a big slice of pizza, and another source of snack (fruit, vegetable, chips etc.) for \$130 for the whole year (equivalent to \$4 per meal). There will be limited meals to purchase (for \$5) on the day, based on first come first serve. Snacks will be available to purchase as well throughout the year.

Included in this online packet, you will find the **STSRs Welcome letter, Student Registration Form, State of CA Emergency Contact Information Form, Food Allergy, Emergency Care Form, and Seizure Response Plan Form.**

I am currently working on the 2020-2021 calendar. Once you register to STSRs, you will receive an email with the PDF version of the **2020-2021 STSRs calendar**. Paper calendars will be ready for you to pick up on the **first day of school (Sunday, August 23, 2020)**. As we do every year, we request that you please initial in the appropriate place on your registration form after reviewing the code of conduct with your child/ren.

I am beyond excited for the learning opportunities our children will have in the year to come! I can't wait to greet each and every one of you soon. In the meantime, enjoy your summer vacation!

With Great Anticipation,

Sharon Furman-Lee, Ed.D

Shomrei Torah Synagogue's Director of Education (STSRs)

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