

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the hours of KIRS this year?**

KIRS will, once again, meet on Thursday afternoons and Shabbat (Saturday) mornings. Classes will begin promptly at 3:15 on Thursday afternoons and end at 5:30. We will start our learning at 9am on Shabbat mornings. Youth services begin at 10:45am and we'll finish by noon (plan on joining us in the sanctuary for the end of our community services).

We will offer breakfast (with donuts!) to any student who arrives between 8:45 and 8:55am on Shabbat morning. While it may be hard to wake up on Saturday mornings, we're hoping that promise of donuts with friends can be your incentive for arriving early.

As mentioned in the letter, 6th and 7th grade students will attend Makor at Hebrew College on Sundays, and not be expected to attend KIRS on Shabbat mornings. Of course they are always welcome to join us for services (youth or sanctuary) whenever they want. Thursday afternoons will run from 3:15 to 5:30pm.

### **I've always been late dropping my kids off – is that a problem?**

At most, we have four (4) hours a week in a classroom to instill a love of Judaism and a passion for learning into our students. At the same time, we want to begin to teach them a foreign language (Hebrew), prepare them to lead Jewish communities in pray, understand meanings behind and rituals of holidays, and help shape them into *menschedik* people.

So...YES! It is incredibly important that you help us maximize the time that we have with our students. We are excited to offer incentives for arriving early so that we can start our learning on time.

### **What does KIRS cost?**

KIRS costs \$990 for members and \$1425 for non-members. This cost is highly subsidized by the synagogue, and, as a school, we are incredibly grateful for their support. Your tuition and registration forms are due by Sept. 8.

### **When are my forms and payment due?**

We really need all the forms and payments in as early as possible. The LAST day to turn them in will be Thursday, Sept. 8 at our Back To School Night. For your convenience, we have attached the registration form to this email.

### **Is financial aid available? And what is the process?**

Yes! Financial aid is available. We refuse to let finances stand in the way of offering your children a good Jewish education. If you are in need of assistance this year, please reach out to Rabbi Rachel Silverman ([rabbirachel@congki.org](mailto:rabbirachel@congki.org)) before Sept. 1.

**How often can I expect to hear from my child's teacher?**

Regular contact between parents, teachers, and students is crucial to a successful education. We will be publishing a weekly newsletter (emailed out on Friday mornings) with details from the previous day's class, a preview of Shabbat morning classes, as well as program highlights, and Torah Thoughts for your Shabbat dinner table. There will also be regular parent-teacher conferences, as well as progress reports. Lastly, we value two-way communication and encourage you to reach out to our teachers and any of the staff or clergy members.

**Are there opportunities for me to get in on some learning too?**

Absolutely! We have a myriad of adult educational opportunities, as well as plenty of chances to learn with your students in family educational settings. Over the course of the year, we'll highlight programs and classes that we think you might be interested in.

KIRS' staff would like to highlight two classes of interest, both of which are part of the Coolidge Corner Collaborative – a partnership with Hebrew College and the synagogues in the surrounding neighborhood.

*“Parenting Through A Jewish Lens”* is a 10-week journey for parents. The classes run on Sunday mornings from 10-11:30 at Temple Ohabei Shalom, starting on Oct. 30. You can learn more and register at [www.hebrewcollege.edu/parenting](http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/parenting) or contact Elisha Gechter at 617-559-8733 [egechter@hebrewcollege.edu](mailto:egechter@hebrewcollege.edu)

*“Parenting Your Jewish Teen”* is an 8-session program that enables parents to address the challenges of being a parent of a teen with an expert facilitator. This class will run at KI on Monday evenings, from 7:30pm-9pm. This class will begin on January 23. Contact Rabbi Rachel Silverman ([rabbirachel@conghi.org](mailto:rabbirachel@conghi.org)) for more information about the class and how to register.

**How does the school atmosphere change on Shabbat?**

Shabbat is a time for connecting with our community and for being fully present - while at the same time disconnecting with the mundane world of technology and refraining from business transactions. We ask that our teachers and students bring their fully Shabbat-observant selves to KI on Shabbat morning. At the very least, this means electronics, cell-phones, weekday clothes, and Dunkin' Donuts cups all outside the synagogue. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to practice taking part in a *shomer Shabbat* community. All of our activities will be Shabbat-observant, and we're excited to introduce a new team of professionals leading our Shabbat morning services, both in Mini Minyan and Junior Congregation.

**Does the learning always/only take place inside the classroom?**

Definitely not! We have worked hard to create a program that is suited for many different learning styles, backgrounds, and interests. One of the ways that we have done this is to build in specific field trips, projects, and Shabbat experiences for each class and their families. Teachers and staff will work together to make sure that the programs fit enhance

the classroom learning, and fit smoothly into the curriculum.

**Are there ways that I can get more involved in helping KIRS run?**

We would love your help and support! We are looking for “Class Parents” – one parent from each grade – to organize class events, represent class concerns to the school committee, etc.

If you are looking for a larger involvement, consider joining our school committee. Our school committee is a group of dedicated parents who work to ensure the elevation and success of our school. If you feel impelled to join us in that work, please reach out to Jennie Roffman ([jroffman@rcn.com](mailto:jroffman@rcn.com)).