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important information about Religious School

1 message

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Dear Parents,

We hope this message finds you healthy and safe and enjoying a good summer, under the circumstances. We are aware that the local school districts have released their plans for reopening and imagine that you and your family are working toward some tough decisions as you consider your way forward over the next few months. We, and all the staff of Temple Beth-El, are here to support you in any way we can.

As we expect you already know, High Holy Day services at Temple Beth-El will be held online this year. So, too, will Religious School. School will open on Sunday, October 4 (a pre-pandemic decision and a typical start for us when the High Holy Days are in September), and will remain online for the foreseeable future. The decision to deliver our educational content remotely honors the values of safety, inclusion, and equity that our temple community holds dear. Given the myriad concerns we all share in the realms of education, public health and safety, and the social and emotional well-being of all our members, as well as the uncertainties that still lie ahead, we believe this to be a prudent and wise path forward.

Though Religious School will remain online in the fall, it will look different than it did in the spring, when we were pivoting to manage the emerging crisis. The summer has afforded us time to learn about and acquire skills with digital tools and online engagement techniques that will enhance and deepen the Zoom learning experience. We are working with our faculty to help them deliver meaningful, high-quality content.

Most importantly, we remain keenly aware of the developmental and social-emotional needs of our students of all ages and bear them in mind as we plan every aspect of our program.

We look forward to sharing more specific information over the next few weeks. For now, know that we are working on offering an educational structure that is consistent yet flexible, to accommodate both the scheduling challenges you face as you prepare to begin the secular school year and the ever-changing circumstances of the pandemic.

Lastly, if you have not already done so, we ask that you take a moment to register your children. Now, more than ever, we need accurate class sizes and student information to plan appropriately. To access the school registration page in ShulCloud, click here: https://templebethelnj.shulcloud.com/school_enrollment.php.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us whenever you have a question or specific concern. We are here for you.

L'shalom,
Sarah and Lisa

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