

The Temple Shalom Religious School asked parents in the spring of 2009 to answer the following survey questions. I have included here the questions and the survey results plus some analysis. If you have any questions please call Lisa Pressman at 301.587.2273

The Temple Shalom Religious School is currently considering changes in our program for the upcoming school year 2009-2010. We feel that these decisions must be made with the input of our parents so that we can design a program that truly meets your needs and the educational goals of our school. Please help us by answering the questions below. Even if the question does not pertain specifically to your family, your comments and ideas are important so please answer as many of the questions as possible. Thank you for sharing your ideas.

Survey Questions and results

Please answer any or all of the questions.

1. Electronic Communication

95% Yes, I agree that "all electronic" would be a good way to communicate with my family
5% No, "all electronic" would not work for my family

2. Sunday Evening Classes

13% 4:00-6:00

12% 4:30-6:30

14% 5:00-7:00

16% 5:30-7:30

13% 6:00-8:00 However, 24% put this as their first or second choice and only 5% listed it as last choice

32% 6:30-8:30 However, 36% listed 6:30-8:30 as their last choice and 23% listed it as first or second choice

I would suggest that we move to 6:00-8:00 this coming year and save 30 minutes of lighting. I think that most people will stay with the status quo but when you have 36% or 25 families saying they don't like 6:30-8:30, I think we have to listen to that also.

3. Wednesday Evening Mid-week Hebrew

In order for the school to be fiscally responsible during this economic downturn, we may find it necessary to cancel Wednesday evening mid-week Hebrew classes from 6:45-8:15. We are looking for a time that would work for all Wednesday families. We will retain the early classes from 4:30-6:00 on Tuesday. Please let us know what might work for your family on Wednesday.

37% Tuesday 4:30-6:00

38% Wednesday 4:30-6:00

25% Wednesday 6:45-8:15

We asked families to click on all possible times. It would appear that we can keep Wednesday evening as long as we have enough families who have it as their first choice when they send in their registration materials. We will place a not on the registration form that lets families know that we cannot offer a class unless we have 10 students enrolled in the class.

4. Grade 7 Mid-week Hebrew Classes

We are considering changing the make-up of Grade 7 mid-week Hebrew classes to alleviate the stress on families and children who are already being tutored for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We are suggesting the following:

Students in grade 7 will attend a prayer based Hebrew class for fall semester only so those students who are not in tutoring will be able to keep working on their Hebrew. A spring semester, Modern Hebrew, class will be offered as an optional program for those students who would like to attend this mid-week class from January through May.

83% Yes, I support grade 7 Hebrew for fall semester only.

17% No, I prefer grade 7 mid-week Hebrew be offered for the entire year.

5. Grade 3 Mid-week Hebrew

36% We should not have a grade 3 mid-week Hebrew program

26% Begin grade 3 mid-week Hebrew in January, 2010

24% Begin grade 3 mid-week Hebrew in fall, 2010

16% I need more information about this potential change in the program

If we combine the two offerings of mid-week Hebrew – the January starting and the fall starting – we have 50% of our families who would like mid-week for grade 3. Since educationally this is an important step, especially with the decrease in seventh grade, we will begin mid-week Hebrew in fall, 2010 and make sure that we discuss this with parents during the 2009-2010 school year.