

# New Religious School Schedule

Temple Isaiah, Lexington, MA  
January, 2011

## Overview

### New Schedule

#### The new schedule:

- Provides outstanding Jewish education.
- Facilitates experiential approaches to learning and community building.
- Strengthens enrichment opportunities for students and families.

#### Students will attend:

- 1 day a week in grades K-2
- 2 days a week in grades 3-6
- 1 day a week plus 1 Sunday/month in grade 7
- 1 evening a week in grades 8-12

# Detailed Schedule by Grade

New Schedule

## K-3

	K-1	2	3
Sun	8:45-10:45 or 11:00-1:00*	8:45-10:45 or 11:00-1:00*	8:45-10:45 or 11:00-1:00*
Wed	None	None	3:40-5:30

\*These classes are reserved for students with older siblings in grades 4-6

## 4-7

	4-5	6	7
Sun	11:00-1:30	11:00-1:30	4:00-6:30 (Once/month)
Wed	3:40-5:30	None	None
Thu	None	4:00-6:00 or 5:00-7:00 (family chooses)	5:00-7:00

# FAQs

## New Schedule

**1. Why are we introducing a new religious school schedule?**

Many families are concerned about balancing the demands of school, extracurricular activities, and religious school, and these issues have become more significant as our congregation has become increasingly geographically diverse.

**2. How do these changes affect the total number of religious school hours?**

The total hours will change very little over the course of the K-7 experience.

**3. How will the new schedule impact the quality of education?**

Building Jewish literacy, Jewish identity, and Jewish community under the guidance of our outstanding education team will continue to be central to the mission of the religious school. The new schedule will allow us to expand upon the active learning experiences that we currently offer (e.g., The Four Questions Olympics, The Kiddush/Quidditch Cup Games, Israeli Projects Fair, etc.), and provide greater opportunity to use technology and experience-based techniques to engage our students in Jewish learning and living.

**4. Why will 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders come on a different weekday than 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders?**

Classroom space does not allow for all of our 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders to meet simultaneously. The presence of an entire grade on the same day facilitates optimal mixing of class sections and effective grade-wide learning activities.

## FAQs

### New Schedule

**5. Why will the 6<sup>th</sup> grade increase by one hour weekly?**

During 6<sup>th</sup> grade students experience many Jewish milestones in preparation for becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. An additional hour during this critical year will optimize students' skills and community connections.

**6. Why will the 7<sup>th</sup> grade be reduced to one weekday and a monthly Sunday session?**

We have found that both Jewish and secular commitments expand markedly during the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Reducing the number of weekday sessions will support students' full participation in this important transitional year to Jewish adulthood.

**7. My younger child (grades K-3) will finish at 1:00 p.m. on Sundays while my older child (grades 4-6) will finish at 1:30 p.m. What can I do during that 30-minute downtime?**

We will provide a space on Sundays for parents and younger children to nosh (we will provide the coffee), relax, and visit with other families. We are also open to suggestions for other activities that we can offer during this time.