

# **United Hebrew Congregation**

**Louis and Mary Millstone Religious School**

**& Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman Hebrew School**

## **5786 / 2025-2026 Handbook**

School Phone Number: 314-434-3404

### **SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY**

The Louis and Mary Millstone Religious School & Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman Hebrew School curriculum is based on the premise that we should be proud and knowledgeable Reform Jews. We nurture the self-esteem of all students as individuals, members of families, communities, and of the Jewish people.

The education program at United Hebrew Congregation encompasses religious and Hebrew education. Our curriculum, combined with the care and expertise of faculty members, strives to give each child a solid foundation of Jewish knowledge within a Reform Jewish perspective, the opportunity to develop their personal beliefs and connections to their faith and the understanding that Jewish teachings and values apply to aspects of daily life. The goal of our Hebrew curriculum is to provide students with the tools necessary to read and understand the meaning of the prayers of our liturgy and to provide a start towards learning modern Hebrew.

Through stimulating academic lessons, hands-on experiences, and community-building activities, we offer an educational program that will lead our students into a lifetime of Jewish learning and living.

We believe that Jewish education is a family affair. When encouraging and motivating your child/children to come to religious school and get the most out of it, they learn from their role models. Students will be motivated to attend if they see their parents doing so as well. United Hebrew provides many opportunities for families to be involved in our community through Tefillah, Shabbat services, Family Shabbat, teaching, and engagement programs.

### **CURRICULUM**

United Hebrew's educational model is rooted in seven pillars: God, Torah, Life Cycle, Holidays, Holocaust, History, and Israel. Students will learn topics in a spiralized curriculum using hands-on learning, projects, and technology. An outline of each grade's curriculum can be found at the end of the document.

Hebrew curriculum will be incorporated into the religious school day for all students. Students will learn their letters, how to read and write, and conversational words. There will be a weekly added Hebrew component for students in grades 3rd through 7th to prepare for their B'nai Mitzvah.

## **PARENT / GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS**

Please share feedback. We welcome both great stories and suggestions for improvement. Please email, call, or stop by the school office at any time.

Parents and guardians should expect to receive communication from their students' teachers during the school year via phone call, email, or Facebook. In case of any kind of emergency or school closing, all families will be notified via email and social media. We will also post snow closings on KSDK and Facebook.

We have many volunteer opportunities at United Hebrew that help to make Religious School an even better experience; we encourage parents and guardians to take advantage throughout the year.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

- Be courteous and respectful to classmates and teachers
- Respect school property and the property of others
- Use appropriate language
- Come prepared to each class session
- Participate in all classroom activities

## **WHERE AND WHEN**

Our Religious School meets on scheduled Sundays at United Hebrew. Families with students in elementary school will meet from 9:00am - 11:15am, starting off the morning with Tefillah in the sanctuary. Middle and high school will meet from 11:30am - 1:00pm.

### **Weekly Hebrew schedule:**

Students in third through seventh grade will have a weekly one-hour Hebrew add-on at the time best suited to their schedule. (Groups assigned based on availability and interest.)

Sunday from 8:00-9:00am (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade only), 9:00-11:00 (6th and 7th only);  
11:30-12:30 (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade only). Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:30-6:30pm.

Individual Hebrew Option – For students and families who would like one-on-one instruction, individual Hebrew is available at an additional cost. These lessons are half-hour weekly sessions, scheduled with our teachers (virtual option available for individual Hebrew only.)

## **PICK-UP & DROP-OFF PROCEDURE**

Parents and guardians are welcome to walk their child into the building and come in to pick up. If you do not come in, drop-off will be done at the sanctuary side entrance while pick-up will be at the school side entrance. If there are any reasons why a parent or guardians cannot pick up and drop off at the school side entrance, please contact the director ASAP.

Carpool procedures take approximately ten minutes. For the safety of all, drivers should not talk on their cell phone. Drivers may not weave through the line to avoid waiting while others load their child into their car.

If your child is being picked up by anyone other than the parents, grandparents, family members, guardian, or usual carpool, please notify the school by phone or in writing.

## **EARLY RELEASE**

If a student is needed for an early dismissal, come into the school office to check out your student or contact the director to arrange for a departure from the class. Please do not interrupt class by texting with your child.

## **ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES**

Good teachers and the best curriculum are only as good as the attendance of the students. If a student is not present, learning will not occur. We do understand that conflicts will arise, if a student misses a school day, the teacher and parent / guardian are expected to communicate about the subject matter covered.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Come to school only when healthy. Any suspected or confirmed cases of contagious illnesses or within the household are an indication to stay home for the day.

Food allergies and sensitivities shared with the school will be accommodated. As needed, emergency medicine can be stored in the school office.

If a student needs prescribed medication during school hours, contact the school office for administration procedures.

## **BULLYING POLICY**

Bullying is a type of repeated aggression in which the behavior is intended to harm, humiliate, or disturb another person. Bullying can be written, verbal, electronic, physical, or any combination thereof.

Bullying behavior by any student is unacceptable. United Hebrew will not tolerate bullying.

Staff members, students, and parents / guardians should immediately report bullying to the Director of Religious Education.

## **MEDIA POLICY**

United Hebrew Congregation employees and volunteers may publish pictures, videos, artwork and writings that include students, teachers, parents, guardians, relatives and volunteers throughout the school year. These media may appear in the United Hebrew HaMakor (bulletin), UnitedHebrew.org, social media postings and other publications both digital and print. Full names of minors will not be used without explicit permission of a parent or guardian. This policy releases United Hebrew from any and all liability arising out of the use of these materials. If you have concerns about the policy, you must contact a school director to arrange accommodations.

United Hebrew Congregation may publish a “buzz book” of religious school classes, including names, email addresses, phone numbers and home addresses. If you do not want any or part of this information published, you must contact a school director to arrange accommodations.

## **TZEDAKAH**

Tzedakah is collected from all students each week. The individual classes will determine what organizations will benefit from their funds. Students are encouraged to “earn” their tzedakah money so they can feel the full impact of giving. Please note that the amount given is not important, it is the habit. Talk with your child/children about the importance of Tzedakah.

## **CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONICS**

Cell phones and other electronics should not be used during school unless directed by a teacher. Devices can cause a distraction and may be confiscated and held in the office until the end of school.

## **MADRICHIM PROGRAM**

Students in 8th grade and above are eligible to work as teacher’s assistants in younger grade classrooms. Leadership and classroom management skills training is a key component to the program.

## **YOUTH GROUPS**

We welcome your children to our fun and exciting youth group programs and events. All students are invited to take full advantage of all programs.

High Schoolers are invited to join our youth group and BBYO Chapter.

## PRICING

There is one inclusive price for families who attend United Hebrew's educational program. This cost includes weekly religious school, a weekly Hebrew group, students' B'nai mitzvah fees, a security fee, technology fee, retreats, the cost of materials, and our teachers' salary.

An extra fee will be charged for families who choose to do individual Hebrew tutoring. **Pricing will increase \$25 per grade starting on August 1 after the early-bird pricing has expired.**

United Hebrew is committed to the mission of educating our youth and highly subsidizes the cost of religious school to make it more affordable for families. See the chart below showing the actual cost of attend religious school at United Hebrew and what families are billed for tuition. With these subsidies in place, we do not offer ala carte pricing for Religious and Hebrew School or programs. There are no refunds or discounts if you are unable to or choose not to participate in any aspect of the E&E programming.

United Hebrew is committed to having every child enroll regardless of financial situation. Please contact Elayne Grossberg ([egrossberg@unitedhebrew.org](mailto:egrossberg@unitedhebrew.org)) for questions regarding scholarship opportunities.

Program	United Hebrew Actual Cost	United Hebrew Subsidized Tuition Early Bird	UH Subsidized Tuition after August 1
Kindergarten	\$800	\$400	\$425
First	\$800	\$400	\$425
Second	\$800	\$400	\$425
Third	\$1350	\$850	\$875
Fourth	\$1350	\$850	\$875
Fifth	\$1350	\$850	\$875
Sixth	\$1450	\$850	\$875
Seventh	\$1500	\$825	\$850
Eighth	\$1500	\$825	\$850
Ninth	\$1500	\$825	\$850
Tenth	\$1700	\$850	\$875
UH Upper Class (11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> )	\$150	\$72	\$72
Individual Hebrew	\$800	\$500	\$500
Summer Hebrew	\$250	\$250	\$250

## CURRICULUM

United Hebrew's educational model is rooted in our most important pillars: Sacred Text, Hebrew, Prayer, God & Spirituality, Jewish Calendar, History, Israel, Mitzvot and Values, and Contemporary Jewish Life. Students will learn topics in a spiralized curriculum using hands-on learning, projects, and technology.

Students in K-5 will use a circular curriculum to look at our 7 pillars through a different lens each year. For example, they will learn about the holidays each year but in a different way. Kindergarten will learn about the holidays through symbols and foods, while our third graders will learn about the holidays through practices and actions. Our 4<sup>th</sup> graders will take a deep dive into Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Purim, and Shavuot.

Once we start middle school, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades begin through the lens of the 613 commandments. What do our texts say about God, Torah, Life Cycle, Holidays, History and Israel? How does becoming a Bnai Mitzvah influence and change our approach? In 6<sup>th</sup> grade we also have a retreat focused on Jewish wisdom on Healthy relationships.

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades continue the commandments with a lens of how to make ethical decisions based on Jewish values. We alternate the focus each year from a deep dive into ethics & a two-pronged approach utilizing history & holocaust with comparative religion. This double year also sees a retreat each year to cities such as Chicago, Memphis, Kansas City, or Cincinnati.

10<sup>th</sup> grade collects the learning of the last many years and encourages students to decide what their Judaism means to them and how they might fit into our American culture as Jews. We have a retreat to Washington DC learning about different ways Jews have been involved in American life.

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades are the capstone years of High School learning at United Hebrew. The UH Upper Class works through the actual ways to practice Judaism once a High School graduate, from lighting candles to mezzuzot to antisemitism and more.

For more information on our curriculum, please don't hesitate to contact Rabbi Reinhart.