



United Hebrew
CONGREGATION

Louis and Mary Millstone

Religious School

& Rabbi Jerome W.

Grollman

Hebrew School

5787 / 2026-2027

School Handbook

School Phone Number: 314-434-3404

Director Cell: 314-439-1314

Welcome to United Hebrew!

Welcome to the 2025-2026 / 5786 school year at the Louis & Mary Millstone Religious School and Rabbi Jerome W. Grollman Hebrew School!

We are delighted to embark on this sacred partnership with your family. Guided by our vision of building a community of Jews who are confident to live and be Jewish, we are dedicated to fostering a vibrant and enduring connection to Jewish life, learning, and community for all our students.

This handbook provides a comprehensive overview of our programs, which are designed to create a dynamic and inclusive environment where children, teens, and families can explore their Jewish identities and build meaningful relationships. We are excited for the year of learning, growth, and community that lies ahead.

Samantha Fomera (*she/her*)

Director of Youth Education & Family Engagement

c. 314-439-1314

samantha@unitedhebrew.org

Angie Klenke

School & Programming Administrative Assistant

o. 314-434-3404

aklenke@unitedhebrew.org

School Philosophy

We are dedicated to building proud, knowledgeable Reform Jews. Our program nurtures each student's identity as an individual, as a member of their family and community, and as part of the Jewish people. Through engaging lessons, hands-on learning, and community-building, we guide students toward a lifetime of Jewish living.

Jewish education is a family affair. Students thrive when they see their families engaged in Jewish life alongside them. United Hebrew partners with families through Tefillah, Shabbat, retreats, and engagement programming throughout the year.

Curriculum Overview

Our model is rooted in seven pillars: God • Torah • Life Cycle • Holidays • Holocaust • History • Israel. Content spirals across all grades, revisiting each pillar at increasing depth. *For more information on our curriculum, contact Samantha Fomera at samantha@unitedhebrew.org.*

Hebrew Language & Prayer Skills

Hebrew is woven into every grade. Students build reading fluency, prayer vocabulary, and an appreciation for Hebrew as the living language of the Jewish people.

Schedule & Location

Religious School (Sundays)

- **Grades K–7:** 9:00–11:25 AM, beginning with Tefillah in the sanctuary.
6th grade Hebrew instruction is embedded within the Sunday school session.
- **Grades 8–10:** 11:30 AM–1:00 PM.
- **Grades 11-12 (Beren Scholars):** Time TBD; Approximately 2 sessions per month.

Hebrew School (Grades 3–7)

In addition to Sunday religious school, 3rd–6th grade students complete one hour of Hebrew per week. Seventh grade students will work with clergy and are welcome to join an existing sixth grade group for extra practice. Families choose one option:

- **Hebrew Group:** Small-group sessions on Sundays or weekday afternoons, assigned by level. Included in tuition.
- **Individual Hebrew:** 30-minute weekly one-on-one session scheduled during the week. Available for an additional fee; virtual option available.

Leadership & Youth Programs

- **Madrachim Program:** Students in 8th grade through 10th grade become part of our Madrichim program, with a simple application process. They can assist in the classrooms and office during religious school programming and begin developing skills towards employment and being a Jewish leader. Students can receive volunteer hours and/or a stipend incentive for participation in each session. The program includes leadership and classroom management skills training to empower our teens as community leaders.
- **Teachers' Assistant Program:** Students in grades 11 and 12 can apply to become teachers' assistants in our Religious School classrooms. They too receive leadership training, as well as professional development alongside our teachers, as they deepen their Jewish leadership and employability.
- **Youth Groups & Retreats:** We offer exciting youth programs, including retreats for middle and high school students. High schoolers are also invited to join our High School Youth Group Activities and St Louis BBYO Chapters.

Annual Family Programs

Throughout the year, United Hebrew hosts special family programs designed to bring parents and students together. These experiences are often led by clergy and focused on how to bring Jewish living into your home and daily life—beyond the synagogue walls.

- **Family Shabbat:** Shabbat services and Oneg activities designed specifically for K–6 families.
- **Shabbat in Action:** Families participate together in Shabbat programming with an emphasis on practical home observance.
- **Family Programs:** Periodic sessions during religious school where families learn alongside their children, exploring how Jewish values and traditions apply to everyday life.

Dates and details are shared at the start of the year and via school communications throughout the year.

Expectations

Students

- Be courteous and respectful to classmates and teachers.
- Respect school property and the property of others.
- Come prepared and participate fully in each session.
- **Attendance:** Good teachers and the best curriculum are only as good as the attendance of the students. If a student is not present, learning cannot occur. Of course, we understand that conflicts arise. Please communicate with the Director about the absence and any missed content.
- **Tzedakah:** Tzedakah is collected weekly, and each class decides which organizations to support. We encourage students to "earn" their tzedakah money to experience the full impact of giving. The habit of giving is more important than the amount

Parents & Guardians

- Communicate openly with teachers and the Director. We welcome feedback anytime.
- Emergency notifications are sent by email and social media; snow closings are also posted on Facebook.
- Volunteer! Your involvement makes Religious School better for everyone.

Procedures

- **Drop-off:** Sanctuary side entrance. Pick-up: school side entrance. Allow ~10 minutes; please stay off your phone and do not weave through the line.
- **Alternate pick-up:** Notify the school in writing or by phone if someone outside your usual carpool is picking up.
- **Early release:** Check out at the school office or contact the Director. Do not text your child to arrange dismissal.

Policies

Health & Safety

- Keep your child home if they have any suspected or confirmed contagious illness, including within the household.
- Food allergies shared with the school will be accommodated. Emergency medication may be stored in the office—contact us for procedures.

Cell Phones & Electronics

Devices may not be used or displayed during school unless directed by a teacher. Phones can be kept in the school office. If you need to reach your child, call the school. United Hebrew is not responsible for lost or damaged devices.

Bullying

Repeated, intentional behavior meant to harm or humiliate—written, verbal, electronic, or physical—is not tolerated. Report all incidents immediately to the Director of Youth Education & Family Engagement.

Media

United Hebrew may publish photos, videos, artwork, and writings of our community members in various digital and print publications. Minors' full names will not be used without parental permission. This policy releases United Hebrew from 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 accommodation.

A "buzz book" with class contact information may also be published. If you have concerns about these policies or wish to opt out, you must contact a school director to make arrangements.

Tuition & Fees

Our inclusive pricing covers weekly religious and Hebrew school, B'nai Mitzvah fees, security, technology, retreats, materials, and teacher salaries. United Hebrew is committed to making our programs accessible and significantly subsidizes the actual cost of religious school (\$500 to \$1000 depending on grade-level).

- **Additional Fees:** Individual Hebrew tutoring is available for an extra fee. Summer Hebrew allows for ten 30-min individualized sessions for an extra fee during summer break.
- **Regular Registration:** Tuition increases by \$25 per grade after the early-bird deadline of July 15.

A Note on Tuition for 2026–2027

Like many congregational schools, we have seen continued increases in the costs that make our program possible — security, supplies, transportation for retreats, and competitive salaries for our dedicated faculty. Rather than reducing programming, we have made modest tuition adjustments this year to ensure we can continue offering the rich, full experience our families expect. **Please contact Rabbi Reinhart for additional information regarding the reasoning and necessity for these increases.*

United Hebrew remains deeply committed to accessibility. We significantly subsidize the true cost of enrollment, and financial assistance is available for any family that needs it. Please reach out to Elayne Grossberg at egrossberg@unitedhebrew.org — all inquiries are handled with complete confidentiality.

We are grateful for your partnership and your investment in your child's Jewish education.

Program	UH Actual Cost	Early Bird (by July 15)	Regular (by Aug 15)	Late (after Aug 15)
Kindergarten	\$900	\$425	\$450	\$475
1st Grade	\$900	\$425	\$450	\$475
2nd Grade	\$900	\$425	\$450	\$475

3rd Grade	\$1450	\$925	\$950	\$975
4th Grade	\$1450	\$925	\$950	\$975
5th Grade	\$1450	\$925	\$950	\$975
6th Grade	\$1700	\$1,025	\$1,050	\$1,075
7th Grade	\$1700	\$1,025	\$1,050	\$1,075
8th Grade	\$1700	\$825	\$850	\$875
9th Grade	\$1700	\$825	\$850	\$875
10th Grade (Confirmation)	\$2000	\$1,025	\$1,050	\$1,075
11th/12th Grade	\$210	\$155	\$180	\$205
Individual Hebrew (weekly 30-min session, instead of group)	\$900	\$500	\$500	\$500
Summer Hebrew (ten 30-min individualized sessions)	\$500	\$300	\$300	\$300

No à la carte pricing. No refunds or discounts for unused program components.