

FAQ's of Parents with Children Attending Religious School

At what grade does my child begin Religious School?

Religious school begins in Kindergarten. We have a preschool class for 4 year olds.

What if we don't join until our child is past kindergarten? Will he/she be behind?

We make special efforts to help children who join our school after Kindergarten to catch up quickly.

How many children are in each class?

There are usually between 10 and 15 children in a class. We are committed to keeping classes small.

How many classes are there per grade?

At this time there are 2 classes in each grade.

What are the days and times my children will be in school?

Grades K - 2: Sunday 9:00 – 12:00 noon

Grades 3 – 7: Sunday, 9:00 – 12:00 noon; Tuesday or Wednesday 4 – 6 p.m.

Grades 8 – 12: Sunday, 10:30 – 12:00 noon.

Where do I drop-off and pick-up my children?

The lot near the school is for pick-up and drop-off **only!** If you prefer to come into the building, please park in the main lot. Pick up for K-2 is under the blue awning in the rear of the building. Please call the school office if you will be delayed in picking up your child.

What goes into a day of religious school?

Each class has one teacher for the entire day. Most teachers spend time on all subject areas both on Sundays and week days. All classes attend *t'fillah* together each day. Library and music periods are scheduled for all grades.

Is there a procedure for taking my child out of class early or bringing him/her late?

For security, we ask that if you need to take your child out early, you go to the school office and ask the secretary to get your child. She will bring him/her to the office. Children who arrive late should check in at the school office and then go to class. We cannot make exceptions to this procedure.

Do you expect a phone call if our children will not be attending class on a particular day?

We do appreciate such phone calls. If we know that your child walks to our school and that you would like to be called if she/he does not arrive, please remember to call when your child will be absent.

How do we find out how our children are doing in school?

Our frequent family programs provide many opportunities for brief meetings between parents and teachers. You may leave messages for teachers or speak with our Judith Fox our Director of Education at any time. Report cards are sent twice each year in Grades 3-7 and at the end of the year for primary and High school students. Parent conferences are arranged at the request of teachers or parents.

What are the monthly "Family Services?" Will my children have a part in these services?

We at The Emanuel Religious School place prime importance on *Shabbat* celebration as a family and plan our services with this in mind. These services are a critical part of our curriculum. Each child is encouraged to take a part in the service. Parents are welcome to attend with their children, but parents who wish to remain in the sanctuary may do so. The service is called *Kahal*.

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What are the "Family Education" programs and services all about?

All of our programs have parent/child activities during which you facilitate your child's learning. They are also designed to have components of education for parents on an adult level. We believe in lifelong Jewish learning. What you learned in Hebrew school will take on new meaning when you review it as an adult, especially when your learning partners are other Emanuel parents. Sharing your excitement about learning with your child provides many special moments and memories. If you have further questions, please contact our family educator, Grae Sibelman by calling the religious school office or email: school@emanuelsynagogue.org.

What is the frequency of these programs? How many are we expected to attend?

There are 5-8 programs each year depending on the grade. Families are expected not to miss more than 2.

Is it true that our child has to attend services every week during the middle school years?

Yes, students in 6th and 7th grade are expected to attend services with the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* club each *Shabbat*. In so doing, the kids become totally comfortable with the service, bond with their classmates and develop a sense of belonging with the congregation. Services at other synagogues will be counted toward this expectation.

How does Emanuel handle High Holiday services for parents with school age children

We have 5 different services on High Holy Days designed specifically for children from preschool to Grade 12. We encourage parents of preschool and elementary school children to attend with their children, but you may leave them if you wish. A full schedule is sent out before the holidays. Services are run by our religious school staff.

What can we, as parents, do to best insure that our child learns what he/she needs to be a Jewish adult?

Bringing your child to *Shabbat* morning services and making sure that she/he attends school regularly are very important. Showing an active interest in what your child is learning, and attending adult and family programs confirms for your child the value you place on Jewish education.

How does Emanuel handle special learning needs of our child?

The Emanuel Synagogue has a resource room with 2 full time teachers and several teacher aides. We meet with parents of children with learning disabilities to develop individual learning plans for each child. Children who excel in their studies are given enrichment if they wish.

Do you have a school program beyond *bar/bat mitzvah*?

Our high school department is called *Beit Sefer Tichon*. Students begin in 8th grade, are confirmed in 10th grade and graduate in 12th Grade. Students who are confirmed are required to remain in school until graduation. If students attend *Beit Sefer Tichon*, they are eligible to be aides with our primary classes and resource room.

Do you have youth groups? At what age do they begin?

We have a *Kadimah* youth group for Grades 6-8 and United Synagogue Youth (USY) for Grades 9-12. They are both active, award-winning chapters led by an adult staff person.

I still have more questions. Where do I go for answers?

Judith T. Fox is our Director of Education. She will gladly answer your questions. You can reach her at (860) 233-2774 or judyefox@emanuelsynagogue.org.