

Dear CAARS families,

We hope that this letter finds you in good health and spirits and that you are enjoying a safe and relaxing summer with your family.

The 2020-2021 school year was a year like no other. The pandemic challenged us all. Our families, students, clergy, teachers, and staff adjusted and pivoted, rose to the challenge and emerged even stronger as a learning community. Not only did we manage to continue the joy of Jewish learning virtually, but we came out with a renewed sense of unity and love for our community. We are grateful for the hard work of our teachers, the adaptability and patience of our parents, and the creativity of CAA staff and leaders, that enabled us to adjust our programs quickly and effectively. Most of all, we are grateful for the vote of confidence that we received from you. Thank you!

We are excited to report that, at this time (June 2021), our *kavanah* - intention - is to return to in-person learning in the Fall of 2021, with health and safety protocols in place. The pandemic taught us many lessons and provided us with many opportunities that we will take with us as "Covid Keepers." We will share the details of our final program later this summer but, one thing is certain; CAARS will continue to be there for your children and family, to provide joyful Jewish learning and maintain the sense of community that is so valued. Please be assured that we will live up to our mission, vision, and values and work towards reestablishing a safe, in-person, cohesive and thriving learning community.

We want to know more about your family's intent to return to in-person learning at CAARS next year and we appreciate your feedback, comments, responses, and ideas. [Please share your input on this form to help us with our planning for the 2021 - 2022 school year.](#)* We are asking for a \$50 refundable deposit for each student. The entirety of the deposit will be applied towards your tuition payment later this summer.

[CAARS Intent to Return and Feedback Form](#)

**Please note that this form is the first step in the CAARS re-enrollment process for returning students. Completion of this form and deposit serve as notification of intended enrollment and is not considered registration.* Official CAARS Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will take place later in the summer!*

Potential adjustments for CAARS 2021 - 2022 include:

- Health and safety policy informed by: CDC guidelines, local health and education guidelines, and campus partners.

- Limiting class size, adapting the daily schedule to reduce crossover between groups, and having individual supplies
- Using both outdoor and indoor spaces for learning.
- Offering a virtual-only option.
- Need for flexibility and agility

CAARS Pre-K- 6th Grade Sunday:

- Prospective schedule 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- Sunday learning focused on Judaics, Tefillah, and community-building
- Focus on experiential and project-based learning

CAARS 3rd - 6th Grade Weekday Hebrew:

- Small group Zoom Hebrew Pods have been one of the most successful parts of our 2020 - 2021 program. So they will continue! We will also offer the option for in-person weekday Hebrew.
- Tuesday afternoons will remain our primary day for Hebrew learning, 4:00 - 6:30 PM
 - Additional weekday afternoons offered on Zoom as needed.
 - Hebrew pods will remain grouped by student age and ability.

****NEW** CAARS 7th Grade:**

Introducing CAARS Geshher, our new Shabbat-based, Saturday morning, model for our 7th grade B'nei Mitzvah cohort. Learners on the Geshher journey are immersed in: a sense of sacred time, being an integral member of the Jewish people, being loved and cherished by one's clergy and educators, answering the call to participate with "Hineini – Here I Am," and of having a place of leadership within the Jewish community, well beyond b'nei mitzvah.

- CAARS Geshher will meet at 11:00 AM Saturday mornings and continue through kiddush lunch, ending at 1:15 PM.
 - *Exact calendar of dates will be released with CAARS registration in late summer*
- Students will: (1) Experience Shabbat through tefillah, learning, singing, and eating, (2) Explore their own personal relationships to Judaism and themselves by engaging in text study, and (3) Expand ritual life skills and acquire the ability to fully participate in prayer and celebration.

jtx 8th - 12th Grade:

We are so proud of our amazing teen community for joining us for our inaugural year of jtx: jewish teen connexion is a new joint Jewish educational program for teens in 8th – 12th grades created in partnership between Congregation Agudas Achim and Temple Beth Shalom. Our intention for 2021 - 2022 is to resume in-person learning, including weekly lunch for our teens as part of their teen engagement experience. Teens will continue to have one core class and the option of one or more electives.

- Prospective schedule:
 - Lunch 12:00 - 12:30
 - Core class 12:30 - 1:30
 - Electives TBD [Options: Sunday after core classes or online weekday evenings]
- All jtx students are encouraged to join the Madrichol, teaching assistant, program. More information about our Madrichol program will be available later this summer