

ALMA: Inspiring Jewish Education for the Mind, Body and Soul

The world is sustained solely through the breath of the children when they are learning in school.

-Talmud, Shabbat 119b

Dear Families,

Welcome to ALMA!

ALMA is a fresh approach to Jewish education for youth and families. We pride ourselves on being a different kind of school for Jewish education. Our innovative program brings Jewish tradition to life through engaging each student's mind, body and soul. Our premise is that Judaism matters. We believe that Jewish life and tradition has the potential to add profound meaning and richness to our lives and be a force for positive change in our world. We believe that our students must genuinely enjoy themselves in order to learn and develop the love of Jewish life and tradition that we aspire to impart. We work hard to create a culture that is joyful, where our students and their families feel respected, engaged and inspired. We also believe that we cannot successfully meet our goals without engaging the whole family. Therefore, ALMA is a family program that offers lots of different opportunities for parent and family learning and celebration. We ask you to take advantage of these opportunities and hope that you will be an active part of the ALMA community.

With this philosophy in mind, we ask that all ALMA families become members of Congregation B'nai Israel. This new policy was created after a lot of reflection and consideration. We feel that ALMA families joining CBI as members is consistent with our family-centered approach to Jewish education and our emphasis on community building.

We are firmly committed to making CBI membership affordable to every family. Families of new students who have been enrolled in ALMA for 1 year or less will be provided free membership for one year. All others are asked to pay membership dues according to their ability. Generous abatements of membership dues are available to ensure that the CBI community is open to all. More information about this policy is below.

Our classes combine grade levels. In our combined classes, we have a rotating 2-year curriculum so that our students are engaging new subject material each year. We also offer differentiated, small-group learning opportunities within classes that cater to different learning styles and skill levels.

We refer to our classes by Hebrew names below rather than by grades. On occasion we have students who, for different reasons, move through the ALMA classes at a different pace than the guidelines below. If you have questions about which class your child should be in, please be in touch.

Alma K'tana (small world) (pre-K, ages 3-5)

Nitzanim (buds) (K-1)

Amirim (small bundles of wheat) (2-3)

Ilanot (trees) (4-5)

Rimonim (pomegranates) (6-7)

Overview of the Weekly Schedule for 2018/19

- Alma K'tana/ Saturdays 9:30-11:15
- Nitzanim/ Saturdays 9:30-12:00
- Amirim/ Saturdays 9:30-12:00 and Thursdays 3:30-5:30
- Ilanot/ Saturdays 9:30-12:00 and Thursdays 3:30-5:30
- Rimonim/ Saturdays 9:30-12:00 and Thursdays 3:30-5:30
- **Parents and Family Members**
 - Shabbat Shmooze (coffee and treats), Most Saturdays 9:30 AM-10:00 AM
 - Torah Study with Rabbi Jacob, Most Saturdays 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
 - Shabbat Family Programs, Many Saturdays, 11:15 AM-12:00 PM
 - Kiddush Lunch: Every Saturday at ~12:15pm.

Tuition information is available at the end of this form. We are committed to making ALMA available to all who wish to participate and financial assistance is available if needed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am always happy to set up a time to meet. I look forward to learning and celebrating together in the year to come.

L'shalom (for peace),



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