

PENINSULA
TEMPLE
SHOLOM
Youth Education

**Youth Education at Home
FAQ's**

What is the schedule of my child's classes?

Please see a schedule at the end of these FAQs.

Why did you make a decision to go completely remote?

With the health and well-being of our students, families, your extended families, and our teachers in mind, we knew that we would not be able to return to our campus in a way that would foster community and comfort for the time being.

Why is school starting so late? Does it have anything to do with the virus?

The school calendar was established last Spring, before we decided to move to a virtual learning model. The first day of class was scheduled based on the 2020 High Holiday season. Youth Education begins after Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The total number of sessions of class will be the same as last year.

My kid(s) are already doing so much online, I want to give them a break!

We understand the challenges of online learning. We also wish that we could give our students a break from screen time. However, given what's going on in this moment, we also believe that Jewish community, the consideration of big ideas, and Jewish identity formation are more important than ever. Now is the time to make sure our students have the support of their PTS teachers and community.

I'm worried my child will be bored. How can you keep them engaged?

As is our goal when we are on campus, we will include different modalities to present content, ranging from videos, games, story time, speakers, discussions, projects and more. Rabbi Alban and our Youth Education teachers are spending this summer thinking of new ways to make virtual class engaging.

With all the uncertainty in my child's life, I worry that they are not being able to make connections with other children in the current atmosphere. How will you address this?

Every class session will begin with a check-in and opportunity for each child to share how they are feeling and experiencing this moment. Additionally, teachers will use the strengths of virtual learning that make it feel intimate in its own way, including breakout rooms, polling, and other tools. Youth Education has and will continue to value community-building and the fostering of relationships among our students and the broader PTS and Jewish community. Now more than ever, it is imperative that children feel like they belong to a community and that families utilize the opportunities available for children to be with peers.

What if my child has a disability that limits how much they can really absorb with remote learning?

Please get in touch with Rabbi Alban so that we can discuss how to best make this program work for your child. We want to be as flexible as possible to make this strange moment work for all and we believe that all children will benefit from their connection to PTS Youth Education.

Will I need to print all of my child's study materials?

Our goal is to provide each student with customized materials available for pick-up at Peninsula Temple Sholom during designated blocks of time by cohort. These material packets will include any necessary textbooks, worksheets, art supplies, notebooks, or other materials. We hope to make these available on a monthly basis.

What if I don't have time to really help my child with complicated projects, or to monitor them when they're in class?

Any project we include will be able to be done by the child alone. Once they log in to class, our teachers will handle questions and provide technical support to the extent that they are able.

Part of the uniqueness of Youth Education at PTS is that it's scheduled on Shabbat and families have had opportunities to celebrate Shabbat together. How will this continue virtually?

Our program will continue to occur both on Friday afternoons and on Saturdays. Each cohort will continue having opportunities to attend tefillah or havdallah together. All tefillah and havdallah sessions will include activity prompts to inspire students to celebrate Shabbat at home with their families. We are also considering other ways we can bring Shabbat and the PTS community into the home.

Since Youth Education will be virtual for the time being, it seems like tuition should be further reduced. Why will Youth Education tuition be the same as last year?

Each year, Youth Education tuition covers approximately 50% of the total cost to run our program. Like in years past, 50% of this year's Youth Education program will be subsidized by the membership commitments of our congregation. That being said, we understand that the pandemic may be bringing unforeseen financial burdens to our families and have therefore decided to

maintain tuition from the previous school year. Even though programming will be virtual for now, there will nevertheless be significant costs to run our program including teacher salaries and development, materials and supplies, new technology, and more. We want to emphasize that we never want finances to be a barrier to Jewish education. If you would like to apply for financial assistance, please complete this [scholarship application](#) in lieu of online registration.

When will we be able to have in-person Youth Education again?

We wish we could provide an answer, but we simply don't know! When it is safe to move back into in-person, our teachers, staff, and clergy will be ready and excited to make that transition. We will base this determination on state and local guidelines, as well as on decisions of our PTS COVID-19 taskforce. This taskforce is made up of clergy, staff, and lay leaders, including professionals in the areas of medicine, emergency response, public health, and human resources. This taskforce meets regularly to make informed decisions about how to keep our PTS community as safe as possible during this pandemic.

I have ideas for how to make virtual Youth Education great! Where should I share my ideas?

Please email Rabbi Alban at rabbialban@sholom.org!

Youth Education at Home Schedule

Chaverim (Pre-K-2nd Grade); Fridays

- 4:30-5pm Class
- 5-5:30 Tefillah
- Optional chugim throughout the week, including on Friday afternoons right before class

Kesher (3-5th Grade in mixed grade “tracks”); Fridays

- 4-5pm Class
- 5-5:30pm Tefillah
- Optional chugim throughout the week, including on Friday evenings right after tefillah

Zehoot (6th-8th Grade); Saturdays

- 10:30-11am Tefillah and Welcome
- 11am-12pm Class
- Optional chugim throughout the week, including on Saturdays right after class

Chavayah (9th-12th Grade); Saturdays

- 4-4:45pm Class Block 1
- 4:45-5:30pm Class Block 2
- 5:30-6pm Havdallah and Hang
- We are working on ways to offer a virtual L'taken program or similar offering for tenth graders.

Further Details about Schedule

- Chugim will be completely optional and included in Youth Education tuition. Students can attend all weeks or drop in when able. They will be approximately 30 minutes long.
- Chugim will be taught by Rabbi Alban, teachers, or senior madrichim.
- We will maintain curricular content from the previous school year while adjusting methods in order to keep curricula engaging over Zoom.
- At the start of the school year, each teacher will make a phone call or home visit to their students to help students and teachers get to know each other.