



## **Program Information for K-6th grades**

**School Year 5777/2016-17**

*Welcome to ALiyAH! The warm community of ALiyAH provides engaging, high-level learning opportunities for every student. Our students experience Jewish holidays and traditions, gain strong Hebrew language skills, and grow from the many opportunities for meaningful leadership within the congregational community. Our teachers are dynamic and nurturing, and our kids enjoy their experience of Jewish education. We hope this Q & A sheet is helpful—for any further information, please be in touch.*

### **Q: When do K-6<sup>th</sup> graders meet for ALiyAH?**

A: All K-6<sup>th</sup> graders attend on Sunday mornings from 9:00-12:00 plus one afternoon or evening per week: Tues or Weds 4:15-6:00 p.m. or (for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades only) Weds 6:30-8:15 p.m. There is a dinner option for K-6<sup>th</sup> graders on Wednesdays (served 6:00-6:25 p.m.)—kids in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades at dinner must be accompanied by a parent or designated adult.

3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders also participate in a one-on-one Enrichment Program which consists of 1.5 hours of private assessment/tutoring with their Hebrew teacher, spread out through the year, outside of classroom hours. In these sessions, teachers assess and tutor students to measure their progress and help them build skills. Each assessment result will be communicated to parents and to the director. This enrichment program is built into the cost of registration for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **Q. What is the program content?**

A. Each grade has its own goals in the area of Ivrit (Hebrew), Tefilah (Prayer) and Yahadut (Jewish building blocks) plus a specific mitzvah or Jewish value to focus on for the year. Sunday classes also include chugim (specialty activities) that include cultural arts such as art, music, dance, and drama. Students have many opportunities to “live” their Judaism, whether leading services, celebrating holidays, putting on a Jewish wedding celebration, cooking Jewish foods, or participating in tzedakah projects that support others in our community. A complete curriculum overview is posted on the ALiyAH page of our website.

### **Q. Who are the teachers?**

A. Because of our high-level curriculum, we attract exceptionally strong teachers who are dedicated to Jewish life and learning, passionate about Hebrew, Israel, and tzedakah. Our teachers care about the success of each student and focus on creating a learning environment that supports every child in his/her learning as well as in building a strong community of friends.

**Q. What is the cost of ALIYAH?**

A. ALIYAH costs for the 2016-17 year are as follows:

2-Day program for Kindergarten, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> grades:	\$995
2-Day program for 3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grades:	\$1200
Dinner option (Weds evenings):	\$160
B'nai Mitzvah tutoring:	\$600 per year, 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> grades*

\* See below under question about bar/bat mitzvah tutoring

Please note: EARLY BIRD registration before June 30 saves families \$75 off of each child's registration fees, while registration after August 15 requires an additional \$75 administrative fee per child registration.

**Q: Will my child have homework?**

A: We understand that your children have a variety of commitments and activities throughout the week, and we do not generally expect students to take Hebrew work home. However, the more points of contact with language that students have during the week, the better their retention. Therefore, we do sometimes ask students to practice reading or reviewing for 5-10 minutes per day.

**Q. Are there Shabbat programs for my child? Is there a Shabbat requirement for our family?**

A. Shabbat and holiday attendance is central to Jewish ritual life. *We strongly recommend that every ALIYAH family attend a Shabbat service at least once every month, and a bar or bat mitzvah service at least three times during the year.* We have many different styles of services to choose from on Friday evenings and Shabbat mornings and we would be happy to help you decide which one fits your family best. Children who grow up seeing older youth becoming bar/bat mitzvah have a much stronger sense of purpose and clearer understanding of what it means to become a bar/bat mitzvah.

Family Shabbat programming, coordinated by ALIYAH include:

- Friday nights: Twice a year our K-6<sup>th</sup> grade families join together for an Erev Shabbat (Friday night) family-friendly service and dinner, including opportunities for youth participation.
- Shabbat mornings: 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade families will also lead a Shabbat morning service in the spring that invites participation of all family members.
- Kiddush Club: A "next step up" Shabbat morning program for Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> graders, on the same mornings as Tot Shabbat. Parents are encouraged to attend with kids.
- *Our congregation's family-oriented Shabbat program offerings are expanding next year—stay tuned!*

**Q. What happens if my child needs to miss a day?**

A. We always appreciate communications from parents when a child misses ALIYAH class time due to illness or other commitments. Students are encouraged to make up a missed day by attending during a different section of the week (attending on Weds instead of Tuesday, for example). If you know in advance that your child will be missing several days of ALIYAH, please be in touch with us so that teachers can provide make-up work as appropriate so that your child does not fall behind.

**Q. What if my child has special learning needs?**

A. In ALIYAH we are committed to working with every kind of learner and helping each child succeed to the best of his or her ability. We rely on parents to provide us the information you have

about your child and his/her learning needs. (See [Special Needs form.](#)) It is very important for us to know if a child has an IEP or learning supports at school, is taking or changing medication, or has been identified with social, cognitive, or developmental challenges. We engage both teen madrichim and professional tutors who can work one-on-one during class hours to support a child's learning. Our professional educational consultant is available to assess student learning needs and provide suggestions for learning supports when a teacher or parent requests an evaluation.

**Q. What if my child is ready for extra challenges in Hebrew?**

A. Just as with kids who have learning needs, we are committed to helping every student achieve to their highest level of learning. We strive to hire Hebrew teachers who have a conversational or native level of Hebrew fluency so that some of the classroom conversation and instruction can be given in Hebrew. Children who have accelerated Hebrew levels are eligible for enrichment with a tutor; please be in touch if you are interested in this option.

**Q. What if my Kindergartner cannot manage an afterschool program on top of full-day learning at school?**

A. Kindergarten is indeed a big transition for many children. While we encourage all Kindergarten families to enroll for the 2-day program of ALIYAH, we recognize that in some cases afterschool programming is too challenging for Kindies. There is a 1-day option in place for Kindergartners who are unable to manage the 2-day program.

**Q. What are the enrollment and attendance requirements for children at Neveh Shalom?**

A. Enrollment and attendance in ALIYAH programming from 1<sup>st</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> grade is required for children who want to become bar/bat mitzvah at Neveh Shalom. Children who enroll later or whose poor attendance affects their proficiency in Hebrew reading may need extra tutoring at the parents' expense.

**Q. Is there additional tutoring my child will need for bar/bat mitzvah? When does this happen?**

A. Neveh Shalom offers a bar/bat mitzvah tutorial program which includes a full year of tutoring leading up to the child's bar/bat mitzvah with a trained private tutor who is familiar with our traditions at Neveh Shalom. These tutors work with the child on their individual Torah and Haftarah portions as well as any prayers the child has not yet mastered. Included in this tutorial program is a month of tutoring with Cantor Bletstein prior to bar/bat mitzvah. The cost of this year-long tutoring program is \$1200. In order to reduce the financial obligations on families during the bar/bat mitzvah year, we have adopted a pay-ahead program in which families pay half the tutorial fee (\$600) in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and half (\$600) in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, so that the family is free of that financial obligation by the bar/bat mitzvah year.

**Q. What else do I need to know as my child nears the age of bar/bat mitzvah?**

A. Every fall we hold a parent meeting for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade families to provide all of the information you will need as you prepare for your child's bar/bat mitzvah. At this meeting you hear about the ritual, educational, and logistical sides of the bar/bat mitzvah celebration at Neveh Shalom. We also provide a handbook (in paper and [online](#)) with additional details, contacts, and information for all families in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please make arrangements to pick up the handbook and read it; we are available any time to answer questions.

**Q. My child is enrolled at PJA. What do I need to know about ALIYAH programming for my child?**

A. We welcome our PJA families to participate in our full ALIYAH K-6<sup>th</sup> grade programming. However, in recognition of the time and commitment you and your children are already making to Jewish education, we only *require 6<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in our Sunday programming* with their peers at Neveh Shalom. PJA families of younger children are welcome to enroll in an abbreviated Sunday program (10:00 a.m.-12:00) which offers Jewish building blocks, mitzvah project curriculum, and chugim (electives). PJA families are also encouraged to enroll your children in Neveh Shalom's Youth Activities programs which provide a fun, social avenue for strengthening your children's relationship with the synagogue community.

**Q. We are new at Neveh Shalom or in ALIYAH. How do we meet other families? Will we get a roster of the other kids in our child's class?**

A. At Neveh Shalom we recognize that making friends and building community is very important to our families—for children and adults alike. Each grade has a room parent who helps to organize provide greater connection between ALIYAH families. We provide rosters in the fall once our enrollment is set, and are also happy to help connect new families with others in your neighborhood or school district. We encourage families looking to make closer connections to join a new member brunch, invite another family from ALIYAH for a Shabbat dinner or playdate, join a committee or a tikkun olam (social action) project, or participate in any of our adult programs from book talks to knitting to Siddur basics classes or Hebrew learning programs. You are sure to meet others who are here for the same reason as you!

**Q. We are figuring out our transportation needs for ALIYAH next year. Can you help us with carpools?**

A. Yes—we provide an interactive map of all of our ALIYAH families for your convenience. You can use this map to find other families in your neighborhood, and we will also provide a roster to families based on the SCHOOL that each child attends. Many of our families do have successful carpool arrangements with friends and neighbors, and we are happy to help provide the tools you need to connect with others nearby.

**Q. Are there other options for my child to see his/her Jewish friends in addition to ALIYAH?**

A. Yes! Youth from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade up are also encouraged to join our Youth Activities program (Jr. Kadima for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades and Kadima for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades). Many of our kids also attend Jewish summer camps as well. These youth group and camping programs offer fun and social activities throughout the year plus opportunities to connect with a Jewish youth community from across the Pacific Northwest.

**For more information:**

Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning  
503-293-7306

[mberwin@nevehshalom.org](mailto:mberwin@nevehshalom.org)

<http://nevehshalom.org/aliyah-k-6/>