



## **The Gan: Youth Learning and Engagement at Temple Beth Am FAQ**

### **For Sunday PK-7th Grade Students:**

#### **What age can students begin in the Gan?**

The Gan begins in Pre-Kindergarten for students who have turned 4 years old in September of 2021. The program on Sundays includes grades PK-8. The Midweek classes are for our grade 4-12 students.

#### **What times do students meet on Sundays?**

Sunday classes begin at 9:30am and end at 12:30pm for a total of 3 hours of joyful experiential Jewish learning among grade level peers, Madrichim, and Faculty.

#### **Is there an online Sunday option for students?**

During Shmita Alef (the first trimester), we will be offering a Covid-19 related virtual option for students to participate in instead of in-person. The virtual option will only be 90 minutes (from 9:30am-11am). In November, we will make a determination of whether this virtual Sunday option will continue in following Shmitot (trimesters) during the 2021-2022 year in The Gan.

### **For Midweek 4th-12th Grade Students:**

#### **What days do students meet midweek?**

Midweek classes take place during the Shmitot (trimesters) and are six-seven weeks long (see the calendar for exact dates). All of our midweek classes will begin at 5:00pm – 6:30pm. Grades 4-6 meet on Thursdays, Grades 7-9 meet on Wednesdays, and Grades 10-12 meet on Tuesdays.

#### **Is there an online option for Midweek?**

Yes, we will be offering a virtual Midweek Track option for students in grades 4-12 for each Shmita (trimester) this year.



### **What is the B'nai Mitzvah Hebrew Class?**

In order to best support our students who have already begun their B'nai Mitzvah journey, we are offering a supplemental B'nai Mitzvah Hebrew class for Grades 4-6. This class is optional for students and is included in tuition. Registrations for the B'nai Mitzvah Hebrew class will open in November, following Shmita Alef (1st trimester) and will be offered at the same time as the midweek class during weeks in between Shmitot (trimesters).

### **For Madrichim:**

#### **When can my student be one of the Madrichim?**

Our Madrichim Program begins in grade 8 with our Madrichim Internship Year. This first year in our program will teach our Madrichim the leadership skills that they will need to thrive as mentors, role models, and change makers in our community. Upon completion of this Internship year, students are eligible to apply to become one of the Madrichim. For more information regarding the Madrichim Program and Teen Leadership Opportunities in The Gan, please visit the Youth Learning Website.

#### **Does my student have to be enrolled in The Gan to be one of the Madrichim?**

Yes, all teens who participate in our Madrichim program must be enrolled in The Gan.

#### **Do Madrichim get paid or is it volunteer hours?**

First Year Madrichim Interns are volunteers. Madrichim who have completed the Internship year are eligible to be paid or they can remain volunteers. The Madrichim are considered to be part of The Gan Faculty team and subject to professional expectations.

### **For Immersive Periods in the Gan:**

#### **What is the Immersive Period?**

The Immersive Periods take place between the Shmitot (trimesters) and include many opportunities for students to engage in youth group events, social events, holiday celebrations and retreats. While you do not have to be enrolled in The Gan to participate in any of the Immersive events, all events and retreats are offered at no additional cost for enrolled students (it is included in The Gan tuition). Students



not enrolled in The Gan may participate in some activities during Immersive Periods as a benefit of membership at no cost, or may choose to attend optional activities like youth group/social events or retreats for a registration fee.

### **Will my student be able to participate in a Shabbaton/Weekend Retreat?**

All enrolled students in grades 4-12 will be able to participate in one Shabbatonim/Weekend Retreat as part of the tuition of The Gan. Any member students who are not enrolled in The Gan, but who would like to participate in a Shabbaton/Weekend Retreat will have an opportunity to sign up and pay a registration fee.

### **What is L'Taken?**

Our 10th Grade Covenant Renewal students will have an opportunity to participate in The RAC's L'Taken program in February of 2022 in Washington D.C.. This amazing weekend features the unique opportunity for our 10th grade teens to join hundreds of other Reform Jewish Teens from across the U.S. to lobby staff on Capitol Hill about an issue that they care about. For more information about L'Taken, please visit The RAC L'Taken FAQ. The cost of this trip is not fully covered by tuition, however we are working on ways to subsidize the cost of registration, hotel and airfare to make it affordable for all families.

### **Is there still a New York Trip?**

Yes. As the New York trip was cancelled for the past two years due to Covid, and we had hoped to move the L'Taken trip to the important 10th Grade Covenant Renewal year, we will be offering the New York trip to our 11th and 12th grade students this spring (see our calendar for details). This will allow more flexibility for students who missed the trip and build a larger cohort of relationships amongst our oldest students. The cost of this trip is not fully covered by tuition, however we are working on ways to subsidize the cost of registration, hotel and airfare to make it affordable for all families in addition to the fundraising money left over from the previous 10th grade class (pre-Covid).

### **Are parents still doing fundraising for trips and will there still be food sales during The Gan?**

At this time due to Covid we there will be no food sales while The Gan is in session and we have no immediate fundraising plans for our 10th-12th grade trips.



## **COVID Safety Protocols:**

### **What are the safety protocols for The Gan?**

- Every staff member, Madrichim (assistant teachers) and students over 12 years of age must be fully vaccinated in order to participate in-person
- Masks will be required at all times for all people ages four and up in the Temple Beth Am, SEED and UPrep buildings. Outdoors masks will be required at all times. They may only be removed for short periods while sitting socially distanced and eating or drinking.
- For students under 12 years old who are currently unable to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, we are creating grade-level learning pods of 6 or fewer students (and where possible connecting these by family relationships) to limit contact with other unvaccinated children from week to week
- Limiting even vaccinated adults entering the building during the hours of The Gan
- We will be using the best health and safety practices and guidelines such as social distancing while seated at tables while indoors
- Adding tents to our courtyard to enable year-round outdoor learning

### **If testing is required for unvaccinated children under 12 to attend services, will testing be required to attend The Gan?**

By setting up the safety protocols above, we do not believe it is necessary to do weekly testing for The Gan.

### **Will food be allowed?**

Food will both be allowed and provided by Temple Beth Am, only on Sundays. We recognize that three hours is a substantial period of time to go without food for many young people. Part of The Gan experience is relationship building and learning while sharing a nosh or meal with your peers. Although this isn't possible during Covid, prepackaged snacks that meet a variety of health and dietary needs will be provided to all students while supervised, in small group rotations, outdoors and while seated, only on Sundays.

### **What are the safety protocols for pick-up/drop-off?**

As we are still working on the spaces we will use based on enrollment numbers, please stay tuned for updates on our pick up/drop off procedures. We want to



include a plan for at least one vaccinated parent to drop off our youngest students within Temple Beth Am (rather than just a drop off point in the parking lot), however we are still working out how to best coordinate this with our security team and Health Safety Task Force.