

Or Zarua Hebrew School FAQs

Do you have to be a synagogue member to attend the Hebrew School?

We ask that all Hebrew School families be members of the synagogue. We offer the first year complimentary to new Hebrew School families. We want our families to feel they are part of the community.

What is the average class size?

Hebrew classes usually have 4-6 students, split by age range and Hebrew level. Judaic Studies classes range from 6-12 students, on average.

On Mondays, the entire Elementary School gathers in the sanctuary for t'filah, with 20-30 students.

Do you have combined classes with multiple grades?

Yes. Depending on enrollment, grades will be combined to best suit the needs of our students. We vary material within classes to ensure students are always being challenged according to their age and ability. Hebrew classes are nearly always combined, as they are divided by Hebrew language ability, rather than grade level.

My child has no Hebrew experience. Will they be behind?

We work with every child individually to make sure they are in an appropriate Hebrew class. Depending on enrollment for the year, either they'll be grouped with other beginners, or we'll work with your family to set up private tutoring to bring them up to speed. We group our students within their age group (2-3 grades) according to Hebrew level, so that all students are being challenged and growing according to their abilities.

My child is in 3rd-5th grade but can only come once/week. Is that an option?

While we strongly encourage students to come on Mondays AND Wednesdays, we can work with families to determine how to supplement your child's education if they can only come on one of those days. Please be aware that if a child does not come on both days, there will be content that they will miss.

My child has learning differences. Are you able to accommodate that?

We strive to work with every family to create a positive learning environment for every child. Sigal can meet with your family to determine whether our school will be the right fit for your child and family.

My spouse is not Jewish. Can we still join your Hebrew School?

All students must be Jewish, according to matrilineal descent, to attend our Hebrew School. If the child's mother is not Jewish, and the child was not converted, we will connect you with Rabbi Bolton to discuss immersing your child in the mikvah as an affirmation of their Jewish identity.

My child is in ___ grade. Will they be ready for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

Yes! Our approach at OZ for Bar/Bat Mitzvah is very individualized. Rabbi Bolton and Sigal will work with your family to determine the appropriate timing to mark your child's becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to prepare for the day. We'll also recommend supplemental learning if deemed necessary.

My child has no experience with Jewish education, but I'd like for them to have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Is it too late?

It's never too late! A girl becomes a Bat Mitzvah at 12 years old, and a boy at 13, but the celebration to mark that milestone can happen at any time. Connect with Rabbi Bolton, rabbibolton@orzarua.org to discuss appropriate timing and preparation, so that your child can begin their journey towards Jewish adulthood!

What's a good age to start Hebrew School?

We begin in pre-K, with students as young as 4-years-old! It's never too early (or too late) to start. Little ones are like sponges, absorbing Hebrew language, songs, stories and more. The longer they are in Hebrew school, the more skills and knowledge they'll develop!