

Dear 6th grade parents,

If you were unable to attend yesterday's session about our 7th grade online course from Israel on the Shoah (Holocaust) and Israel, here are: some of the FAQs, including current 7th grade student and parent comments; a link to watch a recording of a live session with our students; and (attached) the instructor's bio and this year's curriculum. Please don't hesitate to email or call me with your questions.

Rabbi Kniaz

"FAQs" about our Online Class

What is the schedule for next year?

- Mondays from 4 - 5 pm, online class from home; follow-up activities (approximately 15 minutes) at their convenience. This is *in place of* meeting at TE from 4 - 6 pm on Mondays.
- Wednesdays from 4 - 6 pm at TE with Mrs. Gilat Epstein. One hour on Shoah or Israel and one hour Judaic artwork

Why are we doing this? Because it is great! This is an outstanding curriculum with master teachers in Israel using interactive educational technologies that keeps students focused and engaged.

Does this affect our tuition? Is there a cost saving to the school? No and no

Are students passively watching the screen? The online program is live, in real time and fully interactive. The teachers speak, present visuals and lead exercises. Students respond by typing in the chatbox, speaking, working in small groups, and doing the exercises. Students can also opt to appear by video – or not.

What are the students' favorite online activities?

Students: "Linoboards, videos, learning at home, interaction, chat box & group discussions"

Parent: "it uses the technology that relates to the children's interest; it holds their interest longer."

What equipment will I need? Laptop or desktop and headphones with a mic. Mobile devices (iPads, tablets) don't work.

How much can I learn online?

Parents: "The topics are rich for learning and discussion my son sometimes wants to do more research into a topic after school; my daughter finds the subject matter very interesting and informative; I like the enriched learning they are receiving it is very interactive and incorporates technology into the learning."

Student: "I have learned so much I will never forget. I really feel a part of something big."

Many students who rarely speak in class do speak up often online. Students who are motivated are not distracted by students "acting out" and can get more out of the sessions.

What is the tefillah lab? optional additional Bar/Bat Mitzvah practice with Rabbi Kniaz

What about the social aspect?

Student: "Better than class and you can relate to more of your classmates."

One parent noted that her daughter had bonded with two students with whom she had never had conversations in class. She said that the three girls stay online after the session to "facetime," often beginning by discussing what they did in the online session.

It's convenient and a timesaver! Learning online is comfortable and eliminates the commute.

Parent: "The fact that she can participate from home is very convenient."

Student: "Good to be home and comfortable"

How is attendance online?

Our attendance online is better than in class! Unlike on-site classes, missed online classes can be made up by watching the recording and DOING THE EXERCISES. We even had class on a snow day!

Is it fun?

Parent: "my son is enjoying the experience immensely, I am happy that my child is enthusiastic about the program and enjoys participating; my daughter is enjoying it very much!"

Student: "it is great, a cool way to learn; it's interactive and fun"

Can students come to TE for the online sessions? Yes, a few do, but most of these ultimately decide to do it at home.

Student: "It was worth it you should keep on doing it!"

Here is a link to a recording of a (live) session -- please advance to 4:15 pm to miss the logging on and watch some or all of the session.

<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/nativeplayback.jnlp?sid=vclass&psid=2014-03-24.1229.D.E52D2BDC59F5C4B1EA210B276A4636.vcr>

Here is a link to a Lino Board -- try it out!

<https://linoit.com/users/ieducate/canvases/ethiopian.integration>

*This is a sample weekly email from Smadar Goldstein, Instructor, to our 7th graders*

Hello everyone!

Thanks for your fabulous participation last night/your afternoon. We had so much to learn and you guys did a great job rapping, preparing, debating, suggesting, and commenting. Please email your team captain your points. Here are some important reminders:

1. TEAM CAPTAINS - please email me your final point score after yesterday's session so I have a copy. Thanks!

2. Please complete this Lino Board as a follow up to yesterday's session. Each post is worth 50 points! <https://linoit.com/users/ieducate/canvases/ethiopian.integration>

3. Missed the lesson? Watch it here:

<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/nativeplayback.jnlp?sid=vclass&psid=2014-03-24.1229.D.E52D2BDC59F5C4B1EA210B276A4636.vcr>

See you next week!