

Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley
“FAQs” about our Online Class March 31, 2014

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.

How long are the sessions? In place of our two hours of on-site classes, the online sessions are one hour a week with follow-up exercises (about 15 minutes) to be done at the student’s convenience any time before the next class.

Do they still have class together? Yes, on Wednesdays from 4 – 6 pm. We’ll hear more about that from their teacher, Mrs. Epstein.

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 do 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 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?

extra 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 in the class with whom she had never had conversations. She said that the three girls stay on line after the session to “facetime,” often beginning by discussing what they did and learned in the 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 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.

It was worth it you should keep on doing it!