

FAQ for the Shirat HaNefesh Jewish Community School

Above all else: Our students love to come to school! We invite you to discover this for yourself. You are welcome to come join us any time, and sit in for 5 minutes or for a full class.

Q1. What is the name of our school?

A1. Limmud, which means 'learn' in Hebrew. While the whole school is known as Limmud, when speaking of the Bnei Mitzvah class separately, we specifically call it the Bnei Mitzvah (BnM) program. By the way, Bnei Mitzvah is a shorter way of saying Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Q2. What are the ages for Limmud and Bnei Mitzvah?

A2. Limmud is for children 6-11 years old. BnM is for children 12-16.

Q3. How often do we meet, and on what days?

A3. Limmud currently meets once a week on Shabbat morning, from 10am to noon. Class ends with the students participating in Kiddush blessings in the Community Room, and then enjoying a snack.

The Bnei Mitzvah program currently meets twice a week, on Shabbat mornings from 10am to noon, and Wednesday afternoons from 5pm to 6pm.

Q4. Where do we meet?

A4. Limmud meets in a classroom next to the shul sanctuary.

Bnei Mitzvah meets in the sanctuary on Shabbat. After participating in the service for 10 to 30 minutes we migrate to a classroom upstairs. On Wednesdays, Bnei Mitzvah meets in the classroom by the sanctuary.

Q5. What is our curriculum?

A5. Our full curriculum is outlined on our website, at:

<http://www.shirathanefesh.org/learn/limmud-for-kids/>

Briefly, there are 5 pillars of learning: 1. Studying Torah stories; 2. Learning prayers; 3. Practicing being ethical, kind, and generous; 4. Learning Hebrew; and 5. Exploring Jewish culture, history, art, and holidays.

Q6. What are the expectations for my child's learning?

A6. Because our class size is small, we can tailor the curriculum to each child, helping every student to learn with joy and enthusiasm. As noted at the beginning of this FAQ, our students love to come to class! We invite you to discover this for yourself. You are welcome to come join us any time, and sit in for 5 minutes or for the full 2 hours.

Q7. Must my child attend Limmud before she/he can enter the Bnei Mitzvah program?

A7. No! We welcome non-affiliated families who have decided they want their child to have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Q8. Must my child know Hebrew before she/he can enter the Bnei Mitzvah program?

A8. No! We very successfully work with children who don't know Hebrew, teaching them a

suite of Hebrew prayers through a pleasant routine of song and movement.

Q9. What is the tuition for Limmud?

A9. The elementary program tuition is \$600/year. For new members, first year tuition is waived, as well as shul membership fees.

For Bnei Mitzvah the tuition is \$1200/year. Usually it is a one year program, but sometimes a student may require more than a year to become comfortable and confident up on the bimah. There will also be the added cost of a tutor to learn how to chant Torah. This component is external to Shirat HaNefesh, but we will help you find a great tutor.

Q10. Do you have a question that isn't answered here?

A10. Don't hesitate to contact us at education@shirathanefesh.org