

HORIZONS

Congregation Or Shalom

835 Darby-Paoli Road 610•644•9086
Berwyn, PA 19312 www.OrShalom.com



January
Tevet 5784 —
Sh'vat, 5784

Hello
January

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/1 Office Closed
1/15 Office Closed
1/15 Game Night
1/21 Family Fire Pit Hour @
4 to 5 pm All Welcome
1/25 Tu BiShvat
1/31 Book Club at Janet
Hurwitz home @ 7 pm

2/15 Game Night 7 PM
2/19 Office Closed

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Horizons is published monthly. Material submitted for publication may be edited for style, length and content.

Please contact the office to report any errors or omissions. Thank you.

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President: Andrew Levin
Vice President: Betsy Cohen
Treasurer: Alan Daroff
Secretary:
Membership: Betsy Cohen
Events/Fundraising:
IPP:

Auxiliary & Community Groups

Sisterhood: Mindy Bernstein
Men's Club: Scott Markovitz
Social Action: Gina Arlen
Education Chair:
Ritual Committee: David Keet

Advertising rates

Advertising contracts are arranged through the Temple office. All advertising is due the first of the month for next month's edition of Horizons. We accept ads with a check made out to Congregation Or Shalom and the ad copy sent at the same time.

| Size | 11 issues | Per issue |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Full Page | \$1000 | \$110 |
| 1/2 page | \$750 | \$80 |
| 1/4 page | \$500 | \$60 |
| 1/8 page | \$250 | \$35 |

Do you know Unaffiliated Jews in Chester County, Montgomery County and Delaware County?

Do you have Jewish friends or acquaintances who live in Chester County, Montgomery County and Delaware County who are not already members of a synagogue? If you do, why not invite them to one of the upcoming events at Or Shalom. They may have a good time and decide to come back. They may have such a good time that they decide to become members themselves. According to a recent survey by the Jewish Federation, there are many, many unaffiliated Jews in Chester county. We'd love to contact them, but don't know who they are. You can help.

Todah rabah!

Amazon has cancelled the SMILE program so we no longer benefit from this. If you are an Amazon customer, please let them know how you feel!

WE NOW ACCEPT PAYMENT BY VENMO
@Congregation-OrShalom

Celebrate with Or Shalom

To put your announcement in next week's, please contact the office via email or phone with your message, photo, and \$36 per announcement. We also now accept payment by Venmo to @Congregation-OrShalom for your donations.





The President's Column

Special Board Meeting Summary/Survey

As always ... the content of this article is based on my thoughts and not those of the Or Shalom (Board, Rabbi, and Congregation)

I hope you are all doing well, you had a wonderful holiday, and Hannukah Harry was good to you this year. It was Christmas today which means a movie and Chinese dinner for our family. Every once in a while, my dad says something that makes me ponder life. Today, he squeezed one in before the end of the year. Security is a big concern for our community. We have armed officers at high holiday and large gatherings. Today I took my family to the movies and a Chinese restaurant for dinner. I think there were more Jewish people in each of the locations than most of the religious services I have attended the last year. If somebody wants to get on the news antisemitism. Forget a synagogue and think Chinese restaurant on Christmas. WAIT ... before you get mad that I am giving bad actors ideas. First, I am telling you this so you can pay more attention to your surroundings. Secondly, I do not think very many people from the congregation read my article let alone somebody with bad intentions. If you read this part of the article and it made you think about where and when you go places give me a thumbs up the next time you see me.

On 17-Dec the Board conducted a special congregation meeting to discuss the future of Or Shalom. We were all very pleased with the turnout and participation. The big take away is that Or Shalom is NOT closing our doors any time soon. We are breaking even financially as long as all the families pay their share. As a follow-up to the meeting, we will be sending out a survey which I hope that all of you will participate. The survey will cover the following three areas that we discussed in the meeting; volunteers, attending services, and paying our fair share. Assuming we get the support that we received in the meeting Or Shalom will stay open to support you and your families.

I would like to close with thanking everybody that attended the last game night. I had a great time catching up with other members of the community. These are not other members of the community ... they are my friends. They are my friends because I make it a point to get out and socialize with them and learn about them and their families. In life you get out of it what you put into it. I would hope you all consider attending and participating in the next game night. I really hope we get to the point that we outgrow the venue and need a larger space. We can do this with your support.

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

In G-d we trust,
Andy



Rabbi's Reflections

Happy 2024!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful December and are eager to see what 2024 brings for us all! Throughout these last few difficult months I have been thinking a lot about the individual versus the community. Even before Covid Judaism was struggling with the societal pressure of individualism and then community. This has always been counterintuitive in Judaism which is rooted in deep community affiliation. Not only has community affiliation always been important in Judaism but our own individual identities have been heavily impacted by our belonging to a community. Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan said it himself: "Belonging before believing." This was a shorthand way of saying that for Judaism, through feeling part of a collective, the Jewish people, one comes to believe in the Jewish tenets of faith. As stated above, this was challenged in the years leading up to Covid, people were becoming more individualistic. And then when Covid hit people retreated for their own safety. During Covid, our minds had not only taken on the viewpoint of the individual but our bodies, our physical space, became solitary as well (although we may have stayed within our own immediate families we did not come together as a larger community). This led many of us to hope that once life returned to "normal" people would yearn to be back together in community, that not only are we obligated to be there for one another but that we need it, it's a necessity.

We struggled to come back into community, to be together, to feel obligated to be there for one another. But there was always hope we would move back in that direction. Then October 7th occurred, another major trauma but this time specifically to the Jewish people. Jewish communities around the world were shattered by the gruesome and incomprehensible events of October 7th. For the vast majority of Jews this actually pushed us towards one another, and is still true for many. The importance of supporting one another and being with each other became top priority, it's not only where we felt most comfortable but also the safest. This increased and continues to increase as anti-semitism escalates. Jews who used to argue and disagree found themselves together in community, united ironically because of anti-semitism and hate.

Jews have always had a unique way of identifying simultaneously as individuals and as a collective. Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik z"l wrote:

Continued Next Page

"Judaism has always viewed man from this dual perspective. It sees every person as an independent individual and also as part of a community, a limb of the body of Israel. Jewish thinkers have conducted an ongoing dialectic on this subject throughout the ages. The pivotal question is: Does the individual stand above the community which should serve its needs, or should the individual subordinate himself to the community's needs? In Judaism this question has been asked in relation to the individual who serves as a community leader. Who, in our history, was a greater leader than Moses, redeemer of Israel, the great rabbi and teacher, about whom our Sages wrote that his worth was equivalent to that of six hundred thousand men, meaning the total number of the male community of his time? Nonetheless, when the children of Israel fashioned the Golden Calf, "God said to Moses, 'Go down - lower yourself down; for did I not grant you greatness only to benefit Israel? And now that Israel has sinned, what need have I of you?'" (Berakhot 32b). Even the greatness of an individual like Moses is dependent upon the community. It would seem that the community and the individual are placed in balance with each other and are interdependent. At times we find that the community must sacrifice itself on behalf of the individual ... And at times the individual must sacrifice himself for the good of the community.

"Never is the individual's worth belittled when measured against the whole community; and never is the community undermined because of any individual or individuals. Each has its own position of strength."

How do we ensure that we maintain this balance and in many ways strive to recalibrate to become balanced again? Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"l wrote: "There is only one solution: to make the people co-architects of their own destiny, to get them to build something together, to shape them into a team and show them that they are not helpless, that they are responsible and capable of collaborative action. Genesis begins with God creating the universe as a home for human beings. Exodus ends with human beings creating the Mishkan, as a 'home' for God.

Hence the basic principle of Judaism, that we are called on to become co-creators with God. And hence, too, the corollary: that leaders do not do the work on behalf of the people. They teach people how to do the work themselves."

Continued Next Page

We as individuals must know we are needed in order to create something for the collective. We need to believe we are creators working in tandem with other Jews and G-d to create a better world for Jews and all. An easy place to create a sense of communal purpose is a synagogue, a natural space for Jews to come together and be together. That's what we hope to provide at Or Shalom, a place for Jews to be together and also be inspired to create together. But in order to fulfill this hope for Or Shalom we need people to make a point of showing up. You may not feel like going to services but perhaps someone comes to services that is just in need of being with other Jews, perhaps they need to say kaddish for a loved one, perhaps they just need a place with familiar faces. Help us be that place for both others and yourself. Please make a point to show up more often.

JANUARY YAHRZEITS

January 3, Tevet 22, 5784

Moe Blaustein, father of Bernie Blaustein

Henry Delfiner, father of Hannah Delfiner

January 4, Tevet 23, 5784

Max Dreiblatt, father of Hedda Shupack

Pauline Dreiblatt, mother of Hedda Shupack

Morris S. Jenkins, father of Lane Liebman

Saul Shupack, husband of Hedda Shupack

January 6, Tevet 25, 5784

Irving Rubin, father of Harriet Krant

January 7, Tevet 26, 5784

Leon Messing, father of Florence Messing

Philip Meyer, brother of Steven Meyer

January 11, Shevat 1, 5784

Betty Fox, mother of Stephen Fox

Leonard Roy Lurie, brother of Howard Lurie

January 14, Shevat 4, 5784

Henrico Farina, uncle of Jonathan Schechter

January 17, Shevat 7, 5784

Louis Greenberg, stepfather of Don Strumpf

Tola Messing, mother of Florence messing

January 18, Shevat 8, 5784

Frances Miller, mother of Harris Miller

January 20, Shevat 10, 5784

Hans Jacobsohn, cousin of Miriam Leshem

Pauline Shwartzman, grandmother of Ellen Gross

January 21, Shevat 11, 5784

Adele Daroff, mother of Alan Daroff

Gertrude Slavin, mother of Sue Goldberg

January 24, Shevat 14, 5784

Jean Noble, mother of David Noble

Evelyn Zatuchni, mother of Beth Zatuchni

January 25, Shevat 15, 5784

Merritt Knapp, brother of Kami Knapp Schechter

January 26, Shevat 16, 5784

Claire R. Neff, aunt of Betsy Cohen

January 27, Shevat 17, 5784

Samuel W. Gross, father of Susan Weiss

Charlotte Lafair, mother of Julie Miller

Blanche Wahl, mother of Jo Ann Weiss

January 29, Shevat 19, 5784

Lena Mand, mother of Jeffrey Mand

January 30, Shevat 20, 5784

Sidney Seidenberg, father of Paula Blaustein

January 31, Shevat 21, 5784

Vera Klein, grandmother of Samantha Klein



CONTRIBUTIONS

*Congregation Or Shalom gratefully acknowledges the following
generous contributions in the month of **November 2023***

Cards and Miscellaneous Contributions

Marla Gropper: Memory of Ada Hyams

Yahrzeit Donations

David & Andrea Allon: Memory of Vivian Rose

Bernard & Paula Blaustein: Memory of May Seidenberg

Marla Gropper: Memory of Dr. Mitchell Gropper

Janet Hurwitz: Memory of Ron Leight

Mitchell Evan Stein & Bari Michele Brandt: Memory of Martin Stein

Mitchell Evan Stein & Bari Michele Brandt: Memory of Sanford Brandt

High Holidays

David & Andrea Allon: High Holidays 2023

Social Action Committee

Andrew Hoppes & Holly Herman: High Holiday Gift Card Drive in memory of Irv Herman

General Fund

Evan Gonshor: Memory of Sanford Brandt & Speedy Recovery Joan Brandt

Lisa & Myron Schwarcz: Security for Bat Mitzvahs

HANUKKAH DINNER



Thanks to the Sisterhood, Mindy B, Mindy Markovitz, Sue Goldberg, Beth Zatuchni, Jerry Satlow, Joel Stern, Brenda Belkin, LP for making it such a delicious and fun get together! Happy Hanukkah one & All Julie Miller



Dr. Nieta Shapiro and son Ian were “hands down winners” of the Crazy Hanukkah sweater competition at Congregation Or Shalom in Berwyn!



Adult Ed Second Semester: 2024
Mondays: 12-1pm

1/8
1/22
2/5
2/26
3/11
3/25
4/1
4/15
4/29
5/13

Understanding Torah through the teachings of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z”l

One of the greatest Jewish minds of our time was Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z”l. Jonathan Henry Sacks, Baron Sacks (8 March 1948 – 7 November 2020) was an English Orthodox rabbi, philosopher, theologian, and author. Sacks served as the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth from 1991 to 2013. As the spiritual head of the United Synagogue, the largest synagogue body in the United Kingdom, he was the Chief Rabbi of those Orthodox synagogues.

Rabbi Sacks was a prolific writer and commentator. His words have both inspired, awed and taught hundreds of thousands of people. In recognition of his work, Sacks won several international awards, including the Jerusalem Prize in 1995 for his contribution to diaspora Jewish life and The Ladislaus Laszt Ecumenical and Social Concern Award from Ben Gurion University in Israel in 2011.

The author of 25 books, Sacks published commentaries on the daily Jewish prayer book (siddur) and completed commentaries to the Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Pesach festival prayer-books (machzorim) as of 2017.

Rabbi Sacks died in 2020 of cancer.

In this 10 class series we will look at various Torah portions through the writings of Rabbi Sacks. We will also view interviews and videos he made to support his writings. In addition to talking about his perspectives on the text, we will also discuss his impact on the Jewish world as well as his commitment to interfaith work.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS



A note from your friendly neighborhood social action chair

I didn't speak up at the December 17 meeting, but that doesn't mean I wasn't listening closely. In addition to the other items we talked about, participation in social action projects has fallen off significantly. (I think I might be a committee of one at this point.)

Here's a list of projects we've done in the past that have fallen by the wayside:

- Mitzvah Minstrels
- Holiday Basket Delivery
- Coat Drive
- Working Women's Wardrobe
- Holiday Toy Drives
- Blood Drive
- Mitzvah Day

If anyone is willing to help me re-launch one of these projects, please email me at migi4@verizon.net. Thanks!

Thank you!

Thumbs up to everyone who donated to our winter toiletries drive. Your generosity will help deserving families get back on their feet. Didn't get a chance to drop anything off? No worries! Go to mitzvahcircle.org to donate money or shop their Amazon wish list.

Looking for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah project?

Mitzvah Circle is a non-profit organization that provides support, hope and dignity to individuals and families during times of crisis, poverty, homelessness and serious illness. They provide individualized support such as clothing, school supplies, diapers, household items, food and referrals.

Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah project volunteers and their families can participate in a variety of activities at their warehouse including homeless outreach, diaper bank, adopt-a-class, care packages, hats for homeless and more! **To get started, Contact Fran Held at 484-897-0414 or info@mitzvahcircle.org**



Or Shalom
Social Action
at Work

To volunteer, contact
Gina Arlen: 610-225-0262 / migi4@verizon.net

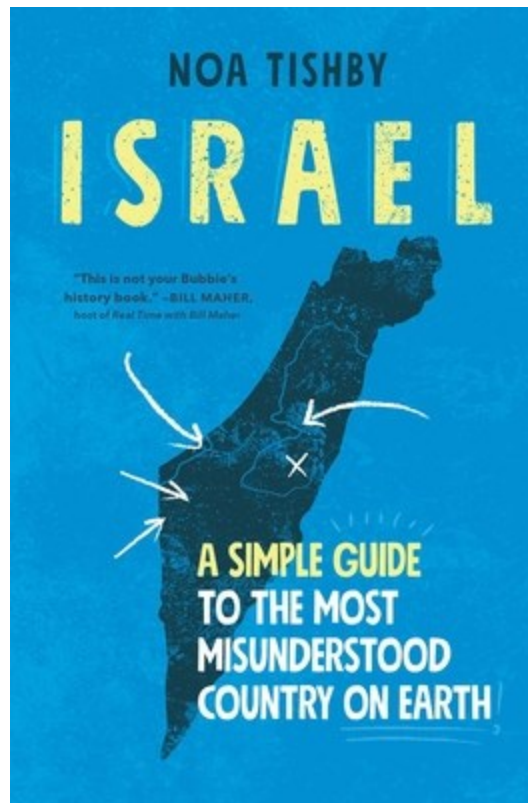


All are Welcome

January 21 Sunday

4-5 PM Family Fire Pit Hour!

S'mores and schmooze



January 31 at 7 pm
Sisterhood Book Club at Janet Hurwitz's.

The book is Noa Tishby's *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*.

It is a well-researched book about the history of Israel that does not feel like a history book and is not political.

Rsvp to the office for address & zoom information.

GAME NIGHT DECEMBER 20, 2023

The next **Game Night**
Monday, January 15, @
the Meyer's house
from 7 -9.

Rsvp to the office
for the address



SISTERHOOD NEWS

I had to miss the Or Shalom Chanukkah dinner and party because it conflicted with my Nutcracker performances, but I hear it was a wonderful evening thanks to all the work put in by Julie Miller and helpers- Mindy Markovitz, Beth Zatuchni, Sue Goldberg, Gerry Satlow, Brenda Belkin, Betsy Cohen, Scott Markovitz, Joel Stern and everyone else who helped clean up afterwards. Thank you all!

December Game Night was also a lot of fun. I learned a new game called Sequence - ever hear of that one? Big thank you to Beth and Jerry for hosting.

The next **Game Night** is on Monday, January 15, at the Meyer's house from 7 - 9. Rsvp to the office for the address.

Hopefully the weather will be agreeable for a Fire Pit Family Hour on Sunday, January 21, from 4-5.

The Sisterhood Book Club is open to men and women. On January 31, we will be discussing Noa Tishby's timely book on the history of Israel at Janet Hurwitz's house.

I hope to see you at some of these events.

Wishing you and your family a Happy and healthy 2024!

Mindy Bernstein,
Sisterhood President

SISTERHOOD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 21 Sunday, 4-5 PM Family Fire Pit Hour! S'mores and schmooze

January 24 Wednesday, 7 PM Sisterhood Book Club at Janet Hurwitz's home

TBD (February) Trip to Philadelphia for Jewish art tour and lunch

February 15 Thursday, 7-9 Game Night! All welcome

March 19 Tuesday, 10:30-11:30 AM Pack up Mishloach Manot bags for Purim

April 20 Saturday Sisterhood Shabbat Service

April 28 Sunday, 5 PM Passover Pizza Family Dinner in Social Hall

May 16 Thursday, 6 PM Closing Dinner

ODDS & ENDS

Donations

We would like to thank those who have donated books and other items to the synagogue. Unfortunately, just like you, we have no space to accept most of the books and other items that have been donated unsolicited. Please contact the synagogue office before you drive over to drop off items. If we can use the items, we will welcome them and provide a tax letter receipt but if we just have no room for the items you want to donate, please consider another worthy cause for your donation.

Or Shalom Donation Form

I would like to help support Or Shalom. I have specified each donation and I have included one check for the total amount payable to Or Shalom. Please send all donations to: Congregation Or Shalom, 835 Darby Paoli Road, Berwyn PA 19312

We also now accept payment by Venmo to @Congregation-OrShalom for your donations

| | |
|--|--|
| Name _____ | Name _____ |
| Address _____ | Address _____ |
| Fund # _____ Amount \$ _____ Phone # _____ | Fund # _____ Amount \$ _____ Phone # _____ |
| Made in memory of _____ | Made in memory of _____ |
| Made in honor of _____ | Made in honor of _____ |
| Speedy Recovery _____ | Speedy Recovery _____ |
| Send acknowledgment to (include address) _____ | Send acknowledgment to (include address) _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Definition of Funds

1. Building Fund: Donations are used for the continuous upkeep of our building. These funds help offset unexpected expenses such as A/C, Heater, roof repair and any emergency repairs to our facility.

2. Beautification Fund: Donations are used for the upkeep of our grounds. Trees, plants, mulch, etc.

3. Biblical Garden Fund: Donations are used to maintain and support our biblical garden.

4. General Fund: All monies donated to this fund will supplement the current year's budget.

5. Hebrew School: Funds are used for the needs of the Religious School. Examples: Bulletin boards, books and school supplies, etc.

6. Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: The Rabbi uses these funds for charitable purpose. Donations to this fund can be made directly to the synagogue office.

7. Social Action: Donations will be used for all social action events and programs. Any questions to this fund should be addressed to Gina Arlen at migi4@verizon.net.

8. Tree of Life: A leaf can be purchased to honor or commemorate any important life event. The cost of a leaf is \$180.00 which will be displayed in our foyer. For more information please contact office at 610-644-9086

9. Yahrzeit Plaque: Two plaques can be purchased for \$360.00. The first would be a permanent plaque on the back wall of the sanctuary. The second plaque would be placed during the week of the Yahrzeit on the memorial wall in the front of the sanctuary. Additional information will be requested when purchasing a plaque. Please contact Ellen Gross at Ellenagross@gmail.com for more information.

10. Oneg: Celebrate With Or Shalom: A weekly (Friday) email where you can announce your birthday, wedding, anniversary, or Yahrzeit to your friends at Or Shalom. Include a photo if you like. \$36 per message. We also now accept payment by Venmo to @Congregation-OrShalom for your donations.

11. Siddur Lev Shalem Visit our web site to learn how to donate. \$50 each or 12 for \$500

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 31 | Jan 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Office Closed | | 21st of Tevet | 22nd of Tevet | 23rd of Tevet | 24th of Tevet | 25th of Tevet |
| 19th of Tevet | 20th of Tevet | 7:30pm Ritual Comm | | | 4:32pm Candle light | Shabbat Mevarchim (|
| New Year's Eve | New Year's Day | | | | 7:30pm Shabbat Se | Parashat Shemot |
| | | | | | 2 more | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 26th of Tevet | 27th of Tevet | 28th of Tevet | 29th of Tevet | 1st of Shvat, 5784 | 2nd of Shvat | 3rd of Shvat |
| | 12pm Adult Educati | | | Rosh Chodesh Shvat | 4:39pm Candle light | Parashat Vaera |
| | | | | | 7:30pm Shabbat Se | 9:30am Shabbat Md |
| | | | | | | 5:42pm Havdalah |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 4th of Shvat | Office Closed | 6th of Shvat | 7th of Shvat | 8th of Shvat | 9th of Shvat | 10th of Shvat |
| | 5th of Shvat | | | | 4:46pm Candle light | Parashat Bo |
| | Martin Luther King Jr | | | | 7:30pm Shabbat Se | 9:30am Shabbat Md |
| | | | | | | 5:50pm Havdalah |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 11th of Shvat | 12th of Shvat | 13th of Shvat | 14th of Shvat | 15th of Shvat | 16th of Shvat | 17th of Shvat |
| 4pm Family Fire Pit | 12pm Adult Educati | | | Tu BiShvat | 4:55pm Candle light | Shabbat Shirah |
| | | | | | 7:30pm Shabbat Se | Parashat Beshalach |
| | | | | | 2 more | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Feb 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 18th of Shvat | 19th of Shvat | 20th of Shvat | 21st of Shvat | 22nd of Shvat | 23rd of Shvat | 24th of Shvat |
| | | | 7pm Book Club Jan | First Day of Black His | 5:03pm Candle light | Shabbat Mevarchim (|
| | | | | | 7:30pm Shabbat Se | Parashat Yitro |
| | | | | | 2 more | |

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baldwin@thecambridgeschools.com

BERWYN

835 Darby-Paoli Rd.
Berwyn, PA 19312
484-318-7502
berwyn@thecambridgeschools.com

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL AGE PROGRAMS

DEAR PARENTS,

We understand that there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding the start of the school year. Whatever your School Age needs might be, Cambridge is here to provide them. Before School care, After School care, half day Kindergarten Enrichment, or part time/full time Remote Learning through our new CAMBRIDGE ACADEMY, you focus on everything else and leave the remote learning, program oversight, and homework supervision to us!

OPTION ONE: School is open full time, 5 days a week. Cambridge is here for Before and After care and Kindergarten Enrichment for children K - 5.

OPTION TWO: Children K - 5 attend school 2/3 days per week and have Remote Learning 2/3 days per week. Cambridge is here to support your child during Remote Learning. Your child brings their laptop or tablet with them and our Cambridge Academy remote learning program does the rest. We link our program to your school's remote learning program with certified staff for check in and supervision, required meetings and completion of assignments. We provide a safe, controlled environment with a structured program that includes 2 snacks, lunch, outside PT time and Homework monitoring every day. You can rest assured that your child is complying with all the requirements for remote learning in your school district and that Cambridge will guide your child through remote learning, providing the support they need to succeed!

OPTION THREE: Full time Remote Learning for children K - 5. If you choose to have your child attend your school district's virtual learning program remotely, full time, he or she may come to Cambridge for our Cambridge Academy program every day. Just like Option Two, our certified staff will ensure that your child is following all of the guide lines for Remote Learning provided by your school district and, in a safe environment, our talented teachers provide the support your children need to succeed!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US:

schoolage@thecambridgeschools.com

610-517-1843



The Cambridge Academy

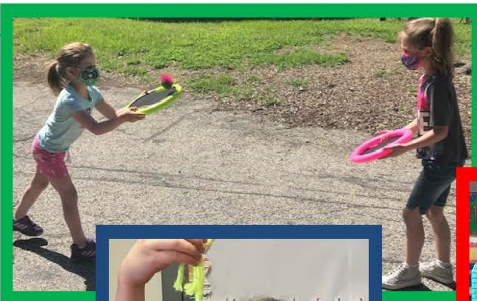
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