

KULANU

“All of Us”



HANDBOOK

2018 - 2019

5778

A cooperative effort of

Rockdale Temple

Temple Sholom

Valley Temple

Isaac M. Wise Temple

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Students,

I am so excited to be back in Cincinnati and starting to work with our wonderful students. Our amazing teachers and staff have been eagerly preparing for a great school year. Together, we will stimulate and challenge your students as they begin their independent Jewish lives.

While much of Kulanu will remain the same, we hope you will and your students will also be pleased to see some slight changes for the coming year. We have reviewed and refined some of our previous popular classes along with some new topics of interest. Our goal is to help students find a class that fits their interest and a learning modality that works best for them.

We also realize that many of our students are forming their own ideas about Judaism. We will support their exploration with not only our classes, but with the availability of qualified and interested faculty to meet with them.

Our website has been updated! In addition to emails, this will be the primary means of communication for Kulanu announcements, updates, snow cancellations, newsletters, other important information and class registration. Please know that we will not be sharing our email list with anyone for any reason.

Please take a moment and go online at www.kulanucincy.org. You will find all of the information you need for the 2018-19 school year. We hope that you and your student will review the information together as your child chooses his/her classes. Please be sure to list the top 3 elective choices. It is important that the online registration is completed by the given deadline. While our goal is to make sure that every student is in a class of their choice, the classes do fill up quickly.

We are pleased to offer a weekday option for our Juniors and Seniors on Thursday this year as well as an exciting new travel opportunity for them as well in January. More information will be shared during our first day of school on Sunday, September 23. Please note a special start time of 1PM for our students that day. A parent meeting will take place during the second bell at 2:00PM.

Please feel free to contact me at school.kuanu@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

B'Shalom,

Nina Loftspring
Director

Our Staff

Nina Loftspring, Director
school.kulanu@gmail.com

Rabbi Sigma Faye Coran – Rockdale Temple
Rabbi Michael Danziger – Wise Temple
Rabbi Lewis Kamrass – Wise Temple
Rabbi Sanford Kopnick – Valley Temple
Rabbi Miriam Terlinchamp – Temple Sholom
Rabbi Karen Thomashow – Wise Temple

Mission Statement

We, the Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School (Kulanu), are a supplemental religious high school program sponsored by and for the members of Rockdale Temple, Temple Sholom, The Valley Temple and Isaac M. Wise Temple, with the assistance of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion.

The high school student is the primary focus of our efforts. At the same time, we involve the parents, rabbis and educators in our program. As a Reform Jewish institution, we strive to achieve the following goals:

- To bring Torah into our lives through the study of its language, concepts, ideals, and values.
- To foster prayer and spiritual growth as individuals and as a Reform Jewish community through creative worship celebrations of Shabbat and festivals and personal introspection.
- To teach and practice acts of loving kindness as we actively pursue the welfare of our families, our community, our country, Israel and our world.

Our ultimate goal is that the teaching of Judaism, as learned and experienced in our program, will imbue our daily acts with the highest of Jewish values. Our educational program, therefore, embraces the rabbinic dictum, “Upon three things the world stands: on Torah, on prayer and spiritual growth and on acts of loving kindness.”

Written and approved by the Cincinnati Jewish High
School (Kulanu) Board of Trustees, 1990

Board of Trustees

In the year 1982, members of Rockdale Temple, Temple Sholom, Valley Temple and Wise Temple gathered together with the Rabbis from each Congregation and representatives from the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, to implement the concept of a community high school for Reform Jewish youth.

A charitable non-profit Ohio corporation was organized under the name Cincinnati Reform Jewish High School. Five lay representatives, the Educational Director and the Rabbi from each member Congregation served on the Board of Trustees. After more than a quarter of a century, this structure is still intact.

The Kulanu Board of Trustees for the 2017-18 academic year is composed of the following individuals: rabbis from each of the four congregations, the congregational educators and parent representatives from each of those congregations.

As the child of four parents, KULANU is truly a member of the family of these Congregations. Striving to harmonize its goals and ideals with the needs of the member Congregations, KULANU continues to fulfill its mandate to bring together the greatest number of Reform Jewish teens, their Rabbis, talented and dedicated teachers and guest scholars.

Officers of the Board of Directors

President	Cara Alpern
Vice President	Sam Lobar
Treasurer	Wendy Walsh
Past President	Mindy Seibert

Kulanu Coursework

Kulanu recognizes that each student comes to us with different interests and backgrounds. Many are seeking to increase their knowledge of Judaism academically; some search for spiritual answers; some through social action; and, others find connection in cultural studies. We as a Jewish community, also feel the need to explore our relationship to Israel and learn about her people and culture. This year our course selections will emphasize these distinctions.

Registration Information

Registration for the 2018-19 school year will begin on **Wednesday, August 22th.**

Online registration must be completed by **Sunday, September 16th.**

Registration for classes takes place online at www.kulanucincy.org under the *Registration* tab at the top of the page.

Class descriptions are found under the *Curriculum* tab at the top of the page.

Please note that classes fill quickly and class sizes are limited. Students should pick their top THREE elective choices. Class placements are assigned in the order in which registrations are received. A complete list of assigned electives and room assignments will be posted the first night of classes.

Students will enroll in two classes each semester. The first period meets from 5:30-6:15pm. The second period meets from 6:25-7:10pm. Students will register for a new elective at the beginning of each semester.

Finally, if you have any special concerns regarding medical, learning, and/or behavioral issues that the school should be aware of, download, complete and return the *Registration/Health* form to Kulanu. All information will be treated as confidential.

Calendar

Meeting time is 5:30-7:10pm, unless otherwise noted.

FIRST SEMESTER – At Wise Temple

- September 23, 2018 Early class at 1 PM
- September 30, 2018 – Early class at 1 PM
- October 7, 2018
- October 14, 2018
- October 21, 2018
- October 28, 2018
- November 4, 2018
- November 11, 2018
- November 18, 2018
- December 2, 2018
- December 9, 2018
- December 16, 2018

SECOND SEMESTER – At Valley Temple

- January 27, 2019
- February 3, 2019– Early class at 1 PM
- February 10, 2019
- February 24, 2019
- March 3, 2019
- March 10, 2019
- March 17, 2019
- April 7, 2019
- April 14, 2019 – Siyyum
- April 28, 2019
- May 5, 2019

Confirmation / Graduation

Students who have successfully completed Grades 9 & 10 are eligible for confirmation at the discretion of their congregational rabbi.

Students who have successfully completed Grades 9 through 12 are eligible for graduation. The graduation ceremony or *Siyyum* takes place in the spring for senior and their families.

All other students (including those students who have not completed the 8th grade of a participating congregation) must successfully complete the equivalent of Kulanu requirements with the approval of their rabbi and the director in order to be confirmed or to take part in graduation.

Policies and Procedures

Attendance

Each student will be allowed up to four (4) absences per semester. After four absences, the student and parent(s) will receive a telephone call and/or e-mail from Kulanu. If there is not a response, the home Rabbi of the student will be contacted by Kulanu. During the second semester, if a student has not attended the first 3 weeks of classes, Kulanu will initiate communication. If Kulanu is advised that a student is withdrawing, then Kulanu will contact the student's home Rabbi. There are no excused absences.

Drop Off and Pick Up Policy

We would like to stress the importance of pick up and drop off times. It is important that students plan to arrive NO EARLIER than 10 minutes prior to class time. And, just as important, all students should be picked up NO LATER than 10 minutes after the 7:10

dismissal. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Enrollment

Enrollment in Kulanu is open only to full members (as determined by the individual congregations) of the participating congregations.

Entrance into and matriculation from Kulanu requires successful completion of the 8th grade of religious school at one of the participating congregations, or at the discretion of the congregational rabbi and Nina Loftspring.

Withdrawal

If a student withdraws from KULANU for any reason, the student's parent or legal guardian must contact Nina Loftspring. He will then notify the educational director and the senior rabbi at the student's home congregation.

Discipline

The disciplinary policy is intended to deal with serious infractions. Kulanu has the right to impose appropriate sanctions for serious infractions including vandalism, drinking or drug use on school premises, leaving school grounds during school hours, reckless driving, fighting or any other act warranting review of a student's tenure at Kulanu.

The policy regarding a serious infraction is:

- 1) An initial meeting will be arranged with the parent(s) of the student, the Kulanu Director, the student's rabbi, the student and any other relevant parties. Disciplinary action will be discussed by the group.
- 2) The Kulanu Director may impose a probationary suspension of the student at the end of which the student's case will be reviewed.
- 3) Should the student's behavior be deemed untenable, the Kulanu Director may expel a student from Kulanu. A confirming letter will be sent to the student's parent/legal guardian.
- 4) An appeal of an expulsion may be filed in writing within 30 days with the director. The appeal will be heard by a committee comprised of the director, the student's congregational rabbi and members of the Kulanu Executive Board.

Early Dismissal

We are concerned about the safety of our students. In case of an emergency situation we must have accurate information regarding the names of students who are not in the building. For this reason, students may not leave the building at the break or any other time prior to 7:10 PM without consent of the director.

If a student needs to leave early the director must receive a written note or email signed by a parent or legal guardian. If the student turns 18 before or during the school year, a note or email from a parent is still required.

Any student being dismissed early will need to let the director know before they leave the building.

Please be aware that until there is confirmation from a parent or guardian of the student's early dismissal, Kulanu is not able to release the student.

School Closings

In the event of inclement weather, check the www.kulanucincy.com for updates. In the fall, parents and students will be given the opportunity to opt-in to receive text alerts about a school closure. School closing information will also be available on most local television and radio stations when time permits.

Substance Abuse

Kulanu is an institution that cares deeply about its students. Consequently, we cannot tolerate any form of substance abuse: alcohol, drugs or smoking. Any student found using drugs or alcohol on school premises will be immediately expelled and their parent(s) will be called and asked to pick up their child. The student and his/her parents will then be required to attend a meeting with their congregational rabbi, and the director. Kulanu is a smoke-free institution, as are the grounds on which it stands.

Guests

All guests must gain permission from the Director in writing before attending Kulanu. Guests and their guardians will be asked to sign a liability waiver before joining Kulanu. Guests who do not have permission in advance will be asked to leave.

Cell Phones

Cell phone usage is not allowed during class time.

Tuition

Full tuition will not be refunded if the student has attended at least 2 sessions. Students entering the program in the middle of the school year shall be required to pay 50% of the annual tuition. Any exceptions to this policy shall be by special arrangement with the director and the congregational rabbi. Families are billed directly by their home congregation. Tuition is payable to individual congregations.