



TRY – Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim



January 28, 2021

15 Shevat, 5781

Dear Students and Families,

I just logged off of our zoom call with the TRY 2021 students, and my first reaction is, "I love my job." With all of the uncertainty, anxieties, fears, and frustrations the students have been experiencing recently, they also possess a tremendous amount of excitement, optimism, and anticipation for the semester to be underway. I hope it was helpful for students to join together, albeit on zoom, to take their next step on this journey together, and begin forming our TRY *kehila* (community).

During the call, students learned about our distance learning program with Aliza Zeff, Director of Teaching and Learning. Aliza explained that students have two options for moving forward:

1. Students can join TRY for all of their academic classes and regular programming, starting this Sunday.
2. Some students may feel they would benefit more from continuing with their home classes until they board the airplane to Israel. We are supportive of this option as well, but ask that ***all students***, regardless of the option you choose, join us for the social programming, ICC classes, and any other non-academic events we hold.

If you would like to opt out of the general studies piece of our distanced learning plan, please email [Aliza](#) before Shabbat so we can let the teachers know. If we do not hear from you, we assume the student will be joining our classes.

Please note the following sessions planned for the week of January 31st, in addition to your academic classes (schedules to be sent on Sunday):

Meet your *Madrichim* (Counselors)
Sunday, January 31st - 2pm EST (11am PST)
<https://ramah.zoom.us/j/97766017981>

Tu Bishvat themed tour with Israel Core Course (ICC) teachers
Tuesday, February 2nd - 2pm EST (11am PST)
<https://ramah.zoom.us/j/97526826400>

TRY Q&A with Jonathan & Hillary
Thursday, Feb. 4th - 2 pm EST (11am PST)
<https://ramah.zoom.us/j/93639095079>

As I shared on the call today, we are anticipating that the Israeli government will only come out with a concrete timeline for opening the country back up on Sunday, January 31st. The Ramah Israel team will then need a day or two to check with providers, government agencies, airlines, etc. to generate our plan moving forward.

Since a February 7th flight is still within the realm of possibilities, students should please continue to self-isolate and plan on taking a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of your flights. We know you will need answers and guidance from us in a timely manner. We promise to do our best to get back to you quickly!

Families, I want you to know how much our entire team here in Israel appreciates all of your patience, flexibility, and support! With Shabbat on the horizon, I'm reminded of a famous quote attributed to the great Jewish thinker, Ahad Ha'am. In a speech in 1898 he was quoted as saying, "More than the Jewish People have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jewish people."

My blessing for you is that this coming Shabbat finds a way to "keep - לשמור" (supporting, rejuvenating, resting) each of you, your minds, your bodies and your souls. I think we all could use it!

Shabbat shalom umevorach from Yerushalayim - wishing you a blessed Shabbat from Jerusalem,

Jonathan

www.try.ramah.org.il

Useful links



Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim is a program of [Ramah Israel](#), a division of the [National Ramah Commission](#), which operates under the educational and religious supervision of [The Jewish Theological Seminary](#). Since 1962, Ramah Israel has provided substantive experiential education and meaningful Conservative Jewish living for North Americans in Israel in the spirit of the Ramah Camping Movement.

Think Israel. Think Ramah.

STAY CONNECTED