

# Camp Sababa: Where a Thriving Jewish Community Comes to Life

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Jettrey Lasday- Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit





# CAMP SABABA



Presented by

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Sababa סַבַּבָּה

Hebrew slang for terrific, wonderful, great, amazing, cool!

How am I doing? "Sababa!"

What do you think of when you hear the word...

**innovation?**

List your answers in the Chat Box.

# OUR CAMP SETTING



## THE CAMP SABABA CONCEPT

**Camp Sababa** is a new Jewish day camp experience for first through fourth graders that was piloted this past summer as part of the JCC of Metropolitan Detroit day camp offerings. The program was a unique collaborative effort by the Jewish Community Center, Tamarack Camps, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, Temple Kol Ami, and Temple Shir Shalom and supported through a Berman Family Jewish Education grant from Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. It was a place where children and their families came together to learn, celebrate and enjoy Jewish life.

## CHALLENGE

# Shrinking Time for Jewish Learning

- Children attend fewer hours per week
- Fewer days per year
- Fewer total number of years

## SNAPSHOT OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT JEWISH EDUCATION

# 2019 - 20 TOTAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: 5,140

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

10 Schools with 1,123 children

### **CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOLS**

12 Schools with 1,904 children

### **DAY SCHOOLS**

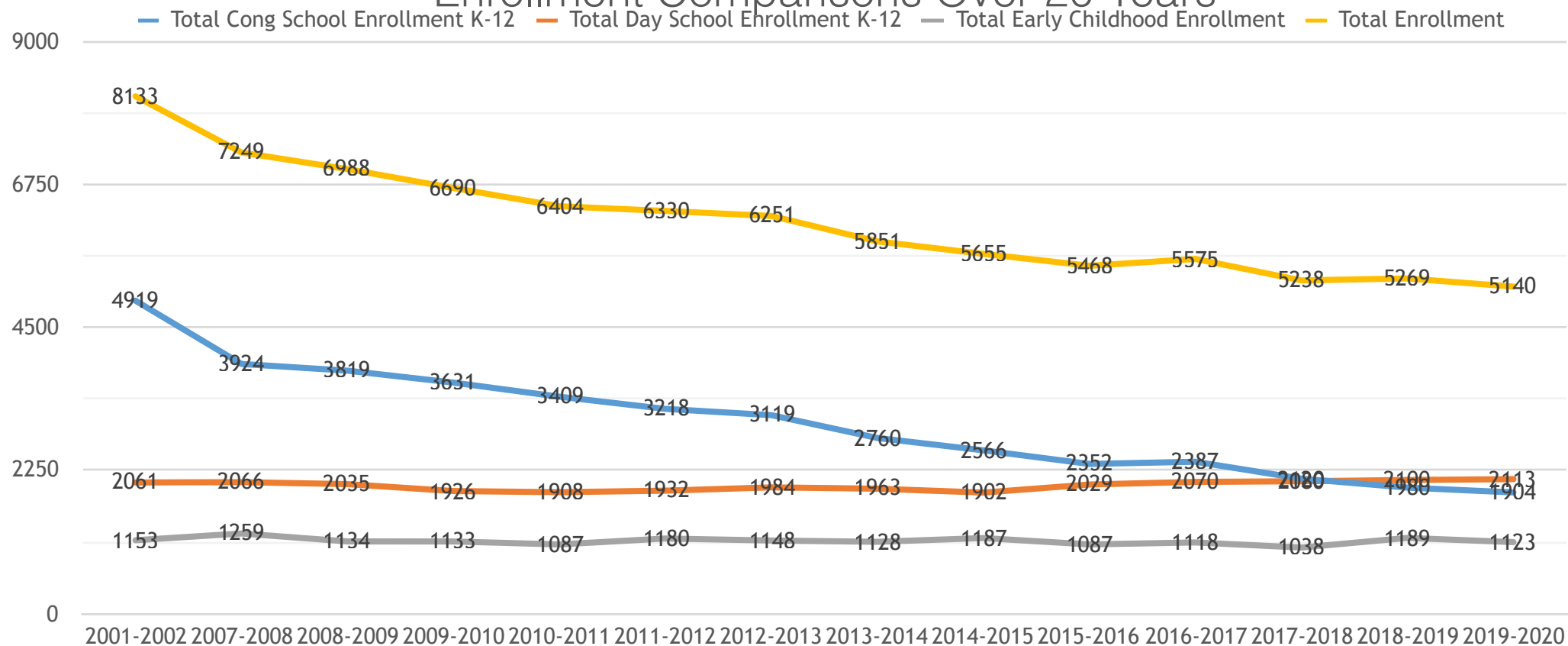
6 Schools with 2,113 children



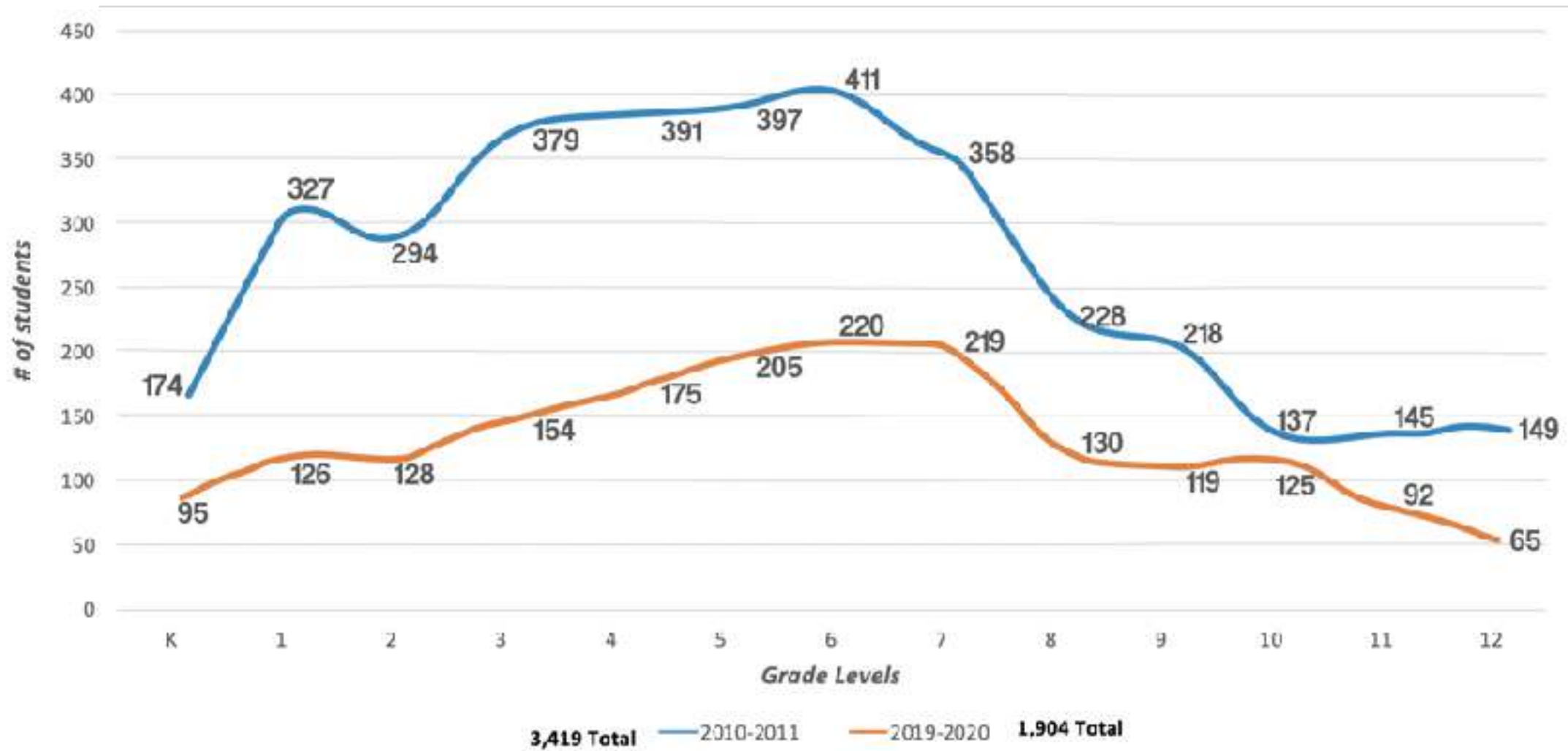


# SNAPSHOT OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT JEWISH EDUCATION

## Enrollment Comparisons Over 20 Years



### Congregational Enrollment by Grades



## CAMP SABABA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

# Expanding time for Jewish Learning



## CAMP SABABA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

# Power of Collaboration



## CAMP SABABA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

# Power of Jewish Community



## CAMP SABABA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

# Power of Jewish Family

- Michigan Jewish Food Festival sponsored by Hazon
- Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner



## CAMP SABABA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

# Power of Experiential Jewish Learning



## THE PROGRAM

- Theme: Me and My Jewish World
- Prayer and Singing
- Shabbat Preparations
- Hebrew
- Excursions
- Swimming, Games, Arts & Crafts





## WHAT MOTIVATED CONGREGATIONS?

“Partnering with the JCC and other congregational educational leaders provided a think-tank where we could supplement the learning our students engaged in during the school year, combining the best of education with the best of camp.”

Gail Greenberg, Educational Director, Temple Kol Ami

## WHAT MOTIVATED CONGREGATIONS?

“Providing a camp program with Jewish content was the perfect extension of our educational program and we were thrilled to partner with the JCC, Tamarack camps and the other synagogues who were part of the planning partnership. We were excited that our families would be able to join with like-minded families and benefit from strong programming with both new and familiar faces who would bring excitement and joy to this summer experience.”

Rabbi Daniel Schwartz, Temple Shir Shalom

## WHAT MOTIVATED CONGREGATIONS?

“Our Beth El students had an amazing experience at Camp Sababa. They loved being immersed in Jewish themes while doing all the best camp activities like swimming, sports, arts and more. We are hoping this one week experience will lead to our families being more likely to choose Jewish overnight camps as their children grow older.”

Deborah Morosohk, Director of Education at Temple Beth El

## WHAT MOTIVATED CONGREGATIONS?

“Temple Israel was excited to partner with the JCC on Camp Sababa this summer in order to provide additional informal Jewish engagement opportunities for our families. Our campers had an amazing week—they loved getting to know other Jewish kids in the community, learning new songs and cheers, and exploring themselves and their Jewish world!”

Rabbi Arianna Gordon, Director of Education and  
Lifelong Learning at Temple Israel

# WHAT'S NEXT?



## Q&A

So, maybe you have a question?

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