



Temple Adath Israel PARENT HANDBOOK

2017-2018

5778

*V'Shinantam L'vanecha
And you shall teach them
To your children*

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MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Shalom,

Welcome to our 5778 school year! We look forward to working with you to create a meaningful learning experience for your entire family.

Our school is based on the premise that our spiritual world rests on Torah (study), Avodah (worship), and G'milut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness). We want to educate our students in Torah so that they understand the Bible, Jewish texts, and rabbinic thought. We want our students to gain knowledge of worship and prayer so that they understand the meaning and history of prayer and worship. We want our students to learn about and participate in acts of loving kindness towards our entire community. Finally, we want our children to have fun and develop a love of Judaism so that they want to become active participants in our Jewish community.

At TAI, we enrich our curriculum with additional classes in Art & Garden, Music & Israeli Dancing, Library, and Rabbi Time. This year, our students will gather together for a monthly assembly where they will lead each other in prayer and discuss their ongoing Tzedakah projects. We also look forward to a year of celebrating together as a congregation, from lifecycle events such as Consecration, Bar and Bat Mitzvah and Confirmation to holiday celebrations such as our Hanukkah and Purim carnivals.

I encourage you to take some time to read through this Handbook and learn about our curriculum, programs, and teachers. This Parent Handbook is designed to be a quick reference guide for the coming year. The Handbook includes our administrative policies as well as a calendar of events.

I look forward to getting to know your family at school this year. Best wishes for a sweet and successful year.

Kristen Hoffman
Interim Religious School Coordinator

TAI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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Madrachim	Taylor Reaguer		
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5778 Jewish Holidays

Rosh HaShanah	SEPT 20–22 2017
Yom Kippur	SEPT 29–30 2017
Sukkot	OCT 4–11 2017
Simchat Torah	OCT 11–12 2017
Hanukkah	DEC 12–20 2017
Tu BiSh'vat	JAN 30–31 2018
Purim	FEB 28–MAR 1 2018
Passover	MAR 30–APR 6 2018
Yom HaShoah	APR 11–12 2018
Yom HaZikaron & Yom HaAtzmaut	APR 17–19 2018
Lag BaOmer	MAY 2–3 2018
Shavuot	MAY 19–20 2018
Tishah B'Av	JUL 21–22 2018
Selichot	SEPT 1 2018

**Source: URJ website*

TAI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017-2018

		SEPTEMBER						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	Labor Day							
8	Back to School Family Service						1	2
10	First Day of School	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Brotherhood Picnic	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20-22	Rosh Hashanah	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29-30	Yom Kippur	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

		JANUARY						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	Religious School Resumes		1	2	3	4	5	6
12	MLK Family Shabbat	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	No School - MLK Day	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	School Resumes	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
30-31	Tu B'Shvat	28	29	30	31			

		OCTOBER						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	No School - Yom Kippur							
4	Pizza in the Hut							
4-11	Sukkot	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	No School - Fall Break	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11-12	Simchat Torah	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
13	Family Service- Consecration	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
15	School Resumes	29	30	31				

		FEBRUARY						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
9	Family Service & Dinner						1	2
18	No School - President's Day	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
25	School Resumes	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
28-1	Purim	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		25	26	27	28			

		NOVEMBER						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
10	Family Service & Dinner				1	2	3	4
12	Global Day at TAI	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
23	Thanksgiving Day	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
26	No School - Thanksgiving	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30		

		MARCH						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28-1	Purim						1	2
4	Purim Carnival	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	Family Service & Dinner	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10	Daylight Savings Time	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
30-6	Passover	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

		DECEMBER						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	School Resumes						1	2
12-20	Hanukkah	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15*	Family Service & Dinner	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
24	No School - Winter Break	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
31	No School - Winter Break	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		31						

		APRIL						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30-6	Passover	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	No School - Spring Break	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8	No School - Spring Break	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
13	Family Service & Dinner	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
15	Yom HaShoah at OZS.	29	30					
22	Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration							

		MAY						
		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6**	Last Day of Religious School			1	2	3	4	5
11	Family Service & Dinner	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		27	28	29	30	31		

Calendar Key
 Indicates Religious School is in session
 Indicates Family Service or Special Event

* December Family Service will take place on the 3rd Friday of the month (December 15th) due to Rabbi Wirtschafter's schedule.
 ** May Family Service will take place on the 1st Friday of the month (May 4th) to accommodate a Temple Bat Mitzvah.
 *** Please refer to our Parent Handbook for more information about curriculum, pick-up/drop-off procedures, Hebrew instruction, etc...

SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

OFFICE HOURS

The Religious School Office is located in the Religious School wing next to the Temple library. Religious school office hours are 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM on Sundays. After hours, parents may leave messages with the Temple office. Kristen Hoffman is available to meet with parents by appointment. Please do not hesitate to schedule a meeting to discuss your child's progress.

REGISTRATION & FEES

Registration for the year takes place during the month of August. Fees are \$395 per child for TAI members; \$495 for non-members.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Religious School begins at 9:30am with our Hebrew curriculum. Religious school ends at 12:00 noon. No student may be dismissed early without permission from the parent. Please use the Temple door by the office to enter and please follow your teacher's checkout protocol to pick up your child(ren).

BEHAVIOR

We ask parents and students to work together to ensure that our school is a fun and engaging place for all of our students by adhering to the following guidelines.

- Work well with others
- Assume responsibility for themselves
- Obey school regulations
- Listen and follow directions
- Take proper care of materials and property

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance is the basis of a successful learning experience.

SNACKS

Lower school parents are asked to sign up for snack via the online snack signup.com link that was emailed. Please send nut-free, low sugar snacks (no cookies please).

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The Religious School follows the inclement weather school closing decisions of the Fayette County Public Schools. If weather necessitates the closing of school on Sunday mornings, please check your email, Facebook, local television listings and radio stations for an appropriate announcement. All teachers will be notified by 8:00 AM of any school closing on Sunday and will utilize a telephone tree to contact parents. If you have any questions, you can contact your child's teacher.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Temple Adath Israel partners with the Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) to provide a high quality, engaging curriculum to our students. Our ISJL curriculum begins in Early Childhood and goes through High School. Each grade contains 30 lesson plans, which allow a teacher to deliver up to a two-hour lesson. For those teachers who are able, we encourage them to use the ISJL curriculum only as a guide, utilizing their own experiences and resources as much as possible.

The following core content areas are reinforced throughout the ISJL curriculum:

Community: By being part of the religious school experience, students will feel a particular pride for their heritage as Southern Jews and will come to identify with the larger American and global Jewish community.

Culture and Symbols: The ISJL curriculum provides students with the opportunity to experience the colorful culture of Judaism and its symbols. Students will develop a deeper understanding of Jewish culture as their religious school education builds.

God: Religious school is a place where students can openly discuss their thoughts and feelings about God. Students will learn that throughout history, Jews have had an important relationship with God.

Hebrew and Prayer: Students will have the opportunity to participate in synagogue prayer services and find personal meaning in them, recognizing Jewish worship as an essential facet of Jewish life. They will have opportunity for self-discovery, self-assessment, and self-development.

Israel: Throughout the curriculum, students learn to identify with Israel as the Jewish homeland, understanding its history and recognizing their obligation to visit and support the State of Israel, hopefully motivating them to participate in an educational program there.

Jewish History: Students will develop a meaningful identification with Jews past and present through the study of Jewish history, culture, Hebrew language, liturgy, music, literature, arts, and texts.

Jewish Holidays: Whether it is with the entire religious school at an All-School Program or in each grade, students will familiarize themselves with the many rituals and traditions that are celebrated during Jewish holidays.

Jewish Lifecycle Events: The spiraled curriculum allows students to mark the passages of time and seasons through Jewish lifecycle ceremonies using the symbols, rituals, prayers and traditions of their Jewish heritage.

מִצְוֹת (Mitz'vot) and Jewish Values: The ISJL curriculum provides students with a chance to view מִצְוֹת (mitz'vot), both ritual and ethical, as opportunities to build a relationship with God.

תַּנְכַּ"ח (TaNaKh, Torah, Prophets, and Writings/Hebrew Bible): Students will gain literacy and understanding of the various stories and commandments contained in the תַּנְכַּ"ח (TaNaKh). They will have basic knowledge of the main characters and events, as well as a sense of the values conveyed through this material.

The following sections summarize what your child will learn in each grade as well as reminders of student and family expectations for each year.

Pre-Kindergarten / Kindergarten Class

Overview:

Students will learn about Jewish Holidays, Torah stories, and the Jewish Community through a variety of multi-sensory experiences. Music, art, and storytelling will play a central role in their weekly time at Religious School. Many Jewish rituals, customs, and traditions will be illuminated, helping them build a foundation for Jewish living.

We hope students will be familiar with the following concepts following their Kindergarten year:

- Jewish holiday celebrations are an essential aspect of Jewish identity.
- The Torah contains stories that teach us how to live our lives.
- Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people.

Other PK/Kindergarten Reminders:

- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the date for the October 13th Family Service that is hosted by your class.
- Participate in your class' Tzedakah Project.
- K Only: Save the Date for your Consecration service on October 13th.

First Grade Class

Overview:

The First Grade curriculum focuses on Jewish Holidays and מצוות (mitz'vot, commandments). It illuminates how מצוות (mitz'vot) play a role in daily life and continues to build the knowledge of Jewish holidays established in Kindergarten. The lessons begin to touch on the concept of God in age appropriate ways. Teachers will be using the Let's Discover Mitzvot and Let's Discover the Holidays pamphlets as a central part of their lesson plan. These pamphlets will go home with students so that the concepts can be reinforced by parents as well.

We hope students will be familiar with the following concepts following their First Grade year:

- מצוות (mitz'vot) are commandments that can be applied to our everyday lives.
- God is a central part of Judaism and we all explore God in our own way.
- Judaism is filled with many celebrations.
- Hebrew is made up of letters that make different sounds.

Other First Grade Reminders:

- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the Date for the November 10th Family Service that is hosted by your class.
- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Consider joining Jr. Choir.

Second Grade Class

Overview:

As students mature, they will delve deeper into their exploration of Jewish life. This year the students will explore the Jewish community and their role in it. They will be exposed to a variety of activities that demonstrate the community in the synagogue through holiday celebrations, lifecycle events, and symbols that identify Jewish people and places. The students will begin their exploration of Israel as the Jewish homeland.

We hope students will be familiar with the following concepts following their Second Grade year:

- The role of the Jewish community can be seen in the synagogue as part of Jewish holidays and lifecycle events, as well as through symbols.
- The Jewish homeland is Israel, which is part of the larger Jewish community.
- Hebrew will be able to be deciphered by using Hebrew decoding skills.

Other Second Grade Reminders:

- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the Date for the December 15th Family Service that is hosted by your class.
- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Consider joining Jr. Choir.

Third Grade Class

Overview:

Our third grade class begins to gain insights into the values and messages of the Torah. Students' spirituality will deepen as they develop Jewish God-concepts and contemplate their relationship with God. Students continue to increase their appreciation and understanding of Jewish holidays.

We hope students will be familiar with the following concepts following their Third Grade year:

- There are lessons and values that we learn when we read the Torah.
- Jewish holidays are joyously celebrated.
- Jewish values and Jewish concepts of God can be explored through a personal journey of spirituality.
- Hebrew words can be decoded by using vowels and final letters.

Other Third Grade Reminders

- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the Date for the February 9th Family Service that is hosted by your class.
- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Consider joining Jr. Choir.

Fourth Grade Class

Overview:

Students will be guided to think critically about concepts such as God and Jewish text. This curriculum focuses on prophets found in the תנ"ך (TaNaKh) by giving an overview of their actions and impact on Judaism. Through the lens of different Jewish holidays, students will explore God and the role that God plays in their lives.

We hope students will be familiar with the following concepts following their Fourth Grade year:

- Studying the prophets can teach many important lessons and Jewish values.
- The Jewish people have a sacred partnership with God.
- There are unique customs and values associated with each Jewish holiday.

Other Fourth Grade Reminders:

- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the Date for the March 9th Family Service that is hosted by your class.
- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Consider joining Jr. Choir.

Fifth/Sixth Grade Class

(Because this is a split class, teachers will draw from both the Fifth and Sixth grade ISJL lesson plans, and will differentiate as needed based on their students.)

Overview:

Our Fifth/Sixth grade students will explore Jewish concepts of an intellectual and emotional nature. Students are taken on a "Jewish Journey" through the lens of eight important Jewish values and are asked to explore them in order to apply them to their lives. Teachers will also begin working with students who are preparing to become בר (bar) or בת מצווה (bat mitz'vah), delving deeply into Jewish sources to critically examine the Torah.

We hope students will be familiar with the following concepts following their Sixth Grade year:

- Jewish values help guide our behavior and inform our choices.
- Our lives are journeys marked with events from the Jewish lifecycle.
- Every Jew should have knowledge of the modern State of Israel and the history of the land.
- The Torah is a sacred text that can speak to us today.
- מצוות (mitz'vot) are commandments.
- God established a covenant with the Jewish people and we continue to work as partners with God today.

Other Fifth/Sixth Grade Reminders:

- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the Date for the May 4th Family Service that is hosted by your class.
- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.

- Consider joining Jr. Choir.
- Participate in Middle School Youth Group Activities
- Fifth Grade Students: Attend B'nai Mitzvah Preparation Meeting and select Bar or Bat Mitzvah date.

Seventh/Eighth Grade Class

(Because this is a split class, and some students are preparing for bar or bat mitzvah, teachers will draw from the appropriate lesson plans and will differentiate between students as needed.)

Overview:

Through an in-depth exploration of the Prophets and Writings, students will visualize their role in the greater community. As students prepare to become בְּנֵי מִצְוָה (b'nei mitz'vah, children of the commandment) they explore how closely connected prayer and service were for the prophets found in the Hebrew Bible. This year contains an element of self-exploration in the form of several options for Long-Term Projects that allow students to become intimately connected to specific content areas. The Eighth graders in this class will be experiencing a new beginning in Jewish learning. We will cover three key concepts that shape Jewish life today: the Jewish diaspora, the Holocaust, and the State of Israel.

We hope students will be familiar with the following concepts following their Seventh/Eighth grade year.

- Judaism values learning and service.
- The prophets spoke out against injustice in their time and can guide us in our own times.
- We have an obligation to act justly in our community and the world.
- The history of Jewish communities helps us understand our present-day communities.
- The Holocaust was a major and tragic event in world history.
- The State of Israel is a complex place, home to lots of different kinds of people, cultures, and beliefs.

Other Seventh/Eighth Grade Reminders:

- Sign-up to participate in TWO Family Services in addition to the Family Service hosted by your class. Sign-ups will be available online.
- Work with Rabbi Wirtschafter to prepare any services you are participating in.
- Save the Date for the January 12 Family Service that is hosted by your class.
- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Participate in Middle School Youth Group Activities.

Ninth/Tenth Grade Class

Overview:

Our Ninth/Tenth Grade Class has developed its curriculum along with their teacher, Lauren Hill. They will be covering important topics relevant to modern Judaism and they will spend time exploring Comparative Religions, exposing themselves to the other major faiths in the world and analyzing the similarities and differences between those faiths and Judaism. In addition to

their time with Lauren, the class will meet with Rabbi Wirtschafter for Torah Study, deepening their active participation in adult Jewish life. Rabbi Wirtschafter will also be preparing our Tenth Graders for Confirmation throughout the year.

Ninth/Tenth Grade Student-Led Expectations:

- Sign-up to participate in TWO Traditional Shabbat Services.
- Provide the Torah Commentary for ONE of the TWO services that you sign up for.
- Work with Rabbi Wirtschafter on your Torah Commentary and to prepare any services you are participating in.
- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Participate in Youth Group Activities.
- Tenth Graders: Attend annual Confirmation Information Meeting.

SPECIAL CLASSES (Sha'at Tarbut)

Each Sunday, Lower School classes rotate through our Music & Movement, Art & Garden, Library, and Rabbi Time enrichment programs on a regular basis. Upper school students will have limited rotations through Art & Garden, Rabbi Time, and Music & Movement.

Music & Movement: In our Music & Movement program, students are introduced to traditional and contemporary Jewish music and dance and learn about Jewish customs and traditions.

Art & Garden: In our art program, students explore Jewish themes through a variety of art media such as clay, painting, chalk, and textiles. During warmer months, students are exposed to the connection between Jewish Values and our environment by working in the Temple Garden.

Library: Students will have the opportunity to learn about Jewish books and literature with our school librarian.

HEBREW CURRICULUM

The first 45-60 minutes of Religious School are devoted to our Hebrew Curriculum. Throughout their time at TAI, all students will learn the twelve most common and essential prayers that they will experience in Jewish life. For those interested in Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Hebrew study will be a central component of that life cycle event and they will work with Rabbi Wirtschafter and their teachers to ensure that they are well-prepared.

Beginning in Pre-K through First grade, students will focus on learning the aleph-bet. By the end of second grade, they will decode complex letter combinations. Each year thereafter, students will focus on learning to read and understand three fundamental prayers per year. In

order to do so, teachers will be using a wide variety of sources, including portions of the ISJL recommended curriculum, Hineni Prayer Booklets, Hebrew Primers.

Below is the list of prayers that students will gain proficiency in by the end of each year, including understanding the central theme and meaning of the prayers.

Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
Sh'ma	Bar'Chu	G'vurot	Birchot HaTorah
Birchot	V'ahavta	K'dushah	Birchot
HaShabbat	Avot v'Imahot	Kaddish	HaHaftarah
Kiddush			Aleinu

FAMILY SERVICES

Family services are an important and meaningful way for families to celebrate Judaism together and for students to practice, master and retain what they are learning in Religious School. The Children's Prayer Book, which is geared towards children in grades K-6, will be used at these services. All families are welcomed and encouraged to attend as many family services as possible. While the class hosting a particular Shabbat will have a special role, each monthly Family Service is a congregation-wide service and not at all limited to the class participating.

Please note that Seventh/Eighth graders are asked to sign-up to participate in two Family Services throughout the year in addition to the Family Service that is hosted by their class. The Ninth/Tenth grade students are asked to sign-up to participate in two services for the year. First, they may choose to participate in either a Family or Traditional Service. Second, they will be asked to participate in a Traditional Shabbat Service and provide the Torah Commentary for that service. This is a wonderful way for our older students to practice what they have learned in Religious School while also serving as role models for our younger students.

JUNIOR CHOIR

Students in grades First through Sixth are invited to join TAI's Junior Choir. Junior Choir will meet in the Sanctuary from 12:15-1:00 following Religious School. The group will participate in all Family Services and will be invited to sing on other special occasions. This is a wonderful way to get younger students involved at TAI and a great way to meet other kids outside of their classroom.

TZEDAKAH AND G'MILUT CHASADIM

Throughout the school year, all students are educated to understand the importance of giving money to others "tzedakah" and performing acts of loving kindness "g'milut chasadim." Money is collected each week in the classes for donation to worthy causes. Each class decides where their class money will be sent. This year we will be organizing a Mitzvah day in the spring when each class will have the opportunity to perform community service.