



Temple Adath Israel PARENT HANDBOOK

2019-2020

5780

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TEAM

Shalom,

Welcome to our 5780 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 Hebrew 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 Temple Adath Israel (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 event 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 and Elissa Weinstein
TAI Religious School Team

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Religious School Director	Kristen Hoffman	773-425-2005	kristen@lentai.org
Religious School Assistant	Elissa Weinstein		
Pre Kindergarten			
Kindergarten			
1 st /2nd Grades			
Third Grade	Dan Isenstein		
Third and Fifth Grade Hebrew	Diane Arnson Svarlian		
Fourth Grade	Deb Flomenhoft		
Fifth Grade	Jordan Brennan		
Sixth/Seventh			
Eighth	Susan Voglesong		
9 th /10 th Grades	Rabbi Wirtschafter, Visiting Teachers		
Art & Garden	Jo Stone, Laura Schachman, Sylvia Cerel-Suhl		
Music & Dancing	Aviva Bowling		
Library	Darlene Grossman		
Madrachim	Jessalin Archer		
Madrachim	Lily Gardner		
Madrachim	Sophie Hill		
Madrachim	Charmi Rosenberg		
Madrachim	Emma Sippy		
Youth Ed. Chair	Rebecca Young		

5780 JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Rosh HaShanah	SEP 29–OCT 1 2019
Yom Kippur	OCT 8–9 2019
Sukkot	OCT 13–20 2019
Simchat Torah	OCT 20–OCT 21 2019
Hanukkah	DEC 22–30 2019
Tu BiSh'vat	FEB 9–10 2020
Purim	MAR 9–MAR 10 2020
Passover	APR 8–APR 15 2020
Yom HaShoah	APR 21 2020
Yom HaAtzmaut	APR 29 2020
Lag BaOmer	MAY 11–12 2020
Shavuot	MAY 28–29 2020
Tishah B'Av	JULY 29–30 2020
Selichot	SEPT 12 2020

**Source: URJ website*

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 – 12:30 PM on Sundays. After hours, parents may leave messages with the Temple office. Kristen Hoffman is available to meet with parents by appointment. Kristen's responsibilities include curriculum and teacher and student management as well as outreach and administration. Please do not hesitate to call or schedule a meeting to discuss your child's progress.

REGISTRATION & FEES

Registration for the year takes place during the month of August. Fees are \$415 per child for TAI members; \$515 for non-members. This fee includes a \$20 snack fee so that TAI Religious School staff can provide snack every week. Non-members may enroll their student(s) in Religious School for one year before needing to become TAI 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

Several years ago, the Youth Education Committee adopted the following guidelines that outline the behavior expected from students attending Religious School and Hebrew School.

Student Behavior Guidelines:

- Work well with others
- Claim only their fair share of attention
- Assume responsibility for themselves
- Use self-control
- Obey school regulations
- Listen and follow directions
- Work in a neat and orderly manner
- Take proper care of materials and property
- Complete assignments on time
- Be cooperative

Behavior Policy:

The first time a student significantly disrupts the class – beyond the teacher's control – the teacher will send the child to the principal's office. After discussing appropriate classroom conduct, the student will be sent back to the classroom. The parent will be notified.

If a significant disruption occurs again, the teacher will send the student to the principal's office and the parent will be called to discuss the student's behavior and asked to pick up their child from Religious School. In order for the student to return to the classroom, a parent must accompany them and the parent must remain with the child for that entire class period.

If the student again significantly disrupts the class, the same procedure will be followed. However, the parent will be required to accompany the child to Religious School for two consecutive weeks. At the teacher's discretion, the parent will be asked to stay in the classroom or be "on call" in the building for the remainder of the school day.

If the student continues to disrupt the class – after two weeks of being accompanied by a parent to Religious School and a conference with the teacher and principal – the parent will be asked to return to school with the child for three consecutive weeks. Again, the parent will be asked to stay in the classroom or be "on call" in the building for the remainder of the school day.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance is the basis of a successful learning experience.

SNACKS

TAI Religious School will provide nut-free, healthy snacks for Religious School students each Sunday we are in session. These snacks are funded by our \$20 snack fee paid upon registration.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The Hebrew 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 OVERVIEW

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.

תַּנְכ"ךְ (TaNaKh, Torah, Prophets, and Writings/Hebrew Bible): Students will gain literacy and understanding of the various stories and commandments contained in the תַּנְכ"ךְ (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 descriptions provide a brief outline of our educational program and introduces our teachers for each grade level.

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

Overview:

The early childhood curriculum is designed to provide young children with multi-sensory experiences that will help them build a foundation for Jewish living. Students will be exposed to Jewish values and holidays and display their knowledge through various means. They will create treasure boxes for collecting materials from their school experiences, keeping a Jewish treasure box at home.

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

- Exposure to Jewish life and community promotes students' love for Judaism.

PK Reminders:

- Participate in your class' Tzedakah Project.
- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date TBD
- Attend Consecration Parent Meeting on September 15th at 9:30am.

Kindergarten Class

Overview:

Following the first Jewish experiences in Early Childhood, the Kindergarten portion of the curriculum focuses primarily on Jewish Holidays, stories from Torah, and Community. Using these three content areas as a backdrop, other areas like מצוות (mitz'vot) and Jewish values are introduced along with the main content areas. For the first time, students gain exposure both to what Jews do and why they do certain things. Kindergarten illuminates many Jewish rituals, customs, and traditions, while also giving them an introduction to religious school as a whole. We expect students to be familiar with, but not necessarily understand, the content they learn.

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 Kindergarten Reminders:

- Participate in your class' Tzedakah Project.
- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date TBD

1st/2nd Grade Class

Overview:

The curriculum will focus on Jewish Holidays and מִצְוֹת (mitz'vot, commandments) while students will be encouraged to delve deeper into their exploration of Jewish life. It illuminates how מִצְוֹת (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 to 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:

- מִצְוֹת (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. Older students will be able to decipher Hebrew by using Hebrew decoding skills.
- 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.

Other First Grade Reminders:

- Participate in your class' Tzedakah Project.
- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date TBD
- 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

- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date TBD
- 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:

- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date TBD
- Consider joining Jr. Choir.

Fifth Grade Class

Overview:

Our Fifth 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 בָּר (bar) or בַּת מִצְוָה (bat mitzv'vah), delving deeply into Jewish sources to critically examine the Torah.

We hope students will be familiar with the following concepts following their Fifth 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.

Other Fifth Grade Reminders:

- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date TBD
- 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.

Sixth/Seventh 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:

As students prepare to become bar or bat mitzvah, they will delve deeply into Jewish sources to critically examine the Torah, Prophets and Writings. Through this in-depth exploration, 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

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

- The Torah is a sacred text that can speak to us today.
- There are themes that recur throughout the Torah that help us understand patterns in our history.
- We interpret Jewish texts to look for meaning in our modern lives.
- מִצְוֹת (mitz'vot) are commandments.
- God established a covenant with the Jewish people and we continue to work as partners with God today.
- 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.

Other Sixth/Seventh Grade Reminders:

- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date TBD
- Participate in Middle School Youth Group Activities.

Eighth Grade Class

Overview:

Eighth grade is a pivotal year in Jewish education. Many students have just completed an intense year of בָּר (bar) or בֵּית מִצְוָה (bat mitz'vah) training. At their coming-of-age ceremonies, children become part of the adult Jewish community. This year, your students will study three key concepts that shape Jewish life today: the Jewish diaspora, the Holocaust, and the State of Israel. An understanding of all three of these topics is crucial as students become knowledgeable Jewish adults. Since we in the United States are a diaspora Jewish community, understanding what Jewish peoplehood means to a group spread all around the world is important. Because the Holocaust played a pivotal and devastating role in our collective history, engaging with it is similarly crucial. Finally, because Israel is the only Jewish state in the entire world, a comprehension of its history, politics, and culture is essential.

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

- Jewish communities can be found all over 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.

Eighth Grade Student-Led Expectations:

- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Sign-up to participate in two Shabbat Services, one of which should be a Traditional Shabbat Service where you provide the Torah Commentary for that service.
- Work with Rabbi Wirtschafter on your participation in the services you sign up for.
- Participate in Youth Group Activities.

High School Class

Overview:

Our High School Class will be led by Rabbi Wirtschafter and a series of visiting teachers who will share their expertise with our students. Rabbi Wirtschafter will lead students in Torah Study for the first hour of Religious School. The units covered in the second hour will range from Jewish Humor and Film, Comparative Religion, Jewish Philosophy, and more...

High School Grade Student-Led Expectations:

- Participate in your class' Tzedakah project.
- Sign-up to participate in two Shabbat Services, one of which should be a Traditional Shabbat Service where you provide the Torah Commentary for that service.
- Work with Rabbi Wirtschafter on your participation in the services you sign up for.
- Participate in Youth Group Activities.

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, Darlene Grossman.

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, and 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

Sh'ma
Birchot
HaShabbat
Kiddush

Grade 4

Bar'Chu
V'ahavta
Avot v'Imahot

Grade 5

G'vurot
K'dushah
Kaddish

Grade 6

Birchot HaTorah
Birchot
HaHaftarah
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 8th-10th 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 at a time TBD. The group will participate in 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.