



Temple Adath Israel PARENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024

5784

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Shalom,

Welcome to our 5784 school year! I 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). The school's focus is to educate our students in Torah so that they understand the Hebrew Bible, Jewish texts, and rabbinic thought. It is important for our students to gain knowledge of worship and prayer so that they understand the meaning and history of prayer and worship. Students will learn about and participate in acts of loving kindness towards our entire community. Finally, our students will 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), the curriculum is enriched with additional classes in Art, Music, Cooking, Guest Storytellers, Garden and Rabbi Time. This year, our students will gather for a monthly assembly where they will get the opportunity to all join in prayer and discuss the latest happenings. We look forward to a year of celebrating together as a congregation, from lifecycle events such as Bar and Bat Mitzvah and Consecration 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 during the school year. Best wishes for a sweet and successful year.

Elissa Weinstein
TAI Religious School Director

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Religious School Director	Elissa Weinstein	859-619-5707	elissa@lentai.org
Temple Tots	Laura Schachman		
PreK	Jessalin Archer		
Kindergarten	Jamie Schencker		
1 st Grade	Faith McBride-Byrne		
2 nd Grade	Wexler Yelowitz		
2 nd Grade Hebrew	Diane Arnson Svarlien		
4 th Grade	Jordan Brennan		
5 th /6 th Grade	Dan Isenstein		
5 th /6 th Grade Hebrew	Diane Arnson Svarlien		
7 th /8 th	Mark Schachman		
9 th /10 th Grades	Rabbi Wirtschafter, Visiting Teachers		
Art	Abigail Miller		
Garden	Jo Stone		
Cooking	Laura Schachman		
Guest Storytelling	Visiting Guests		
Music	Gabe Robitaille		
Madrichim	Amanda Palley		
	Raya Isenstein		
	Danit Schachman		
Youth Ed. Chair	Debbie Masters		

5784 JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Rosh Hashanah	SEP 15 – 17 2023
Yom Kippur	SEP 24 – 25 2023
Sukkot	SEP 29 – OCT 6 2023
Simchat Torah	OCT 6 – 7 2023
Hanukkah	DEC 7 – 15 2023
Tu BiShvat	JAN 24 – 25 2024
Purim	MAR 23 – 24 2024
Passover	APR 22 – 29 2024
Yom HaShoah	MAY 5 – 6 2024
Yom HaZikaron/Yom HaAtzmaut	MAY 12 – 14 2024
Lag BaOmer	MAY 25 – 26 2024
Shavuot	JUN 11 – 12 2024
Tishah B'Av	AUG 12 – 13 2024
Selichot	SEP 28 2024

**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 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM on Sundays. After hours, parents may leave messages with the Temple office. Elissa Weinstein is available to meet with parents by appointment. Elissa'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 \$265 per child for TAI members; \$465 for non-members. Non-members may enroll their student(s) in Religious School for one year before needing to become TAI members. There are two tuition credits (\$150 total) offered to every student enrolled in Religious School (member or not). These generous credits are made possible by the Marty Solomon Fund for Jewish Youth Experiences (\$50) and the Rosenstein Family Fund for Education (\$100).

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Religious School begins at 9:30 am. Religious school ends at 12:00 pm. No student may be dismissed early without permission from the parent. Please use the Temple door by the office to enter and 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.

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. 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

Snacks will be served on an as needed basis.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If the 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.

COVID POLICIES

Temple Adath Israel Religious School will follow Fayette County Public School COVID policies. Masks are optional for all students, teachers, and guests in the Religious School. Parents should notify the Director as soon as possible if their child tests positive for COVID. Upon notification, the Director notify the teacher and families. Policies are subject to change.

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

תַּנַּ"ךְ (Tanakh, Torah, Prophets, and Writings/Hebrew Bible): Students will gain literacy and understanding of the various stories and commandments contained in the תַּנַּ"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.

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 school wide Tzedakah Project.
- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.

Kindergarten Class

Overview:

The Kindergarten portion of the ISJL Curriculum focuses primarily on Jewish Holidays and מצוות (mitzvot, commandments). The curriculum illuminates how מצוות (mitzvot) play a role in daily life and continues to build the knowledge of Jewish holidays established previously. Using the two main content areas as a backdrop, the lessons touch on the concept of God as well.

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

- מצוות (mitzvot) 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 Kindergarten Reminders:

- Participate in school wide Tzedakah Project.
- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date: April 2024

First Grade Class

Overview:

The First-Grade portion of the ISJL Curriculum focuses primarily on Jewish Holidays and מצוות (mitzvot, commandments). The curriculum illuminates how מצוות (mitzvot) play a role in daily life and continues to build the knowledge of Jewish holidays established in kindergarten. Using the two main content areas as a backdrop, the lessons touch on the concept of God as well. The activities are designed to be developmentally appropriate, enabling the students to begin recalling information about the content they learned. Most lessons use Let's Discover Mitzvot and Let's Discover the Holidays four-page folders.

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

- God gives direction on how to live a meaningful Jewish life through mitzvot, commandments).
- Each Jewish holiday has special customs and rituals to help people celebrate.
- Hebrew is a language made of special characters.

Other First Grade Reminders:

- Participate in school wide Tzedakah Project.
- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date: March 2024

Second Grade Class

Overview:

The Second Grade ISJL Curriculum spiral focuses primarily on values, Israel, life cycle, and holidays. The values content focuses on elements of kindness and is the opening “unit” of content. The curriculum connects students to Israel by teaching about its people, places, and traditions. Students explore life cycle events from birth through death, and how these rituals can build a meaningful Jewish life. Students also review Jewish holidays as they would approximately occur in a calendar year (they can be moved as required). We designed the activities to be developmentally appropriate, enabling students to recall information about the content they learned in previous grades.

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

- Judaism gives us many values by which to practice kindness and live our lives.
- Meaningful Jewish rituals enhance each part of the Jewish life cycle.
- Israel is a special country for the Jewish people with its own customs, history, and places.
- Hebrew is a language made of special characters that we can use to read, write, and pray.
- Jewish holidays mark the passage of time in interesting and unique ways.

Other Second Grade Reminders

- Participate in school wide Tzedakah project.
- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date: February 2024

Fourth Grade Class

Overview:

As students continue to develop and grow in their Judaism, students will be guided to think critically about concepts including 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. Holidays will be studied to build on knowledge from previous years with

increased sophistication, as students learn the history of different Jewish holidays and the values holidays express.

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 school wide Tzedakah project.
- Attend as many monthly Family Services as possible throughout the year.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date: January 2024

Fifth and Sixth Grade Class

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 mitzvah, 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 Fifth and Sixth-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 (mitzvot) 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 Fifth and Sixth Grade Reminders:

- Participate in school wide Tzedakah project.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date: December 2023
- Participate in Middle School Youth Group Activities.

- Fifth and Sixth Grade Parents: Attend B'nai Mitzvah Preparation Meeting and select Bar or Bat Mitzvah date.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Class

Overview:

The seventh grade and eighth grade curriculum challenges religious school classes to connect the stories of the תנ"ך (*TaNaKh*, Torah, Prophets, and Writings/Hebrew Bible) with the world we live in and issues that we face. As recent, or soon-to-be, בְּנֵי מִצְוָה (*b'nei mitz'vah*) the children will take on responsibilities that require them to understand the Jewish value of social justice. The goal of this curriculum is to connect the teachings of Judaism from the Hebrew נְבִיאִים (*Nevi'im*, Prophets), שופְטִים (*shof'tim*, Judges), כְּתוּבִים (*Ketuvim*, Writings) with social justice themes that are relevant today. This curriculum gives students the tools to critically engage with social justice issues. The students will also study 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 and 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 Writings contain a variety of wisdom literature.
- 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 tragic event in world history.
- The world has a responsibility to remember what happened in the Holocaust to make sure that something similar does not happen again.
- Every Jew should have knowledge of the modern State of Israel.
- The State of Israel is a complex place, home to lots of different kinds of people, cultures, and beliefs.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Student-Led Expectations:

- Participate in school wide Tzedakah project.
- Save the date for your Family Service. Date: November 2023
- Participate in Middle School Youth Group Activities.

Ninth and Tenth Grade Class

Overview:

Our Ninth and Tenth Grade 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. The units covered in the second hour will vary.

Ninth and Tenth Grade Student-Led Expectations:

- Participate in school wide Tzedakah project.
- Sign-up to provide the Torah Commentary for one Shabbat Service.
- Participate in High School Youth Group Activities.

SPECIAL CLASSES (Sha'at Tarbut)

Each Sunday, our classes rotate through our Cooking, Art, Garden, Music, and Rabbi Time enrichment programs on a regular basis. Our older students will have limited rotations through those enrichments as well. Our younger classes also will be visited by guest storytellers periodically throughout the year.

Cooking

In our cooking program, students explore different types of Jewish cuisine. They will also learn how Jewish concepts can be incorporated into everyday cooking and baking.

Art

In our art program, students explore Jewish themes through a variety of art media such as clay, painting, chalk, and textiles.

Garden

Throughout the year, students are exposed to the connection between Jewish Values and our environment by working in the Temple Garden.

Music

Throughout the year, students are exposed to different melodies of prayers as well as learning about the connection between Judaism and music.

HEBREW CURRICULUM

45 minutes - 1 hour 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 PreK 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. To do so, teachers will be using a wide variety of sources, including portions of the ISJL recommended curriculum.

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.

TZEDAKAH AND G'MILUT CHASADIM

Throughout the school year, all students are educated to understand the importance of giving items or money to others "tzedakah" and performing acts of loving kindness "g'milut chasadim." Religious School collects items for donation each week in the classes for donation to worthy causes.