

TEMPLE BETH-EL SLAVIN-MALKIN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Education Handbook and Curriculum Overview



Temple Beth-El
3610 Dundee Rd.
Northbrook, IL 60062

Educational Philosophy

The Jewish sages teach us that “the world stands on three things--Torah, Avodah and G’milut Chasadim” (*Pirke: Avot-Ethics of the Fathers 1:2*). These pursuits—study, worship and deeds of loving kindness---provide the framework in which Jews build relationship with God and each other.

The Temple Beth-El Slavin-Malkin School strives to provide our students with the best possible Jewish education, consisting of a strong foundation of Jewish knowledge.

Temple Beth-El is not only an academic program, but also involves Shabbat and holiday worship, experiential learning, art, music, and family involvement. Parents are vital partners and foster an environment in which Jewish education and practices are valued.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

KEHILLAH (community)

It is said that when two people sit together and engage in Torah, the Divine Presence rests among them. (Pirke Avot 3:3). At Temple Beth-El, we consider creating bonds among our students (and their families) to be chief among our goals. We believe that Judaism is best lived in community. When students feel connected to their peers, it is more likely that they develop a lifelong commitment to Jewish life.

KESHER (connection)

Our teachers measure their success by the relationships they build. Our teachers value each individual and celebrate their successes in and out of the classroom. They delight in watching their students from grade school become bar or bat mitzvah or graduate from our high school program.

TALMUD TORAH (Jewish study)

Our tradition teaches that it's not beliefs but actions which lie at the core of Jewish practice, and that we get to action through study. Our educational program, focused on both Judaic literacy and Hebrew acquisition, prepares each student to be a contributor to the local and global world.

LASHON KODESH (holy language)

Hebrew, as it is taught at Temple Beth-El, serves as the language of prayer (*lashon kodesh*) and the language of the Torah. The Hebrew language unites us with Israel and the entire Jewish people. The curriculum focuses on teaching prayers and basic speech patterns.

B'TZELEM ELOHIM (image of God)

Every person is created in the image of God and has immeasurable worth. We believe that each child has the right to learn in a nurturing and secure environment.

TZEDAKAH (righteous acts)

Although many interpret "*tzedakah*" as charity, it translates to righteous acts. Students are encouraged to think of others by contributing money, food, clothing, their time, etc. and adopting projects during the year.

TIKKUN OLAM (repairing the world)

We see ourselves as God's partners in making the world a better place. Learning about the earth, pursuing social justice, and caring for the disadvantaged are just a few of the principles we are obligated to perform.

MEDINAT YISRAEL (State of Israel)

We celebrate the miracle of the founding and flourishing of the State of Israel through lessons in history, geography and current events.

MISHPACHAH (family)

The commitment of the family is imperative to our school's goals and principles. Adult participation in Jewish life will strengthen the bonds between parent and child as well as between the child and the Jewish community.

MIDDOT (Jewish values)

Patience, humility, honesty, diligence: These are just some of the positive character traits we learn from our rich tradition and model for our students.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

SUNDAY

Kindergarten – 5th Grade

9:00 – 11:30 am

Teen Limud

9th – 12th Grade

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

MONDAY

Gesher 6th – 7th Grade

4:00 – 6:30 pm

Gesher 8th Grade

4:00 – 5:30 pm

TUESDAY

3rd – 5th Grade

4:00 – 6:00 pm

School Year Office Hours

Sunday	8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Monday	10:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Friday	9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Summer Office Hours

Monday-Thursday	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am – 3:00 pm

The Temple office is closed on Jewish and legal holidays.

Phone calls are always welcome and will be returned as promptly as possible.

If you wish to contact the school office at any other time, please leave a message in voice mail or email:

Mandy Farb, Director of Lifelong Learning

Email: mfarb@templebeth-el.org 847.205.9982 ext. 212

Wendy Lake, Program Administrator

Email: wlake@templebeth-el.org 847.205.9982 ext. 208

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Enrollment Policy

In accordance with the policies set forth by the Temple Board of Directors, enrollment in the Slavin-Malkin Religious School is open only to Jewish children* of Temple Beth-El members. Our school is open to students in kindergarten thru 12th grade of varying abilities.

*We adhere to the Reform Movement's definition of a Jewish child, namely, a child who has at least one Jewish parent and who is being raised only as a Jew. While we respect the challenges interfaith parents face, we believe it is only possible to instill in our children a meaningful religious identity when they are raised in one religious tradition. Our clergy would be happy to speak to you further about this policy and how it may affect your family.

Registration

Children must be registered to attend school. Registration is done online. A student is not placed in a class until full payment is received or alternate arrangements have been made with our accounting department. Be sure to carefully read and understand the information in the Parental Consent Form (see page 5).

Classroom assignments and school packets are available for pick-up at the Temple in late August or early September.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition is established by the Budget and Finance Committee. Tuition includes general education materials, textbooks, art supplies, field trips, family partnerships, and special events programming. Additional copies of textbooks may be purchased for \$25. All membership obligations and school tuition must be paid at the time of school registration. Financial consideration may be discussed by contacting the Executive Director at 847.205.9982 ext. 211.

Additional fees will be requested for specific purposes such as Shabbat and holiday dinners, b'nai mitzvah fees during the b'nai mitzvah year, lost or misplaced textbooks and library books.

Student Accommodations for Students with Identified Special Needs

To meet the needs of students with special needs, it is important for parents to notify us so we can work together to provide the child with a positive learning experience. A Student Accommodation form should be filled out completely including learning disabilities, medical issues and allergies, as well as any home issues that may impact learning, if applicable.

Children with identified special needs may be placed in a classroom with a smaller teacher to student ratio and differing approaches to language acquisition during the course of the regular school day. One of the goals of our school is to provide all students with the opportunity to receive their education within the confines of the school. We will make every effort to provide and make accommodations to meet the needs of all our students.

Parental Consent Form

I have read and agreed to the following:

Medical Release

In case of a medical emergency requiring immediate care, I authorize Temple Beth-El (TBE) to transport, or to call paramedics to transport, my child to the nearest medical facility for emergency treatment in the event that such treatment is required and I cannot be reached. In the event that emergency medical treatment is required and I cannot be reached, I authorize such decision to administer the treatment to the medical caregiver in consultation with authorized TBE personnel.

The cost of first-aid care performed on the premises, and not requiring a physician (such as cuts and bruises, etc.) are covered by the religious school fees. The costs of all other medical care and associated services are the financial responsibility of the student's parent/guardian.

Video, Audio and Photography Release

I grant permission to TBE to use the image, video and audio of my child in any form of media and/or presentation of educational activities and to reproduce and use such images in any of its advertising, publications, websites and social media pages such as the TBE Facebook pages and twitter accounts unless otherwise notified in writing by the parent/guardian. I understand my child's name will not be published.

Assumption of Risk

I release TBE, its officers, agents and employees from all liability for injuries, illness or personal property damage resulting from my child's participation in religious school, youth programs and field trips, and agree not to make any claim or demand against them for any or all losses or damages to student's person or property.

Allergy Conflicts

TBE strives to be nut aware. Students may not bring snacks to school on Sunday mornings (unless medically necessary). If a child brings a snack from home on Monday or Tuesday afternoon, we ask that it contain no nuts or nut products. If your child has eaten nuts or nut products prior to arriving, we ask that they wash their hands with soap. Children will be permitted (at the discretion of the teacher) to eat school provided nut-free snacks in the classroom, but food from home may not be brought into the classroom. If your child does have a food allergy you MUST fill out a FARE (Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan) to have on file (available in the school office).

Fees

Once enrolled, I understand that TBE is unable to adjust or refund education program fees; I/we are responsible for the entire year's tuition.

(Print child's name)

(Signature of parent or guardian)

(Date)

ATTENDANCE AND COMPORIMENT

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for students to become engaged in the community of Temple Beth-El.

Absences

If your child needs to miss a class, please email your child's teacher to let them know your child will not be in attendance.

If a child has eight (8) or more absences per year, make-up work may be assigned. The completed assignment is due prior to the first day of school in September. In the case where a child falls behind in Hebrew studies due to excessive absence, we may ask a family to engage a tutor, at their own expense, to bring a child up to date on any material she/he may have missed. (A list of approved tutors is available in the school office.)

Tardiness

School begins promptly, and we ask you to make every effort to be punctual. If your child arrives late, please instruct him or her to enter class quietly and to quickly take his place. If your child is habitually late, he or she will miss important class material.

Leaving Early

If a child must leave early, the **parent must sign the child out**, get an "Early Dismissal Form" in the main office, and pick the child up at their classroom. Teachers will not permit children to leave the school with any unidentified person or non-custodial parent without prior notification. In addition, **students will NOT be permitted to meet a parent outside the building.**

Attire

Students should dress in a manner that reflects self-respect and respect for the synagogue. Clothing with inappropriate language or images on it is not to be worn at TBE.

Discipline

An orderly classroom is a necessity for learning. Children may not be disruptive, rude or physically abusive. If a child behaves in any of these ways, he or she will be removed from class and the parents will be called.

In case of extensive misbehavior, a parent will be notified and asked to attend classes with the child until such time as the behavior has been mitigated. If such behavior continues, temporary suspension may be necessary. A conference with the student, parents, and the Director of Lifelong Learning will be scheduled, and guidelines for expected appropriate behavior will be established in order for a student to return to school. If a child is a danger to him/herself and/or others, the child will be expelled from school.

Use of Cell Phones, Ipods, etc. During School Hours

Students are **NOT ALLOWED** to use electronic devices in the classroom or sanctuary, unless instructed by their teacher. Please encourage your child to leave these items at home or turn them off when entering the classroom. If a child does bring such items to school, they may be collected at the beginning of class time and returned at the end of the day at the discretion of the teacher.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Communication

We will communicate with parents during the school year in two primary ways:

- Each month parents will receive our “School Happenings” via email. “School Happenings” will include information on school events, family partnership and field trips. **Please read everything carefully, make note of important dates, and RSVP on a timely basis.**
- Teachers will send an email periodically which includes a summary of class material covered and a preview of what will happen in the coming week. If there is an assignment or a special event, this email will serve as a reminder.

Of course, you are always free to be in touch with us:

Mandy Farb: (847) 205-9982 x212 mfarb@templebeth-el.org

Wendy Lake: (847) 205-9982 x208 wlake@templebeth-el.org

Children’s Library

The Children’s Library is a wonderful place for children to find Jewish books and material. Children may borrow books for up to a two-week period. The library is open when the building is open. Books must be returned to the library in a timely manner and by the end of each school year.

Emergency and Safety

In the event of an emergency during school, we will contact you immediately. If you are unreachable, we will try the emergency number you entered in our database. Please be sure all emergency information is up to date and accurate. If immediate medical attention is needed, 911 will be called. In the case that further medical attention is necessary, the student will be taken to Glenbrook Hospital accompanied by a staff member.

Snow Closing

In case of inclement weather, school will be closed whenever Northbrook schools are closed. An email will be sent and we encourage you to listen to WBBM or WGN - AM radio or the local news stations for school closings. We are also part of the Emergency Closing Center; information on school closing can be found at: www.emergencyclosingcenter.com.

Progress Reports

Progress reports are mailed to parents at the end of each semester.

Homework

Homework will be assigned weekly as part of the Hebrew curriculum for 4th thru 6th grade. Other classes may have homework from time to time as it enhances class learning. Homework is an important part of the instructional program and requires cooperation between home and school.

Classroom Visits

Visits are welcome with **advance notice** to Wendy Lake.

Lost and Found

The lost and found basket is located in the school hallway. At the end of each school year, all unclaimed items will be donated.

NUT POLICY

1. Temple Beth-El strives to be nut aware.
 - a. Any school sponsored event or activity will be nut-free (no peanuts, tree nuts, or products containing these ingredients), to the best of our ability.
 - b. When possible, we will purchase and encourage food “manufactured in a nut-free facility” but do not think we can meet this standard at all times.

2. Medical Disclosure
 - a. Parents are asked to complete a medical form for each child disclosing any allergies.
 - b. If a child has an Epi-pen on their person or stored in their classroom, parents must complete an additional form authorizing staff to use this device in the case of a medical emergency.

3. School Programming
 - a. Food for educational and celebratory purposes:
 - i. must be pre-approved by the Director of Lifelong Learning
 - ii. must be pre-packaged (not homemade), must contain a list of ingredients and be nut-free OR must be cooked on-site with a pre-approved list of ingredients
 - b. Student snacks
 - i. Snacks are not allowed in the classrooms on Sunday mornings (unless medically necessary).
 - ii. If a child brings a snack from home on Monday or Tuesday afternoon, we ask that it contain no nuts or nut products.
 - iii. Children will be permitted (at the discretion of the teacher) to eat the school provided snack in the classroom, but may not bring food from home into the classroom.
 - c. Student-led, food-centered fundraisers
In the event that food is sold, such as a bake sale, the students or teacher involved will be instructed to provide at least one nut-safe treat (not homemade) to be sold at a separate table.
 - d. Parent communication
Any time food is available as part of the day during lessons, holiday or birthday celebrations, bake sales, etc., parents will be notified in advance by the classroom teacher or Director of Lifelong Learning.

4. Shabbat Dinners and Onegs
 - a. Family members will be asked to provide side dishes and desserts as has been our custom, with the request that all items be nut-free.
 - b. There will be a labeled “nut-free” serving table at the oneg.
 - c. Any food brought by family members containing nuts, that we are aware of, will not be served.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Consecration

Newly enrolled students in kindergarten through third grade are consecrated in an age-old ceremony to welcome new learners. At Temple Beth-El, consecration is held on or near Simchat Torah. Consecration students receive a special mini Torah and consecration certificate. A consecration photograph will be taken and given to each child.

Siddur Ceremony

Children begin their formal Hebrew education in 3rd grade. By the end of the school year the students have gained the ability to read and pray. Parents help design a bookplate to be placed in the Siddur (prayer book), and present it to their child during a Family Service in their honor.

Family Partnerships

From Kindergarten through 6th grade, families are invited to attend educational programs with their children between one and three times each year.

S.K.I.P.: Send A Kid To Israel Partnership

Temple Beth-El, in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, participates in a program that can make a trip to Israel an integral part of the education of students enrolled in the school. Beginning in 3rd grade, each participating student's family contributes \$125 per student, the Temple contributes \$50, and the Federation adds \$85 annually. The money is invested in an interest-bearing account through the completion of ninth grade. At the end of the program, students can use the funds toward any one of a number of Israel Experiences offered through the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

GET INVOLVED

TBE Youth Groups: KoBE, JoBE and YoBE

Youth activities are planned throughout the year. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and have social interaction with students in the Temple. For more information, contact Helen Melnick (hmm123456@aol.com).

Education Committee

The Education Committee formulates the principles and policies of the Slavin-Malkin School, adult education, and the libraries. If you are interested in becoming a part of this committee, please contact the V.P. of Education, Amy Huck 847.691.4967 amyhuck34@gmail.com

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed throughout the year to assist the teachers and staff in various class and synagogue activities, including holiday observances and field trips. ***The success of our school depends on your involvement and support.***

B'NAI MITZVAH

At Temple Beth-El, we see Bar and Bat Mitzvah, not as an end-point or culmination of Jewish education, but as an affirmation. The period of intense study leading up to the celebration allows a student to affirm all that he or she has learned to that point; the worship service allows the student's Jewish community to affirm his or her place as a contributing member.

Requirements

The following standards for b'nai mitzvah are set forth by the clergy, Education Committee, and the B'nai Mitzvah Committee. All those wishing to become a bar or bat mitzvah at Temple Beth-El must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Students will complete a *minimum* of five years of study at the Temple Beth-El Slavin-Malkin School. This means the child will enroll in school at Temple Beth-El in the third grade.

The exceptions to this policy are as follows:

- A. Students enrolled full-time in a Jewish day school recognized as acceptable by the Temple Beth-El clergy.
 - B. Students who have been identified as requiring specialized services or have special needs requiring an individualized study program shall be tutored by Temple Beth-El approved tutors at the family's expense, in lieu of attending class, as the situation requires.
 - C. Those students joining our congregation from another congregation will be evaluated, and in some instances may need to be tutored by a Temple Beth-El tutor at the family's expense in order to obtain grade level.
2. Maintain standards in Judaic and Hebrew studies related to studies, attitude, attendance, and knowledge.
 3. Attend religious school through the seventh grade.
 4. Successfully complete the b'nai mitzvah tutoring process with an approved b'nai mitzvah tutor.

Assignment of Dates

B'nai mitzvah dates are assigned by the Temple in May of a child's 4th grade year. They are based on a number of factors including: the student's birth date and Hebrew ability, the secular school they attend and the Temple calendar. If a student enters our school after their 4th grade year, they will be given a date at the time of their enrollment.

Additional Information

Informational meetings for sixth grade families are held every six months, usually in June and December. These meetings cover topics such as: the tutoring process, pictures, kiddush options, honors, meetings with the clergy, etc. Parents will be invited to a meeting 9-15 months before their child becomes bar or bat mitzvah.

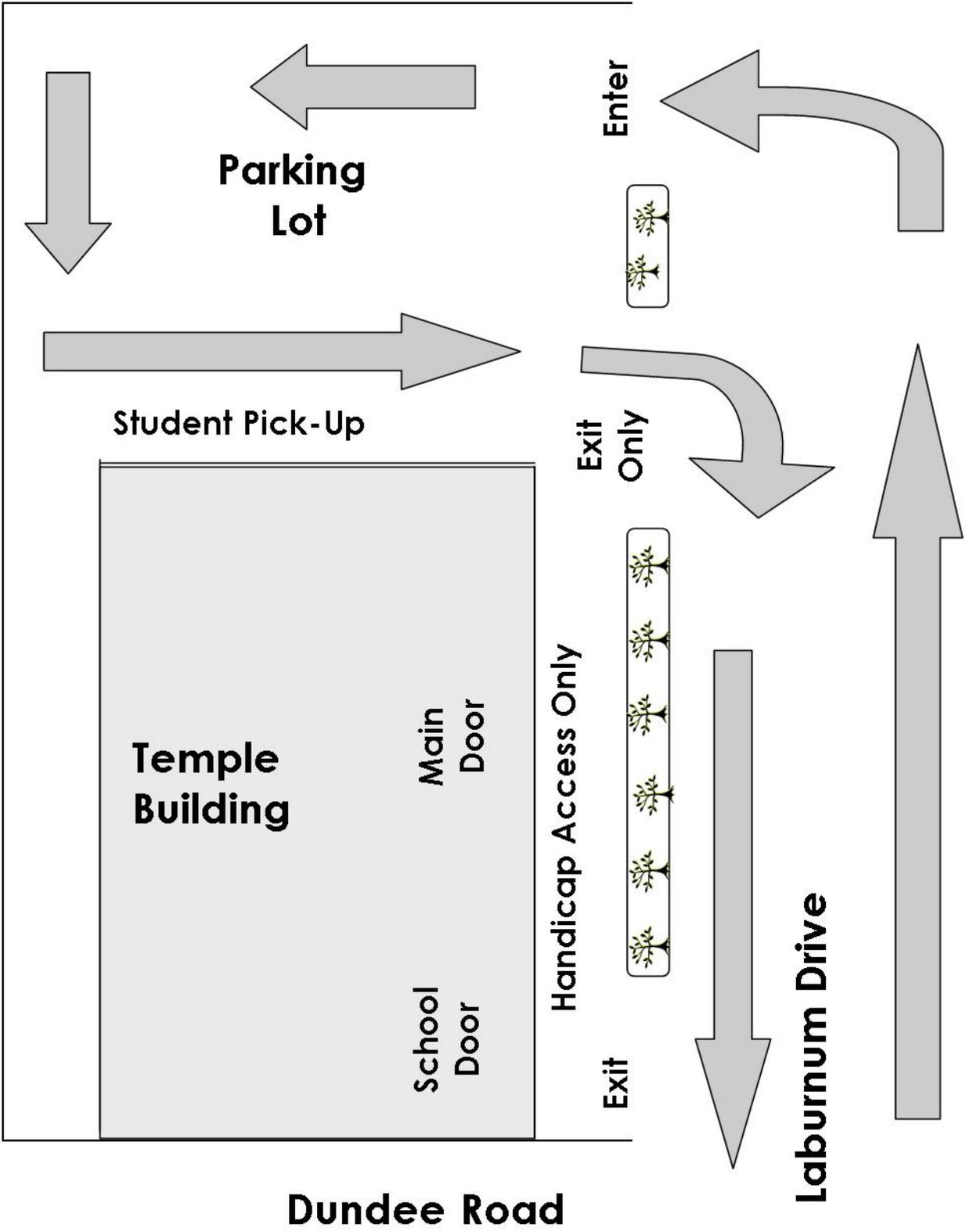
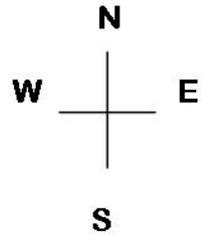
PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF PROTOCOL

We need your support to keep our children safe. Please cooperate with the security guard and police directing traffic. Be patient and respectful to everyone in the parking lot.

- Comply with the ENTRANCE and EXIT signs.
- Follow the traffic pattern as shown on the map (page 11).
- **ABSOLUTELY No PARKING** anywhere along Laburnum Drive or the side street leading into our neighboring townhome complex, Burr Oak. The convenience to a few people obstructs others and ultimately impacts effective traffic flow.
- Do not block the turning lane.
- Do not leave your car unattended in the pick-up lane; you must park in a designated space.
- During the winter months, leave your lights on while in line.
- Keep your children with you at all times.
- Do not allow children to run ahead or to cross the parking lot or street.
- **PLEASE STAY OFF YOUR CELL PHONE WHILE IN THE PICK-UP LINE SO YOU ARE ABLE TO FULLY CONCENTRATE AND HELP SECURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY.**
- Turn off your car motors while you wait in line. Be good to our environment.
- Of course, you are always welcome to turn off your car and come inside for a cup of coffee and conversation with friends ☺. If you have young children and are parking to come inside to get them, they will continue to be watched over until you are able to get into the building.



PLEASE NOTE - The front of the school has been designated as handicapped parking. We want our Temple and school to be easily accessible to all students and members of our congregation.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Temple Beth-El believes children must be equipped with the knowledge of the Hebrew language, which is indispensable for a full appreciation of the *spirit* of the Jewish people and Israel. Our curriculum enables students to:

- Develop familiarity with the sound of the Hebrew language through listening, speaking, singing and decoding
- Recognize that Hebrew is the language of prayer and the Bible, and is therefore, a holy language
- Recognize that Hebrew is also a living language spoken every day in the land of Israel
- Develop the ability to decode Hebrew accurately
- Develop a basic sight word vocabulary of words used most commonly in Shabbat and holiday worship
- Develop an understanding of the connection between the knowledge gained in Hebrew studies and the application of that knowledge, not only for b'nai mitzvah, but for a lifetime as a Jewish adult
- Participate proficiently and comfortably in a synagogue setting

Grade Level Curriculum Goals

Kindergarten We welcome our kindergartners into the school by giving them a ta'am (taste) of all the excitement and joy that Judaism has to offer. The curriculum introduces young children to Jewish holidays, the synagogue, concepts of our relationship with God, and the whys, whens and hows of Shabbat. Kindergarten students are also exposed to Jewish prayer and the Hebrew Alef-Bet throughout the year.

First Grade Our first graders continue to learn about Jewish holidays—adding the element of Jewish time - and synagogue life. In addition, they focus on what makes them and their families Jewish, through an exploration of “My Jewish Home.” First grade students are also exposed to Jewish prayer and the Hebrew Alef-Bet throughout the year.

Second Grade The study of the Jewish Bible and the study of Jewish values go together. *The Bible from Alef to Tav* introduces one Hebrew letter per chapter, teaches words that begin with the letter, and weaves all the words together into biblical stories with illustrations to make the Bible come alive.

Third Grade Students explore “K'dushah” [holiness] and apply that understanding to how ritual objects, symbols, prayer and our behaviors can make moments and places special, holy and bring us closer to God. They learn to act, and treat others, in a holy manner through a study of ethics. In the third grade year, after a number of years of exposure to the Hebrew alphabet, students learn to read. In addition to decoding skills, the students become proficient in the *sh'ma*, the Shabbat table blessings, and the Four Questions. To enhance their study of the Shabbat blessings, students create a “Shabbat Box” filled with all of the ritual objects one needs to celebrate a festive meal. Students will also spend time learning about their Hebrew names in preparation for receiving a personalized siddur.

Hebrew Goals and Objectives

- Know the Hebrew alphabet and vowels - Orally and in block writing
- Know Shabbat and holiday blessings
- Know the Four Questions
- Be able to recite the *sh'ma* and *barchu*
- Be able to follow along in a basic prayer service
- Know their Hebrew names

Fourth Grade The fourth grade curriculum focuses on the land and people of Israel. Students will have an opportunity to learn about the geography of the land of Israel, its founding, the people who inhabit it, its political system, and how they, as American Jews, are connected to the country and its people. As the Jewish State is known for welcoming Jews of all walks, fourth graders focus the last quarter of their school year on world Jewry.

Hebrew Goals and Objectives

- Review the Alef-Bet
- Obtain fluency in decoding skills
- Be able to follow along in a basic prayer service
- Read and/or chant prayers and blessings including: Barchu, Ma'ariv Aravim, Yotzer Or, Sh'ma, V'ahavta, Mi Chamocha, Shabbat Table Blessings, Four Questions, Kiddush, Birkat Hamazon

Fifth Grade The fifth grade students focus on the Jewish life cycle. They learn about Jewish rituals surrounding birth and adoption, Jewish learning (consecration, b'nai mitzvah, confirmation), marriage and divorce, aging and illness, and death. Included in this curriculum is a mock wedding hosted by the fifth grade class, and a field trip to a local funeral home. Fifth graders are also asked to partake in acts of loving kindness, linking activities to each subject area they study.

Hebrew Goals and Objectives

- Recognition and utilization of Hebrew vocabulary and Jewish concept words
- Read and/or chant prayers and blessings including: Avot V'Imahot, G'vurot, Kedusha, Hoda'ah, Birkat Shalom, Oseh Shalom, L'cha Dodi, V'shamru, Shalom Aleichem.
- Recognize key words and word roots and be able to understand and interpret the blessings and prayers
- Participate fully in congregational worship service

Gesher - Sixth Grade

The sixth grade Judaic curriculum focuses on Jewish heroes. Through this study, students learn about Jewish history, important figures in Jewish life, and the many characteristics of strong Jewish leaders. As this is the penultimate year before b'nai mitzvah for many, the curriculum also offers many opportunities for the students to reflect on and take ownership of their own Jewish experience, through writing about and presenting on such topics as: a meaningful worship experience and a Jewish book or movie that resonated with them.

The Hebrew curriculum centers around the Torah service. Students also learn the cantillation or trope, the system of musical notation for reading Torah and *haftarah*.

Hebrew Goals and Objectives

- Recognition and utilization of Hebrew vocabulary and Jewish concepts
- Read and/or chant the prayers and blessings
- Participate and lead congregational worship service
- Be able to recite prayers and blessings, including: Torah Service, Torah Blessings, Haftarah Blessings, Aleinu, Kaddish.
- Master Torah trope

Gesher – Seventh Grade

In the seventh grade year, we give our students the tools to interpret Jewish texts on their own. We ask them not only to learn the mechanics of reading Jewish text but to challenge their assumptions about what Judaism has to say on a variety of subjects. The texts for these classes center around challenging stories in the Torah (1st semester) and the Talmud (2nd semester). Additionally, though seventh grade students do not receive formal Hebrew instruction, they participate in prayer services, often leading them – or reading Torah – in advance of becoming bar or bat mitzvah.

Gesher - Eighth Grade

The eighth graders are now prepared to explore the larger issues facing the Jewish world. Each segment of the curriculum brings the concerns that we need to engage in as responsible members of the Jewish community. As eighth graders in the schools surrounding Temple Beth-El are taught the Holocaust in their secular school classrooms, we include a unit from the nationally known *Facing History and Ourselves* that explores not only the Jewish experience, but oppression and bullying on a level specifically suited to middle school children. As the majority of students in the eighth grade participate in *Ta'am Yisrael*, an eight day trip to Israel, the curriculum also includes an introduction to Israeli culture and the modern Israeli political system. After a year of attending b'nai mitzvah, we delve into the curriculum provided by Sacred Relationships, meant to challenge students to think about how they relate to their own bodies, and maintain healthy relationships with both friends and potential romantic interests. In this year, after so much of their involvement has been dictated by the structure of the bar and bat mitzvah process, students participate in a class *tikkun olam* project of their own devising.

Teen Limud

Nilmad! Let's Learn! Our high school experience has been developed to provide our teens with an in depth learning experience at the high level that they deserve. During the first semester they will learn important leadership skills. In the second semester they will confront relevant local and world issues while implementing their leadership skills in order to lead their peers in exploring these issues through a Jewish lens. Throughout the course of the entire year teens will use the skills they are acquiring to initiate and spearhead Impact Projects that will address real needs in our community. These projects will be completely managed by the teens and will be a reflection of each teen's individual passions.