

TEMPLE BNAI ISRAEL
Religious School

Parent –Teacher Handbook
5769 – 5770

Temple Bnai Israel
101 West Earl Ave.
Easton, Maryland 21601
410-822-0553

TEMPLE BNAI ISRAEL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Religious School program at Temple B'nai Israel is to educate our children in the traditions, rituals, practices, language, history, beliefs and values of our Jewish faith. Committed to the sacred concept of Talmud Torah we seek to instill within our students a desire for Jewish knowledge, a love of Torah, a deep connection to God and prayer. Our goal in the Religious School is to inspire in our students a deep sense of Jewish spirituality and engender in them a sense of Jewish inquisitiveness that makes them life long learners. Our students participate on our *bemah* and in all aspects of religious life at Temple B'nai Israel.

Committed to the foundational elements of God, Torah, Israel and *mitzvot* as understood and practiced by Reform Judaism, our students prepare for Bar and Bat Mitzvah with an eye to future leadership within the Temple and Jewish community. Students work with our Rabbi and a team of knowledgeable and dedicated educators, who serve as mentors as well as role models.

Our dedicated and talented faculty creates a positive and encouraging atmosphere for our students to learn about Jewish life and Jewish living. The leadership of Temple B'nai Israel, the staff and clergy are committed to providing an engaging, successful and effective educational experience for all our students.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Temple Office Phone: 410-822-0553
Temple e-mail: Temple18@goeaston.net
Temple Maining Address: P.O.Box 27
Easton, MD 21601

Class Time: Sunday Mornings 9:30 – 12:00

Rabbi's Office 410-822-9772
Rabbi's email address peter.e.hyman@gmail.com

Wanda Shlagel, Administrator Temple18@goeaston.net
410-822-0553

FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION

Scott Feldman, Principal scotfeld@shorecable.com
[4103304556@vzw.blackberry.net](tel:4103304556)

Deborah Davis ddivins@dmv.com

Annie Kruger anniek@solidtops.com

Annie Troshinsky anniemtroshinsky@gmail.com

TEMPLE BNAI ISRAEL
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Class Begins	9:30 AM
Worship	9:35 AM
Classroom Session I	9:55 AM
Snack	11:00 AM
Classroom Session II	11:10 AM
Dismissal	12:00 Noon

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL POLICIES

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: Students at all grade levels are required to attend a minimum of 75% of Sunday classes. Attendance is taken in all classes, and teachers may require make-up work if an excess of 25% of classes is missed.

SERVICE ATTENDANCE: Students in grade 4 must attend a minimum of four *Shabbat* services a year. Students in grade 5 must attend a minimum of six *Shabbat* services, in grade 6 a minimum of 8 *Shabbat* services, and in grade 7 a minimum of 10 *Shabbat* services a year.

EARLY PICK-UP: Parents must send a note to the office if a child is to be dismissed early.

EMERGENCIES: In the event of a medical emergency, the parents or emergency contact will be immediately notified. If they cannot be reached, the child will be taken to the emergency room of Memorial Hospital. **We must have current emergency phone numbers for each child; please report changes in contact information to the Religious School immediately.**

TZEDAKAH: Each class will collect Tzedakah contributions weekly. Prior to the conclusion of the school year our students and faculty students will determine what organizations and institutions will receive Religious School Tzedakah funds.

WORSHIP: Religious School sessions at Temple Bnai Israel will begin each Sunday with a worship experience. Parents are welcome to attend these services. Proper dress is expected for our students, faculty and parents as worship is conducted in our sanctuary.

TUITION: Tuition and fees are determined by the Temple board of directors. The amounts are announced when registration forms are issued each spring.

OUTREACH: Temple Bnai Israel religious school is a primary pathway for outreach to interfaith families. As Reform Jews, we welcome interfaith families and encourage them to affirm the Jewish identification of their children. Experience tells us, however, that when interfaith couples seek to educate their children not exclusively as Jews, it is a path we can not support. It is contrary to

our understanding of outreach, because it is theologically inconsistent for a person to identify as both Jewish and Christian (or as an adherent of any other religion). Psychologically placing the burden of such an impossible decision on children may imperil their healthy spiritual development and it is incongruent with the mission of Reform religious schools.

ILLNESS: If a child is not well enough to remain in class, the parents will be called to take the child home. If the parents and emergency contact cannot be reached, the child will be kept out of the classroom and away from other students.

REPORT CARDS: The school year is divided into semesters. Progress reports are issued twice a year, with the final report being cumulative. In their evaluations, teachers write specific comments about each student, explaining strengths and noting areas for improvement.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS: Classes and programs at Temple Bnai Israel may be canceled due to inclement weather. Classes may also be cancelled. Emergency closings will be announced on the Temple answering machine, when possible, and via the phone chain.

TEXTBOOKS: Textbooks and material fees are included in the registration. Books will be distributed on the first day of school.

DRESS CODE: It is expected that our students come to Religious School dressed appropriately. Remember, a portion of the morning is spent in the sanctuary. Attention should be paid to how a child is dressed especially when that child is participating on the *bemah*. If you have a question regarding proper *bemah* attire, please consult with Rabbi Hyman.

VISITORS: Parents or guests of students who wish to visit classrooms must obtain permission from the Director of Education a minimum of 48 hours prior to the class they wish to visit. Permission will be granted at the discretion of the Director of Education in conjunction with the classroom teacher.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Come to school regularly and on time.
2. Do the required readings and carry out the projects and assignments to the satisfaction of the teachers and school administration.
3. Attend Shabbat services in order to be familiar with Jewish prayers and synagogue practices.
4. Contribute weekly to the Religious School *tzedakah* fund.
5. Take part in the special activities organized by the Religious School.
6. Bring textbooks, paper, pencil/pen, and any other needed supplies with you to each class.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR SYNAGOGUE BEHAVIOR

1. Honor the sanctuary—it is a holy place.
2. Honor your parents—they love and care for you.
3. Honor the people around you—every person is important because every person was made in God's image.
4. Honor yourself—we should be the best that we can be.
5. Be gentle—speak softly and let everyone pray.
6. Be respectful—speak respectfully of others.
7. Be considerate of others—enter the sanctuary quietly, especially if services are already in progress.
8. Be courteous—when invited, participate.
9. Be safe—walk when called upon. Don't run or climb on the *bimah*.
10. Be respectful of your teachers and all Temple leaders – they are here to help and guide you.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Classes begin at 9:30 AM on Sunday morning. Please help us maximize your child's learning through regular attendance and by being on time for class.
2. Make sure that your child brings all necessary textbooks and supplies to each class.
3. See that your child does his/her homework assignments regularly. Familiarize yourself with your child's studies.
4. Fill out and return all Religious School information forms. Notify the Principal or the Rabbi of any allergies your child may have. The safety and health of your child is our primary concern. Inform us!
5. Immediately notify the Temple Office and your child's teacher of any changes in your address, e-mail and phone numbers. Current and accurate contact information is crucial.
6. Attend Shabbat and holiday worship services with your child. Participate in the special class activities and Temple programs that involve your child.
7. Serve as SHAMES PARENT OF THE WEEK. Check with the Principal regarding the amount of food necessary for snacks, as well as dietary requirements for the student.
8. Eliminate interferences with regularly scheduled class times. Schedule activities for Sunday after 12:00 PM. Inform your child's teacher in advance when your child will be absent.
9. Attend special meetings for parents and teachers.
10. Make sure your child contributes to *tzedakah*.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Throughout the year, our students will have opportunity to participate in a number of special events and extra-curricular activities. We encourage our students and their families to support and participate in these programs.

1. Students from our Religious School will participate in Rosh HaShanna and Yom Kippur worship services. Our students will serve as ushers and greeters as well as assist with the High Holiday Food Collection.
2. Sukkah Decorating
3. Mitzvah Day at Adkins Arboretum
4. Hannukah Community Menorah Lighting
5. Class lead Shabbat Evening Services
6. Religious School Shabbaton (Older Students)
7. Tu B'Shvat Clean-up Day and Seder
8. Religious School Passover Seder
9. Religious School Field Trip
10. Education Shabbat