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Contact Us/Office Hours

The religious school office is only open around school hours. Feel free to leave a message on the religious school voice mail (via the regular Temple #973-887-0046, then follow prompts to R.S.) or email school@tbaparsippany.org. For more urgent matters, Heather Schweizer is available by phone from her home 973-983-9183 or cell phone 973-479-3500. The main office is usually opened Monday, Wednesday, & Friday in the morning and Tuesday and Thursday in the afternoon. Call first for the weekly schedule, the Temple Assistant will be available to help you.

Temple Beth Am Religious School

P.O. Box 5305, 879 Beverwyck Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Tel: 973-887-0046 Fax: 973-887-9386 Email: school@tbaparsippany.org

Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your child/children to Temple Beth Am Religious School. Attending Religious School is not merely another drop-off activity; it is an important step in raising the next generation of educated, involved Jews. We are proud to be partners with you, the families, who make up our Temple community. The Religious School is not the sole educator of our children. Clearly, family has the strongest influence on the development of a child. Therefore, we invite you to strengthen your decision to educate your Jewish child/children by reinforcing in your home the lessons we teach in the synagogue. We invite you to be active partners in your child/children's religious formation by attending services, celebrating holidays and, most certainly, getting involved in your child/children's education. We strive to create a warm, inviting learning environment for you and your child.

Also, we are continuing the year-round food drive we began a few years ago by bringing non-perishable food items for the opening days of school, and throughout the year to keep our food pantries filled.

We are also asking that our students bring *Tzedakah* money with them for school. Every year we use this money to support disaster relief, purchase trees in Israel or fund a worthwhile *Tzedakah* project.

Sunday mornings the students begin the day with *Tefillah*. We encourage the parents to join us for this service.

Back by popular demand, bagels will be sold several times a month to help fund our Confirmation Academy activities. Please help by purchasing these bagels when you drop off your students. A list of dates that bagels will be sold will be posted on the website and included in the handbook.

This year we are going to be following the attendance of our students very closely to ensure they get the best education possible by being at school as often as possible.

To raise children in this modern age means giving them tools to make wise and moral decisions throughout their lives. At Temple Beth Am Religious School, we strive to teach our students the beauty and importance of an involved, Reform Jewish lifestyle in which God, Torah and attachment to Israel shape the decisions we make every day. We hope you and your child/children will only grow in your love of Judaism as together we watch the next generation flourish.

Our best wishes for a sweet and meaningful Jewish New Year and School Year!
Shanah Tovah!

Heather Schweizer
Educator Director

Rabbi Ronald W. Kaplan, D. Min
Rabbi

Alan Sobel
President

Rhonda Jacoby
Religious School Committee Chairperson

All Parents are invited to the Temple Beth Am Religious School
Back to School Orientation & Open House

Sunday, September 13
 If your child attends school on Sunday
and Tuesday or Thursday
Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 9:15am | Bagel Breakfast for students & parents
(Sponsored by the Sisterhood) & Book Pickup |
| 10:00am | School begins with celebratory Tefillah (prayer)
and group orientation in the Sanctuary |
| 10:30am | Parents & Students meet the teachers in the
classrooms for a brief information session |
| 11:00am | High Holiday workshop with Rabbi Kaplan and
Cantor Inna Serebro-Litvak in the Sanctuary |
| 12noon | Parents pick up students at side entrance with
regular dismissal procedure (see attached) |

One adult is expected to attend for each child attending Sundays.

Religious School Calendar

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Sun Sept 13 | 9:15 Opening Day - Welcome Breakfast in Social Hall |
| Tues Sept 15 | 6:30 Opening Day Tuesday, 8 - 10 Confirmation Academy, |
| Thur Sept 17 | 4:30 Opening Day Thursday |
| Sun Sept 20 | No School - Rosh Hashanah |
| Tues Sept 22 | 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 9th - 10th Confirmation Academy |
| Thur Sept 24 | 4:30 Thursday Classes |
| Sun Sept 27 | 10:00 Sunday classes, Bagel Sale, Men's Club Newz and Schmooze |
| Tues Sept 29 | 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th Grade Confirmation Academy |
| Thur Oct 1 | 4:30 Thursday Classes |
| Fri Oct 2 | Sukkot Dinner and Family Service |
| Sun Oct 4 | No School - Sukkot, Sukkot celebration |
| Tues Oct 6 | 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th - 10th Sukkot Dinner at Rabbi Kaplan's house |
| Thur Oct 8 | 4:30 Thursday Classes |
| Fri Oct 9 | Simchat Torah, Consecration, 8th - 10th Confirmation Academy participates in service |
| Sun Oct 11 | No School - Simchat Torah |
| Tues Oct 13 | 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 9th - 10th Confirmation Academy, Youth Group Pizza Club |
| Thur Oct 15 | 4:30 Thursday Classes |
| Sun Oct 18 | 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale, Madrichim Training |
| Tues Oct 20 | 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th Grade Confirmation Academy |
| Thur Oct 22 | 4:30 Thursday Classes |
| Sun Oct 25 | 10:00 Sunday Classes, M Day |

Tues Oct 27 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 9th - 10th Confirmation Academy
 Thur Oct 29 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun Nov 1 10:00 Sunday Classes
 Tues Nov 3 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th Grade Confirmation Academy, Youth Group Pizza Club
 Thurs Nov 5 **No School - NJEA Teachers Convention**
 Fri Nov 6 Family Service
 Sun Nov 8 **No School - NJEA Teachers Convention**
 Tues Nov 10 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th - 10th Confirmation Academy
 Thur Nov 12 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun Nov 15 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale
 Tues Nov 17 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th Grade Confirmation Academy
 Thur Nov 19 4:30 Thursday Classes, Gift Shop Open
 Sun Nov 22 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale, Newz and Schmooze, Gift Shop Open
 Tues Nov 24 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 9th - 10th Confirmation Academy, Gift Shop Open
 Thur Nov 26 **No School - Thanksgiving**
 Sun Nov 29 **No School - Thanksgiving**
 Tues Dec 1 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th Grade Confirmation Academy, Youth Group Pizza Club
 Gift Shop Open
 Thurs Dec 3 4:30 Thursday Classes, Gift Shop Open
 6:30 Chanukah Story Time and Barnes and Noble - Rabbi Kaplan Guest Story Teller
 Fri Dec 4 Family Service, Confirmation Academy Leads Service
 Sun Dec 6 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale, Gift Shop Open
 Tues Dec 8 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 9th and 10th Confirmation Academy, Gift Shop Open
 Thur Dec 10 4:30 Thursday Classes, Gift Shop Open
 Sun Dec 13 10:00 Sunday Classes, Chanukah Party, Bagel Sale, Gift Shop Open
 Tues Dec 15 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th - 10th Confirmation Academy
 Thur Dec 17 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun Dec 20 10:00 Sunday Classes, Madrichim Training
 Tues Dec 22 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 9th and 10th Confirmation Academy
 Thus Dec 24 **No School - Winter Break**
 Sun Dec 27 **No School - Winter Break**
 Tues Dec 29 **No School - Winter Break**
 Thur Dec 31 **No School - Winter Break**
 Sun Jan 3 **No School - Winter Break**
 Tues Jan 5 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th Grade Confirmation Academy, Youth Group Pizza Club
 Thurs Jan 7 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Fri Jan 8 Shabbat Family Service
 Sun Jan 10 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale
 Tues Jan 12 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 9th and 10th Confirmation Academy
 Thur Jan 14 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun Jan 17 **No School - Martin Luther King Day**
 Tues Jan 19 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th Grade Confirmation Academy
 Thur Jan 21 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Fri Jan 22 7th Grade Shabbat Service and dinner
 Sun Jan 24 10:00 Sunday Classes, Tu B'Shevat Celebration, Bagel Sale
 Tues Jan 26 6:30 Sunday Classes, 8th - 10th Grade Confirmation Academy
 Thur Jan 28 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun Jan 31 10:00 Sunday Classes, Newz and Schmooze, 6th Grade Mitzvot of Metrowest
 Tues Feb 2 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th Grade Confirmation Academy, Youth Group Pizza Club
 Thurs Feb 4 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Fri Feb 5 6th Grade Shabbat Service and Dinner
 Sun Feb 7 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale

Tues Feb 9 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 9th and 10th Grade Confirmation Academy
 Thur Feb 11 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun Feb 14 **No School - Midwinter Break**
 Tues Feb 16 **No School - Midwinter Break**
 Thurs Feb 18 **No School - Midwinter Break**
 Sun Feb 21 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale
 Tues Feb 23 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th - 10th Grade Confirmation Academy
 Thur Feb 25 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun Feb 28 10:00 Sunday Classes, Purim Schpeil, Confirmation Academy
 Tues Mar 2 6:30 Tuesday Classes 9th and 10th Grade Confirmation Academy, Youth Group Pizza
 Thur Mar 4 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Fri Mar 5 5th Graade Shabbat Service Dinner
 Sun Mar 7 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale
 Tues Mar 9 6:30 Tuesday Classe, 8th Grade Confirmation Academy
 Thur Mar 11 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun Mar 14 10:00 Sunday Classes, Newz and Schmooze, Madrichim
 Tues Mar 16 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th Grade Confirmation Academy
 Thur Mar 18 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun Mar 21 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale
 Tues Mar 23 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th - 10th Grade Confirmation Academy
 Thur Mar 25 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun Mar 28 10:00 Sunday Classes, Chocolate Seder
 Tues Mar 30 **No School - Passover Break**
 Thur Apr 1 **No School - Passover Break**
 Sun Apr 4 **No School - Passover Break**
 Tues Apr 6 **No School - Passover Break**
 Thur Apr 8 **No School - Passover Break**
 Sun Apr 11 10:00 Sunday Classes
 Tues Apr 13 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th - 10th Confirmation Academy, Youth Group Pizza Club
 Thur Apr 15 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Fri Apr 16 4th Grade Family Service and Dinner
 Sun Apr 18 10:00 Sunday Classes, Yom Ha'atzma'ut Celebration
 Tues Apr 20 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 8th Grade Confirmation Academy
 Thur Apr 22 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun Apr 25 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale
 Tues Apr 27 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 9th and 10 Confirmation Academy
 Thur Apr 29 4:30 Thursday Classes
 Sun May 2 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale, Newz and Schmooze, Madrichim
 Tues May 4 6:30 Tuesday Classes, **8th and 9th** Confirmation Academy, Youth Group Pizza Club
 Thur May 6 4:30 Thursday Classes, 10th Confirmation Rehearsal
 Fri May 7 3rd Grade Kabbalat HaSiddur, and K-3 Shabbat Dinner
 Sun May 9 10:00 Sunday Classes
 Tues May 11 6:30 Tuesday Classes, 10th Grade Confirmation Rehearsal
 Thur May 13 4:30 Thursday Classes, 10th Confirmation Rehearsal
 Sun May 16 10:00 Sunday Classes, Bagel Sale
 Mon May 17 10th Grade Final Rehearsal
 Tues May 18 **No School - Shavuot**
 Thurs May 20 **No School - Shavuot**
 Sun May 23 10:00 Last Day of School

BAGELS, BAGELS, BAGELS



**PLEASE HELP THE CONFIRMATION
ACADEMY RAISE MONEY FOR THEIR
ACTIVITIES.**

**ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS BUY BAGELS AT THE
TEMPLE WHEN YOU DROP OFF OR PICK-UP YOUR
STUDENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:**

**\$10.00 A BAKERS DOZEN
\$5.00 A HALF DOZEN**

September 13, 2009
September 27, 2009
October 18, 2009
November 15, 2009
December 6, 2009
December 13, 2009
January 10, 2010
January 24, 2010
February 7, 2010
February 21, 2010
March 7, 2010
March 21, 2010
April 11, 2010
April 25, 2010
May 2, 2010
May 16, 2010

Arrival/Dismissal Procedure

DROP OFF

*Children should be dropped off at the side entrance (near the exit side of the parking lot).

*It is vital that cars wait in line and do not try to pull around each other during drop off.

*Parents of new or kindergarten /1st grade students are encouraged to park and walk their children to their classroom for the first few weeks of school while they get comfortable in a new building.

PICK UP

*Children are required to wait in the designated area during pick up.

*Cars must circle the entire length of the parking lot and line up, forming 2 lines, to wait for children. The procedure does not take long (10 minutes if everyone cooperates.)

*Do not cut through the parking lot or through the driveway at the rear of the building.

If you do so, you will be endangering the safety of our children. If so, you will be stopped and asked to wait until all children have been picked up.

*Do not try to “skip” ahead in line or call your child to the car.

*The Rabbi or one of the teachers will direct children to cars.

Your child’s safety is more important than any schedule or appointment.

ABSENTEE POLICY

If a student is going to be absent from school, it is the parent/guardians responsibility to report the absence to school via email or telephone. After attendance is taken, a list of absent students will be given to the Education Director or his/her designee. The lists will be compared and a phone call to a parent/guardian will be made to ensure all students are accounted for.

Snow/Extreme Weather

In the event of a snowstorm or other extreme weather, you can check our schedule these ways:

- 1) Generally, we follow the Parsippany public schools.
- 2) Check the temple website www.tbaparsippany.org.
- 3) Check the outgoing message for the religious school 973-887-0046 (not the general Temple message).
- 4) You can check your e-mail for a direct notice from the religious school.

Mission Statement

1. To impart to our students the ethics and values of Judaism, through studying Torah and the entire breadth of our tradition to bring this knowledge into everyday living. To understand our connection to God, Torah and Israel in daily life.
2. To teach our students the customs, ceremonies and rituals celebrating Shabbat, our holidays, and lifecycles as our people have marked for generations.
3. To give our students the tools for living a Jewish life, including the knowledge of Hebrew for *Tefillah* (prayer) and an appreciation of modern spoken Hebrew.
4. To develop in the children a sense of community responsibility through *Tzedakah* (righteous giving) and *Gemilut Hasidim* (righteous doing), so that our students understand *Tikkun Olam* (being God's partners in repairing what is broken in this world). As Jews, we understand and live the commandment "all of Israel is responsible for one another." As Jews, we understand that we must enrich the greater world as well.
5. To build a bridge between our students and the Land of Israel. To forge solidarity with Jews throughout the world.
6. To develop a love for Jewish learning, a positive Jewish identity and a commitment to synagogue and Jewish communal life.

Attendance Policy

(as set by the Temple Beth Am Board and Religious School Committee)

- In order to become Bar/t mitzvah, Students must be enrolled in Religious School from 3rd through 7th grade. Students must be enrolled in religious school, when they become bar/t mitzvah, especially if it is beyond 7th grade.
- Please contact the office if you know your child will be late or absent or require early dismissal.
- Tardiness and early dismissal are disruptive to your child's education, as well as the flow of the entire class. Please make your best efforts to avoid these situations.
- Please make sure that your child is physically and mentally prepared for school. Breakfast on Sundays and a snack on weekdays is helpful **before** school. Late sleepovers on Saturday nights are not helpful before Sunday school. Please encourage your child to have enough rest before learning.
- Students are required to meet the following attendance criteria.

<u>Grades</u>	<u>absences allowed</u>
K-2	4
3-7	7
8-10	4

- Students are responsible for all of the work (both in Hebrew and Jewish studies classes) missed due to absence or late arrival or early dismissal. Make-up work should be completed by the next class or in extreme situations within a week to ensure the student does not fall behind. Teachers will make the assignment available within a day of the absence, if not the same day.
- If a student's attendance goes below the permitted amount, the student will receive a grade of "incomplete." The parents will be contacted by the Director of Education to arrange independent study, make-up work and/or tutoring.
- If a child is ill and will be absent for an extended period time, parents should inform the Director of Education and make special arrangements.
- If a student cannot attend Hebrew or Jewish Studies classes on a regular basis, the family must meet with the Director of Education and make alternative arrangements, which may include tutoring at the family's expense.
- Parents will be notified when a child has been absent for half the allowable number of times.

Early Dismissal

Although it is strongly discouraged, early dismissal, when absolutely necessary, must be arranged in advance. Please send a note or notify the office in person. For safety reasons, parents must stop at the office and member of the staff or volunteer will retrieve your child from class. No student may leave the building without the office's permission. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE will your child be allowed to wait outside for early pick-up.

Tutoring

If you need a tutor for your child to supplement their regular Religious School Classes or their bar/t mitzvah lessons, Heather Schweizer or Rabbi Kaplan must approve the tutor. Heather Schweizer has a list of tutors available.

Enrichment Hebrew-Mercaz

One particularly important program is our Enrichment Hebrew Track for students who need more customized help because of mild to moderate learning challenges. Available for 3rd through 7th graders on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, this age-grouped Hebrew class will use many different teaching methods suited for our students' needs. This will include self-paced Hebrew resources, auditory and visual aids, and educational computer games. While students can take advantage of this special Hebrew track, all participants will attend the regular Jewish Studies classes for their grade level. If you feel your child would benefit from this program and have not spoken to the school yet, please contact Heather Schweizer.

Homework

Hebrew

Reviewing class lessons and doing homework at least 3-4 times per week is a must if students are expected to gain reading fluency. Hebrew teachers will assign reading homework to reinforce lessons every week. Parents should check that their children are doing their homework and even have them read out loud for them. Every parent, even those who do not know Hebrew themselves, can support their Hebrew learners in this way.

Jewish Studies

Teachers will be sensitive to the demands placed on students in secular school. Judaica homework will be kept to a minimum, outside of make-up work. Sometimes short assignments will be given, especially those which involve the participation of a parent.

Please contact Heather Schweizer, if you have questions about the best ways to be involved with your child's religious education.

Tzedakah

The most important homework your child has is remembering to bring *Tzedakah* money. Most children bring loose change or even a dollar. *Tzedakah* will be collected every class. The habit of giving to charity is tremendously important and, therefore, this mitzvah is emphasized in many ways through our curriculum. Righteous giving is not only studied at school, it is studied so that the students fully understand the importance of their mitzvah. The students themselves will have a voice in where the money is to be donated at the end of the year.

Shabbat Bag

A few years ago, the Shabbat Bag program was established in the K-3 grades. Each grade has a special bag containing all the ingredients for Shabbat – candles, candle sticks, *kiddush* cup, challah cover, detailed directions on how to say the Shabbat blessings, and an empty journal book. This bag will rotate among the families of our lower grades. As each family has a turn taking the bag home and making Shabbat on a Friday night, all they have to add is challah, grape juice and their own Shabbat spirit. Each family is then invited to write a journal entry, adding pictures and photos if they want. The following Sunday morning they bring the bag back to school where the students share their journal entries with the class. This is going to be a fantastic opportunity for all our families!

Evaluations

Report cards are mailed home mid-year (January) and at the end of the school year (June). Additionally, teachers will contact parents when appropriate to inform them of any concerns. Parents may request a conference with their child's teacher at any time by contacting the Director of Education who will make these arrangements.

Snacks/Food

Children are encouraged to eat a snack or meal before school. An empty stomach is a distraction to learning. Any snack should be finished during the first 5 minutes of class with the classroom teacher's permission. No soda or gum is allowed in the school.

Sharing a special snack in honor of a birthday is very nice, but the classroom teacher must be asked in advance.

Temple Beth Am Religious School strives to be a welcoming environment for all children. We do our best to be a **nut free environment**. If your child has a particular allergy or medical condition, it is imperative that you notify the office immediately. Throughout the year, there will be special events involving food, like a *Seder*. Your child with special eating needs is welcome to bring their own food to ensure their medical needs are met.

Team Madrichim

For grades 7-12! Be a Jewish role model for our students. Volunteer in the classroom, as an office helper, or assist with special activities. This program will train teens to volunteer (either short or long term) in our school.

- ◆ Assist in Hebrew or Judaica Classes.
- ◆ Help with Special art projects or programs.
- ◆ Office Helpers Needed!
- ◆ Assist with special school events!
- ◆ Fulfill your mitzvah project or community service requirement.
- ◆ Build a resume.
- ◆ Feel proud of doing a mitzvah!
- ◆ Share your talents.
- ◆ Ongoing training throughout the year.

A monetary stipend will be awarded at the end of the year to all participants.

Must be enrolled in Confirmation Academy to participate.

Temple Beth Am
Curriculum – 5770/2009-2010

Matriculation Policy

A student must start Temple Beth Am Religious School by **Grade 3** in order to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Am by **age 13**. If a child has not been enrolled by Grade 3 and continued his/her education through Grade 7 at Temple Beth Am or received the equivalent religious instruction elsewhere, as reviewed by the Education Director, Bar/Bat Mitzvah instruction and ceremonies will be delayed until the student enters their fifth year of Religious School.

If your child is entering 3rd grade in Public School, please make sure you enroll him/her this year in Religious School.

New Students

New students are welcomed to the school through the festive Consecration service held on a Friday night during the fall. The new students are blessed by our Rabbi and Cantor on the *Bimah* and presented with their very own model Torah.

The Lower Grades: K-2

Schedule

Grades K-2 meet on Sundays (10am-12noon). On Sundays grades K-2 rotate among three classrooms – Hebrew, Judaica, and Music. Usually, the children change subjects every 30 minutes. The entire class of children is escorted to their next room when it is time to shift subjects.

The Start of School

We suggest that our youngest students, especially those in kindergarten and first grade, be walked into the school building at the start of school by an adult or responsible older sibling.

Highlights

Grades K-2 gather with the entire school in the sanctuary with Heather Schweizer for an age appropriate prayer service in order to introduce our students to the concept of regular, group prayer. Time is spent exploring the Bima and seeing the Torah up close. *Tzedakah* money is collected every class; social action is explored throughout the year.

Students look forward to taking home the class “Shabbat bag” which contains all the ritual objects and instructions in order to celebrate Shabbat at home. This bag rotates throughout the class – each family getting it for at least one Shabbat. Families celebrate Shabbat with the bag and write a very brief report together to share in class.

Kindergarten & 1st Grade

A combined class with a rotating 2-year curriculum in order to provide variety. This class is full of fun projects and important learning as our students are introduced to the stories of the Torah, holidays, and the vocabulary of the Synagogue. Learning is accomplished through hands-on activities and art projects. Students are introduced to basic Hebrew words and prayers. They begin to recognize the Hebrew Alphabet. The meaning and importance of *Tzedakah* (righteous giving), *Gemilut Hasidim* (righteous

doing), Shabbat, love of Israel, and other Jewish values are introduced. Weekly music class with our Cantor exposes our students to prayer through song and age appropriate Jewish music, reinforcing Shabbat, holiday, and Israel themes.

2nd Grade

Second grade students review, strengthen and broaden their Jewish knowledge. The class continues to gain comfort with the Hebrew alphabet through hands-on activities and art. Students are introduced to basic Hebrew words and prayers, and will learn a few Hebrew phrases for fun. The meaning and importance of *Tzedakah* (righteous giving), *Gemilut Hasidim* (righteous doing), Shabbat, love of Israel, and other Jewish values are broadened. The Jewish studies curriculum focuses on holidays and age appropriate exploration of spirituality. Weekly music class with our Cantor exposes our students to prayer through song and age appropriate Jewish music, reinforcing Shabbat, holiday, and Israel themes.

The Intermediate Grades: 3rd & 4th & 5th **Schedule**

Grades 3, 4, and 5 meet on Sundays (10am-12noon) and Thursdays (4:30pm-6pm). Class time is equally divided between Hebrew and Judaic studies. Weekly music class with our Cantor exposes our students to prayer through song and age appropriate Jewish music, reinforcing Shabbat, holiday, and Israel themes.

Highlights

Grades 3, 4, & 5 gather weekly with the entire school in the sanctuary with Heather Schweizer for an age appropriate prayer service in order to introduce our students to the concept of regular, group prayer. Time is spent exploring the Bima and seeing the Torah up close. Twice a month students meet the Cantor to explore prayer through song and age appropriate Jewish music, reinforcing Shabbat, holiday, and Israel themes. *Tzedakah* money is collected every class; social action is explored throughout the year.

Students look forward to taking home the class “Shabbat bag” which contains all the ritual objects and instructions in order to celebrate Shabbat at home. This bag rotates throughout the class – each family getting it for at least one Shabbat. Families celebrate Shabbat with the bag and write a very brief report together to share in class.

3rd Grade

Temple Beth Am requires students to begin their formal Jewish education by third grade in order to become bar/t mitzvah. The third grade curriculum therefore balances the needs of the new and returning students. Hebrew studies now not only include learning the Hebrew letters, but also fluid decoding skills. By the end of the year, students are reading Hebrew, including our most central prayers! Hebrew class includes games, fun reading drills, and movement activities. Students are introduced to Modern Hebrew through the basic classroom vocabulary that is regularly repeated. A touch of Modern Hebrew will strengthen the students’ love of learning a new language and further reinforce the class’ study of Israel. The class learns the great stories of the Torah. Holidays are reinforced through study activities and crafts. Weekly music class with our Cantor exposes our students to prayer through song and age appropriate Jewish music, reinforcing Shabbat, holiday, and Israel themes.

4th Grade

Hebrew – Students begin *Hineni*, a three year series, which teaches Hebrew through prayer. Upon completion, students will achieve fluent *siddur*, prayer book, reading and an understanding of the key prayers and blessings of Jewish life. In fourth grade, students will be introduced to the Shabbat morning service, its content, structure and meaning. The class will learn five important prayers and the Kiddush. Students will begin to recognize simple roots, prefixes and suffixes.

5th Grade

Hebrew – Students continue with level two of *Hineni*, a three year series, which teaches Hebrew through prayer. In fifth grade, students will study and learn the Amidah, as well as specific Shabbat prayers. Students will encounter new roots, prefixes and suffixes while continuing to reinforce the ones they learned in 4th grade.

4th and 5th Grade

Jewish Studies – The class will study in-depth the Jewish life cycle. The vocabulary and rituals from birth through death will be explored through a variety of activities. Biblical stories and mitzvot will highlight the ethical values of each life cycle event. The curriculum also focuses on the synagogue, its history, modern development and meaning.

The Upper Grades: 6th & 7th

Schedule

Grade 6 meets on Sundays (10:00 – 12:00) and Tuesdays (6:30 – 8:00). Grade 7 meets on Tuesdays (6:30pm-8:00pm) and Thursdays (4:30pm-6pm). Class time is equally divided between Hebrew and Judaic studies for the 6th grade. 7th grade has its own schedule (see below).

Highlights

Grade 6 gathers weekly in the sanctuary with Heather Schweizer for an age appropriate prayer service in order to explore the concept of regular group prayer. Students take turns leading parts of the service. *Tzedakah* money is collected every class; social action is explored throughout the year. Grade 7 gathers monthly for an age appropriate prayer service in order to explore the concept of regular group prayer. Students take turns leading the service. In addition, the 7th grade participates in special activities with the Confirmation Academy and Rabbi Kaplan.

6th Grade

Hebrew – Students continue with level three of *Hineni*, a three-year series, which teaches Hebrew through prayer. Upon completion, students will achieve fluent *siddur*, prayer book, reading and an understanding of the key prayers and blessings of Jewish life. In sixth grade, students will complete the basics of the Shabbat service, its content, structure and meaning. Students will recognize simple roots, prefixes and suffixes. Weekly, the class meets with Rabbi Kaplan as they learn the fundamentals of Torah chanting.

Jewish Studies – As our students continue to grow in mind and spirit, the curriculum addresses many of the questions and dilemmas about which they think. Using the textbook, *A Topical Bible* uses biblical texts to guide students as they wrestle with real-

life social and ethical problems. The class explores these important biblical stories and their moral lessons. The students continue their study of Torah through the studying of the Judaism's greatest Prophets.

7th Grade

As these students are in the process of preparing for bar/t mitzvah, the curriculum seeks to engage them on a new level of study. On Tuesday's, the class has a course devoted to Holocaust Studies. This age appropriate approach to a serious topic exposes our students to the depth of European Jewish culture and religion, the tragedy of the *Shoah*, and the resiliency of our people. The roots of Zionism and the creation of the modern state of Israel are celebrated. Our students are challenged to think about the modern application of the hard lessons learned – bullying, peer pressure, helping the oppressed. On Thursday's class time is divided between Judaic Studies and Hebrew. In Judaic Studies students study Jewish Hero's and Jewish Values. They continue their study of Jewish Holidays through a more mature eye. In Hebrew students will review the prayer book as they go beyond the basic prayers and embark on "Let's Talk Modern Hebrew for Teens," as they travel to Israel.

Confirmation Academy: Grades 8-10

Temple Beth Am encourages all of our students to continue their religious education. Clearly, our teens enjoy the social and intellectual dimensions to this important program. Confirmation Academy is directed and taught by Rabbi Kaplan. Every year he designs an exciting curriculum including many interesting guests. This engaging approach is great for our teens who also enjoy the famous pizza dinners together.

Book Purchases

At the beginning of every school year, the book purchase list will be distributed and the book purchase dates will be announced. Each family is responsible for coming to the Temple and buying the textbook needed. If a family has clean copies of these books, they are welcome to use them instead of buying them.

Students who enter the school after 3rd grade are required to purchase Mishkan T'fillah as well as any other books needed from past years.

Books may only be purchased from the school by checks made out to Temple Beth Am.

The purchase of these high quality text and workbooks will create a dynamic learning experience for your child, as well as build a home library of Jewish books.

In addition to the books, each child is expected to have the appropriate supplies in order to be prepared to learn. We expect each student to have a designated Religious School bag so that books and supplies to not get lost. This bag should carry pens, pencils, erasers, and a folder for handouts.

5770-2009/10 book sales will coincide with Ticket Pick –Up and the first days of school.

Supplies needed: A special bag just for Religious School, folder, pencil and eraser, Tzedakah money.

Service Requirement

Attending prayer services is an important part of a Jewish life, as well as an important reinforcement of your child's Religious School studies. Therefore, the Education Committee would like to remind you and your child of their requirement to attend services on a regular basis. The requirement reflects a greater variety of services to attend. This will make the grade goals more accessible and will expose your child to the full range of *Tefillah* -- Jewish prayer. Youth group attendance counts for the upper grades and participation at synagogue events count for the intermediate grades, because we highly value this level of involvement for all our students. Please see the chart below to see what is expected of your child.

As always, there is binder outside the sanctuary throughout the year. **When your child attends a service, we ask that he/she sign the book on the table outside of the Sanctuary.** We will then mark off the date on a central checklist.

Our religious school provides your child with a great learning experience. Attending Shabbat and Holiday Services helps them make the connection between classroom learning and living Judaism. Familiarity with our prayer services will lead to deeper comfort with the prayers during their bar/bat mitzvah preparation and more importantly to living a meaningful Jewish life. We thank you for your continued support of our religious school and bar/bat mitzvah program.

Temple Beth Am – Service Requirement - 5770

To be completed by May 7, 2008 when all students who have achieved their goal will be honored at the end of the year ice cream celebration with Rabbi Kaplan and Cantor Inna.

Seventh Grade

15 of the following services & experiences:(up to 3 services can be at another synagogue!)

- High Holyday services (Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur)
- Holiday services (besides RH & YK; such as Purim, Passover, Shavuot)
- Family Friday Night Shabbat Services (held at 7:30pm once a month)
- Regular Friday Night Shabbat Services
- Saturday Morning Shabbat Services including a bar/bat mitzvah
- Shiva Minyon
- 2 Youth Group Functions up to 1 Social Event & 1 community service event

Fifth Grade & Sixth Grade –

10 of the following services & experiences:(up to 3 services can be at another synagogue!)

- High Holyday services (Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur)
- Holiday services (besides RH & YK; such as Purim, Passover, Shavuot)
- Family Friday Night Shabbat Services (held at 7:30pm once a month)
- Regular Friday Night Shabbat Services
- Saturday Morning Shabbat Services including a bar/bat mitzvah
- Shiva Minyon
- 2 Youth Group Functions up to 1 Social Event & 1 community service event

Third Grade & Fourth Grade

6 of the following services & experiences: (up to 1 service can be at another synagogue!)

- High Holyday services (Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur)
- Holiday services (besides RH & YK; such as Purim, Passover, Shavuot)
- Family Friday Night Shabbat Services (held at 7:30pm once a month)
- Regular Friday Night Shabbat Services
- Saturday Morning Shabbat Services including a bar/bat mitzvah
- Shiva Minyon
- Temple Beth Am family function like Chanukah/Purim Party
- Any community service event (may be used 1x)

Brit (Covenant) for Good Behaviour

Behaviour in the Temple and Religious School should reflect Jewish values. It says in the Talmud “Where there is no *Derech Eretz* there is no Torah.” *Derech Eretz* refers to good manners and proper behaviour towards others. We intend to set the tone at the beginning of the school year and to reinforce it throughout the year. This will encourage students to show respect to teachers, parents and each other.

Our Code of Behaviour, Brit Beth Am, will be posted in all of the classrooms and will be explained at the beginning of the year. A complementary discipline policy will be used to reinforce this Brit.

Brit Beth Am

As a member of the learning *Kehilla* (community) at Temple Beth Am, I promise to observe the following rules. I will:

1. Come to class prepared to learn, bringing materials, books, and pen/pencils.
2. Do my work to the best of my ability.
3. Speak in an appropriate voice with appropriate words.
4. Touch only my own belongings.
5. Raise my hands to speak and not interrupt another person.
6. Respect my Teachers – **Kavod Morim**.
7. Respect my fellow students – *Derech Eretz*.
8. Not chew gum or drink soda in class.
9. Treat our classroom and school building with respect.
10. Take responsibility for my own actions.
11. Be a helpful member of the whole community.

Temple Beth Am Discipline Policy

1. The teachers will clearly establish class rules at the beginning of the year. **Brit Beth Am**, the code of behaviour, will be presented and posted in the classroom. The teacher may choose to add additional rules specific to her/his class and grade and those will be presented at that time. The teachers will use acceptable methods of classroom management when behaviour is disruptive, treating students fairly and with respect. Acceptable methods of discipline may include assigned seating and rewarding the class for continued good behaviour.
2. When a student disrupts the class a number of times and the teacher has exhausted normal classroom management methods, s/he may send the student to the Director of Education. Later that day or very shortly afterwards, the teacher or the Director of Education will contact the parent(s) to discuss the student's behaviour. This is an opportunity to create a partnership with the parent(s) in solving the problem. The Director of Education will be informed of the content of the conversation and any future meetings that are scheduled.
3. When a student repeatedly disrupts the class and the teacher has exhausted normal classroom management methods and the student has met with the Director of Education and the parent(s) has been included in problem solving, but the student has continued their inappropriate behaviour, the Director of Education will contact the parent(s) and meet to discuss the student's behaviour. A behaviour contract will be established which will include consequences for future disruptive behaviour.
4. After all other methods have been exhausted, if disruptive behaviour persists, the student may be suspended. Parent(s) must make alternative arrangements acceptable to Temple Beth Am in order to meet the Bar/Bat Mitzvah requirements.