

TEMPLE BETHEL
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
HANDBOOK

2011-2012

5772

B'raysheet, 1st, 2nd grade & Confirmation
Sunday mornings 9:15 - 11:45 a.m.

3rd grade - 7th grade

Sunday mornings 9:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Tuesday afternoons 4:45 - 6:30 p.m.

(Doors open 15 minutes before school starts)

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Principal

Rabbi

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TEMPLE BETH EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Religious School of Temple Beth El, a Reconstructionist synagogue, is to give our children a positive Jewish identity based on a knowledge of Jewish culture and religion including values and concepts, texts, history, Hebrew, and prayer.

Our vision is...

- * To stimulate their sense of community with a responsibility toward fellow Jews, as well as all people of the world, and for the State of Israel.
- * To encourage the practice of Judaism in the home in addition to their experiences in the school and synagogue including spirituality, rituals, and ethics.
- * To provide a sufficient Hebrew language background so that a student can actively participate in Jewish prayer services and have a basis for further study in modern Hebrew.

CLASS SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Aleph & Bet - 10 Friday or Saturday Shabbat services or Junior Congregation

Gimmel - 10 Friday, 5 Saturday Shabbat services or Junior Congregation

Dalet - 10 Friday, 10 Saturday Shabbat services or Junior Congregation

Hai - 15 Friday, 15 Saturday Shabbat services (per Bar/Bat Mitzvah requirements)

We will be reminding the children often and updating them on their progress.

JR. CONGREGATION

One Saturday a month for 2nd – 5th graders
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

September 17, 29
October 8
November 12

December 10
January 7
February 11

March 17
April 21
May 19
June 2

CLASS SEDERS & FAMILY SERVICES

There will be one Family Service per year for each class, B'raysheet – K through Confirmation. The students lead this special service. Aleph & Bet will lead a Friday night service with a dinner (Seder Shel Shabbat). Gimmel, Dalet, Hai & Confirmation will lead Saturday morning service with an extended Kiddush. These services are a special family time. They provide a fun learning experience and give you the opportunity to meet and connect with your child's classmates and their families. It is very important for each family to participate in this annual event.

FAMILY SERVICES

Family Services led by Religious School classes are a tradition at TBE. Services are for the entire congregation, especially all Religious School students. Dates & class services are listed below:

Sat., Nov. 19 - Hai Shabbat & extended Kiddush	9:30 a.m.
Sat., Dec. 17 - Confirm. Shabbat & extended Kiddush	9:30 a.m.
Sat., Jan. 21 - Dalet Shabbat & extended Kiddush	9:30 a.m.
Fri., Jan. 27 - Bet Shabbat & Dinner	7:30 a.m.
Sat., Feb. 4 - K-2 Shabbat & extended Kiddush	9:30 a.m.
Sat., Feb. 25 Gimmel Shabbat & extended Kiddush	9:30 a.m.
Fri., March 23 Aleph Shabbat & Dinner	7:30 p.m.

CONFIRMATION FALL RETREAT - OCTOBER 14 - 16

CONFIRMATION SPRING RETREAT - APRIL 27 - 29

5TH & 6TH GRADE RETREAT - MAY 4-6

TZEDAKAH

In keeping with Jewish tradition and to encourage our children to give to those less fortunate, our classes collect tzedakah charitable donations - every Sunday morning. Please remind your children to bring some change. It is especially meaningful if this can come from a small part of their allowance. Allocation of funds raised happens at the end of the school year.

HOMEWORK **(3rd – 7th Grade)**

Homework assignments will not be given between Sunday and Tuesday. Teachers will assign homework as needed and give students ample time to complete.

ABSENTEEISM & TARDINESS

If a student has 25% or more unexcused absences during a semester, parents will be contacted and asked to come into the office to address the issue. It could result in failing the class or having to be tutored at the families expense if it continues throughout the year. We will close the classroom doors after the bell rings. If a student is consistently late, they may have to spend their break time making up missed work.

APPROPRIATE DRESS AND ITEMS

Appropriate dress is expected, similar to a secular school dress code. Also, children are requested not to bring sports equipment or valuables to religious school. Examples of these are cell phones, electronic games, hockey sticks, footballs, etc. If they are brought to religious school, they will need to be left in the office for pick up after religious school is over. The synagogue is not responsible if these items are lost.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

The Religious School aims to provide a comfortable and safe space for all students and staff. If a child exhibits aggressive behavior, consistently disrupts the class or makes disparaging remarks towards staff or other students, the teacher and/or Principal will (A) reprimand the student and inform the parents. If this behavior continues, we will (B) Call the parents immediately, (C) Have a parent conference, and/or (D) Request parent intervention to end the behavior. Physical violence will not be tolerated. Students may not be outside the building without an adult. If your child leaves the synagogue campus without permission we will contact the parents, emergency contacts, and then the police.

ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL

Arrival to religious school will now be through the front doors to the main lobby. Lower level doors will be locked. To create a safe environment for all of the community, parents / carpooling adults are asked to park and come in to the lobby to pick up children for dismissal. Students arriving early will go to a designated area with adult supervision until teachers arrive.

EARLY DISMISSAL & GUESTS

If it is necessary for a student to be dismissed early, he/she is required to bring a note from a parent or guardian. Students may only be picked up from the office. If a student wishes to bring a guest to class, teacher approval is necessary and a parental note is required.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

We generally follow the Delaware public schools' decision. If there is no public school (or an early dismissal), there is no religious school. You can call the office to check, listen to the announcements on the radio: WILM, WDEL, WJBR, or check the Temple Beth El website (www.tbede.org).

CATERING REQUIREMENTS FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PARENTS

Information on catering and Religious School parent volunteer commitments will be given out at “Back to School Night.”

SHABBAT CLUB

We encourage Shabbat prayer service attendance to help your child feel comfortable with the prayers. There is no substitute for being here on a Friday night and/or Saturday morning. We keep a close record of attendance and awards are given at our closing assembly. We have a “Shabbat Club” special event in May for those who meet the service requirements for their class.

SNACKS

Snacks are provided during class for Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade. Snacks are available for students in 3rd – 7th grade. Snacks are .35 cents each or you can purchase a snack card which gives you 40 snacks for \$14.00. We offer assorted kosher snacks, water & juice boxes. All outside food must follow synagogue kashrut policy. Please only bring kosher snacks and food into the synagogue. (All items should be marked Parve).