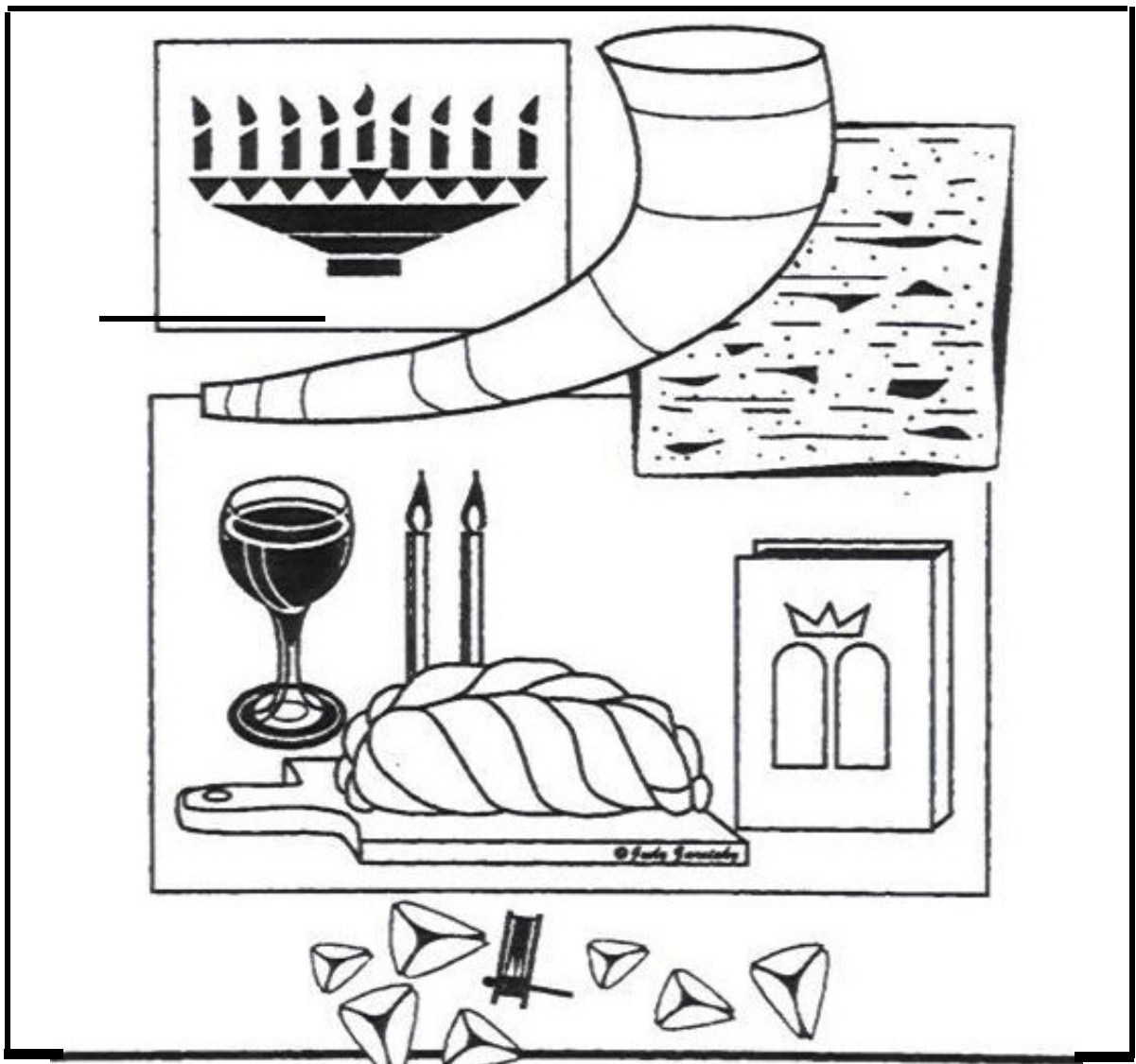


TEMPLE BETH EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

PARENT HANDBOOK 2009 - 2010



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OUR VISION FOR OUR SCHOOL

Temple Beth El Religious School has a long and proud history, and an excellent reputation. It is not enough, however, to rely on our past and our present. As we prepare to educate a new generation of children born in a new century, it is critical that we have a vision of our future.

TBE Religious School is committed to becoming one of the best Religious Schools in the nation: a model for others, and the school to which everyone wants to send their children. It will do this by:

- Recruiting and retaining the most professional and highly qualified teachers
- Placing the highest priority on the holistic and integrated development of the curriculum, adjunct educational resources, and instructional methodologies
- Creating an overall environment (physical, intellectual, and emotional) that makes students eager to attend
- Working as partners with the students' primary educators: their parents and families

THE MISSION OF OUR SCHOOL

Each generation has the obligation of providing the next generation with a Jewish education. This is an obligation Temple Beth El takes seriously. As Jewish educators and parents, we provide our children with a solid and well-rounded Jewish education in order to accomplish several missions:

1. To make our children feel pride in being Jewish
2. To give our children the ability, confidence, and understanding to participate in Synagogue services, and to celebrate holidays and other family observances in the home
3. To instill in our children a love and sense of responsibility for Israel - the land, the people, and the entire Jewish community at large
4. To ensure that our children develop fine character traits and a clear understanding of Jewish ethics and morals
5. To generate in our children the interest and curiosity that may stimulate a desire for life-long Jewish learning, and to assist them in attaining the basic skills required to pursue that desire.
6. To enable our children to remain strong links in the chain of Jewish continuity by providing them with enough knowledge of Judaism and the confidence that it is relevant to their lives to withstand the ever-present proselytizing and assimilation pressures in our society.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL

Length and Time of Classes

All classes of all grades meet for three and one half hours on Sunday mornings, from 9 AM until 12:30 PM. In addition, in second to seventh grade, classes are also held for two hours one weekday afternoon each week, from 4:15 PM until 6:15 PM.

Students will get individualized schedules in the mail the week prior to the first day of school..

Structure of Class Time

Weekday classes will be spent in the classroom with the teacher (s). On weekdays, second through sixth grades will meet with their “core” teacher only, who will also teach Hebrew to the class. For most grades, the curriculum includes the following six subject areas:

- Hebrew
- Bible
- Prayer
- Laws and Customs
- Jewish History
- Israel

Our 6th and 7th grades are part of Project Etgar, a cutting edge curriculum and teaching methodology developed by the national Conservative movement at the Jewish Theologic Seminary. Their curriculum is slightly different.

On Sundays, the schedule is different for different grades. In all grades, however, it includes core curriculum instruction by the core teacher, Hebrew instruction by either the core teacher or a Hebrew language specialist, prayer services (K and 1st have their own service, 2nd-6th have their own, and 7th has its own), and an enrichment class.

Please refer to the separate schedule sent in your registration packet for details for each grade.

Number of Class Groupings for Each Grade

The number of classes established for each grade is based upon the number of children in each grade. We try not to exceed 20 students per class. Once the number of classes per grade are determined, we try to leave it that way for the students’ entire 8 years of school, so that parents have consistency when planning their children’s rides and extra-curricular activities. Occasionally, due to the importance of socialization in a child’s educational experience, as well as the pedagogical implications of too small a class, we may combine two classes of the same grade if enrollment in either or both classes drops below a certain threshold.

Assignment Of Students to a Class

If there will be two 2nd grade level classes, they will be on different days of the week - one on Wednesdays, the other on Tuesdays . Sometimes, parents will be asked which class they would prefer for their child. This choice, for most parents, is largely based on which day of the week each class meets. We try hard to accommodate the parent's choice, but certain other factors are important as well: equal sized classes, even distribution of genders, etc... Therefore, class assignment is ultimately up to the Director of Education.

If there will be only one class, the days it will meet will be determined by the Director of Education, based on space and teacher availability. If all else is equal, the affected parents will be polled to help in the determination.

Requesting a Change in Class Assignment

Once a student has been assigned to a class in second grade, the school will assume that the student will remain with that class through 7th grade. However, if you wish to switch the class your child is in, you may discuss it with the Director of Education. The decision will be made by the director after considering reason, class size, gender distribution, and classroom dynamics. Please understand that switching classes may not always be possible.

School and Office Hours

School office hours are on Monday-Thursday, from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM, and on Sundays from 8:45 AM to 12:30 PM. Generally, these are the hours that the school administrative and support staff are available.

While in school, the teachers' time is totally devoted to instructional activities. Therefore, unless it is an emergency, it is difficult to contact a teacher during school hours. If you would like to speak with a teacher, please call the office and we will arrange for the teacher to return your call.

Although weekday classes don't begin until 4:15 PM, for your convenience we will welcome students as early as 3:45. Any student arriving between 3:45 and the start of classes at 4:15 PM, is welcome to hang out in the youth lounge or our computer center. Students may socialize, play foosball or ping-pong, play Jewish computer games, or even get some homework out of the way.

Weekday classes end at 6:15. We ask that you make every effort to be prompt when picking up your child or a carpool. Many students become anxious when their parents are late. If you know you are going to be late, please call the office and let us know.

On Sundays, we not only run our Kindergarten through Grade 7 program from 9 AM – 12:30 PM, but we also hold classes for Machon, our high school program at the same time. This means that things can get quite hectic on Sundays. Should you need to speak with or meet with administrative staff, it would be appreciated if you could do so during the week, rather than on Sundays.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Attendance

As our mission and vision statements reveal, we have much to accomplish in only a few hours a week. **Our excellent curriculum requires ALL of the given class time. To carry it out, we rely on the commitment of everyone in this partnership: our teachers, our parents, and our students.**

We expect our students to be in school at least 80% of the time, barring extended illnesses or other extenuating circumstances.

We understand that there may be times when the student is unable to attend school, or must arrive late or leave early. Illness or being out of town, for example, are certainly unavoidable. But we ask that you make every effort to keep other interruptions to a minimum. We would be grateful if, when possible, you schedule appointments or extracurricular activities so that your child does not need to miss school.

We also expect our students to be in school the grade-appropriate number of days per week. Students must attend school in its entirety, and may not attend just selected days of the week (for example, 2-7 graders may not regularly attend only one out of two days).

If you have done your absolute best to schedule other activities AROUND Religious School, and you feel it is truly impossible to avoid missing classes on a certain day of the week for an extremely limited duration, you must speak with the Director of Education, who will attempt to work out something that meets everyone's needs. Of course, this might not always be possible.

Absences

If your child will be absent, it is **crucial** that you notify the school office before the start of school. This is for one reason only: **the safety of your child!** We need to know who to expect in school and who not to expect.

Our teachers take attendance each day. The names of absent students will be forwarded to the office at 4:35 PM each weekday and 9:20 on Sundays. These names will be checked against the list of students whose parents called in to say they would be absent. If a student is absent and the parents have not notified us of this, we may call the parents before the end of school, both at home and in their places of employment, to let them know their child(ren) have not shown up at school.

Therefore, we ask that you remember to let the school office know when your child will be absent (473-1190). You may call anytime, day or night, and leave a message on the machine if no one is in the office. This will save both staff and parents from a great deal of work and frustration.

For additional related policies, see the "Attendance" section of this manual.

Tardiness or Early Departure

Teachers have been instructed to begin their classes on time, in order to be able to cover the curriculum by year's end. **Please have your student(s) here punctually.** As part of attendance taking, teachers will note tardiness as well.

If a student is to leave early, he/she must bring a note from a parent and present it to the school office. When it is time to leave, the student will come in to the office to wait for the parent. The parent must pick the student up from the office and sign the student out.

At least once each month, teachers will review attendance and notify the school office of students with excessive tardiness. The school office will then contact the parents to remind them of our policies, find out if there is some issue, and to request compliance with our policies if possible.

Discipline

As a school community, we strive to create an atmosphere that promotes the values we teach. This can sometimes be very challenging. In order to meet this challenge in a positive and growth-oriented way, we have developed a set of guidelines for behavioral expectations for the children of our school. These are not earth-shattering nor are they excessive. Rather, they state clearly what we have always assumed to be our values, and clarify what the consequences will be if our school community is disrupted.

It is our belief that students know right from wrong. Students are expected to behave in a civil and responsible manner at all times. Courtesy to all members of the school community and respect for classmates, faculty, staff, and school property are basic values of our Religious School.

Each classroom teacher, in concert with students, will develop a set of classroom rules. Students who violate basic values or fail to follow the posted classroom rules will be given a checkmark.

If a student receives three checkmarks within a two week period, they will be sent to the office for a meeting with the Director of Education. The first time a student is sent to the office, the Director will discuss the reasons and make sure the student understands the consequences if poor behavior continues. The second time a student is sent to the office (again, after three checkmarks within a 2 week period), the student will sit in the "time-out" chair in the office. The third time a student is sent to the office (again, after three checkmarks within a 2 week period), the student will need to perform a community service activity in the school, as assigned by the Director. Such assignments might include cleaning an area of the school, completing a clerical task, or some other assignment. The idea is that a student who disrupts our school community needs to do an activity that will make restitution to that community. Students will be supervised to ensure their safety, and parents will be informed whenever this type of discipline is required.

Two community service requirements will result in a call to parents warning about a pending suspension. After three community service requirements, a student will be given one week (3 consecu-

tive school sessions) suspension during with the student will not be allowed to attend classes or be in the school building. Before a suspended child may return to class, the student must complete a “personal Teshuva (repentance) plan” as outlined by the Director. The student and parents must meet with the Director to discuss the Teshuva plan. The student is also expected to make up all work, tests, and quizzes that they may have missed.

More serious violations of our behavioral expectations, such as (but not limited to) physical violence or property destruction, will be dealt with on an individual basis, but a single such violation may also result in suspension.

Repeated suspensions may require a discussion as to the appropriateness of the child’s placement in the TBE religious school.

Students who feel they are being treated unfairly, or who feel they are being embarrassed or treated with disrespect, should be encouraged to speak with their teacher so that the issues can be resolved appropriately. If they feel uncomfortable doing so, the Principal is always available to any student. Everyone deserves the right to be heard and to have their issues and feelings taken seriously. Parents, of course, should also feel free to speak with the principal about their concerns.

Kashrut, Snacks and Drinks

Please remember that as a Conservative Congregation, our synagogue policy is adherence to Kashrut. Homemade or restaurant items, even if dairy, are not allowed in either the school or synagogue buildings. If you do send in food, whether just for your child’s snack or for the whole class, please make certain you send only manufactured, packaged items that bear a Kashrut label, or baked goods that come from establishments under Kosher supervision.

Classes during the week are only 2 hours long. Many teachers give their classes a very short break for a quick stretch and snack. In addition, many children come to Religious School right from regular school and need an after school snack. On Sundays, students can have a snack during the built in “passing time,” or teachers may choose to use a few minutes of class time to allow the students a snack.

Our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) operates a snack cart each day that Religious School is in session. They sell several kinds of healthy drinks and snacks during the afternoon sessions, and bagels and donuts are added to the mix on Sundays. Snack tickets can be pre-purchased, or they will gladly accept cash. Unless the teacher provides for a special snack time, snacks and drinks should be consumed before class. We ask that students not eat, drink, or chew gum in class without the express permission of the teacher.

Birthdays should be special – especially here at Temple Beth El, where we love a Simcha (joyous occasion). Please feel free to celebrate your child’s birthday with his/her schoolmates. To send treats into the classroom, please make the appropriate arrangements directly with the child’s teacher.

Tuition

The Synagogue Board of Directors has set the tuition for the school year at \$328 (for TBE members) for the entire year. This is a truly remarkable bargain, and is possible only because the school is not self-supporting: The majority of expenses are covered by the Synagogue operating budget. Tuition for associate members of TBE is \$600 for the year, and tuition for non-members is \$1,250 for the year. **Scholarships are available for members in need—applications are available in the school office.**

In addition, there is a \$25 per student books and materials fee. Many of the books we use also serve as workbooks for the students, and are therefore not reusable by future students. In the youngest grades, students receive pamphlets and utilize many non-renewable supplies for their enrichment courses.

For those students in 3rd-7th grade who choose Arts and Crafts as an enrichment, there is a materials fee of \$25. This helps defray some of the expenses we incur in providing the supplies needed for the teacher's high quality and innovative projects.

For members and associate members, tuition will be billed as part of your account with the Synagogue. Half of the current year's tuition must be paid by August 31, or a late fee of \$50 will be added to tuition. The synagogue's policy is that all tuition from the previous year must be paid in full, and that half of the current year's tuition must be paid by the first day of school in order for a student to enroll in the current year. The remainder of the current year's tuition must be paid in full by the end of December, or again a late fee of \$50 will be added. Since our expenses begin in August/September, when we order books and begin to pay our faculty, we hope you understand how important these policies are to ensure appropriate cash flow.

Supplies

A list of school supplies that each student should keep in school is sent home in the summer. Students should bring these items, in some sort of container, on the first day of school. Where possible, it is a good idea to mark each item with the student's name. Boys are **required** to wear a Kippah. We encourage girls who choose to do so to wear a Kippah as well. **Parents are asked to make certain students bring the necessary books, materials, and Kippah to each class.** On occasion, students may be asked to bring additional items to class for special projects. In such instances, parents and students will be notified in advance.

If a schoolbook is lost, the family will be responsible for the cost of replacement.

Cell Phones

Many students these days have cell phones, primarily for reasons of safety and communication with their parents. There is **no reason** to use cell phones during school hours. In fact, the use of cell phones (whether for calls, games, or text messaging) disrupts the class and bothers other students and teachers. Therefore, if a student uses a cell phone during school, the phone will be temporarily confiscated by the teacher until the end of class.

We ask your cooperation with these policies. Please do not call or text your child during school hours, unless you are absolutely certain that it will go right into voice mail where your child can retrieve it during break or after school. If you need to contact your child for a true emergency, please call the office, 473-1190, and we will have your child call you back from the office, so that class is not disrupted.

Synagogue Attendance

Students learn best when they have a chance to utilize what they have learned in a practical manner. What better time and place to use and practice what they have learned in the classroom than in the Synagogue on Shabbat? Therefore, **our school requires that each student attend at least 10 Shabbat or holiday services per year.** The requirement can be met through attendance at Shabbat morning services, Friday night services, or services for Sukkot, Pesach, and Shavuot. We will keep track of children who attend our own special programs (see the following paragraph). Parents are asked to complete a short form to verify attendance at a different service. You will receive a sheet of these forms prior to the start of school.

We strongly encourage you to bring your child(ren) to Shabbat services with you. While children are always welcome in the main sanctuary, we have wonderful special children's programs as well. Every Shabbat we have a Junior Congregation for grades 2-6 which meets in the chapel. Every 2 weeks (see the school schedule you received for the year for exact dated) we offer Shabbat Mishpachot, a family service for children in preschool through 1st grade. This family service includes "breakout sessions" by age/grade level, so that every child gets something out of it!

Bar / Bat Mitzvah

At Temple Beth El, we view a Bar or Bat Mitzvah as a major milestone in the entire context of the educational process, not simply an isolated event. We expect our B'nai Mitzvah to complete a course of study which begins no later than 2nd grade (although we highly recommend beginning in Kindergarten), and lasts until at least the end of 7th grade. If a student enrolls here after 3rd grade, the parents must show us evidence of prior Jewish education or the student must have mastery of the grade appropriate material. If one of these two conditions is not met, it will be the parents' responsibility to hire a tutor, at their own expense, so that the student gets caught up with his class. It is Synagogue policy that a child ***must*** be enrolled in a program of Judaic studies (not just "Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons") during the year of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, in order to have the ceremony at Beth El. The course of study may be through a religious school, a Jewish day school, or privately arranged tutors approved by the Rabbi and the Director of Education. It should also include regular attendance at Shabbat services during the year of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Information about the actual preparation for this important rite is presented later in this manual, as well as in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah manual you will receive when your child is in 5th grade.

STUDENT SAFETY

Medical Emergencies/Services

If a student becomes ill or is injured, staff will use reasonable judgment in determining what first aid measures can be administered. Every effort will be made to contact parents. The school cannot dispense even over-the-counter medication – Tylenol, aspirin, etc..., without the express written consent of a parent. Therefore, please note on your annual registration form whether we may give your child(ren) pain/fever medication if needed, what type, and what dosage. If your child needs to take prescription medicine during school, we need both the signature of the parent and the physician. Finally, If your child has a medical condition that may require attention or special consideration, please note this on your annual registration form as well.

Fire Safety/Building Evacuation

The school and Synagogue are equipped with fire detection and alarm systems. Each classroom is provided with a map that shows the appropriate exit for that class to use in the event of fire or other emergency situations. A fire drill will be conducted during the first month of school, to make certain everyone knows the proper evacuation procedures early in the year. At least one more drill will be held during the course of the school year.

Drop-Off And Pickup Of Students

The safety of our students is our utmost concern. Therefore, we have carefully devised a specific plan/route for dropping off and picking up your child(ren). The plan only ensures our childrens' safety, however, when you cooperate fully.

Children in Kindergarten and 1st grade **must** be picked up by the driver in the classroom. They will not be allowed out of the room without an adult.

For children in 2nd grade and above, orange safety cones will be set up in the parking lot to form a single lane immediately next to the curb in front of the school building. We ask that you enter the parking lot and follow the arrows to the single one way lane created by the cones. When you reach the curb, you may discharge or pick up passengers.

Children will only be allowed off the sidewalk to enter a car at the curb. They may, however, enter into the parking lot with their parent/car pool driver. Therefore, if you wish, you may park the car in the parking lot and walk your older child(ren) back to your car. You **must** do this for children in kindergarten and 1st grade.

Since traffic is generally heavy at drop-off and pick-up times, please do not hold up traffic. Once you have your child(ren) in the car, please drive beyond the cones as quickly as you can.

School Closings Due To Weather Or Other Emergencies

The majority of our students attend school in the Brighton or Pittsford school districts. In general, if either or both of those school districts are closed due to inclement weather, our Religious School will not be open either. If students are already at their secular schools and a decision is made to close our Religious School, we will notify our students' secular schools and ask them to make an announcement at school. On Sundays, when there is no secular school, it is extremely difficult to notify students directly.

Therefore, your best bet is to check the TBE web site, www.tberochester.org which we will update as soon as possible. Also, if Religious School is being cancelled due to weather or other emergency, we will broadcast it over as many radio stations as possible, but definitely WHAM (1180 on the AM dial). In addition, we will leave a message on the school phone system.

SCHOOL-PARENT PARTNERSHIP

Communication Between School And Parents

It is our sincere belief that parents are our partners in the education of their children. A successful partnership has many elements, but among the most important is excellent communication. Only by communicating openly and freely can we achieve our mutual mission.

The school communicates with parents through phone calls from teachers or other staff (as needed); fliers; formal parent-teacher conferences; letters from teachers/administration; and other means, both formal and informal. ***The best and quickest means to communicate is through e-mail, so please make sure the school has your accurate e-mail address.*** In fact, in all grades, the teachers send parents an e-mail, at least monthly, about what has been going on in class since the last update. In addition, the Director of Education sends a weekly e-newsletter "Principal Points" each Thursday which highlights upcoming school events and is a vital communication tool.

Parents are strongly encouraged to communicate with the school staff and faculty. We are available and eager to answer any questions you might have, listen to concerns and develop solutions together, hear any suggestions you might have, and to celebrate any of our successes together.

Teachers may be contacted by calling the school office. The office will inform the teacher of the call, and the teacher will call the parent back when he/she is able.

The principal, of course, is available and accessible to you as well. In fact he welcomes the opportunity to meet each family, and to work with them to ensure that their child's Religious School experience is a meaningful one. Meetings with the principal can be arranged by calling the school office. Informal meetings can sometimes be had by just sticking your head in the school office and seeing if the principal is available. And please say hi and introduce yourself if you see the principal or any other faculty before or after school!

In addition, the chair and members of the Temple Beth El Education Committee would be happy to answer questions and listen to your concerns, suggestions, and comments.

Annual Registration Form

Each year, certain important information must be communicated to school administration and faculty. Therefore, we ask that parents complete a form for each student every single year. Filling out this form accurately and honestly is an important step in forging a link between parents and the school. All information on this form is kept strictly confidential, except for address and phone number, which is published in a school directory. Parents may request that their address and phone number be left out of the directory.

Report Cards/Progress Reports

Progress Reports are sent home twice, at the end of each semester. In between, if a teacher feels that a student has some performance issues, the teacher will discuss these issues directly with the parents.

Parent - Teacher Conferences

In early December, parents are given the opportunity to meet formally with their children's teachers to discuss the students' progress and any other relevant issues. Parents will be notified of the dates and will be asked to schedule appointments (10 minutes) in advance. While these conferences are optional, we highly encourage parents to take advantage of them.

Homework

We know that children's lives are busy ones. We know that children can often get a great deal of homework from their secular schools. We honestly empathize with the stress many children are under, trying to meet their various and growing responsibilities. That is why we try our hardest not to add to the stress by giving a great deal of homework.

However, we also know that you have entrusted us to teach your child how to read Hebrew, an essential skill if we are to achieve our joint objectives. It is a complicated language with sounds that do not occur in English, and a character set that not only bears no relationship to English, but is actually read in the opposite direction. Therefore, for your child to be successful, he/she must practice. Please make sure you and your child allot 15 minutes at least two or three times per week for Hebrew practice. The more your child practices, the more fluent and comfortable he/she will become with their reading.

In addition, we have a very full curriculum to teach and an extremely limited time frame. We also want to keep the students' interest and help them to develop independent study skills. Therefore, teachers may periodically assign other homework projects: a few pages of reading, perhaps, a vocabulary list to memorize, or a short research or opinion paper. Please make sure you ask your child(ren) about homework assignments, and help ensure that they get completed.

Field Trips And Other Activities

As part of our curriculum, individual classes, grades, or the entire school may be involved in one or more field trips. A general permission slip, covering all school trips and activities, is included as part of the annual registration form you are asked to complete and return to the school. Parents may be asked to serve as

chaperones or drivers for these events, and we would greatly appreciate any assistance you could provide.

The school also holds many assemblies and special programs throughout the year. When parents and others are invited, these events will be publicized through fliers, in class, through KOL (the TBE bulletin) and other appropriate means. We often need parental assistance during these events, and may call on parents to assist with these events.

In addition, the school sponsors several family education programs throughout the school year. Usually, they take place on Sundays during the normal Religious School Time. Since these programs are designed with child/parent interaction in mind, it is important for parents to make every effort to participate. You will be notified by flier or letter well before the program..

Bar And Bat Mitzvah

This is an extremely important milestone in the life of every Jew, signifying that the child has matured to the point that he/she is now responsible for his/her own deeds, and takes on the obligations of a Jewish adult. In order for this life cycle event to be meaningful, a child must be educated about what these deeds and obligations are, why we do them, and what they mean.

For Temple Beth El's B'nai Mitzvah who are attending our own Religious School, preparation begins in sixth grade. 6th graders spend an hour a week for one semester in a class with our Hazzan. This preparatory class focuses on learning the appropriate blessings and the melodies we use to chant the Torah and Haftarah. In addition, students learn how to do other things expected of B'nai Mitzvah, such as putting on Tallit and Tefillin.

In 6th grade, students are also asked to choose a Mitzvah project that they commit themselves (and hopefully their families) to for 6th and 7th grade. Projects may include such things as working with the elderly, doing something to combat hunger and/or homelessness, helping immigrants to our community, and so much more. The projects are under the auspices of our Rabbi, and must be approved by him

During 7th grade, when most of our students achieve this milestone, we expect regular attendance at Shabbat services and at Religious School classes. We also expect more mature behavior in the classrooms.

Students are assigned a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date when they are in 5th grade. Prior to this, fifth grade parents will be invited to a meeting regarding B'nai Mitzvah policies and procedures. When dates are assigned, an agreement detailing each party's responsibilities will be sent as well. This agreement must be signed by the parents and student and returned to the main office, where it will then be signed by the Rabbi, Hazzan, and Education Director.

Questions regarding Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates, the entire process, the availability of private tutors, and any other related matters should be addressed with the Hazzan or the Rabbi, who are accessible by calling the main Synagogue office.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Our school is fortunate to have a wonderful and very active Parent-Teacher Organization. The PTO serves as one method of making parents' voices heard. More importantly, it provides invaluable and irreplaceable support to the school and its programs, both in terms of time and energy and financial resources. The PTO works diligently to provide volunteers in the school when they are needed, organizes and supports grade level family Shabbat dinners throughout the year (as well as other programming), and is responsible for several major fundraisers which contribute thousands of dollars to the school budget and programs. In addition, the PTO operates the school snack cart whenever school is in session

Membership in the PTO is available at two levels: \$18 per family for regular membership, or you can give more (amount at your discretion) and become a supporting donor. You do not have to have a child in the school to become a member, and anyone (especially grandparents!) is eligible to join.

We strongly encourage your membership in this worthwhile organization. We also encourage you to volunteer some time to their much appreciated efforts. To join, please contact the school office.

OTHER PROGRAMS/RESOURCES

Sterman Multimedia Resource Center

In the spring of 2006, after extensive physical and technological renovations, the Temple Beth El library was rededicated as the Sterman Multimedia Resource Center. As such, it serves to supplement and enrich our school's educational program as well as to make the resources available to others in our community. Located on the second floor of the main building, the center holds a collection of non-fiction books, periodicals, and pamphlets on virtually every aspect of Jewish life. It also houses 2 desktop and 8 laptop computers in a wireless (wi-fi) environment, along with many Jewish educational programs on virtually every topic. There are materials for children, adolescents, and adults.

The center is available during school office hours by stopping in the school office. Books may be checked out for a two week period. There is a late fee of 10 cents per week for overdue items. If a book is lost, parents will be asked to pay for a replacement. The money will be refunded (minus late fees) if the book is later found. The computers and software must be used in the center - they are not available for loan.

Rebecca K. Lee Resource Center

The Rebecca K. Lee Educational Resource Center is a central service for the collection, storage, display and dissemination of commercially produced and teacher made Jewish educational materials of all media types. The center is named for Rebecca K. Lee who was a freedom fighter of the Vilna Ghetto and a beloved and dedicated teacher at our school until her death in 1978. The center has been designed to serve students as well as teachers. Although the center is affiliated with and supported by the school, its services are available to all members of Temple Beth El.

The Rebecca K. Lee Memorial Fund is a special fund established to provide for the center's continued growth and the acquisition of materials and equipment. Your support of this vital fund is greatly appreciated. Donation cards honoring Rebecca K. Lee are available through the school office. The cost is \$3 for Beth El members, and only \$1 for students.

Youth Groups

Temple Beth El is extremely proud to be the sponsor of two award winning youth groups, with very positive local, regional, and national reputations. While there is a small element of socialization within the Religious School Program, it's primary focus is educational, not social. Recognizing the tremendous importance of socializing with Jewish peers, our youth groups serve an important purpose, as the focus is primarily on social activities within a Jewish framework. Obviously, Religious School and our Youth Groups are complementary parts of a single whole. Therefore, we strongly recommend that our students join the age appropriate youth program and participate to the fullest.

Our Kadima program is available for students in grades 6 – 8. Some of the great programs members have enjoyed in the past include picnics, bowling, skating, trips to amusement parks, Purim carnivals, tie-dye

lessons, and slumber parties at the Synagogue. We hope your child will join in the fun this year!

We also are proud to sponsor one of the oldest Jewish Boy Scout Troops in the country! We encourage our boys in grades 5 and higher to join the scout troop. There's nothing quite like a weekend camping experience where kashrut and Shabbat are observed.

Scholarship Opportunities for Jewish Education/Living

Thanks to the generosity of many contributors over the years, the school and synagogue have a fund earmarked for scholarships. In addition, we can sometimes access community scholarship funds through the Jewish Community Federation.

Students whose families are members may apply for these scholarships to be used for Jewish educational programs. These include such programs as Camp Ramah, USY and Kadima summer learning programs, Israel programs, and more. Scholarships for school tuition, based on need, are also available.

Applications are reviewed and scholarships are approved by a Scholarship Committee. For more information, please contact the school office.

**Temple Beth El
Religious School
473-1190**

Matthew Field	<i>Rabbi</i>
Martin Leubitz	<i>Hazzan</i>
Barry M. Gruber	<i>Director of Education and Youth</i>
Randi Fox Tabb	<i>Preschool Director</i>
Michelle Caron	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

Faculty

Karen Fernandez	Beverly Movsky
Zipporah Kleinberg	Amy Ressel
Caroline Korn	Joan Shmia
Orna Korn	Ita Weingarten
Iris Mand	Melinda Yanoff
Debbie Mantel	

Enrichment Staff

Brad Spencer	Christopher Meeker
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