

**TEMPLE BETH EL
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
HANDBOOK**

Kindergarten , 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)

Andrea Finestrauss
Principal

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Rabbi

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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.

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, a parental note is required.

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. If this behavior continues, we will (B) Call the parents, (C) Have a parent conference, and/or (D) Request parent intervention to end the behavior

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, text, history, Hebrew and prayer.

Our vision is...

- To stimulate their sense of community with a responsibility toward fellow Jews as well as all people and a deep concern 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 show parent and child their place in the ongoing history of the Jewish people.
- To provide a sufficient Hebrew background so that a student can intelligently participate in Jewish services and have a basis for further study in modern Hebrew.

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 Herr's snacks, gogurts, mini bagels & cream cheese, water & juice boxes.

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 if it continues throughout the year. To reduce the number of tardies, we will close the classroom doors after the bell rings. If a student is consistently late, they may have to spend their break time in the office.

APPROPRIATE DRESS AND ITEMS

Appropriate dress is expected, similar to a secular school dress code, such as no roller-sneakers, midriff tops, mini-skirts, etc. Also, children are requested not to bring sports equipment or valuables to religious school. Examples of these are hockey sticks, footballs, electronic games, 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 Temple is not responsible if these items are lost.

KEREN AMI

In keeping with Jewish tradition and to encourage our children to give to those less fortunate, our teachers collect Keren Ami - "fund for our people" - 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.

HOMEWORK

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

SHABBAT CLUB

We encourage 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 in Aleph - Hai. "Shabbat Club" students are invited to a special fun night of entertainment and supper. These are the requirements for each grade: Aleph & Bet - 10 Friday night (or Saturday) services, Gimmel - 10 Friday and 5 Saturday, Dalet - 10 Friday and 10 Saturday, Hai (per Bar/Bat Mitzvah requirements) - 15 Friday and 15 Saturday. We will be reminding the children often and updating them on their progress.

CLASS SEDERS & FAMILY SERVICES

There will be one Family Service per year for each class, beginning with Aleph and going through to Confirmation. The students lead this special service. Additionally, each class will have a Friday night dinner (Seder Shel Shabbat). The Seders are a special family time, 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.