

# *Temple Beth Chai Religious School*

*...."as you teach, you learn"...*



## *Education Handbook*

*2018-2019*

*5778-5779*

*Rabbi Jonathan Kaplan*

Spiritual Leader

*Phyllis Lasky*

Education Director

**Temple Beth Chai**

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## **PHILOSOPHY**

Our school educational program is designed to help your child find personal meaning in all areas of Jewish Education and learning. Your child will explore both contemporary and historical issues in Jewish Life and Torah. They will become proficient in Hebrew language and Liturgy (Prayer) skills, which are central to understanding the meaning of our Prayers, and the preparation for a lifelong commitment to Jewish living.

We believe that our school should give our students...

- (1) Sound foundation of knowledge about Jewish history, literature, customs, ceremonies and Prayers
- (2) Opportunities to explore the spiritual, intellectual and affective aspects of religion and tradition, and
- (3) "Hands-on" experiences of Jewish life and learning.

Our educational program works to foster knowledge of and sense of responsibility toward Judaism and a commitment and connection to Jewish life and community.

We seek to provide a safe and sacred space for our children and their families to discover the joys, the values, the knowledge and the tools of Jewish life and living.

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL POLICIES**

### **REGISTRATION**

A registration form accompanied (with the non-refundable fee) must be completed for each child attending Religious School. When registering, please review all information for completion and accuracy.

### **FIRST QUARTER PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION FEE**

The first quarter of Religious School plus the registration fee must be paid prior to the onset of the Religious School year.

Subsequent quarterly payments (November, January, March) may be payable via PayPal (on our web site), automatically charged to a credit card on file, or via an alternate method.

### **\*CANCELLATION FEES**

Cancellation fees will apply as follows:

\$125.00 Registration fee (non-refundable)

\$255.00 (one quarter tuition) will be charged as a cancellation charge for any student withdraws after the onset of the school year.

### **CLASS TIMES and ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Classes for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades begin at 9:00 AM and end at 10:30 AM. Classes for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades begin at 10:45 AM and end at 12:30 PM. It is expected that students attend Religious School regularly. When students are absent they miss essential class work. Please make every effort to have your children in class on scheduled days, on time.

### **DRESS CODE**

All students are expected to come to school properly dressed (No "short shorts" and no bare stomachs....please).

### **\*CONDUCT and BEHAVIOR**

Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects respect and concern for the rights, well-being and safety of others both inside and outside of the classroom.

**This is a learning environment and we treat it as such.**

**We are respectful to all of our students and expect the same in return.**

**If your child is on medication,**

**please do have the teacher aware of it.**

**This information should be noted on their Medical Form as well.**

**Lack of daily medication is NOT an excuse for misbehavior!**

**DISRUPTIONS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**  
**STUDENTS ARE HERE TO LEARN AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE**  
**PENALIZED BY CONSTANT DISRESPECTFUL INTERRUPTIONS BY**  
**OTHERS**

**First Warning:** Student is told to refrain from this disruption/behavior; seat is moved; student is told they will be removed from the class in case of reoccurrence & parents will be notified.

**Second Action:** Student is placed outside of the room/parents are called/student is picked up from school

**FAMILY MUST MEET WITH RABBI KAPLAN AND PHYLLIS LASKY TO**  
**DISCUSS ISSUES**

Students are expected to share the responsibility of maintaining a safe and clean environment, and to show respect for the property of the Religious School. Snacks and drinks will be allowed at the teacher's discretion, during designated times only. Students are expected to finish their breakfast prior to entering the beginning of their Religious School Session.

**HOMEWORK\***

It is essential that all assignments be completed for efficient implementation of any specific subject. Please be an active participant in the education process by assisting your child to complete Hebrew review assignments. A list of interactive web site resources will be distributed to each student to assist their acquisition of the Hebrew Language.

Additionally, a "**Homework Helper**"\* Section has been added to our web site displaying each class's weekly assignment in the case of absence.

It is the responsibility of each student to have their work done on a timely basis.

Additionally, our **Hebrew Primer Book** has a parallel interactive web site [www.behrmanhouse.com](http://www.behrmanhouse.com) (direction sheet is distributed to all students) which offers enunciation of Hebrew letters, vowels, words, sentences and finally Prayers.

As Educators, we expect our student to visit this web site 3 times per week to practice and reinforce any newly introduced lessons from the Sunday prior.

As with any new skill, language, sport, etc., it must be practiced.

Therefore, **Hebrew is NO exception!**

Hebrew cannot be taught and retained within one 30 minute session per week without a sufficient amount of practice.

**WEEKLY PRACTICE IS ESSENTIAL**  
**FOR PROGRESSION FROM BEGINNER LEVEL TO INTERMEDIATE AND**  
**EVENTUALLY ON TO ADVANCED READING CLASS**

### **BOOKS/SUPPLIES\***

We are a School and all required School Supplies, Hebrew Books, Notebooks, Pencils, Kippah (for boys) etc. **MUST** be in each student's backpack when they are in session. Any student coming into school without pencils, paper or their required supplies **IS SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE!**

### **CELL PHONES\***

As we understand the importance of carrying a cell phone for communication, it is **UNACCEPTABLE for any cell phone to be ON during Religious School Session.**

**Having the cell phone on silent mode is UNACCEPTABLE,** as well.

If a student has a cell phone out during session, it will be confiscated and the parent must come in to retrieve the phone.

### **DROP-OFF and PICK-UP\***

Encouragement and support is a big part of a child's growth. It is highly impersonal and non-encouraging to simply drop your child off at the curb upon arrival, and to wait for them in the parking lot at pick-up time. Additionally, all students are our responsibility until the moment you have them in your possession.

**WE WILL NOT ALLOW THEM TO CROSS ANY PART OF THE PARKING LOT  
NO MATTER WHAT AGE!!**

The amount of traffic can be hectic and many drivers are in a rush. For this reason, we require that you escort your child into the building when arriving, and come into the building to pick them up when leaving. This will also give you the opportunity to say hello to your child's teacher and staff, and keep current with all news and updates. Please drop your child off no earlier than 15 minutes before class, and pick them up no later than 15 minutes after class.

**In case of an emergency and you are running late, please notify the  
Education Director @ 954-232-4657.**

### **PROGRESS REPORTS\***

**Our progress reports are verbal communication rather than a simple piece of paper.**

Following along the lines of "being different" and simplicity, our rule of thumb is that we do not wait until mid-year to be in contact with our parents if there is a problem in a student's progress or behavior.

Additionally, we do not wait until mid-year to commend any student on their "newfound" conquered ability.

They should be made proud, AS IT HAPPENS!

Guiding any student, young or older and commending their academics is productive and can only induce further successful results.

Our theory is that if it matters to them, it matters to us and we make a BIG DEAL about it.

And, Why Not?

## **COMMUNICATION**

Our desire is to increase communication with parents as a means of empowerment as partners in your child's Jewish education. Please do not hesitate to speak with the teacher/director regarding any concerns you may have. As our "Chai Kids" are of the utmost concern, we ask that you request a meeting/conference after class times, as prior to the onset of class is not the ideal time for a meeting. The Educator must focus her time and energies on her student and therefore, will not adequately dedicate her discussion time with you. Therefore, please ask for a conference at a more convenient time for all parties involved.

## **RESPECT**

We are very grateful to be located in such a convenient area of Coral Springs. But, WE are NOT the owners of the space; merely renting the facility. Therefore, we must be respectful to the rooms, tables, chairs, etc. Each student is expected to clean up after themselves. The teachers and teacher assistants are NOT responsible to clean up after each class session.

### **\*ATTENDANCE AT SHABBAT SERVICES**

TBC holds Shabbat Services on Friday Night throughout the School Year. Our services are held at Westglades Middle School, located on Holmberg Road. Participation in Services brings together all of the parts of the Liturgy/Prayer curriculum, and assists in the **preparation of your children for their B'Nai Mitzvah**, and continuing active Jewish life.

**Regular attendance at our Monthly Shabbat Service is REQUIRED.\***

**Grade Requirement**

**Grade 3, 4 & 5 – four (4) attendances per year**

**Grade 6 (BNai Mitzvah Class Prep) Five (5) attendances per year**

## **TZEDAKAH (Charity)**

Throughout the school year, in all grades, students are educated to understand the importance of ***Tzedakah*** and performing acts of loving kindness. ***Tzedakah*** donations are collected in the classes on a regular basis for donation to worthy causes. Students are assisted by their teachers in learning about the needs of the Jewish community, Israel and the World. In addition, students will be required to perform acts of ***Tzedakah*** through community or charitable service.

**Some of our Donations in the past have been:**

JAFCO

Jewish Family Services of Broward County

- Children of Domestic Abuse Program – Chanukah gifts/Gift cards/Food cards
- Kosher Food Program for Seniors and/or Homebound
- Clothesline Program – donation of gently used clothing for adults & children
- Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention, Inc.

Broward County Humane Society

Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital

Jewish National Fund/Trees for Israel

American Cancer Society/The 2012/2013/2014/2015/2016 Parkland Relay for Life

Temple Beth Chai Torah Mantle Cover

Torah Rimonim (Ornaments)

## CURRICULUM SUMMARY

The overall objective of the school is to promote a clear, innovative and enjoyable educational program enabling students to learn about Judaism and learn about the Jew within each of them. Through this educational process, we hope to enrich the lives and experiences of all the students. We endeavor to lay a firm foundation of knowledge and experience, on which each child will go forth throughout their lives, building and strengthening their Jewish Identity.

**The Primary Division (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)** gives our children the beginning building blocks in Jewish Holidays, Prayers, Bible stories and the Hebrew language.

The Hebrew Language is a weekly part of their curriculum and therefore, an intricate part of this program.

Simple Prayer acquisition is taught throughout this year.

They will be learning the ***Prayers for Shabbat, Sh'ma, Hinei MaTov***, as well as, appropriate ***Jewish Holiday tunes***.

All students are expected to study for reinforcement of their newly acquired skills so as to strengthen them from week to week.

**The Primary Division (4th Grade)** explores ritual, history, tradition, symbols and legend as well as achieve an understanding of the deeper meanings of the Jewish festivals. In addition, students will explore the relevance between the Holidays and today's world.

The students continue to develop their Hebrew Language with further challenges of reading multi-syllable words, eventually leading to sentences and simple Prayers (*i.e. Sh'ma, Hinei MaTov, Prayer for Bread, Prayer for Wine*).

**\*In the Intermediate Division (5<sup>th</sup> Grade & \*6<sup>th</sup> Grade/B'Nai Mitzvah Preparation Class)**

Our students are introduced to a more in-depth education of all facets of Judaism.

Many open discussions will take place in the following categories:

- \* **Judaism in today's world**
- \* **Feeling as Part of a Family**
- \* **Are we a better generation**
- \* **How can we make people see each other for whom they are**
- \* **Holocaust**
- \* **Israel Independence**
- \* **Israeli History**

In addition to the above, the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students are responsible to continue practicing their Hebrew Reading skills to progress into the "B'Nai Mitzvah" phase of this Grade.



**\*NEW STUDENTS ENTERING 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MUST BE ASSESSED IN THEIR HEBREW SKILLS. FLUENT HEBREW READING SKILLS ARE REQUIRED AND THEREFORE EACH INCOMING NEW 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENT MUST HAVE FIVE WEEKS (ONE HOUR PER WEEK) OF PRIVATE TUTORING (BY EDUCATION DIRECTOR) PRIOR TO THE ONSET OF SCHOOL**  
**NEW STUDENTS ENTERING 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WILL BE ASSESSED AS THEY MUST BE READING FLUENTLY PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE INTO THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

**Our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade has been re-named,**  
**“6<sup>th</sup> Grade/BNai Mitzvah Preparation Class**

During the months of August throughout the end of January, the curriculum will focus on all aspects of Judaic learning (traditions, history, holidays, etc.). Beginning in the month of January, this **6<sup>th</sup> Grade/BNai Mitzvah Preparation Class** will prepare for their upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah by learning the required Prayers/Liturgy for their BNai Mitzvah.

It is during this time that we emphasize full attendance (as much possible) as each session will cover crucial Prayers.

All students will be given a personalized Bar/Bat Mitzvah Book from which they will study and practice and eventually become a BNai Mitzvah.

Prayers will be taught in class in reading and/or chant and then must be followed through with multiple at home practice sessions.

The accompanying audio for each Prayer (for at-home practice) can be found on our website, [www.templebethchai.com](http://www.templebethchai.com) (go to, “Learning Tab”, “MP3 files”).

The BNai Mitzvah Class will continue through the end of the Religious School year (May) at which time, our Education Director, Ms. Phyllis Lasky, will then refer to the correct time frame for private one-on-one Torah and/or Haftarah tutoring with the Education Director, Ms. Phyllis, or Ms. Stephanie.

**Private Torah/Haftarah Tutoring,** which follows the completion of **6<sup>th</sup> Grade/BNai Mitzvah Preparation Class,** will consist of one-on-one sessions for each student to meet once per week with our Education Director, Ms. Phyllis Lasky, or one of our Religious School Educators, to learn his/her individual Torah portion (3-3 1/2 months and slightly longer for those students who are studying both Torah and Haftarah).

Private tutoring costs can be discussed with your tutor.

Each student will be scheduled for one hour per week.

The final step is a four (4) week session of rehearsals and meetings with Rabbi prior to the date of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Temple Beth Chai will educate, nurture and guide your child along this path in every possible way for their Life Cycle Event.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Temple Beth Chai Education Handbook lists the rules for students in our Religious School for the 2018/2019 School Year.

Your initials and/or signature below indicate that you have been made aware of all items and have received a copy of these rules.

Return a signed copy of this acknowledgement page with your child's Registration Form.

If you have already registered, please submit this completed page as soon as possible.

Thank you.

**INITIAL ON FOUR LINES BELOW**

\_\_\_\_\_ Pg. 2 Cancellation Fees

\_\_\_\_\_ Pg. 3 Conduct & Behavior

\_\_\_\_\_ Pg. 6 Shabbat Attendance

\_\_\_\_\_ Pg. 7 Intermediate Division  
Hebrew Skills

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade in 2018/19

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Signature)

Today's date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

**.....So Much Depends on You**

**“I’ve got two A’s!”, the boy cried out,  
his voice was filled with glee.  
His father very bluntly asked,  
“Why did you not get three?”**

**“Mom, I’ve got the dishes done,”  
the girl called from the door.”  
Her mother very calmly asked,  
“And did you sweep the floor?”**

**The children in the house next door  
Seem happy and content.  
The same things happened over there,  
But this is how it went.....**

**“I’ve got two A’s!”, the boy cried out,  
his voice was filled with glee.  
His father proudly said, “That’s great!  
I’m glad you live with me.”**

**“Mom, I’ve got the dishes done”  
the girl called from the door.  
Her mother smiled and softly said,  
“Each day I love you more.”**

**Children need encouragement  
For the tasks they’re asked to do  
If they’re to lead a happy life  
So much depends on YOU!!!**

***...from the TBC Religious School Team and the partners in your child’s Judaic education  
We give of our time, guidance and knowledge, but mostly of our love.***