

“If you will it, it is not a dream...”

Theodore Zeev Herzl



Welcome to the new school year 5770-5771.

I'm very thrilled to say the tremendous responsibility of raising a generation of kids to love Jewish learning and lead a Jewish life must be accomplished with enthusiastic and dedicated teachers, parents, and community members. Thank you for sharing this responsibility with me. This coming year will be exciting!

- The implementation of a new and innovative Hebrew program called Mitkadem (which means to progress) This curriculum will offer individualized learning as well as group instruction , all to ready our children for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.
- The second year of our new Religious School Curriculum, “Chai.” Our teachers loved using it with their classes and the students had a wonderfully creative time learning Torah and commentary from the Talmud, Midrash and so much more.
- Jewish dance and music for K-7.
- Beth-El youth choir for children 3rd – 6th grade.
- Midrasha program (8th -9th) with new electives including “Tikun Olam” and leadership projects, as well as Hebrew as an elective during Talmud class.
- B'nai Mitzvah students will be T'fila Leaders prior to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

The Land of Israel

Together, young and old, we will discuss, debate and begin to

understand:

- Why should we care about Israel?
- Why should Israel exist?
- Why did God choose the land of Israel?
- Why support Israel?
- Does Israel belong to Jews?
- Why do Israelis and Palestinians fight?
- Why does the US support Israel?
- Why visit Israel?



And much more. I hope that you will join us for programs throughout the year. We'll need YOUR help to make our programs a success. Call me to volunteer!

BETH - EL CONGREGATION

PARENT GUIDE 2010-2011 (5770-5771)

Welcome to the Beth-El Religious School 2010-2011, 5770-5771 year! Together, we the educators, and you, the parents, are forming a covenant to educate us and our children to the highest standards. We strive to provide every student with the finest Jewish educational experience. Please read the following guide so that you will understand our teaching philosophy and goals. If you have any questions, please contact us.

EDUCATION VISION

We at Congregation Beth El seek to create innovative learning experiences for all ages and levels of observance that connect us to our tradition, to each other and to Torah.

Through active life-long engagement with our texts, history, rituals, music and arts, we aspire to grow continuously as individuals, as members of the Jewish community and as citizens of the world.

By approaching mitzvot within a context of study and understanding, our actions become more meaningful and purposeful, fostering our desire to learn more. Mitzvot strengthen our connections to Judaism, and enliven our homes, infusing them with the sights, sounds, and tastes of our tradition.

We appreciate the breadth of Jewish experience and culture, and recognize that there are many paths that lead each of us to spiritually fulfilling lives. We seek learning that inspires us, that matters to us, that affects how we live each day.

Our learning roots us, and excites us, but it also challenges us to think critically. We respect diversity of thought and our approach to learning reflects Beth-El's egalitarian Reform philosophy. We are committed to creating an environment that is comfortable and welcoming for all learners.

**By Nurturing Jewish Minds, Inspiring Jewish Actions and Igniting Jewish Spirit,
We Energize Our Community and Ensure Our Future**

Upon completion of their studies at Beth - El Religious School, we aspire that students will:

- Affirm their Jewish identity
- Demonstrate a commitment to Jewish living and learning
- Have insight and respect for family and community
- Understand practices, traditions, holiday celebrations, and life cycle events
- Be familiar with music, songs, and the folk life of the Jewish people
- Participate in and comprehend the significance of mitzvot and tzedakah toward the various communities in their lives
- Have insight into contemporary Reform Jewish values, ethics and issues
- Be familiar with modern Jewish history, specifically, the Holocaust, the State of Israel, and American Jewish history
- Possess knowledge of the content and significance of the Bible

- Understand and appreciate the structure and components of the worship service including reading Hebrew from a prayer book and the Torah

STRUCTURE

Kindergarten – 3rd	2 ½ hours weekly
4th – 6th	4 hours weekly (including Hebrew School)
7th – 9th	2-½ hours weekly
10th	2 ½ hours weekly (Confirmation)

SCHOOL HOURS

Religious School

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. (K – 10th)

Hebrew School

Sunday: 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (4 – 6th – Hebrew)

Wednesday: 4:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. (Grades 4 – 6th – Hebrew)

Religious School Aleph-Bet



All School-Family Programs:

- Each year, the Religious School has informal holiday programs. These programs will run by age group concurrently K-4th 5th - 7th and 8th - 10th and sometimes K-6th and 7th - 10th. Parents are more than welcome to come along and join in the fun and learning during Religious School class time. The programs are on regular religious school dates. Those holiday program dates are:

Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur Program	Sep 12, 2010
Sukkot Program	Sep 19, 2010
Simchat Torah	Sep 26, 2010
Temple Hanukkah Dinner & Program (Saturday)	Dec 4, 2010
Hanukkah Program	Dec 5, 2010
Tu Bishvat Seder	Jan 16, 2011
Special Education Day (8th 9th & 10th)	Feb 13, 2011
Parent Student Education Day	Feb 26, 2011
Purim	Mar 20, 2011
Pesach	Apr 17, 2011
Yom Hashoah & Yom Ha'atzmaut	May 1, 2011
School Picnic	May 22, 2011

Family Education Days:

Open House	Aug 29, 2010
Family Program	Feb 6, 2011



Attendance

Because continuity and consistency are important in building education and the life-long love of Jewish learning, students are required to attend **a minimum of 75% of scheduled classes each year**. Should a child miss more than 25% of a semester's classes, make-up work will be assigned which must be completed before promotion to the next level (or before credit will be given for the course). Please be advised that arriving late/leaving early contribute to the calculation of the 75% requirement.

After 2 absences, the child's teacher will contact the family with an informal "we missed you" phone call or email. If a child misses three or more consecutive classes, the office will contact the family to ascertain if there is a problem.

Each situation will be treated on an individual basis and determined by the Director of Education and the Rabbi.



Appointments

Parents are welcome to set an appointment with the Director to discuss any issues relating to their child's Religious School experience. Please always feel free to let the Director know of any concerns. We welcome compliments as well!

Ilana Knust, Director

817-332-7141 (Religious School)

llanaknust@bethelfw.org



Behavior

Beth-El Religious School prides itself on the high character of its students and teachers. It is our preference to spend our time and energy on learning, developing Jewish relationships and having a positive Jewish experience. Rarely have we had discipline issues. On the off chance we may, the Religious School Committee has set forth the following standards by which we act in matters of discipline. All discipline matters involving the student, Education Director and/or Rabbi are confidential.

Teacher discussion with student:

- Speaking rudely or disrespectfully to others (name calling, derogatory statements, obscene gestures, racial slurs, profanity), first offense
- Refusing to participate in class work, first offense
- Talking while the teacher is leading the class, first offense
- Disrupting other students, first offense
- Throwing things, first offense
- Violating safety rules, first offense

Teacher discussion with student and parent and bring to the attention of the Director:

- Speaking rudely or disrespectfully to the teacher (name calling, derogatory statements, obscene gestures, racial slurs, profanity), second offense
- Refusing to participate in class work, second offense
- Talking while the teacher is leading the class, second offense
- Disrupting other students, second offense
- Bullying, first offense
- Throwing objects, second offense
- Violating safety rules, second offense

Teacher will bring to the Education Director to handle immediately with parent:

- Any destructive or violent behavior, first offense
- Bringing contraband into school: cell phones, laser pointers, matches, lighters, hazardous material, electronics, first offense
- Any illegal behavior, first offense
- Any learning issues the teacher discovers and was not informed about
- Violating safety rules, third offense
- Vandalizing Temple and private property, first offense



Enrichment Activities (Library, Computer, Art, music)

Each class will participate in enrichment activities regularly during Religious School.



Clothing / Dress Code

Beth-El prefers to focus on learning in class and bonding Jewish kids to one another. There are times, however, when people may become distracted due to another person's attire. Whatever is considered appropriate dress in secular or private school is considered appropriate dress in our synagogue. Whatever is considered inappropriate dress in secular or private day school is considered inappropriate dress in the Temple. In cases where a student is dressed in a manner distracting to others, the Education Director or assistant will provide clothing that the student will put on for the class duration. The following is considered inappropriate: skirts and shorts whose length is higher than 2" above the knee, camisoles, bare midriffs, pants or jeans so big they fall well below the waistline, sneakers with rollers, ripped or torn tee shirts.



DROP OFF AND DISMISSAL

Please drop off and pick up your children at the Religious School wing entrance. **Kindergarten through second grade parents must drop off and pick up their children at the door and they will be safely directed to their classrooms.** If you choose to walk them to class, park in the Temple lot and walk them safely to their classroom.



Weather situation policy

If a decision is made to cancel Sunday Religious School or midweek Hebrew, it will be announced on NBC/channel 5 or www.nbc5i.com. Weekday classes will be canceled at the discretion of the Religious Education Director. If nothing is listed and the school had to be closed at the last minute, every effort will be made to contact you. Also you may call Ilana Knust at 817-294-9387.



Fire Drills

Fire drills are held at least once during each semester. One drill will be held on a Sunday; the other will be held during midweek Hebrew. Evacuation routes, alert procedures, locations of fire extinguishers, and other safety matters will be presented to teachers during their orientation. Evacuation routes are posted in every classroom.



Camp and Camp Retreats (URJ Greene Family Camp)

Beth- El Religious School highly supports the Greene Family Camp and strongly recommends student participation in its programs. Go to www.greene.org to learn more about what a wonderful summer your child could have!

Applications for all events and for the summer will be available at the Temple.

Sometimes (not this year)We will also have a Temple retreat weekend for all families at Greene Family Camp, please come and join us for this wonderful spiritual journey for the whole family.



Teachers and Madrichim (Teacher's Aides)

We depend highly on our teachers to educate our children. We are so pleased to have a team of high quality, creative, enthusiastic educators on our staff. Our classes run more efficiently and are greatly enhanced by our Madrichim (Teacher's Aide).



Report cards

Report cards for all grades will be mailed at the end of the year unless a special situation needs attention. Report cards will include attendance information and contact information from teachers. The Religious School Director reviews all report cards prior to sending them to parents. Copies are kept in each student's permanent file.



Special Friday night Services for students and their families

The congregation is planning children's services at least once a month for our students and Parents, Please join us. If you would like to volunteer with any of these programs please call Ilana at 817-332-7141.

Consecration (Friday)	Sep 24, 2010
Children's Service (Friday)	Oct 8, 2010
Synaplex (Friday)	Nov 19, 2010
Children's Service (Friday)	Jan 14, 2011
Children's Service (Friday)	Feb 18, 2011
Synaplex (Friday)	Mar 4, 2011
Purim Celebration(Saturday)	March 19, 2011
Children's Service (Friday)	Apr 8, 2011
Confirmation	May 6, 2011
Service Honoring Teachers (Friday)	Apr 29, 2011



Snack

The parents of grades K – 3rd, will be assigned to provide snacks each week. Hebrew school on Wednesday - the students will be allowed to bring a snack with them, since they come directly from their secular school and may be hungry.

Beth-El does not permit shellfish or pork to be brought into our building.



Tz'dakah and Tikun Olam – Repairing the World –

One of the many lessons we strive to teach our children is our role in repairing the world, Tikun Olam. One of the methods we use to teach this is by asking children to bring Tz'dakah each week. Meaning “justice,” “Tz'dakah” is a *gift of money* given to a fund, which will aid in bringing justice to all. Look for our Tz'dakah tree in the classroom so our students and teachers can see how much they have raised.

WE ARE WORKING ON A NEW MITZVAH PROJECT FOR EACH CLASS TO BE DONE ALL YEAR BY THE STUDENTS.

BETH EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CURRICULUM

<p>Kindergarten Sunday class from 9:30-12:00 Student age 5 by September 1. The Topic for their curriculum will be holidays, Bible stories and Hebrew.</p>	<p>Children will discover the joy of our holiday tradition through a series of booklets called “Jewish and Me,” and through lots of crafts, music and games. The Bible story will be introduced through an exciting book called Torah Alive, a unique method teaching Torah to young children (dramatic role-playing, puppetry and more. Basic Hebrew holiday vocabulary will be introduced. Bible stories and the values drawn from them will be explored through a series of booklets called “Teach Me Torah.” A Hebrew specialist will introduce the Hebrew Aleph Bet weekly for thirty minutes.</p>
<p>Grade 1: Theme: Discovering myself in the Jewish story.</p> <p>I am part of the ongoing story of Torah and the Jewish people. My Jewish acts help me discover the beauty and order of sacred time and my place in the Jewish story. I am part of the ongoing story of the Jewish people when I perform acts of g'milut chasadim.</p>	<p>Torah - Introduction: What Is Torah?, Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Rebekah: Woman of Kindness and Courage, Jacob and Esau, Joseph (Lesson <i>Alef</i>): Trouble among Brothers, Joseph (Lesson <i>Bet</i>): Personal Change and Reconciliation, The Genesis Journey Map,</p> <p>Avodah - Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, What Is a Blessing?, <i>Havdalah</i>, Chanukah, Purim, Pesach, <i>Shehecheyanu</i>, Being a Jewish Hero: An Introduction to <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> and <i>Tzedakah</i></p> <p>G'milut Chasadim - Being Kind with <i>Derech Eretz</i>, Do Not Do to Others..., Repentance: Is Saying Sorry Enough?, Welcoming Guests: <i>Hachnasat Orchim</i>, Helping Our Synagogue Community, Taking Care of the Earth, <i>Tzedakah</i>: A Different Way of Helping, <i>G'milut Chasadim Hero</i></p>
<p>Grade 2: Theme: The personal relevance and power of Torah, Avodah, and G'milut Chasadim</p> <p>Studying Torah can teach me important lessons about how God wants me to live. Jewish stories, celebrations and rituals help me understand and express my relationship with God. We make the world a better place by</p>	<p>Torah - Intro to Torah, Intro to Book of <i>Sh'mot</i>, <i>Parashat Sh'mot</i>-Finding God in Small Places, <i>Parashat Bo</i>: Marking Our Freedom (Session alef), <i>Parashat Bo</i>: Marking Our Freedom (Session bet), <i>Parashat B'shalach</i>: Nachshon Comes to Visit, <i>Parashat Yitro</i>: Helping Hands, <i>Parashat Ki Tisa</i>: Hold On to Your Hat, God!, <i>Parashat Mishpatim</i>: Reaching Out to Strangers</p> <p>Avodah - Why Can't I See God?, Shabbat Blessings, Morning Blessings, <i>Sh'ma</i>, Evening Blessings, How Do I Talk to God?, Why Does God Want Me to Grow?, How Does God Talk to Us?, Does God Know Me?</p> <p>G'milut Chasadim - Making A Difference, Opportunities to Do <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>, Torah Teaches Us, In God's Image, Being God's Partner,</p>

<p>performing acts of <i>g'milut chasadim</i> in our everyday lives.</p>	<p>Welcoming Guests, Taking Action, Reflections on Doing <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>, <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> Celebration</p>
<p>Grade 3: Theme: Kedushah (holiness)</p> <p>The laws and rules found in the Torah can help us to live a life filled with holy moments Through avodah, we can make our lives and the world more holy (kadosh). Each individual act of <i>g'milut chasadim</i> can make the world more kadosh (holy).</p>	<p>Torah - Introduction to <i>Vayikra/Leviticus - Parashat K'doshim</i>: Holiness, <i>Parashat Vayikra</i>: Sacrifice, Gifts, Drawing Near, <i>Parashat Sh'mini: Kashrut</i> - Holy Eating, <i>Parashat K'doshim</i> Session <i>Alef</i>: Stumbling Block, <i>Parashat K'doshim</i> Session <i>Bet</i>: <i>Tochecha</i> (Rebuking Others), <i>Parashat Emor</i>: Shabbat - Holy Time, <i>Parashat B'har</i>: The Sabbatical Year - Holiness of the Earth, <i>Parashat K'doshim</i>: Love Your Neighbor, <i>Parashat B'chukotai</i>: Rules, Laws, and Teachings - Passing It On</p> <p>Avodah - Synagogue Helps Us Make Room for God, Road Signs to God, How Do We Relate to God?, Getting Connected, Acting Holy, Everything's <i>B'seder</i>, All Is in Order, Our Bodies Are a Gift from God, Ordinary Moments Can Be <i>Kadosh</i>, Taking God Home</p> <p>G'milut Chasidim - Taking Responsibility: Doing <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>, <i>K'lal Yisrael</i>: Helping Jews around the World, <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>: Helping Others and Helping Ourselves, Our Actions Make a Difference: Caring is Contagious, <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> Everyday, A <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> Road Map, The <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> Holiday Connection (Session <i>Alef</i>), The <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> Holiday Connection (Session <i>Bet</i>), <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>: Review and Taking Action</p>
<p>Grade 4: Theme: Me in My Community</p> <p>With the promise of a holy land (Eretz Yisrael), we as a holy people (Am Yisrael) have a responsibility to strive toward holiness by observing the brit (covenant) Keva and kavannah, the fixed order of worship and the personal intention we bring to prayer, are complementary aspects of Jewish worship, combining to help us make sacred connections. We have a responsibility to perform acts of <i>g'milut chasadim</i> for the people we encounter in our daily lives.</p>	<p>Torah - <i>Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, and the B'rit, Am Yisrael</i>—Session <i>Alef</i>: All Jews are Members of <i>Am Yisrael</i>; I Am a Member of <i>Am Yisrael</i>, <i>Am Yisrael</i> - Session <i>Bet</i>: It Takes Twelve Tribes to Create a People, <i>Eretz Yisrael</i> - Session <i>Alef</i>: The Physical Land, <i>Eretz Yisrael</i> - Session <i>Bet</i>: The Land for Our Souls, <i>B'rit</i> - Session <i>Alef</i>: <i>Parashat Sh'lach L'cha</i>: Becoming Like Joshua and Caleb, <i>B'rit</i> - Session <i>Bet</i>: <i>Parashat Sh'lach L'cha</i>: Becoming Like Joshua and Caleb, <i>B'rit</i> - Session <i>Gimel</i>: Keeping the <i>B'rit</i>, Wrap-Up: We Are About to Enter the Land</p> <p>Avodah – <i>Kavanah, Keva</i>: Why We Pray, Siddur Geography: Our Journey through the Prayer Book, The <i>Sh'ma</i> and Its Blessings: Finding <i>Kavanah</i> in <i>Keva</i> (Session <i>Alef</i>: <i>Sh'ma</i> and <i>V'ahavta</i>), The <i>Sh'ma</i> and Its Blessings: Finding <i>Kavanah</i> in <i>Keva</i> (Session <i>Bet</i>: Creation, Revelation, Redemption), <i>Kiddush</i>: Sanctifying Our Lives Through Fixed Prayer and Personal Feelings of Holiness, Communal and Individual Prayers, Blessings of Wonder, Silent Prayer: Creating a Moment for Ourselves, with Our Own Words</p> <p>G'milut Chasidim - Making Peace Among Friends, <i>Sh'lom Bayit</i>: Peace and Harmony at Home, Accepting Differences: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself (<i>V'ahavta L'rei-acha Kamocho</i>), Show Honor with Action: Honor Your Parents (<i>Kibud Av Va-em</i>), Befriending the Lonely, The Danger of Gossip: <i>L'shon Hara</i>, Understanding the Elderly, Honoring the Elderly (<i>Kibud Z'keanim</i>) Session <i>Alef</i>, Honoring the Elderly (<i>Kibud Z'keanim</i>) Session <i>Bet</i>: Intergenerational Program</p>
<p>Grade 5: Theme: Reform Judaism and the power of community.</p> <p>The words and messages of the prophets are at the heart of Reform Judaism. The practice of prayer can help me grow through personal reflection, can</p>	<p>Torah - <i>Tanach</i>: Getting to Know You, Meet the Prophets, Joshua: Warrior Prophet, Deborah: Bringing Light to Her World, Jonah and Jeremiah: The Reluctant Prophets, Amos and Isaiah: The Intolerant Prophets, Elijah: Who Was He? Who Is He?, Reform Judaism: Response to Prophecy, Your Sons and Daughters Shall Prophecy</p> <p>Avodah - The Prayer-to-Action Connection, Introduction to the <i>Amidah</i>, <i>Amidah</i> Section 1: <i>Brachot</i> of Praise, <i>Amidah</i> Section 2: <i>Brachot</i> of Petition, <i>Amidah</i> Section 3: <i>Brachot</i> of Thanksgiving, The <i>Aleinu</i> Prayer: Choosing God, The <i>Kaddish</i> Prayer: Remembering and Affirming God</p>

<p>increase my connection to the Jewish people, and can strengthen my relationship with God.</p> <p>We are all part of klal yisrael and have a responsibility to actively support and sustain the Jewish community through acts of g'milut chasadim.</p>	<p>Choosing God, The <i>Kaddish</i> Prayer: Remembering and Affirming God, Israel in Our Prayers, The Prayer-to-Action Wrap-Up</p> <p>G'milut Chasidim - <i>K'hilah</i>: The Jewish Community, <i>Al Tifrosh Min Hatzibur</i>: Do Not Separate Yourself from the Jewish Community, <i>K'vod HaMet</i>: Showing Honor to the Dead, Conversion: Becoming Part of the Jewish Community, <i>Keruv</i>: Welcoming Jews-by-Choice into the Jewish Community, Justice in the Community, <i>Tzedakah</i> Session 1: How to Choose Where to Give, <i>Tzedakah</i> Session 2: Avoiding Embarrassment, Speaking Out and Speaking Up</p>
<p>Grade 6: Theme: Revelation – What Does it Mean In Our Lives Today?</p> <p>Studying Jewish texts allows us to explore our relationship with God and reflect on the ways God is continually revealed to others and to ourselves. Avodah is the work we do, by exploring our personal and communal role in Revelation, to find sacred connections to God, to community, and self. We can experience God in our world, in others, and within ourselves, by engaging in acts of g'milut chasadim.</p>	<p>Torah - Introduction to <i>K'tuvim</i>/Writings, <i>M'gillat Rut</i>/The Book of Ruth: Mining the Text For Meaning, <i>Megilat Rut</i>/The Book of Ruth: Finding God in Moab and Canaan, Introduction to Wisdom Literature, <i>Mishlei</i>/Proverbs: Wise Words for All, <i>Kohélet</i>: Wise Man or Cynic?, <i>T'hillim</i>/Psalms Session <i>Alef</i>: Poetry and Liturgy, <i>T'hillim</i>/Psalms Session <i>Bet</i>: Images of God, God, How Are You Revealed in the World and What Is My Relationship with You?</p> <p>Avodah - Standing at Sinai: My Role in Revelation, The Torah Service as a Public Reading, The Torah Service and Community Building, Finding Our Way to Sinai: A Map of the Torah Service, Choreography and Etiquette of the Torah Service, The Blessings of Torah, What is the Haftarah?, The Role of <i>Sh'liach Tzibur</i>, My Communal Role in Revelation: Entering the Covenant as a Jewish Adult</p> <p>G'milut Chasidim - Finding God in Our World Through Acts of <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>, <i>Bal Tashchit</i>: Protecting the Rainforests, <i>Bal Tashchit</i>: Recycling and Conserving Energy, <i>Tzaar Baalei Chayim</i>: Care and Protection of Animals, World Health Issues, Peace, World Hunger, Jews and the Struggle for Civil Rights, <i>Hineini</i>: Embracing Our People around the World</p>
<p>Grade 7: Theme: Hineini – What Does it Mean to Be a Responsible Jewish Adult?</p> <p>My life is reflected in and reflects Torah. The message and power of Jewish prayer can help me understand and define myself as an individual and as an authentic member of the Jewish community.</p> <p>Our development as emerging Reform Jewish adults and authentic members of the Jewish community is closely linked to our ethical behavior (<i>middot</i>) and the performance of acts of <i>g'milut chasadim</i></p>	<p>Torah - <i>Lech L'cha</i>, The Journeys We Take, Cain and Abel: Family Relationships, <i>Akeidat Yitzchak</i>, The Binding of Isaac: Honoring Parents, Rebekah: A Virtuous Woman?, Rebekah: Tough Choices, God and Abraham: A Relationship Like No Other, Jacob and the <i>Ish</i>/Being: Struggling to Change (Lesson <i>Alef</i>), Jacob and the <i>Ish</i>/Being: Struggling to Change (Lesson <i>Bet</i>), Wrap Up: Our Lessons from Genesis/<i>B'reishit</i></p> <p>Avodah - Introduction to the Jewish Life Cycle, <i>B'nei Mitzvah</i> and Marriage: Responsibility and Relationships, Birth and Death: Teach Us to Number Our Days, The High Holy Days: Focus on Repentance, Pesach--Questions: Then and Now, Chanukah and Purim: Do You Believe in Miracles (and Boundaries)?, My Jewish Identity: <i>Eilu D'varim</i> – What Must I Do?, My Jewish Identity: <i>Sh'ma</i> – What Do I Believe?, My Jewish Identity: <i>Hineini</i></p> <p>G'milut Chasidim - Time for a Checkup, That's What Friends are For: <i>Dibuk Chaverim</i>, Truth as an Act of Kindness (<i>Emet</i>), Stop the Bullying NOW!: Not Standing Idly By (Lo <i>Taamod Al Dam Rei-echa</i>), Keep Your Cool: Being Slow to Anger, (<i>Erech Apayim</i>), What's With The Attitude? Having a Pleasant Demeanor, (<i>Seiver Panim Yafot</i>), Courage! (<i>Ometz Lev</i>), Living Generously (<i>N'divut</i>), <i>Hineini</i>--Here I Am! I Am Ready to Act!</p>

Midrasha – 8th-9th grade.

Sunday – 9:30-12:00.

09:30-10:30 – core class curriculum.

10:30-10:45 – break in the lounge.

10:45-11:20 – enrichment program: Field Trip, Tikkun Olam projects, Art, drama, cookingm, etc.

11:20 – 11:30 – break in the lounge.

**11:30 – 12:00 – Talmud Page with Rabbi Mecklenburger.
Hebrew with Danielle Snailer.**

Confirmation – Special project.

This year, the confirmation students will create a special project related to the Religious School Theme “the Land of Israel” Looking into non-fiction Jewish books such as the Torah, Talmud, the books by the sages and so on, they will be able to find (a) the importance of it in the Jewish tradition, (b) a Jewish way of looking at it, and (c) that they are not remote antiquities but are a real, vital force in the lives of Jews. The students will pick the book/topic or author and research and create a project in a multi- media way (slide show movie, play, creative writing and so on).

8th grade – Early adult issues-K’dushat haquf.

1. **Life choices** – personal ethics, choosing right from wrong and exercising self-control.
2. **Body ethics** - Students will discuss drug and alcohol abuse, body piercing and tattooing through Jewish sources.
3. **Coming of age in an age of confusion**– Jewish values and dating. Lessons from the bible about modesty, peer pressure and interfaith dating.

9th grade – Questions, questions all around...

1. **Anti-Semitism, the Holocaust and Israel** – students will study the history and affects of Anti-Semitism and discuss how to fight hate. The birth of Israel.

2. **Christianity and Islam** – Early histories of Christianity and Islam, the key beliefs and their relationship with Judaism.

Confirmation – 10th grade.

This program is designed to develop critical thinking about Jewish topics.

Jewish teaching, Jewish law, Jewish tradition and Jewish history all embraces a remarkably constant set of beliefs and behaviors that can be found in Jewish books.

Applying Judaism to everyday life and learning how being an active Jew enhances life.

Love, sex, marriage and intermarriage (what is love, how does one pick a partner? Does the Torah approve of wedding between a Jew and non-Jew? Does the Torah say anything about sex before marriage? Stress and suicide.

Jewish identity (Why Judaism is special? What is the basis of Judaism? Who is considered a good Jew? Do we have to believe in God? Can a Jew be a Jew without worshipping? Is Judaism a nationality or a religion??)

Middle East conflict.

Theology with the Rabbi - Rabbi will analyze with the students selected biblical texts and rituals to see how they correlate with what we perceive Judaism to stand for. Rabbi will also prepare them for the Confirmation service.



Hebrew - Mission

Hebrew is an ancient and sacred language spoken by Jews around the world and through the ages. Learning Hebrew is one way to connect with our heritage and understand what being a Jew means. Hebrew links Jews of all places and generations.

At Beth-El our main goals for our Hebrew program are:

- 1) Fostering love and appreciation of Hebrew as a living language as well as the classic language of prayer and Torah.
- 2) Preparing students for Bar/Bat Mitzvah and lifelong participation in Jewish worship.

To implement the two goals we have two tracks in our program.

Sundays all students—including those not planning Bar/Bat Mitzvah—should gain an appreciation of Hebrew as a living language and a key to Jewish self-understanding. Students will learn that concepts like *Shalom*, *Torah*, and *Tzedakah* can never be fully expressed in translation (“hello/goodbye/peace, Pentateuch, charity”). Furthermore, part of the miracle of the state of Israel reborn is the renaissance of the Hebrew language as a spoken tongue, and something which binds Jews wherever they may live.

Midweek Hebrew will use a specifically prayer-oriented curriculum to develop reading fluency and provide practice in the basic prayers of the liturgy used at Beth-El. Students will recognize key words and their root meaning, and appreciate the main theme of each prayer and how it fits into the structure of the service. Tutoring for Pre B’nai Mitzvah students is usually only for the preparation of the student’s Torah and Haftarah portions.

- **This year we will be implementing a new and innovative Hebrew program called Mitkadem (which means to progress) This curriculum will offer individualized learning as well as group instruction all to ready our children for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.**

Religious school all students - Hebrew goals and objectives.

1. Know Shabbat and Holiday blessings.
2. Know their Hebrew names.
3. Use simple conversational Hebrew (reading and writing) using the books: “time to read” (Zman Leekro) one and two (4th -6th) “Kriah v’od” (1st - 3rd)

4. Students will be engaged in discussion: Why do we pray? And hopefully will learn to pray with “Kavanah” (intention).
5. Students will learn to identify root words found in the Siddur to help them comprehend the meaning of the words. (prayers and conversational Hebrew).

Midweek Hebrew school & Sunday Hebrew school program goals and objectives(4th-7th)

1. Know the Hebrew Alphabet and vowels-orally and in script writing.
2. The main goal is prayer mastery, which means that a child can read a prayer fluently, error free, understand key words and concepts, and understand the general meaning of the prayer and where it fits in the service.
3. The students will understand the structure of the Friday night and Saturday morning services.
4. We will strive to strengthen students' Hebrew reading fluency by learning decoding skills and associating the words of prayers with stories and pictures.

All students 4th through 6th grade are required to attend Hebrew school if they wish to have Bar/Bat Mitzvah.