

BETH-EL CONGREGATION

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

PARENT HANDBOOK

Adonai Echad, God is one

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל



2009 – 2010

5769 - 5770

RALPH MECKLENBURGER, RABBI
ILANA KNUST, EDUCATION DIRECTOR
BARRY BZOSTEK, PRESIDENT

A WARM WELCOME

We welcome inquiries and discussion regarding the policy and procedures of our Religious School. Please feel free to visit and observe our curriculum, texts and classrooms. We truly appreciate any interest, participation and support to the process of enriching our children's lives.

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“If you search there for Adonai your God, and if you pursue Him with all your heart and soul, you will eventually find Him.” (Deuteronomy, 4:29)

Our Religious School theme this year is “God is one”

Judaism isn't a one size fits all religion. It is a complex, dynamic religion with varying practices and beliefs. It is our goal to study the many facets and facts of Judaism for a deeper understanding, But facts seldom change lives: profound insights and experiences may. Teaching about God today is more important than ever. If we can help give our students an experience of God's presence in their lives, we can help that change take place, the realization that being Jewish matters.

As Jewish educators we have the responsibility to nourish the students' Jewish education as well as give them many life experiences. We also must give them many opportunities to question, and doubt their faith, and encounter with God. The strength and quality of our relationship with God can be assessed only when challenged. For this reason, it is important to provide a trusting environment where the students can safely raise their doubts and explore their questions about God.

Experiencing and understanding God will help our children put Judaism first and will give them a good reason to stay Jewish and love Judaism.

This year we will be implementing new, innovative and in- depth curriculum in both our Judaic Studies and Hebrew.

We have been working this summer to improve the Midrasha (8th and 9th grades) curriculum using lessons learned from our past experience and the student's input. We will also dedicate a new lounge for our Midrasha and Confirmation students to socialize between sessions.

We are truly excited about the wonderful changes in the curriculum and the new programs which we will share with you this year.



BETH - EL CONGREGATION

PARENT GUIDE 2009-2010 (5769-5770)

Welcome to the Beth-El Religious School 2009-2010, 5769-5770 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 in our care with the finest Reform 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:

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

SCHOOL HOURS

Sunday: (K – 10th)	9:30 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.
Wednesday: (Grades 4 – 6th)	4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Children's Services

Once a month we will have our monthly children service, which will be parallel to the traditional service. We will begin with Kabbalat Shabbat at 5:45 PM, Candles, Kiddush and a Reception followed by the service at 6:00 PM.



Our Children's Service starts with Shabbat songs, followed by some of the traditional Shabbat evening liturgy. We encourage our children to get in the mood and pray. We take out the Torah so that every child can have the experience of getting close to the Torah. The Torah portion of the week is done with Parasha plays.

By having children's services we are hoping to help our children develop positive feeling towards the prayers/service, the Temple experience and to provide a meaningful and spiritual opportunity for them to learn about our Torah and worship.

September 19TH – Saturday – 9:30 AM – Rosh Hashanah

September 28TH – Monday – Yom Kippur – 9:30 AM

October 9TH – Friday – Simchat Torah & Consecration – 7:30 PM

November 13TH – Friday – Children's Service – 5:45 PM

November 20TH – Friday – Synaplex – 8:00 PM

December 11TH – Friday – Family Hanukkah Show and Celebration

January 8TH – Friday – Children's Service – 5:45 PM

January 22ND – Friday – FWFTY Shabbat Service – 8:00 PM

February 12TH – Children's Service – 5:45 PM

March 12TH – Children's Service – 5:45 PM

March 19TH – Friday – Synaplex – 8:00 PM

April 9TH – Honoring Teachers' Service – 6:00 PM

May 7TH – Friday – Confirmation – 8:00 PM

May 14TH – Children's Service – 5:45 PM

"To educate a child without educating and involving the parents and the entire family can be compared to heating a house while leaving the window open."



~ Mordechai Kaplan

Special Programs for Parents and Students

Sunday, Aug. 23rd – Presentation of the New Curriculum

Friday, Oct. 9th – Simchat Torah Celebration – 7:30 AM

Consecration Service for Kindergarten Class

Oct. 16th-18th – Temple Weekend Retreat at Greene Family Camp

Sunday, Nov. 22nd – Family Program “Blessing” for K-7th grades

Jewish Values / Civil Rights, 8th-10th grades

Friday, Dec 11th – Family Hanukkah Show and Celebration

Sunday, Jan. 24th – High School Students Program (teacher’s aide)
“Israel on Campus”

Sunday, Feb. 14th – Open House “God is One”

Sunday, Mar. 28th – Passover Around the World, K-10th

Sunday, Apr. 11th – Hate Online Family Program for 8th-10th grades

Sunday, Apr. 25th – Mitzvah Day

Friday, May 7th – Confirmation

Sunday, May 16th – School Picnic



Attendance

Because continuity and consistency are important in building education, 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.



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!

Iiana Knust, Director
817-332-7141 (Religious School)
Ilanaknust@bethelfw.org



Behavior

Beth-El Religious School prides itself in 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, School 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 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;
Fighting, first offense;
Any learning issues the teacher discovers and were not informed about;
Violating safety rules, third offense;
Vandalizing Temple and private property, first offense;
Engaging in inappropriate sexual or physical contact, first offense;
Discharging a fire extinguisher, first offense.



Enrichment Activities (Library, Computer, Art)

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 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 have to 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 Temples lot and walk them safely to their classroom.



Weather situation policy

If a decision is made to cancel Sunday Religious School, 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, know that if there is a situation where we must close the school at the last minute, every effort will be made to contact you. Also you may call Ilana at 817-294-9387.



Fire Drills

Fire drills are to be 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 will be 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 get the 2010 summer dates! Applications for all events and for the summer will be available at the Temple.

We will also have a Temple retreat weekend for all families at Greene Family Camp on October 16th-16th, 2009, Please come and join us for this wonderful spiritual journey for the whole family.



Teachers and Madricheem (teacher aids)

We depend highly on our teachers to educate our children and to educate themselves. 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 Madricheem(teacher's aid).@



Midweek Hebrew Program

Students in 4th through 6th grade will attend Midweek Hebrew on Wednesdays at 4:30-6:00. This is a concentrated time for the students to boost their knowledge and reinforce what they have learned on Sunday. During Midweek Hebrew, students participate in a worship service. This fine-tunes their prayer skills and allows them the opportunity to lead worship from the Bimah. The 6th -7th grade students will participate in a special B'nai Mitzvah program led by Sheri Allen.

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 before mailing will review all report cards. Copies will be kept in each student's permanent file.



Special Friday night Services for students and their families.

The congregation is planning children Friday night services once a month for our students and Parents, Please join us.

- Oct. 9 (Consecration)
- Nov. 13 – Children’s service
- Nov. 20 – (Synaplex)
- Dec. 11 – Temple Hanukkah supper, service and a program
- Jan. 8 – Children’s service
- Jan. 22 – FWFTY Shabbat
- Feb. 12 – Children’s service
- Mar. 12 – Children’s service
- Mar. 19 – (Synaplex)
- Apr. 9 – Family service honoring Religious School teachers.
- May 7 – Confirmation
- May 14 – Children’s service



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.



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.



BETH EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
2009-2010 CLASS DESCRIPTION

<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 of 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 30 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 <i>g'milut chasadim</i>.</p>	<p>Torah - Introduction: What is Torah? Who are 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 <i>Torah</i>, <i>Avodah</i>, and <i>G'milut Chasadim</i></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 performing acts of <i>g'milut chasadim</i> in our everyday lives.</p>	<p>Torah - Introduction to Torah, Introduction 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, 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.</p> <p>Through <i>avodah</i>, we can make our lives and the world more holy (<i>kadosh</i>). Each individual act of <i>g'milut chasadim</i> can make the world more <i>kadosh</i> (holy).</p>	<p>Torah - Introduction to <i>Vayikra</i>/Leviticus - <i>Parashat K'doshim</i>: Holiness, <i>Parashat Vayikra</i>: Sacrifice, Gifts, Drawing Near, <i>Parashat Sh'mini</i>: <i>Kashrut</i> - Holy Eating, <i>Parashat K'dosh-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 Chasadim - 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 (<i>Eretz Yisrael</i>), we as a holy people (<i>Am Yisrael</i>) have a responsibility to strive toward holiness by observing the <i>brit</i> (covenant) <i>Keva and kavanah</i>, the fixed order of <i>worship and the personal intention</i> we bring to prayer, are complementary aspects of Jewish worship, combining to</p>	<p>Torah - <i>Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael</i>, and the <i>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,</p> <p><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>: Becom-</p>

<p>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>ing Like Joshua and Caleb, <i>B'rit</i> - Session Gimel: 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 Kamocha</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'keinim</i>) Session <i>Alef</i>, Honoring the Elderly (<i>Kibud Z'keinim</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 the heart of Reform Judaism. The practice of prayer can help me grow through personal reflection, can increase my connection to the Jewish people, and can strengthen my relationship with God. We are all part of <i>K'lal Yisrael</i> and have a responsibility to actively support and sustain the Jewish community through acts of <i>G'milut Chasadim</i>.</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, 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:</p>

	<p>ing Part of the Jewish Community, <i>Keruv: Welcoming Jews-by-Choice into the Jewish Community, Justice in the Community, 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.</p> <p><i>Avodah</i> is the work we do, by exploring our personal and communal role in Revelation, to find sacred connections to God, to community, and to self. We can experience God in our world, in others, and within ourselves, by engaging in acts of <i>g'milut chasadim</i>.</p>	<p>Torah - Introduction to <i>K'tuvim/Writings, M'gillat Rut/The Book of Ruth: Mining the Text For Meaning, Megillat Rut/The Book of Ruth: Finding God in Moab and Canaan, Introduction to Wisdom Literature, Mishleil</i> Proverbs: Wise Words for All, <i>Kohelet: Wise Man or Cynic? T'hillim/Psalms Session Alef: Poetry and Liturgy, T'hillim/Psalms Session Bet: Images of God, God, How Are You Revealed in the World and What is My Relationship with You?</i></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, Bal Tashchit: Protecting the Rainforests, Bal Tashchit: Recycling and Conserving Energy, Tzaar Baalei Chayim: Care and Protection of Animals, World Health Issues, Peace, World Hunger, Jews and the Struggle for Civil Rights, Hineini: Embracing Our People Around the World</i></p>
<p>Grade 7: Theme: <i>Hineini</i> - 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. Our development as emerging Reform Jew-</p>	<p>Torah - <i>Lech L'cha, The Journeys We Take, Cain and Abel: Family Relationships, Akeidat Yitzchak, The Binding of Isaac: Honoring Parents, Rebekah: A Virtuous Woman?, Rebekah: Tough Choices, God and Abraham: A Relationship Like No Other, Jacob and the Ish/Being: Struggling to Change (Lesson Alef), Jacob and the Ish/Being: Struggling to Change (Lesson Bet), Wrap Up: Our Lessons from Genesis/ B'reishit</i></p>

ish adults and authentic members of the Jewish community is closely linked to our ethical behavior (*middot*) and the performance of acts of *g'milut chasadim*

Avodah - Introduction to the Jewish Life Cycle, *B'nei Mitzvah* 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: *Eilu D'varim* - What Must I Do?, My Jewish Identity: *Sh'ma* - What Do I Believe?, My Jewish Identity: *Hineini*

G'milut Chasadim - Time for a Checkup, That's What Friends are For: *Dibuk Chaverim*, Truth as an Act of Kindness (*Emet*), Stop the Bullying NOW!: Not Standing Idly By (*Lo Ta'amod Al Dam Rei-echa*), Keep Your Cool: Being Slow to Anger, (*Erech Apayim*), What's With The Attitude? Having a Pleasant Demeanor, (*Seiver Panim Yafot*), Courage! (*Ometz Lev*), Living Generously (*N'divut*), *Hineini*--Here I Am! I Am Ready to Act!

Midrasha – 8th-9th grade

Sunday – 9:30-12:00

9:30-10:30 – core class curriculum
 10:30-10:45 – break in the lounge
 10:45-11:20 - Enrichment Program:
 Field Trip, Tikkun Olam projects,
 Art, Drama, cooking, etc.
 11:20-11:30 - break in the lounge
 11:30-12:00 - Talmud Page with
 Rabbi Mecklenburger

Grade 8: Early adult issues K'dooshat hagoof.

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 inter-faith dating.

9th Grade – Questions, questions all around

1. **Anti-Semitism, the Holocaust and Israel** – Students will study the history and effects of anti-Semitism and discuss how to fight hate.
2. **Christianity and Islam** – Early histories of Christianity and Islam, the key beliefs and their relationship with Judaism.

Confirmation – Special project

This year, the confirmation students will create a special project related to the Religious School Theme "God." 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 them in the Jewish tradition, (b) a Jewish way of looking at them, 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).

Confirmation – 10th grade

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

Jewish teaching, Jewish law, Jewish tradition and Jewish history all embrace 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 a 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 also will prepare them for the Confirmation service.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ralph Mecklenburger..... Rabbi 332-7141
Ilana Knust..... Education Director 294-9387
Marcy Paul..... Committee Chair 921-9204