

## Beth-El Religious School Theme 5787

### Be the Light • הָיִי קְאוֹר (Heyu Ha'Or)

*Every soul shines.*

*Bring light wherever you go.*

*Small acts. Big light.*

At Beth-El Religious School, our theme for the 5787 school year is “**Be the Light**” • הָיִי קְאוֹר (Heyu Ha'Or), a meaningful reminder that each of us carries a unique light within and has the ability to share that light with the world around us.

In Jewish tradition, light represents far more than brightness. It symbolizes hope, wisdom, kindness, courage, holiness, and the enduring presence of God in our lives. From the very first words of Creation, “*Yehi Or*” (“Let there be light”), to the glow of Shabbat candles, the eternal light above the ark, and the candles of Chanukah shining against the darkness, Judaism teaches us that even the smallest light can illuminate the world in powerful and lasting ways.

Throughout this school year, we will encourage our students to discover how they can “Be the Light” in their classrooms, homes, friendships, synagogue community, and beyond. Together, we will explore what it means to lead with compassion, stand up for what is right, celebrate our Jewish identity with pride, and bring warmth, kindness, and joy into the lives of others.

Our classrooms, programs, family experiences, *t'filah*, and special events will all be infused with this inspiring theme. Students will be invited to reflect on the unique gifts they bring to the world and how Jewish values can guide them in becoming sources of light for others. Through acts of *chesed* (kindness), meaningful learning, prayer, social action, creativity, and community connection, we hope every child will come to understand that their light truly matters.

At Beth-El, we believe that when children are empowered to shine as their authentic selves, they illuminate not only their own path, but also the path for those around them.

May this year be filled with learning, laughter, friendship, growth, connection, and countless moments of light.

