



## Be a Mensch! - Respectful Behavior at Valley Beth Shalom B'nai Mitzvah

This is a very exciting time in your life and the life of our community. We want to work together to create a meaningful and joyous celebration during the services, throughout the party, and when you attend the B'nai Mitzvah of your peers. Here are some key points to remember when attending a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Valley Beth Shalom or wherever you go for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony or party.

1. **Do not** use your phone in the Sanctuary. If you need to use the phone, leave the room and return promptly to your seat when you are finished.
2. **Do not** speak to your friends excessively in the Sanctuary. If you want to chat with friends, please leave the Sanctuary, and walk up the hallway. Please be especially respectful of the parents of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the rabbi/leader giving instructions or teaching, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student leading the prayers or chanting Torah or Haftarah. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah is teaching us from the wisdom of our tradition.
3. Sitting and chatting in the synagogue hallway is acceptable. But, it is not a playground -- no running, no shouting. Be respectful of the furnishings and objects of the synagogue.
4. **Do sit respectfully** in your seats. Please remember to wear a kippah, keep a siddur and a copy of the Torah with you. Wear your tallit if you have already completed your b'nai mitzvah training (boys and girls!).
5. **Do participate!** Your peers and friends have worked months for this moment. You may have even led the community in prayer and learning. You know what to do. Your participation is needed and appreciated!
6. **Do wear appropriate clothing.** This is a celebration and we all want to look great. Your dress during services should be modest.
7. **Do care about your community and the environment! Do not** play with school equipment and certainly do not destroy property! **If you see others acting inappropriately, remind them this is a holy place.**
8. **DO HAVE FUN! THIS IS A GREAT MOMENT TO SHARE AND CELEBRATE WITH THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE!**