



# 2020–2021

# School Handbook

Nicole A. Jahr, RJE  
Director of Lifelong Learning  
[learn@tbemadison.org](mailto:learn@tbemadison.org)

Kimberly Rosenthal  
Lifelong Learning Coordinator and Inclusion Specialist  
[llcoord@tbemadison.org](mailto:llcoord@tbemadison.org)

Temple Beth El  
2702 Arbor Dr.  
Madison, WI 53711

Main Number  
608-238-3123

Direct Line for Lifelong Learning  
608-467-3239

# TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOL HANDBOOK

## Table of Contents

JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE SHADOW OF COVID-19 .....	4
SCHOOL STANDARDS AND POLICIES .....	5
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION .....	5
OUR JEWISH EDUCATIONAL REMOTE PROGRAM (FALL 2020).....	6
CLASS HOURS.....	6
Religious School (4K) .....	6
Religious School (K–3rd Grade).....	6
Note for Families of 4K and K Students .....	6
Religious School (4th–7th Grade) .....	7
Hebrew School (4th–7th Grade).....	7
Madrachim Leadership Training Course (MLTC) (8th Grade).....	7
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE .....	8
ONLINE SAFETY & GUIDELINES .....	8
TEACHING AND LEARNING ONLINE.....	9
ATTENDANCE .....	10
FEES AND REGISTRATION.....	11
B’nai Mitzvah Materials Replacement .....	11
Prayer Book Replacement .....	11
Cancellation/Withdrawal .....	11
Tuition Refunds .....	12
School Enrollment.....	12
PROCEDURES.....	12
Calendars and Communication .....	12
Family Experiences and Explorations .....	12
Material Pickup .....	13
Student Information Forms .....	13
Emergencies and Life-Changing Events .....	13
Inclement Weather or Unforeseen Technical Issues .....	13
Late Arrivals/Early Departures .....	13
B’NAI MITZVAH.....	14
School Enrollment.....	14
Preparation/Postponement.....	14
B’nai Mitzvah Tutors.....	14

<b>HEBREW AND PRAYER TUTORS .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>SPECIAL PROGRAMMING .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Kindergarten Orientation.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>New Family Orientation .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Consecration .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Grade-Level Shabbat Services.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Music &amp; Song Circle .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Family Programming, Transition Days, First Day, Last Day .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>FALL 2020 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL MODULE CURRICULUM “WHAT’S JEWISH ABOUT...?” (K–7th) .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Module Breakdown.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>FALL 2020 HEBREW SCHOOL CURRICULUM .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR POST–B’NAI MITZVAH STUDENTS .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Holocaust Curriculum (7th grade) .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Hebrew Choices (7th grade) .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>B’nai Mitzvah Club for Students (7th grade).....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Madrichim Leadership Training Course (MLTC) (8th grade) .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>MLTC Track Choices.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Madrichim (Teaching Assistants) (9th–12th grade).....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Confirmation (10th–12th grade) .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Midrasha (8th–12th grade).....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Midrasha Hebrew (8th–12th grade) .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>YOUTH ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>MaTTY – Youth Group (9th–12th grade) .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>MuTTY – Junior Youth Group (6th–8th grade).....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>JEWniors – social get-together group (4th &amp; 5th grade).....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Mishpacha (Family) Moments – active events for kids and parents (1st–3rd     grade).....</b>	<b>20</b>

## **JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE SHADOW OF COVID-19**

---

Temple Beth El pivoted to remote learning in a crisis situation last spring. We have observed, listened, and learned. We have been strategizing and planning for an intentional and purposeful Jewish educational program that leads to our congregation's number one goal of *pikuach nefesh*, saving a life. We have the same goals and have new modalities to deliver our curriculum this fall.

It is our plan to offer a remote educational environment for fall 2020 with hopes for in-building/in-person gatherings in spring 2021. If we are able to reconvene in the spring, a revised handbook with further information for in-person education will be provided.

Our goal is for a well-planned, consistent, and relevant Jewish educational program in the shadow of COVID-19.

Our aim is to keep us connected, stay energized, and be excited getting together with fresh ways to engage with Jewish education. We will ensure that any session is not another day at the computer. It will be a time of building relationships among our students, with an option for families to join us. We look forward to the sessions as a fun way to break up the week. We are thinking out of the box, and we hope you join us!

Thank you for your support, your understanding, your patience, and, as always, your partnership in this important work: raising Jewish people with a strong Jewish identity and confidence to navigate through our world.

If you have any questions or concerns, whether about specific learning situations or logistics, please be in touch.

Nicole A. Jahr, RJE  
Director of Lifelong Learning

Laurie Borkon  
Youth Education Committee Chair

## **SCHOOL STANDARDS AND POLICIES**

---

Parents play an essential role in helping to fulfill the dictum of our tradition: "You shall teach them diligently unto your children." This line is taken from our prayer service liturgy in the *V'ahavta*. The *V'ahavta* is a call to action; we must not only remember God's *mitzvot* (commandments), but we must teach them diligently to future generations.

Parents engage in a partnership with our teachers to provide a Jewish education. We can only achieve our goals with the home and Temple Beth El working together. We strive to do this by:

- Conveying meaningful lessons in class and reviewing lessons at home
- Teaching Jewish traditions in the Temple and exploring the traditions out of the classroom
- Providing a Jewish education and promoting Judaism as the primary religion at home

We remind parents of the following tips to assist with our educational program:

- Students are occasionally asked to take some action or complete a task outside of the classroom and share/report on it back in the classroom
- Regular and prompt attendance is essential to create relationships and connections
- Punctual pickup after sessions (when held in person) gives children a sense of security and comfort

## **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION**

---

Temple Beth El Religious School welcomes and educates students who receive their religious education exclusively in Judaism.

Student participation in Jewish life-cycle events at Temple Beth El requires students to be Jewish according to the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR). The CCAR's 1983 resolution declared, "the child of one Jewish parent is under the presumption of Jewish descent. This presumption of the Jewish status of the offspring of any mixed marriage is to be established through appropriate and timely public and formal acts of identification with the Jewish faith and people." Rabbi Jonathan Biatch welcomes any questions about Jewish identification and clarification of this resolution.

# OUR JEWISH EDUCATIONAL REMOTE PROGRAM (FALL 2020)

## CLASS HOURS

---

Classes meet in the Zoom environment at the times listed below. Parents are asked to have their children ready for the online session 15 minutes before school begins.

### **Religious School (4K)**

Sundays approximately twice a month

8:30–9:00 am

4K students join our experienced team of educators and clergy and the larger Madison community at PJ Library Tots and Tunes via Zoom. This program includes songs with Temple Beth El's cantor, stories read by our director of lifelong learning, and crafts or activities led by our experienced teacher, all in an online setting. See the school calendar on the Temple website for all sessions.

### **Religious School (K–3rd Grade)**

Sundays 9:15–10:30 am via Zoom

9:15–9:30 am

Religious School begins with *t'filah* (prayer) for a 15-minute interactive experience including moments of learning, feeling, and hearing what prayer could look like in a community of Jewish spiritual intention—even in an online world! Parents are invited and encouraged to join us.

9:30–10:15 am

What's Jewish About...?

Our four-week modules will introduce age-appropriate, relevant, and meaningful concepts through Torah, Hebrew, explorations, and final projects. More information on page 16 regarding our exciting new remote curriculum.

10:15–10:30 am

Our session ends with our widely anticipated weekly Song Circle. Students are led in songs and *ruach* (spirit) by our Music Team as we end the school day as a full community (older grades join us for Song Circle). Parents are invited and encouraged to attend with their children.

### **Note for Families of 4K and K Students**

Students age 4 and 5 have the options of joining the 4K class or the kindergarten class for Religious School, regardless of their grade level in other schooling. Essentially, we are offering two options for 4 and 5 year olds: attend twice a month (4K) or attend weekly (K).

## **Religious School (4th–7th Grade)**

Sundays 10:15–11:30 am via Zoom

10:15–10:30 am

Our session begins with Song Circle with all grades (younger grades join us for Song Circle). Students are led in songs and *ruach* (spirit) by our Music Team. Parents are invited to attend with their children.

10:30–11:15 am

What's Jewish About...?

Our four-week modules will introduce age-appropriate, relevant, and meaningful concepts through Torah, Hebrew, explorations, and final projects. More information on page 16 regarding our exciting new remote curriculum.

11:15–11:30 am

*T'filah* (prayer) will end our weekly sessions. *T'filah* is designed to provide a deeper understanding of the choreography, familiar melodies, and prayers of a Reform Shabbat service, including discussions of *kavannah* (intention) and *keva* (structure) of a service. Parents are welcome.

## **Hebrew School (4th–7th Grade)**

THREE NEW SCHEDULE OPTIONS

Option 1: Standard Schedule

Students meet with Hebrew teachers on Wednesday afternoons 4:30–5:30 pm via Zoom. We continue to honor a 1:10 ratio for our Hebrew classes.

Option 2: Alternate Schedule

Students meet in groups of up to 10 students with the same teacher weekly at a time that fits your family's need via Zoom. Times are subject to teacher availability and will be determined with the director of lifelong learning.

Option 3: Flexible Schedule

Families may opt for one-on-one sessions with a Hebrew teacher via Zoom. This option is subjected to extra tuition.

See page 17 for information on the Hebrew curriculum for fall 2020.

## **Madrichim Leadership Training Course (MLTC) (8th Grade)**

Sundays 10:15–11:15 am

All MLTC students attend training sessions every other week via Zoom. 8th graders choose their track: Hebrew, Classroom, or Music. See page 18 for more information.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

---

If you are having technical issues, assistance is available up until the day of the school session. Limited tech support is available 15 minutes before and during the school session. For dedicated tech support, set up a meeting with Kim Rosenthal, lifelong learning coordinator, at [llcoord@tbemadison.org](mailto:llcoord@tbemadison.org).

## **ONLINE SAFETY & GUIDELINES**

---

On every school session, we have a dedicated staff member watching for unwanted participants in our Zoom sessions. Zoom bombing is possible, but at Temple Beth El, we have been very successful at limiting unwanted intrusions. To maintain a safe online environment, we ask that these guidelines be followed:

1. Parents should be in earshot of all lessons.
2. Students should enter the sessions with their appropriate name on the account. If the admin and teacher do not recognize the name on the screen, the student may not be allowed into the session.
3. Students should enter the sessions with their camera on and keep it on unless requested by the teacher or if the student asks the teacher for permission to turn it off after entering the session.
4. Students should not use the chat function, screen sharing, or on-screen annotation except when asked by the teacher to do so.



## TEACHING AND LEARNING ONLINE

---

As we are all learning together regarding teaching and learning online, Temple Beth El faculty will adhere to the following rules:

### Rule 1: Keeping It Simple

Teachers and *madrachim* (teaching assistants) are planning for engaging experiences in the remote learning world. Our sessions are filled with *t'filah*, Song Circle, and 45-minute module sessions. One goal of our online format is to provide familiar routines and provide a sense of continuity from last year to this year and from week to week.

### Rule 2: Focusing on Learning

Students will be introduced to the next module at least one week before the start of the module. Modules and learning objectives will be introduced on transition days. Teachers will assess students to determine if they achieved the learning objectives and communicate with families after every module. See page 16 for more information on modules.

### Rule 3: Relationships Are Key

“Good online learning happens when technology facilitates communication and fades into the background.”<sup>1</sup> Achieving prescribed objectives is important, and by incorporating social-emotional traits into our Jewish educational setting we will build strong relationships between faculty and students and among students.

### Rule 4: Setting Reasonable Expectations

We are blessed to be with our Temple Beth El children for up to an hour and 15 minutes for Religious School and an additional hour for Hebrew School. We know that there are many pressures on us all, and we remain realistic with what is possible in an online environment.

---

<sup>1</sup> “Coping with School Closures: 4 Rules for Online Classroom Success,” <https://screencast-o-matic.com/blog/online-classroom/>.

## **ATTENDANCE**

---

Regular attendance at Religious School, Hebrew School, and programs or services in or outside of the school session is necessary if our students are to benefit from our comprehensive Jewish program of instruction.

For this reason, we have established guidelines for attendance:

1. Please notify the office when student will be absent at least 15 minutes before the session begins. This can be done with a phone call to 608-467-3239 or an email to [llcoord@tbemadison.org](mailto:llcoord@tbemadison.org).
2. If we have not heard from the family, teachers will contact the parent/guardian of a child absent after two consecutive sessions to ascertain the reasons for the absences.
3. The teacher will inform the parent/guardian of the classwork the child has missed and will ask for cooperation in helping the child make up any necessary content.

The attendance requirement includes the new family programming this year and grade-level Shabbat services for all grades. Please see calendar for dates.

## FEES AND REGISTRATION

---

In order to register your child(ren) in our school, a family must be:

- A. A member of Temple Beth El in good standing
- B. Up to date on school tuition

We practice all-inclusive Religious School fees. Rather than asking a family to pay for books and materials separately, payment for all these items is included in the fees. Religious School bills are mailed, and balances can be checked on ShulCloud (via the Temple Beth El website, [tbemadison.org](http://tbemadison.org)). Prompt payment in full after the first billing is encouraged, although families are allowed to pay half before the first semester and half before the second semester. **Any financial concerns or payment plan options should be discussed with the executive director.**

The fees for the 2020–2021 school year are as follows:

Religious School 4K	\$170.00
Religious School K–7th grade	\$275.00
Hebrew School 4th–7th grade (options 1 & 2)	\$300.00
Hebrew School 4th–7th grade(option 3)	\$400.00
B'nai Mitzvah Club 5th–7th grade (three sessions in spring)	\$54.00
B'nai Mitzvah Tutoring	\$725.00
MLTC (Madrachim Leadership Training Course) 8th grade	\$180.00
Confirmation 10th–12th grade	\$200.00

### **B'nai Mitzvah Materials Replacement**

The B'nai Mitzvah Orientation takes place in November of the 6th grade year. At the orientation, families receive their b'nai mitzvah materials. Materials include the B'nai Mitzvah Handbook and the URJ *parashah* (Torah portion) book. If these materials need to be replaced, a fee of \$20 will be charged to the family.

### **Prayer Book Replacement**

At the B'nai Mitzvah Orientation, 6th grade students are given a *siddur* (prayer book), which is included in the cost of tuition. There is a fee of \$40 if the *siddur* needs to be replaced.

### **Cancellation/Withdrawal**

If you wish to withdraw your student from the Jewish education program, you are required to inform the school by email or in writing. Your request must explicitly state that you are withdrawing your student.

## **Tuition Refunds**

If you withdraw your student from school prior to the end of the first module, you will receive a full refund. If the withdrawal request is received after the fourth week of school, you will be billed for the entire year. In certain unanticipated circumstances exceptions may be made with a discussion with the director of lifelong learning. Withdrawal and tuition refund requests must be put in writing, and the refund will be based on the date the request is received.

*In our remote atmosphere, and with offering five 4-week modules, families are encouraged to participate in all modules. We honor the complexity of online education and the uncertainty at this time. However, we encourage families to be enrolled for the entire year in order to stay connected to the school community through announcements and optional programming. If there is a need to not participate in a module, there is no refund.*

## **School Enrollment**

A child enrolled in both Hebrew School and Religious School at Temple Beth El will be well prepared for their b'nai mitzvah service as well as equipped with lifelong skills. Enrollment in both Religious School and Hebrew School is expected. Exceptions to this policy should be discussed with the director of lifelong learning for an alternative comprehensive Jewish educational plan no later than 30 days prior to the start of Religious School in the fall, in which case a family may be asked to cover additional fees for education.

## **PROCEDURES**

---

### **Calendars and Communication**

School dates and events are posted on the Temple website calendar at [tbemadison.org/calendar](http://tbemadison.org/calendar) and in a PDF at [tbemadison.org/school](http://tbemadison.org/school). On the Temple website calendar, you can use the "Filter Calendar" option to show only school-related items. Please note school dates, family programs, and grade-level Shabbat service dates. Also, be sure to check the Temple website, read the weekly family updates and session reviews from your child's teacher that are sent by email, and browse the Weekly Happenings and School Happenings email updates and Temple Beth El's Facebook page for time or date changes and other updated information.

### **Family Experiences and Explorations**

New this year, in our modular curriculum we are offering potential experiences to enhance the learning. Each outing, retreat, field trip, etc. will depend on the family's own accord. It is our hope that families take advantage of the field trips and explorations as long as they can be done safely and in accordance with Dane County's regulations and families are comfortable in doing so.

## **Material Pickup**

Look for information regarding material pickups before each module (approximately five times this school year). Procedures will be offered to promote safe handoff of materials from the last module and pickup of needed materials for the next module.

## **Student Information Forms**

Temple Beth El has a dedicated inclusion specialist on staff. It is our goal to provide the best educational online atmosphere and experience for every child.

Completing the Student Information Form will allow us to understand and prepare for the educational needs of your child. Temple Beth El's Jewish educational program conducts classes and develops relationships with your child in ways that are very similar to their secular school experience. Information you share about your student's experiences with and attitudes toward school, in addition to needed learning or behavioral modifications, will help us provide a quality experience for you and your child. Student Information Forms are part of the registration process and can be found online. This information can be changed at any time through ShulCloud. Please notify the inclusion specialist if any changes are made to this form midyear. The director of lifelong learning is available to discuss the details on this important form. This information will be shared only with staff directly related to the education of your child and will remain confidential. Kim Rosenthal is our inclusion specialist; her email is [lcoord@tbemadison.org](mailto:lcoord@tbemadison.org).

## **Emergencies and Life-Changing Events**

Temple Beth El strives to build special relationships with each student and their families. Please notify the director of lifelong learning after any emergency or life-changing event (e.g., divorce, or death of a pet, friend, family member, etc.). As appropriate, we will notify our clergy and staff of your family's situation so that we can fully participate in your child's Jewish community through sincere care and support.

## **Inclement Weather or Unforeseen Technical Issues**

In the event of inclement weather or unforeseen technical issues that would prevent us from conducting online lessons, an email will be sent to all school families and notifications will be posted on the Temple website and on TBE's Facebook page. It is our policy to call a cancellation at least two hours before the start of the session.

## **Late Arrivals/Early Departures**

We recognize that there may be circumstances in which a student will log in late or need to leave early from a Zoom session. Please communicate with the teacher regarding these situations so the teacher will know why a student is not online at the appropriate time.

## **B'NAI MITZVAH**

---

### **School Enrollment**

A child must be enrolled in Hebrew School and Religious School at Temple Beth El to become a b'nai mitzvah. Hebrew School begins in 4th grade. Exceptions may be made with the director of lifelong learning no later than 30 days prior to the start of the school year. B'nai mitzvah dates are assigned, and families are notified of these dates in February of the 5th grade school year. Parents of b'nai mitzvah students and families meet with the rabbi, cantor, director of lifelong learning, and executive director at the B'nai Mitzvah Orientation in the fall of 6th grade to discuss the details of b'nai mitzvah preparation.

### **Preparation/Postponement**

Temple Beth El works with every individual student to ensure that becoming a b'nai mitzvah is attainable and successful. Postponement or adjustment of service participation may be recommended by either family or Temple Beth El staff if a student is not properly prepared.

We are currently offering options to our families regarding the b'nai mitzvah service for safety under the shadow of COVID-19. It is important to discuss your family's options with our executive director. The options may include:

1. Holding a virtual service on the original date of the b'nai mitzvah.
2. Rescheduling the b'nai mitzvah to another date (in which the Torah portion may remain the same regardless of new date).
3. Hold an in-person service in accordance with Temple's policies and Dane County guidelines.

Our Staying Safe in Changing Times task force meets regularly and evaluates our policies as this situation evolves. You will be notified as new or changed policies are introduced. Temple members are welcome to see the most current updates on the Members Only page of the website ([tbemadison.org/tbemembers](https://tbemadison.org/tbemembers)) when logged in.

### **B'nai Mitzvah Tutors**

Tutors are assigned to a student six months before tutoring begins. B'nai mitzvah tutoring begins four months before the service date. B'nai mitzvah preparation includes 16 hours of tutoring, service preparation, check-in sessions, a "bimah check" with the cantor, and a final rehearsal with the director of lifelong learning. Families are billed for tutoring through ShulCloud, and tutors are paid through Temple Beth El.

## **HEBREW AND PRAYER TUTORS**

---

If a student needs tutoring for Hebrew and/or prayer acquisition for any reason, the director of lifelong learning will recommend a Hebrew or prayer tutor. A list of approved tutors will be provided to the family. The family is responsible for setting up sessions and providing payment directly to the tutor.

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMMING**

---

### **Kindergarten Orientation**

Kindergartners and their families will have an opportunity in August to meet the kindergarten teacher, rabbi, cantor, director of lifelong learning, and executive director to learn about the special journey your child is starting at Temple Beth El. A Zoom link will be offered at the time of registration.

### **New Family Orientation**

New Family Orientation is on the third Sunday of the school year and will be held via Zoom. New families to Temple Beth El meet with the director of lifelong learning to become familiar with school policies and procedures. A screenshot of new families collectively and individually will be taken at this orientation.

### **Consecration**

Kindergartners and new 1st through 3rd grade students will have a special service as they are consecrated to the Jewish way of lifelong learning. Parents offer a special blessing (the *shehecheyanu*) while the children receive their own Torah and a certificate marking this special beginning.

### **Grade-Level Shabbat Services**

New this year, all students will participate in a service once a year on either a Friday evening or a Shabbat morning. The objective of each service is to familiarize the children with the Shabbat worship service and in some circumstances give them an opportunity to lead. These services are for the entire school body and their families—please mark your calendars now. Please see the school calendar for dates.

### **Music & Song Circle**

Music is a significant piece of our Jewish educational program. Children in kindergarten through 7th grade participate in a school-wide Song Circle together either at the end (K–3) or the beginning (4th–7th) of every Religious School session. The Song Circle is led by our Music Team. Our music curriculum includes holiday songs, Israeli music, and Jewish folk songs. 4K will have regular visits from our Music Team at every PJ Library Tots and Tunes program.

## **Family Programming, Transition Days, First Day, Last Day**

While we are in an online atmosphere we will be hosting online family programming and transition days between modules. Parent/guardian attendance at these sessions is highly recommended. Family programming will offer opportunities for adults to learn alone and with their children. Transition days will evaluate previous modules and introduce new modules, and as always our year will be kicked off with a special Welcome Song Circle. The last day of school this year will be a (virtual) trip to Israel for all families! In the event that we are able to be safely in person in the spring, this programming will still be offered virtually so that all family members have options for participation. Mark your calendars for these special dates:

October 4 – First Day of School: Welcome Song Circle

November 8 – Transition Day

December 13 – Transition Day & Hanukkah Family Program

February 21 – Transition Day & Purim Family Program or Purim Carnival

March 28 – Transition Day & Passover Family Program

May 2 – Last Day of School: Israel Trip

## **FALL 2020 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL MODULE CURRICULUM “WHAT’S JEWISH ABOUT...?” (K–7th)**

---

All kindergarten through 7th graders will study the same module with age-appropriate methodologies. In the spring semester, 7th graders will study Holocaust education.

Module One: What's Jewish About BASEBALL?

October 11, 18, 25; November 1

Online model only

Module Two: What's Jewish About OUTER SPACE?

November 15, 22, 29; December 6

Online model only

Module Three: What's Jewish About ICE SKATING & HOCKEY?

January 24, 31; February 7, 14

May be a hybrid or in-person model.

Module Four: What's Jewish About PLANTS AND ANIMALS?

February 28; March 7, 14, 21

May be a hybrid or in-person model.

Module Five: What's Jewish About MUSIC?

April 11, 18, 25 (3 weeks)

May be a hybrid or in-person model.



## **Module Breakdown**

Week 1: text study and introduction of final project  
Week 2: virtual field trip and discussion groups  
Week 3: family exploration post-discussion  
Week 4: final project sharing and culmination activity

Every lesson will have an Israel component in which students may learn about Israeli cities, inventions, famous citizens, similarities and differences between American Jews and Israeli Jews, the Israeli lifestyle, and historic/biblical places. In the last session of the school year, all students will be “Israeli tourists” and take a virtual trip to Israel in our end-of-the-year program.

## **FALL 2020 HEBREW SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

---

Students will continue with self-paced Hebrew learning and will move through levels based on their personalized Hebrew skills.

Level 1: Letter and Vowel Recognition

Level 2: Decoding and Fluency

Level 3: Prayer Acquisition and Mastery

Level 4: Student choice: Cantillations, Hebrew Script (cursive), or Conversational Hebrew

Levels are determined by formal assessment at the end of the school year.

## **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR POST-B'NAI MITZVAH STUDENTS**

---

### **Holocaust Curriculum (7th grade)**

In January, our 7th graders will focus on Holocaust education during Religious School. The Holocaust is an important topic for our pre-teens to explore for many reasons. Temple Beth El feels strongly that participation in this unit will enhance a child's experience in secular school when they receive Holocaust education in a non-Jewish setting.

### **Hebrew Choices (7th grade)**

Students who have progressed through Hebrew Levels 1–3 have choices in Level 4. Students who have become a b'nai mitzvah can move into Level 4 after their *simcha*. Level 4 offers a choice of learning modern conversational Hebrew, learning Hebrew script (cursive), or learning Torah trope and cantillations. These sessions take place in any of the scheduling choices a family makes.

### **B'nai Mitzvah Club for Students (7th grade)**

Post-b'nai mitzvah students are encouraged to attend the B'nai Mitzvah Club for Students. 7th graders have the opportunity to tutor younger peers in prayers, serve on a panel discussing the b'nai mitzvah process, and be a role model for younger students anxious about the b'nai mitzvah experience.

## **Madrichim Leadership Training Course (MLTC) (8th grade)**

We strive for every 8th grader to continue on Sunday mornings in the Madrichim Leadership Training Course. Students in the MLTC will learn classroom management techniques and role modeling skills while working with learners of all abilities and gaining valuable hands-on experience.

All MLTC students attend training sessions every week via Zoom 10:15–11:15 am.

### **MLTC Track Choices**

The Madrichim Leadership Training Course offers choices that provide flexibility for 8th grade students to continue their Jewish education with Temple Beth El.

#### Track 1: Advanced Hebrew Skills

This track is intended for 8th graders who are interested in continuing their Hebrew language development and teaching on our Hebrew Review Team the following year. Hebrew proficiency will be tested at the end of the year in order to determine proper placement in this track.

#### Track 2: Classroom Skills

This track is intended for 8th graders who are interested in working in a classroom or school office setting the following school year. Students in this track will learn how to lead by example, become a great role model, learn techniques to enrich young students' Jewish learning, and help each child in a classroom feel valued and safe.

#### Track 3: Song Leading Skills

This track is intended for 8th graders who are interested in developing musical skills with or without an instrument. Students in Track 3 may be interested in becoming future song leaders. Guitar skills or other instrument knowledge is not mandatory, but preferred.

## **Madrichim (Teaching Assistants) (9th–12th grade)**

All members of Temple Beth El in 9th through 12th grade are eligible to work as paid teaching assistants in Religious School. Madrichim are an important part of our faculty. All *madrichim* are paid minimum wage according to the Wisconsin Department of Human Resources. Madrichim have the choice to earn service hours for high school credit; please contact the director of lifelong learning to make arrangements. Students with special skills in Hebrew or music (i.e., song leading with guitar playing) are encouraged to apply in those areas. New this year, our *madrichim* will be placed in specialty corps to support our online learning environment and our students. The specialty corps are Music, Hebrew, Inclusion, and Technology. *Madrichim* will also receive and be paid for 30 minutes of training every week.

### **Confirmation (10th–12th grade)**

All Temple Beth El 10th–12th graders are encouraged to participate in confirmation, a Jewish life-cycle *simcha* (joyful event). Dates for confirmation are listed on the school calendar.

Confirmation responsibilities at Temple Beth El include:

- Participating in a five-hour confirmation retreat (on a Saturday)
- Attending up to three rehearsals for the confirmation service
- Preparing essays and prayers for the confirmation service
- Parental participation in the preparation for the confirmation ceremony

Confirmation requirements at Temple Beth El include *one or more* of the following:

- Attend Midrasha in the 10th grade
- Work as one of the *madrachim* (teaching assistants) in the Religious School
- Hold an office on the MaTTY board
- Independent study in a project focused on *tikkun olam* (repairing the world)

### **Midrasha (8th–12th grade)**

Midrasha is a high school program of the Madison Jewish community. Midrasha is administered through the Jewish Federation of Madison. Participating students are from Temple Beth El, Beth Israel Center, and Congregation Shaarei Shamayim and also include unaffiliated teens. A number of required courses and electives are available. Courses are offered from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Wednesday nights at Beth Israel Center in the fall and at Temple Beth El in the spring. The Midrasha program will remain virtual for at least the first part of the fall 2020 semester.

### **Midrasha Hebrew (8th–12th grade)**

This optional Hebrew program is held on Sundays at noon and on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm. Students in Midrasha Hebrew can receive a foreign language high school credit. For more information or to register, contact the Midrasha director at the Jewish Federation of Madison.

## **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

---

This year, our youth advisors and our URJ camp intern are resources for Temple Beth El and will be focused on shifting our social opportunities from Religious School and Hebrew School to fun events and programs. Temple Beth El is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, which seeks to inspire young Jews to embrace Jewish life as a path to meaning, purpose, and joy. URJ's youth movement, NFTY, encourages teens to forge Jewish identities consistent with the values of Reform Judaism. Participation in the following opportunities builds confidence, friendships, and leadership skills as well as serves as a building block for lifelong Jewish engagement. At Temple Beth El, the youth advisors and URJ camp intern will work to engage students in 1st through 12th grades with the following opportunities:

### **MaTTY – Youth Group (9th–12th grade)**

MaTTY, or MadTown Temple Youth, welcomes all students in grades 9–12. 8th graders are initiated into MaTTY in the middle of their 8th grade year. MaTTY members, with the MaTTY advisor, plan their own programs and choose their own projects, including social action events and trips. MaTTY is a part of NFTY and is in the Northern region (NFTY-NO). Each region coordinates and enriches the work of the groups in its area. *Kallot*, gatherings of all regional youth, are held each season in various locations around the region. The yearly dues for MaTTY are \$36. Please reach out to Jo Golden, MaTTY advisor, at [matty@tbemadison.org](mailto:matty@tbemadison.org) for more information.

### **MuTTY – Junior Youth Group (6th–8th grade)**

MuTTY welcomes all students in 6th–8th grades to participate in youth activities. 5th graders are initiated into MuTTY in the middle of their 5th grade year. Our MuTTY advisor will connect with and invite all eligible students to come to fun social events. The goals of MuTTY are to encourage Temple youth to engage in activities that enhance Jewish values. New this year will be a MuTTY advisory board to generate ideas. The yearly dues for MuTTY are \$18. Please reach out to Dan Maloney, MuTTY advisor, at [mutter@tbemadison.org](mailto:mutter@tbemadison.org) for more information.

### **JEWniors – social get-together group (4th & 5th grade)**

JEWniors welcomes all 4th and 5th graders for social gatherings. Allison Wexler, our URJ camp intern, offers a variety of activities that can be in person (when safe) and online. Allison can be reached at [jewniors@tbemadison.org](mailto:jewniors@tbemadison.org).

### **Mishpacha (Family) Moments – active events for kids and parents (1st–3rd grade)**

This group is parent led and welcomes all 1st–3rd graders and a responsible adult to engage in fun activities at Temple (in person when safe or outside). This group will gather approximately four times a year. We seek parent volunteers to assist with Mishpacha Moments. Please see the director of lifelong learning if you are available to help.