



# 2023–2024 School Handbook

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# TEMPLE BETH EL SCHOOL HANDBOOK

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## INTRODUCTION

We are happy to welcome you to the school community of Temple Beth El, where students build a foundation for a lifetime of Jewish learning.

Religious School is first and foremost a facilitator of relationships—between peers and between students, and teachers. We might describe this concept as “community” or “connection,” both of which are firmly rooted in the concept of love. And, just as importantly, our educational programs build our students’ Jewish literacy so that they can enter the world feeling a connection to their shared history and having considered how they will live Jewishly as adults.

These two concepts, “love” and “literacy,” are the mission of the educational programs of Temple Beth El. Our goal is for Religious and Hebrew School to be a place that develops Jewish students who are both knowledgeable and literate, and also feel loved by and love for their community.

Jewish education at TBE reflects the philosophy of the congregation and the principles of the Reform movement. The goal of Jewish education at Temple Beth El is to provide a program that will enable children, youth, and adults to become:

1. Jews who affirm their Jewish identity and bind themselves inseparably to our people by word and by deed.
2. Jews who bear witness to the *brit* (the covenant between God and the Jewish people) by embracing Torah through the study and observance of *mitzvot* (commandments) as interpreted in the light of historic development and contemporary liberal thought.
3. Jews who affirm their historic bond to *Eretz Yisrael*, the Land of Israel.
4. Jews who cherish and study Hebrew, the language of the Jewish people.
5. Jews who value and practice *t’filah* (prayer).
6. Jews who further the causes of justice, freedom, and peace by pursuing *tzedek* (righteousness) and *chesed* (loving deeds).
7. Jews who celebrate Shabbat and the festivals and observe the Jewish ceremonies marking significant occasions in their lives.
8. Jews who express their kinship with *k’lal Yisrael* (the whole of Israel) by actively seeking the welfare of Jews throughout the world.
9. Jews who support and participate in the life of the synagogue.
10. Jews who have the tools and support to live Jewishly in a non-Jewish world.

## **SCHOOL STANDARDS AND POLICIES**

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Parents/guardians play an essential role in helping to fulfill this principle of our tradition: "You shall teach them diligently unto your children." This line is taken from 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/guardians engage in a partnership with our faculty to provide a Jewish education. We can best achieve our goals when the home and Temple Beth El work 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 in the home.

We remind parents/guardians of the following 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 on-time attendance is essential to create relationships and explore connections with the content of the planned curriculum.
- Punctual drop-off and pickup before and after sessions gives children a sense of security, comfort, and consistency.

## **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION**

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Temple Beth El Religious School welcomes and educates students who are members in good standing of Temple Beth El.

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 that "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 the resolution.

## **CLASS HOURS**

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Classes meet at the times listed below. Families are asked to have their children at Temple, or logged into an electronic device, early enough for them to be prepared and settled in time for the start of the session.

## **SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

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### **Religious School (Sundays)**

All grades meet 9:15–11:45 am

|    | 9:15–9:45      | 9:45–10:15     | 10:15–10:45 | 10:45–11:15    | 11:15–11:45    |
|----|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| 4K | t'filah/music  | Lesson Block 1 | Ivrit       | chug           | Lesson Block 2 |
| K  | t'filah/music  | Lesson Block 1 | Ivrit       | chug           | Lesson Block 2 |
| 1  | t'filah/music  | Ivrit          | chug        | Jewish Studies |                |
| 2  | t'filah/music  | Ivrit          | chug        | Jewish Studies |                |
| 3  | Jewish Studies |                | t'filah     | Ivrit          | chug           |
| 4  | Jewish Studies |                | t'filah     | Ivrit          | chug           |
| 5  | Jewish Studies |                | t'filah     | Ivrit          | chug           |
| 6  | Ivrit          | chug           | t'filah     | Jewish Studies |                |
| 7  | Ivrit          | chug           | t'filah     | Jewish Studies |                |
| 8  | class time     |                | track time  |                | class time     |

### Hebrew School In-person Schedule (Wednesdays)

3rd–7th grades meet 4:45–6:00 pm

Hebrew classes remain in their classroom with their teacher for the entire session.

### Hebrew School Online Schedule

3rd–7th grades—dates and times vary

## ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at Religious School, Hebrew School, and programs or services in or outside of the school session (Likrat Shabbat services, consecration, off-site programming, etc.) 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 a student is absent before the session begins. This can be done with a phone call to 608-467-3259 or an email to [kathleen@tbemadison.org](mailto:kathleen@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.

## FEES AND REGISTRATION

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To register your child(ren) in our school, a family must be a Temple Beth El member in good standing, with no outstanding balance on previous 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, with exception for b'nai mitzvah students. Monthly invoices, which include Religious School tuition, are emailed. Balances can be checked by logging in to the My Account section of the Temple website. **Any financial concerns or payment plan options should be discussed with the executive director, Stefanie Kushner, [exec@tbemadison.org](mailto:exec@tbemadison.org).**

Fees for the 2023–2024 school year:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Religious School (4K–7th)   | \$450.00 |
| Shalom Learning Online (1st–6th)  | \$450.00 |
| Hebrew School: In-person (3rd–7th)  | \$425.00 |
| Hebrew School: Online (3rd–7th)   | \$800.00 |
| Madrichim Leadership Training Course (MLTC) (8th)                                 | \$325.00 |
| B'nai Mitzvah Club (5th–7th) (three sessions)                                     | \$75.00  |
| B'nai Mitzvah Tutoring (7th)  | \$750.00 |
| MaTTY (9th–12th)  | \$54.00  |
| MuTTY (6th–8th)   | \$36.00  |
| JEWniors (3rd–5th)  | \$36.00  |
| Confirmation (10th–11th)  | \$225.00 |
| Midrasha (8th–12th) (register with <a href="#">Jewish Federation of Madison</a> ) | \$452.00 |

### B'nai Mitzvah Materials Replacement

The B'nai Mitzvah Orientation takes place in November in the 6th grade year. At the orientation, families receive their b'nai mitzvah materials. Materials include the B'nai Mitzvah Handbook, Torah portion book, and *siddur* (prayer book). If the Torah portion book needs to be replaced, a fee of \$20 will be charged to the family. There is a fee of \$40 if the *siddur* needs to be replaced.

### Cancellations/Withdrawals

You are required to inform the school if you wish to withdraw your student from school. Your request must explicitly state that you are withdrawing your student. We must have this in writing for our records.

### Tuition Refunds

If you withdraw your student from school prior to the fourth full session of Religious School or Hebrew School, you will receive a full refund. If the withdrawal request is received after the fourth full session, 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.

## **School Enrollment for B'nai Mitzvah**

A child enrolled in both Hebrew School and Religious School at Temple Beth El will be well prepared for their b'nai mitzvah service, have a well-developed Jewish identity, and have basic skills for lifelong Jewish engagement. A child must be enrolled in Hebrew School and Religious School at Temple Beth El to hold a b'nai mitzvah service. Exceptions to this policy should be discussed with the director of lifelong learning to agree on an alternative comprehensive Jewish educational plan no later than 30 days prior to the start of Religious School in the fall.

## **Tzedakah**

Each week, students from every class are asked to contribute funds for tzedakah (charity for the purposes of making the world a more just place). The contributions are collected throughout the year and distributed to based on a schoolwide vote. Families can contribute to the tzedakah collection at any level they are comfortable with. New this year: 7th graders will present their mitzvah projects during a mitzvah fair to be held the same day as the congregation's Mitzvah Day. Students will vote for their choice among the organizations represented to determine where the school's tzedakah money will be donated.

## **PROCEDURES**

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### **Calendars and Communication**

The school calendar is posted on the Temple website ([tbemadison.org/school](http://tbemadison.org/school)). If you need a calendar to be mailed or emailed directly to you, notify the office. Please note school dates, family programs, off-site sessions, and our Likrat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) services (first Friday of each month, November–May) featuring participation of Religious School students. The weekly school email newsletter always has the most recent information regarding any date or time changes.

### **Permission Slips**

Each outing, retreat, field trip, etc. will have its own permission slip. Please return these on or before the dates requested.

### **Traffic (Student Drop-off and Pickup)**

Please discuss traffic safety with your students. There is significant traffic in front of the Temple before and after each session. Students should be aware of potential danger getting out of or into cars. Pickup and drop-off is in the front of the building. Please do not ask your student to meet you at the side parking lot door. If you arrange an alternate location for pickup (e.g., in front of the neighboring businesses), please inform the office and the teacher.

### **Snack Policy**

In grades 4K–2nd a snack is provided during class time. At the end of the day, students can pick up a challah roll as they exit.

### **Nut-Sensitive Policy**

Temple Beth El is a nut-sensitive building. Products with nuts will be avoided. Other allergies will be accommodated. Temple Beth El is a “no label, no thank you” community, meaning that families of students with allergies should instruct them not to accept any food that is



unlabeled. In addition, any food items brought to share in class should be clearly labeled with an ingredient list and must not contain nuts. In the unlikely event of any allergen contamination, families will be notified immediately.

### **Food Policy**

Temple Beth El is a diverse congregation, encompassing Jews from all streams of Jewish observance as well as members with other religious backgrounds. The food policy in the Temple Beth El building does not allow meat or seafood that is restricted in Leviticus Chapter 11.

Temple Beth El asks congregants to refrain from mixing meat and dairy in food preparation for TBE events, including school programming. School functions will serve only vegetarian meals to avoid any conflict of meat and dairy. During Passover, Temple Beth El observes the tradition of not eating oat, wheat, barley, spelt, or rye and allows *kitniyot* (legumes, beans, corn, rice, lentils, sunflower seeds, and sesame seeds).

### **Inclusion Policy for All Students**

It is our goal to provide the best educational atmosphere and experience for every student. Completing the school enrollment form in detail will allow us to understand and prepare for the medical or educational needs of your student.

Temple Beth El's Jewish educational program conducts classes and develops relationships with your student that are very similar to their secular school experience and should be approached as such. Information that is shared about your student's experiences with and attitudes toward school, in addition to learning or behavioral modifications, will help us provide a quality experience for you and your student.

Temple Beth El employs dedicated inclusion specialists to work with our students. Our 8th grade program prepares our *madrichim* (teaching assistants) to work with students in small groups or one-on-one. If additional support is required, the director of lifelong learning will communicate with families to partner with us as needed.

Details you provide on the enrollment form can be changed at any time. Please notify the lifelong learning coordinator of any change to your contact information (address, phone number, etc.). Please notify the director of lifelong learning of any family or student changes (divorce, death, marriage, changes to an individual education plan, etc.). Information will be shared only with faculty directly involved in the education of your child and will remain confidential.

### **Emergencies and EpiPens**

Each student must have an emergency form on file so the appropriate person can be reached immediately should a situation arise. Emergency forms are part of the registration process. EpiPens can be stored in the school office, in the classroom, or on the person. If an EpiPen is discharged, 911 will be called first, followed by a call to the parents/guardians or emergency contact if a parent/guardian cannot be reached.

## First Aid

AEDs, fire extinguishers, emergency procedural materials, and first aid kits have been placed strategically throughout the entire building; faculty is aware of locations and have been trained on proper procedures in the event of administering first aid. Parents/guardians will be informed if any first aid has been administered to their student. The office and/or teacher completes an incident report when first aid is given and keeps this form on file for the duration of the school year.

## Safety Drills

Drills or walk-throughs will be conducted periodically to practice procedures for intruder, fire, and tornado situations.

## Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather resulting in school closing, an email will be sent to all school families. A notice will also be posted on the Temple website and on TBE's Facebook page. It is our policy to call a school closing at least two hours before the start of the session.

## Late Arrivals

Please accompany your student directly to the office if they will be late to a school session. Classes will be moving to different locations (sanctuary, Swarsensky Social Hall, library, Frank Youth Lounge, Hebrew classrooms, etc.), and students who arrive late will need direction on where to go. Office *madrachim* will walk the student to their class.

## Early Dismissals

We recognize that there are some instances when students need to leave school early. If a student needs to leave early, parents/guardians must communicate with the office prior to the student departing the building. The reason for these procedures is to maximize student learning and the student's safety, both of which are a priority. We also realize that sometimes plans change or situations arise where advance notice is not always possible, in which case parents/guardians can call ahead on their way to Temple to ask for an early dismissal.

### For Students in 4K, K, and 1st Grades

Parents/guardians should notify the office at the start of the school session and complete an early release form. School staff will deliver this form to the teacher. Notifying the office can be done in person, by phone, or by email. **At the time of pickup, parents/guardians can go directly to the classroom to pick up their child.** Please allow sufficient time to be on time for your other commitment.

### For Students in 2nd–8th Grades

Parents/guardians should notify the office prior to or at the start of the school session and complete an early release form. School staff will deliver this form to the teacher. Notifying the office can be done in person, by phone, or by email. **At the time of pickup, school staff will get the student out of the class and escort them to the front door. The student will wait with the school staff inside the building.** Please allow extra time so you can meet your other commitments.

## **Dismissal**

On Sunday mornings, 4K–1st graders should be picked up by a parent/guardian directly from the classroom at dismissal.

All other grades will be dismissed through the front doors of the building on Sundays or Wednesdays. If students have an arrangement to meet a parent/guardian other than in the front of the building, please notify the school office of this arrangement. School staff will not allow students to walk off property without prior notice.

## **T'filah (Prayer)**

Students will gather in the sanctuary for a 30-minute interactive prayer experience every week for 3rd–7th grades and every other week for 4K–2nd. Interactive prayer experiences will include moments of learning, feeling, and hearing what prayer could look like in a community of Jewish spiritual intention. In the older grades, students will gain a deeper understanding of choreography, familiar melodies, and prayers of a Reform Shabbat service, including discussions of *kavannah* (intention) and *keva* (structure) of a service. Parents/guardians are invited and encouraged to attend with their children.

## **B'NAI MITZVAH**

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### **School Enrollment**

A child must be enrolled in Hebrew School and Religious School at Temple Beth El to participate in the b'nai mitzvah program. Hebrew school begins in 3rd grade. Exceptions should be discussed with the director of lifelong learning to agree on an alternative comprehensive Jewish educational plan no later than 30 days prior to the start of Religious School in the fall.

### **B'nai Mitzvah Date Assignments**

B'nai mitzvah dates are assigned, and families are notified in February of the 5th grade school year. Only students who are enrolled in Religious and Hebrew School are eligible to receive a date.

### **Preparation/Postponement**

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.

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

### **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 14 hours of tutoring, check-in sessions with the cantor if he is not the assigned tutor, a “bimah check” with the cantor, and a final rehearsal with the director of lifelong learning. Families are billed

for b'nai mitzvah preparation six months before tutoring begins, and tutors are paid through Temple Beth El.

## **HEBREW AND PRAYER TUTORS**

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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**

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### **Tots and Tunes (Ages 0–5)**

Tots and Tunes is a program filled with stories, songs, and crafts and is for both children and their grown-ups. This program is open to the entire Madison Jewish community. Temple Beth El's 4K families join other families as they engage in playful, musical, educational moments with TBE faculty.

### **New Family Orientation**

New Family Orientation is held prior to the start of the school year. Families who are new to Temple Beth El meet with the director of lifelong learning to become familiar with school policies and procedures. This is an opportunity for 4K and K families to get to know the other families in this cohort and learn about the details of the curriculum, the life-cycle event of consecration (kindergarten and new students in grades 1–3 only), and what makes our Jewish educational program special at Temple Beth El.

### **Consecration**

Kindergartners and students in grades 1–3 who are new to Jewish education participate in a special service as they are consecrated to the Jewish way of lifelong learning.

Parents/guardians offer a special blessing of the *Shehecheyanu*. Students receive a special certificate of consecration and their own mini Torah scroll. The service at which students are consecrated varies each year. An invitation is sent directly to those who are eligible.

### **Likrat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Services**

Religious School students are invited to lead *t'filot* (prayers) during our Likrat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) services, held on the first Friday of each month during the school year. Each grade is assigned a prayer, and the students are asked to sign up (via a SignUpGenius form) to lead their grade's prayer. Two students may sign up for the same service. A light dinner will precede these services, which families may register for.

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

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### **B'nai Mitzvah Club for Students (5th–7th Grade)**

Post-b'nai mitzvah students are encouraged to attend the B'nai Mitzvah Club for Students. The 7th graders will serve as “near peers” and tutor younger peers in prayers, serve on a panel discussing the b'nai mitzvah process, and be a role model for younger students preparing for the b'nai mitzvah experience.

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

We strive for every 8th grader to continue Religious School 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. Trainees choose a specialized track, outlined below.

### **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. MLTC trainees are invited to participate in a Shabbat service during the year, chant Torah, and lead parts of the worship service. There is an opportunity to present a d'var Torah, with guidance from Rabbi Jonathan Biatch.

Track 1: Students will learn important Hebrew skills and teaching methods. The class meets with the Hebrew Review Team every week. 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 to determine proper placement for the following year.

Track 2: Students learn important skills for the classroom. 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. Throughout the school year, these trainees will be assigned to a classroom or the school office for hands-on experience. This track is intended for 8th graders who are interested in working in a classroom or school office setting the following school year.

Track 3: Students in Track 3 will meet every week with the Music Team. Students in this track are interested in becoming future song leaders. Guitar skills or background with other instruments is preferred but not mandatory. These students co-lead weekly *t'filah*, learn how to play or sing the songs and prayers of our Reform movement, and help prepare younger students for their grade-level services.

## **Madrachim (Teaching Assistants) (9th–12th Grade)**

All members of Temple Beth El in 9th through 12th grade are eligible to work as a paid teaching assistant in Religious School. All *madrachim* are paid minimum wage or accumulate service hours that are needed for high school credit. Students with special skills in Hebrew or music (i.e., song leading with guitar playing) are encouraged to apply in those areas. Students in 9th grade and above who have completed the Madrichim Leadership Training Course, song lead, or teach Hebrew *may* be offered a higher hourly rate. If service hours are needed for high school credit, please contact the director of lifelong learning to make arrangements.

### **Confirmation (10th–11th Grade)**

All Temple Beth El 10th–11th graders are encouraged to participate in confirmation, a Jewish life cycle *simcha* (joyful event). Confirmation class is held spring semester through Midrasha Hebrew High School. The class is open the community, but the ceremony is reserved for members of Temple Beth El who qualify in one or more of the following ways:

- Attend Midrasha in the 10th grade.
- Work as one of the *madrachim* in the Religious School.
- Hold an office on the MaTTY board.
- Complete an independent study project that focuses on *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

Confirmation engagement at Temple Beth El includes:

- Participating in a confirmation retreat (on a Saturday afternoon).
- Attending up to three rehearsals.
- Preparing essays and prayers for the service.
- Parent/guardian participation in the preparation for the confirmation ceremony is required. This may be in the form of assisting with purchasing a gift for the Temple, arranging an oneg Shabbat or meal, creating and distributing invitations, etc.

### **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. There are a number of required courses and electives. Midrasha takes place 7:00–9:00 pm Wednesday nights at Beth Israel Center in the fall and at Temple Beth El in the spring. Please see [jewishmadison.org/midrasha-hebrew-high-school](http://jewishmadison.org/midrasha-hebrew-high-school) for details and registration, or contact the Midrasha director for more information.

Hebrew is offered at no additional cost and requires attendance on Sundays at noon (at Temple Beth El) and on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm (at the same location in which Midrasha is being held). For more information or to register, contact the Midrasha director.

## **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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Our youth engagement advisors are resources for Temple Beth El on all youth engagement opportunities. 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 while serving as a building block for lifelong Jewish engagement. At Temple Beth El, the youth engagement advisors work to engage students in 3rd through 12th grades with the following opportunities.

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

MaTTY, or MadTown Temple Youth, welcomes all Temple Beth El members in 9th–12th grades. 8th graders are initiated into MaTTY in the middle of their 8th grade year. MaTTY members, with our 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 \$54.

### **L'Taken Social Justice Seminar (10th–12th Grade)**

We welcome interested teens to join our clergy and leadership on a trip to Washington, DC, to learn, gather, and lobby! This is an immersive and formative experience for our TBE youth. The next L'Taken Social Justice Seminar will be in fall 2024.

### **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 and provide opportunities for socialization and fun.

### **JEWniors (3rd–5th Grade)**

The JEWniors social get-together group welcomes all 3rd–5th graders for social gatherings. Our JEWniors advisor offers a variety of activities that can be in or out of the building and focuses on the fun that can be had at summer camp!

### **Youth Days (3rd–8th Grade)**

On four designated Sundays members of JEWniors (3rd–5th grades) and MuTTY (6th–8th grades) will gather in the Weinstein Community Court after Religious School, have lunch, and participate in programming specific to their age group. Check the school calendar for the dates of Youth Days. Events are \$10 each or \$36 for pre-registration of all four.

### **Pasta Extravaganza Dinner and Dessert Auction**

This fundraiser is planned and led by students in our youth groups. After a delicious pasta dinner with many, many options (hence the extravaganza), a dessert auction commences! Funds raised go toward an organization that the MaTTY board decides on, as well as toward leadership opportunities for TBE teens.

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNITY BUILDING**

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Adults who model lifelong Jewish learning enrich the religious education of the children in their lives. Jewish adults build our Temple Beth El community by getting to know other families and facilitating connections among students.

### **Café Panim**

The Café Panim program was developed by parents and is led by volunteers to create a greater sense of community and involvement among our school families.

Café Panim is open every Sunday that Religious School is in session: 9:15–11:45 am. Bring a book, a laptop, a notebook, a sketchbook, a game, your knitting, a puzzle, or anything that

you'd like to hang out with at the café. Share a conversation, a hobby, or an idea over coffee, bagels, and snacks. Donations are welcome, and volunteers are appreciated.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

We have parent/guardian volunteer opportunities available and welcome your help. Please contact the school office to volunteer with the following:

- Help in your child's Religious School classroom.
- Serve on the Youth Education Committee or Congregational Education Committee.
- Help with Café Panim—we welcome guest baristas!



## **SPECIAL DAYS ON THE 2023–2024 CALENDAR**

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, August 27, 2023       | New Family Orientation                             |
| Sunday, September 10, 2023    | Yom Kef (Day of Fun) Religious School Kickoff      |
| Wednesday, September 27, 2023 | First day of Hebrew School                         |
| Sunday, October 1, 2023       | First day of Religious School, Tots and Tunes      |
| Friday, October 6, 2023       | Consecration                                       |
| Sunday, October 8, 2023       | JEWniors and MuTTY Youth Day                       |
| Sunday, November 5, 2023      | Tots and Tunes                                     |
| Sunday, December 3, 2023      | Tots and Tunes                                     |
| Sunday, December 10, 2023     | Hanukkah Celebration; JEWniors and MuTTY Youth Day |
| Sunday, January 21, 2024      | First day of second semester                       |
| Sunday, February 4, 2024      | Tots and Tunes                                     |
| Sunday, February 18, 2024     | JEWniors and MuTTY Youth Day                       |
| Sunday, March 3, 2024         | Tots and Tunes                                     |
| Sunday, March 24, 2024        | Community Purim Carnival (no Religious School)     |
| Sunday, April 7, 2024         | Tots and Tunes; Pasta Dinner and Dessert Auction   |
| Sunday, April 14, 2024        | Mitzvah Day  |
| Sunday, April 21, 2024        | JEWniors and MuTTY Youth Day                       |
| Sunday, May 5, 2024           | Last day of Religious School                       |
| Wednesday, May 8, 2024        | B'nai Mitzvah Club                                 |
| Wednesday, May 15, 2024       | B'nai Mitzvah Club                                 |
| Wednesday, May 22, 2024       | B'nai Mitzvah Club                                 |