



The Temple Kol Emeth  
Religious School  
Family Handbook  
2023-24

**1415 Old Canton Road, Marietta, GA 30068**  
**TKE School Phone (770) 973-9205**

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## Our Mission

Guided by, and grounded in, our sacred Jewish texts, holidays, and traditions, we are committed to learning that embraces, inspires, and matters to Temple Kol Emeth and our community at every age and level.

We charge ourselves with the goal of establishing and strengthening Jewish identity in our children and families, so they see themselves in the ongoing story of the Jewish people.

At TKE, we aim to:

- Instill Jewish values through engaging teaching methods and styles
- Provide avenues to learn about, foster and perform Social Justice and Social Action
- Further the development of a strong and positive Jewish identity, and
- Cultivate an appreciation for Prayer, Jewish history, Israel, Jewish culture, and language.

In our 2021-22 parent survey, we asked our community to rank to what is the MOST important when considering outcomes of Jewish Education this past year, and our top 4 (in order):

- Relationships/Building a sense of community
- Preparing children to feel competent and confident about their Judaism
- Inspiring personal growth & self-discovery
- Hebrew instruction in preparation for becoming B'nai Mitzvah

Together, as partners, we will aspire to reach these articulated outcomes and inspire our students and your family to live a committed Jewish life at home and at Temple Kol Emeth this coming year!

## Admission Requirements

Children whose parents are members in good standing of Temple Kol Emeth and who are entering grades Pre-K\* through 12 are eligible for enrollment in Temple Kol Emeth Religious School

\*Pre-K students must be turning 4 years old by September of the school year.

Students must be enrolled in the Religious School to participate in the Hebrew School program, and to reserve a date on the B'nai Mitzvah calendar.

## School Hours

### Sunday Religious School

#### Pre-K-7 Grades:

Sunday morning in-person Religious School sessions are held from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 pm

**8-9 Grades:** from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm on Sundays. Our Confirmation (10<sup>th</sup> grade) and our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade seminar will be scheduled based on student availability.

### Grades 3-7 Hebrew

Students enrolled in our online program with Shalom Learning have options: Mon-Wed (4:30 pm, 5:30 pm, and 6:30 pm). Classes are assigned by level to ensure the best learning environment for our students.

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Families may also choose our in-person classes on Tuesday afternoons. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade will meet from 5:00-6:00pm. Our 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will meet from 5:40-6:40pm.

## **Inclement Weather/School Closings**

Religious and Hebrew Schools try but may not always follow the lead of the Cobb County school system regarding school closings. In case of threatening weather conditions, check with the Temple office or the following social media outlets for news of TKE school closings:

E-blasts from TKE or TKE Religious School

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TKESchool>

Please check your emails on the days of inclement weather!

## **Snacks**

Students are expected to bring snacks and water with them each Sunday.

- **Please pack nut sensitive meals** (do not send peanut butter or items containing nuts to school). While we cannot fully guarantee that we are nut free, we will be sensitive to nut allergies and not allow items into our classrooms.
- Please place your student's name on their water bottle.
- Please note that we are Kosher style (no milk and meat, pork products or shellfish should be sent with your student).

If a student has a phone with them, it will need to be stored in their bag (with the ringer off) and cannot be used until after school. Please do not ask them to keep it out to receive messages from you. If you need to communicate something to your student in an emergency, please call the School Office and we will get a message to the teacher.

## **Responsibilities**

We believe that we can achieve optimum growth for our children when students, parents and teachers cooperate fully.

### **We expect our students to:**

- Attend and participate in as many school sessions as possible.
- Arrive on time with all appropriate supplies.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that shows proper respect for Temple Kol Emeth, TKE staff, teachers, and their peers.
- Follow any Health and Safety protocols as may be instituted during the year.

### **We expect our parents/families to:**

- Make every effort to arrive on time for any school sessions or programs. Similarly, we expect families to make every effort to pick up their children on time at the end of our programming.
- Prioritize Jewish education and avoid, when possible, scheduling extra-curricular activities that overlap with school hours.
- Participate in TKE congregational events, such as Family and regular Shabbat services, on a regular basis.

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- Participate in family education programs and any grade-level or school-wide activities throughout the year.

We also invite families to volunteer at school. Please speak with Rabbi Alter to learn about volunteer opportunities.

**TKE aims to:**

- Provide a loving and challenging environment for your child to learn and grow both personally and Jewishly.
- Communicate regularly with parents, primarily via email, informing parents about what's going on in the classroom and school.
- Be available to parents to discuss any questions or concerns.

## **Behavioral Expectations**

- Acts of violence, use or possession of illegal drugs, and threats against others will not be tolerated and are grounds for immediate expulsion from Temple Kol Emeth Religious School.
- Repeated disruptive behavior in class will result in referral to the Rabbi-Educator, who will work with the student, teacher, and parents to ensure that the student is aware of the behavior that needs to be corrected. Repeated offenses may result in disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.
- Families are expected to make financial restitution for any damaged property.
- Suspension or expulsion will not result in adjusted or refunded tuition.

## **Policies and Procedures**

### **Attendance**

- Regular attendance is vital to maintaining pace with the rest of the class and helping each student derive the maximum educational, spiritual, and social benefits from the Religious School program.
- The Rabbi-Educator will contact parents if a student is absent for two consecutive sessions.

### **Leaving Early**

If a student needs to leave class early, please:

- Inform the Rabbi-Educator in advance via email or phone call.
- Come to the Religious School office. **DO NOT go to the child's classroom.** Students will be called to the office.
- Sign their child out at the school office. Students will not be allowed to leave school grounds without a parent or guardian sign-out.

## **Dropping off and Picking up**

The following procedures are designed to assure the safety of each child.

### **Sunday Drop-off**

Drop off begins at 9:50 a.m. **Parents (or other drivers) must park and walk their children to their classrooms on the first Sunday.** After the first day, if students feel comfortable, they may enter the building on their own and will be directed to their classrooms by our volunteers and staff.

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## **Tuesday Drop-off - Hebrew**

Drop off begins at 10 minutes before class, and all children should be inside at least 5 minutes before the start of their session (4:40 pm or 5:30 pm), to settle in and use the restrooms, etc. If your child must be dropped more than off 10 minutes or more before their session starts, please direct them to sit in the lobby until the doors to the school open.

## **Pick-Up**

Sundays: We do not have carpool on Sundays. Parents (or other drivers) must park and pick up children at their classrooms.

Tuesdays: All students are picked up at the religious school entrance of the Temple. Parents should drive in the Temple entrance along Old Canton Road. When walking, please cross at the designated crosswalk. *The safety of all our children must be everyone's priority!*

## **B'nai Mitzvah Program**

We expect *b'nai mitzvah* students to have attended Religious and Hebrew School on a regular basis since second grade. We also require that students be registered and attend school throughout their *bar/bat mitzvah* year.

The *bar/bat mitzvah* student leads Shabbat morning services, reads a portion from the Torah and *haftarah*, and delivers a *dvar Torah*, an interpretation of the meanings of the Torah portion. The *bar/bat mitzvah* also relates his/her feelings about the milestone event and describes the Mitzvah Project done. *Bar/bat mitzvah* dates are assigned approximately two years in advance. Families will receive a letter explaining the process, which allows them to request up to three preferred dates after the child's 13th birthday. Based on date preferences and availability of the temple calendar, the Temple staff will assign dates and send notification.

*B'nai mitzvah* families will receive a handbook providing information concerning everything surrounding their celebration, including the tutoring program, family responsibilities for Friday night and Saturday and facility rental.

*B'nai mitzvah* tutoring begins approximately six months prior to students' scheduled date and is coordinated by our Senior *B'nai Mitzvah* Coach, Addie Schneider. Additional tutoring sessions, if needed, can be arranged.

For more information about *b'nai mitzvah* program, current procedures and *b'nai mitzvah* dates, please contact **Addie Schneider** at [aviva1030@gmail.com](mailto:aviva1030@gmail.com)

## **Madrichim Program**

High school students are invited to volunteer to assist on Sunday mornings and/or Tuesday afternoons. The *madrichim* (guides or assistants) work with students individually and in small groups and generally assist their assigned teacher. Our Madrichim Team arrives at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings to meet with their coordinator and prepare for the day.

## **COVID Protocols:**

At this time, masks are not required to attend school. We are a mask-optional setting.

If needed, the school will post separate protocols relating to health and safety around COVID-19 per any synagogue policy updated during the year.

We will continue to clean our classrooms and general spaces prior and after school to keep our community prepared. If you have any questions, feel free to speak to our school team.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Can I have visitors/friends in class?**

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Due to liability issues, students may not bring friends to class. Parents will be called to pick up any friends brought to class. Extenuating circumstances require an advance call to the school office.

**Where can I find the full Religious Calendar?**

Our up-to-date calendar can be found online in our Religious School Section.