



# B Mitzvah FAQ Session

For parents of students up to 6th grade

Tuesday, August 25

Tuesday, September 1

Thursday, September 10

7:30–8:30pm • on Zoom

Open to everyone!

- Are you debating how (or whether) to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah for your child?
- Are you feeling pressure because “how it’s supposed to be” and “how it’s always been done” isn’t a good fit for your family?
- Are you concerned that non-Jewish family members might not be allowed to participate fully?
- Are you looking for a custom celebration that will be both personal and meaningful, balancing Jewish traditions and your unique family heritage?

**Explore your options during this free, informal FAQ session**

**with Rabbi Adam Chalom, our Youth Education Director, and our B Mitzvah Coordinator**

You may also schedule a one-on-one information session by Zoom, by phone or email with Rabbi Chalom, our Youth Education director, or our B Mitzvah Coordinator

### **Sunday School Try Out**

For families interested in our education program from preschool through confirmation, your child can join their grade’s class for the day.

There is no expectation of a commitment by attending.

Questions to Ilana Shaffer at [youthed@kolhadash.com](mailto:youthed@kolhadash.com) or 773-209-8266

Members choose financial commitment – Trial Memberships offered – Jewish and Interfaith families fully participate



## How is Our B Mitzvah Different from All Other B Mitzvahs?

The Kol Hadash B Mitzvah program (gender-neutral, non-binary term for “Bar Mitzvah” and/or “Bat Mitzvah”) is unique, meaningful, and personal to the student in many ways:

1. Our B Mitzvah preparation fits into the busy lives of today’s middle-schoolers and their families. Students learn Hebrew through one-on-one tutoring sessions.
2. Our Hebrew curriculum balances the need for Hebrew reading skills with an understanding of Hebrew as a modern, living language.
3. Rather than be automatically assigned the Torah or Haftorah portion coinciding with their B Mitzvah service date, our students choose their own Torah portion, whichever one they find to be most inspirational or meaningful.
4. Students have the choice to read from other Jewish literature or do a Jewish-related research project instead of reading from the Torah.
5. All the readings and music celebrate the milestone of becoming a B Mitzvah. The B Mitzvah is the only reason for the gathering.
6. Every B Mitzvah service is devoted to only one student.
7. Families can customize their B Mitzvah celebration service by choosing their favorite readings and music from an array of options.
8. All parents of B Mitzvah students participate fully in our ceremonies. We are fully welcoming and inclusive of modern families in all their diversity.
9. Following the B Mitzvah presentation, the parents have the opportunity to share their feelings about the occasion in a short but meaningful address to their child.
10. Families may honor other family members and friends by having them read selections from the service, hold the Torah, or light candles on our congregational menorah.
11. Service readings are in English and sensitive to a diverse audience, enabling all family members (of all ethnic and religious backgrounds) to equally and meaningfully participate.
12. Our families almost always get their first choice of date. Ceremonies can be held on a Friday evening, Saturday morning or Saturday evening.