



### TBS Midrasha High school curriculum

TBS believes that Midrasha does not end at B'nai Mitzvah! TBS offers a variety of opportunities for our post-B'nai Mitzvah students to continue to learn and develop into healthy Jewish young adults.

**Midrasha High** – (the High School experience). Students meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm for a special dynamic and exciting program designed to address their specific interests. Topics may include: Israel and Zionism in the Middle East; Comparative Religion; Jewish History; Comparative Judaism; Holocaust & Resistance Studies; Ethics; and so forth. We will have 50 minute study sessions with different presenters who will bring their knowledge, experience, and interests to the classroom. From 8:00-8:30, students meet with the Rabbi to discuss current events and news.

#### **Midrasha High Goals:**

- To provide continuing education for Jewish youth beyond Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- To provide students with the knowledge and intellectual tools necessary to enable them to relate to the world as Jews.
- To encourage students to begin the process of life-long Jewish learning

Attending the five-year-sequence curriculum, Midrasha High School students will be guided through the following subjects in Jewish studies:

#### **Unit 1: Judaism: Finding our own Belief and Practice**

- Rituals and Customs: The Warmth and Benefit of Tradition
- Growing Up and Growing Old: The Shape of a Jewish Life
- The Road Map of Jewish Community: Institutions and communities of the Jewish World
- Reform, Conservative, Orthodox: Similarities and differences
- The Way to G-d: Shaping our Individual Spiritual Journeys

- Radical Jewish Thinkers: Where and how do I fit?

## **Unit 2: From Joshua, the Son of Nun, to David, the Son of Gurion: A Survey of Jewish History and Literature Through the Ages**

- The tribal formation in the Promised Land
- The Anarchic period during the days of the Judges
- The introduction to the period of kings and prophets
- The destruction of the first Temple and the Babylonian exile
- The second temple and the struggle against the Roman Empire
- The dispersion into the diaspora, culture and literature of the diaspora communities
- The beginning of Kibutz Galuot and the declaration of the State of Israel

## **Unit 3: Holocaust, The State of Israel, Modern Hebrew**

- The post-WWI Germany and the rise of the National Socialist German Workers party
- The beginning of physical separation and alienation of the Jewish population in Germany: The Crystal Nacht and religious and physical restrictions
- The “The Final Solution”: Deportation of Jews to ghettos and later to concentration camps
- The question of belief: “Where was G-d?”
- Resistance: From within and from without
- Communication and Politics: What happened? Why no one reached out and helped?
- Germany is defeated: The release from the concentration camps and the rehabilitation of those who survived the Holocaust
- Our promise: To Remember, Never to Forget!
- History and Founding of the State of Israel
- Contemporary Israeli Culture
- Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- *Mah Nishmah?* Some essential phrases in Modern Hebrew

## **Unit 4: Comparative Religion: The Religions of our Friends and Neighbors:**

- The roots of Christianity and the various “streams” of Christianity
- The roots of Islam and its basic beliefs
- Compare and Contrast between the three religions’ Belief
- The Past, Present, and Future in Understanding and Accepting of Each Other’s Beliefs
- Houses of Worship: Differences and Similarities

- Spiritual Leadership: Differences and Similarities
- Other Religions Around Us

### **Unit 5: Issues in Contemporary Jewish Life**

- Race, Gender, and Sexual identity within the Jewish community
- The future of the synagogue in our fast-paced lives
- Inter-dating and intermarriage
- Tikkun Olam: Our Jewish Mission
- Jewish Sexual Ethics
- Contemporary Judaism's perspectives on the Frontiers of Medical and Scientific Developments
  - Images of Jewish Life in the Media