

Shalom,

Summer has now begun, completing a school year that started beautifully with many activities and programs, and ended with new ways of learning and communicating. As we look forward to the next school year, we are preparing to welcome you back to Midrasha in the fall, and ask you to please register your child(ren) as soon as you can. We are going to have a great school year with new and returning programs, along with lots of fun activities and celebrations.

The Talmud teaches that the breath of schoolchildren sustains the world. When we pause and consider the wonderful qualities and traits of our children, it is hard to disagree. When it comes to kids, it can be hard to make sweeping generalizations. Not everyone is a Hebrew whiz, or a gifted speaker, or competent in music. However, I do think there are some things, great things, we can say about every child: "Every child is an artist. Every child is a philosopher. Every child is a theologian. Every child is an actor. Every child is a dancer. Every child is a nature-lover. Every child is an explorer. Every child is a comedian. Every child is a skeptic. Every child is a teacher. Every child is a boundary pusher. Every child is a truth speaker." (*Isabella McCullough*)

We are aware of our responsibilities towards children as parents, teachers, mentors, or simply as caring adults, who look to future generations to make the world a better place. We are constantly asking how can we cultivate these characteristics and traits in our children? This is what Midrasha is working to accomplish. With this in mind, we are excited about creating our 2020-2021 school year.

This coming school year, we have implemented some changes in our Sunday schedule. Starting this year, once a month, we will meet on Friday night or Saturday morning instead of on Sunday morning. This will help us to have more experiences and learning opportunities for the entire family and our community. During this experience, we will celebrate Shabbat together - adults and children, families and empty nesters - with enhanced learning and activities led by Rabbi and me. I am very excited for this new avenue we will experience this coming year.

We need your help to get us ready for the upcoming year. Whether done in person or virtually, please register your child(ren) in Midrasha as soon as you can, so we can be ready for them after the summer break. While you are filling out the registration, please do not forget:

- Students with Special Needs: It is our goal to provide quality Hebrew and religious education to all students, regardless of their individual learning needs. If you have a child who would benefit from an individualized education plan, please contact me before September so we can have it in place when the school year starts.
- Complete the media release form.
- Complete the trip permission form.
- If your child is the age of youth groups, (Kadima grade 5-8 and USY grades 9-12) please register them in the appropriate group.
- If your child is interested in our Madrichm program, that registration form is also on the website, with a dead line of August 3rd.
- If your family is in need of tuition support, please mention it under the payment section. We are lucky to have the Rashkov Religious School Scholarship Fund to help our families with tuitions fees. Every family who is benefiting from this fund will be asked to support the community by volunteering for 10 hours during the school year.

In regards to your tuition payments this year:

We prefer and encourage you to pay your total bill upfront so you may rest easy for the entire year and not worry about any payments or due dates. This will help us with our budgeting and we appreciate you considering this.

If you are unable to pay in full, we ask that you pay one third of your total tuition bill upon registration.

You are welcome to send in a check or pay with a credit card (please remember that any credit card processing fees will be billed to you as well.) The remaining balance will be due in full by December 31.

At this time, tuition payments cannot be charged to your TBS account. However, your child's education is the most important thing to us, and if you would like to discuss a different payment plan, please call Sharon at 747-3304 x106.

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

Iris

Important dates:

- First day for Hebrew school – September 9
- First day for Sunday school – September 13
- Parent orientation and B'nai Mitzvah orientation – September 13
- First class for Midrasha High – October 8

Temple Beth Shalom Midrasha dedicates itself to embracing change, and creating innovative and effective teaching methods in order to provide a quality Jewish education for all students. We strive to inform and excite our students about Judaism and Jewish life, and do so in ways that will share responsibility with our families, create lasting ties to the Jewish community, its faith, traditions, and ethics.