

Welcome Back!

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and still surviving our Covid year. I am already thinking of the coming school year with the hope that we will be able to join again in person. That being said, I will continue to follow the Covid guidelines of Spokane Public Schools and, hopefully, we will be able to open our school to in-person learning this fall.

Therefore, registration for the next school year has begun! I would like to welcome back to TBS Midrasha our returning students and also take this opportunity to welcome our new students and their families to our community, and to wish everyone בְּחַזְלָכָה *Be'hatzlacha* – success and good luck— in the year ahead.

On our website, you will find school registration forms for the following:

- Hebrew School, Sunday School and Midrash High
- Madrichim Program
- Youth groups – 5-7th grades for Kadima and 8-12th grades for USY.

ASHREI YOSHVE BEYTECHA “Happy are those who dwell in your house.”

These words taken from the Psalms are a familiar part of the prayer service and are traditionally said upon entering a synagogue. But to paraphrase the words of the Psalmist: happy are those families who attend TBS Midrasha! At TBS, we envision a community of learners which is educated, proud, vibrant, and happy. Our Midrasha provides many opportunities to make TBS your dwelling place with school-wide activities, holiday celebrations, family programs, and youth groups. Therefore, we invite you to join us in reciting *ASHREI YOSHVEI BEYTECHA* as we joyously get ready for our new school year.

The High Holidays are early this year and our families will be challenged as Rosh Hashanah starts on September 6. We know that it is sometimes hard to pull kids from school, especially so early. However, this is a problem that we always face as Jewish parents: how do we educate our kids to understand and respect the Jewish holidays, traditions and values while living in a secular world? We are sure that you will make the best decision for your child. To assist you in this endeavor, I have sent a letter to all of the school principals in our region, highlighting for them the dates of our holidays and including a short explanation about how we observe them. I have asked them to please allow our kids to miss school and be able to participate in the High Holidays.

School and Youth Calendar

- August 29 - School open house, community picnic and celebration
- September 6 - Erev Rosh Hashanah
- September 7 - Rosh Hashana youth program (includes ages 3-18 with kids divided into age-appropriate groups)

- September 15 - Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre)
- September 16 - Yom Kippur youth program (includes ages 3-18 with kids divided into age-appropriate groups)
- September 20 - Erev Sukkoth – youth activities in the afternoon
- September 28 - Erev Shimchat Torah celebration – youth activities in the afternoon
- October 3 - First day of Sunday School
- October 6 - First day of Hebrew School
- October 14 - First day of Midrasha High

Students with Special Needs: It is our goal to provide quality Hebrew and religious education to all students, regardless of their individual needs. If you have a child who needs special adaptation to our program to provide for an individual learning style, please contact the school office to make an appointment with me ASAP.

The partnership between home and school: You are your child's first Jewish educator. We thank you for trusting us to be your partner and putting your child's Jewish education as a family priority. At Midrasha, we strive to provide the best Jewish education possible for your children. We want to keep the lines of communication open and be available to you, therefore, it is our hope that you will never hesitate to contact us with questions, updates, or concerns. To reach us, call the office at 509-747-3304 ext. 109 or email at eddirector@spokanetbs.org

Please continue to check out the weekly bulletin to find out about events, learning opportunities, and more.

Happy summer! We hope to see you soon!

Iris Berenstein
Education Director

Temple Beth Shalom Midrasha Vision, Mission, and Values Statement

Our Vision: Temple Beth Shalom Midrasha in partnership with our families and our community will produce students who take pride and joy in their Jewish identity and who can make Jewishly informed decisions on how they will practice Judaism in their lives.

Our Mission: Temple Beth Shalom Midrasha dedicates itself to embracing change and creating innovative and effective 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, in shared responsibility with our families, create lasting ties to the Jewish community, its faith, traditions, and ethics.

Our Values: In pursuing our vision and in support of our mission, we are guided by a shared collection of Jewish values.

Jewish Ethical Values: Our interactions with each other are informed by Jewish ethical values.

Mitzvot: Our relationships with others and with G-d require sacred deeds.

Torah Study: Knowledge of the Torah, its themes, and history leads to intellectual and spiritual transformation and the practice of good deeds and Jewish-minded actions.

Hebrew: Hebrew is the language of our forefathers, the predominant language of the Jewish People, and provides a commonality to bind us together.

Jewish Worship and Prayer: Recitation of prayer is a central characteristic of Jewish worship. Our liturgy provides a framework for our public expression of spirituality.

Israel: The land of Israel is our homeland and central to Jewish history, religion, and values.

Conservative Judaism and Jewish Movements: We are affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and understand its relationship to the other branches of Judaism.
