



B'nai Mitzvah 101 for 4th & 5th Grade Parents

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Introductions & Ice Breaker Question

HEA's Goals of the B'nai Mitzvah Journey- Socio-Emotional

Mensch Academy 6th & 7th Grade Goals (Cohort Experiences)

HEA's 3 Types of B'nai Mitzvah Services & Service Commitment

Handout Service Attendance & Service Components HEA

B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator Role & Steps Going Forward

Q&A





HEA's Goals of the B'nai Mitzvah Journey- Socio-Emotional



Mensch Academy 6th & 7th Grade Goals

(Cohort
Experiences)

HEA's 3 Types of B'nai Mitzvah Services & Service Commitment



Service Types

- Traditional (Saturday morning)
- Shir Hadash (Saturday morning)
- Mincha (Afternoon service)
 - In the Traditional and Shir Hadash services, the B'nai Mitzvah celebration is one part of the regularly occurring service. The B'nai Mitzvah is not the entire focus of the service. Mincha B'nai Mitzvah allow for a service entirely focused on the B'nai Mitzvah and allow for more customization.
- All services are musical!

Traditional

- Always takes place in the sanctuary
- 9:30am-12pm
- Tunes are largely shared with Conservative synagogues across the country
- A nice, consistent group of attendees that you can get to know as you attend services in the year before your B'nai Mitzvah
- This service represents 90 years of HEA history
- Includes the opportunity to learn Mussaf, the additional service for Shabbat
- More opportunity for learning Nusach (the musical phrases we use for chanting the Shacharit and Mussaf services) as well as Haftarah

Shir Hadash

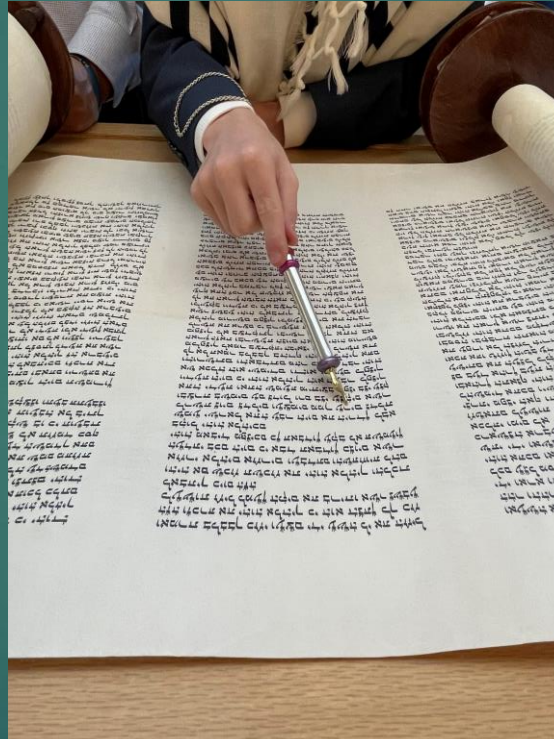
- Originally designed for the GYC or the Social Hall. Families may choose to have their service in the sanctuary, but this is not the default option and has some musical drawbacks. Size limitations exclude having a b'nai mitzvah service in the GYC.
- 9:30am-12pm
- Uses hand drums
- Emphasizes group singing and distributed leadership
- Does not include Haftarah
- Requires additional commitment to joining the davening team in the 6 months before the BM date. Also requires commitment to attending monthly 45-minute Shabbat morning class with Eitan.

Mincha

- Service can be separate from regular lay-led afternoon services (more focused on the b'nai mitzvah) or can be part of the regular lay-led afternoon services (a built in minyan)
- Start time depends on time of year
 - ▶ Option to include Ma'ariv (evening service) and Havdalah (service for ending Shabbat) depending on service timing and sunset timing

The chapel is a nice venue if you have under 100 guests. The chapel creates a sense of coziness. Otherwise, this service is held in the sanctuary.

B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator Role & Steps Going Forward





Timeline for B'nai Mitzvah and Mensch Academy 2024-2027

FROM 4TH GRADE TO 7TH GRADE

4th & 5th grade

B'nai Mitzvah

Date Selection process begins in 4th grade by Cohort

Assignment and finalizing date choices - \$50 administrative fee

Kids

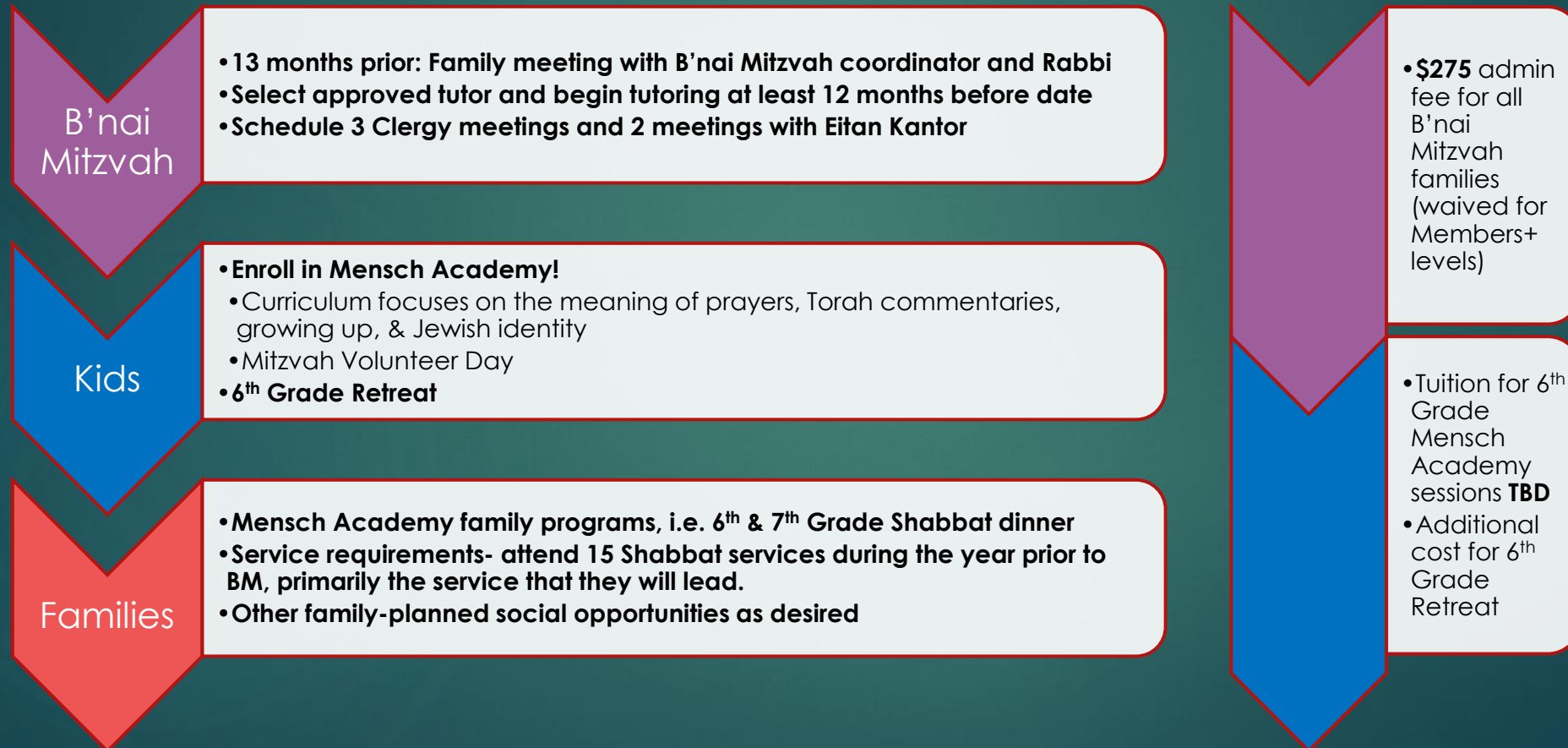
4th & 5th Grade Mini-Retreat

Focused on Cohort community building

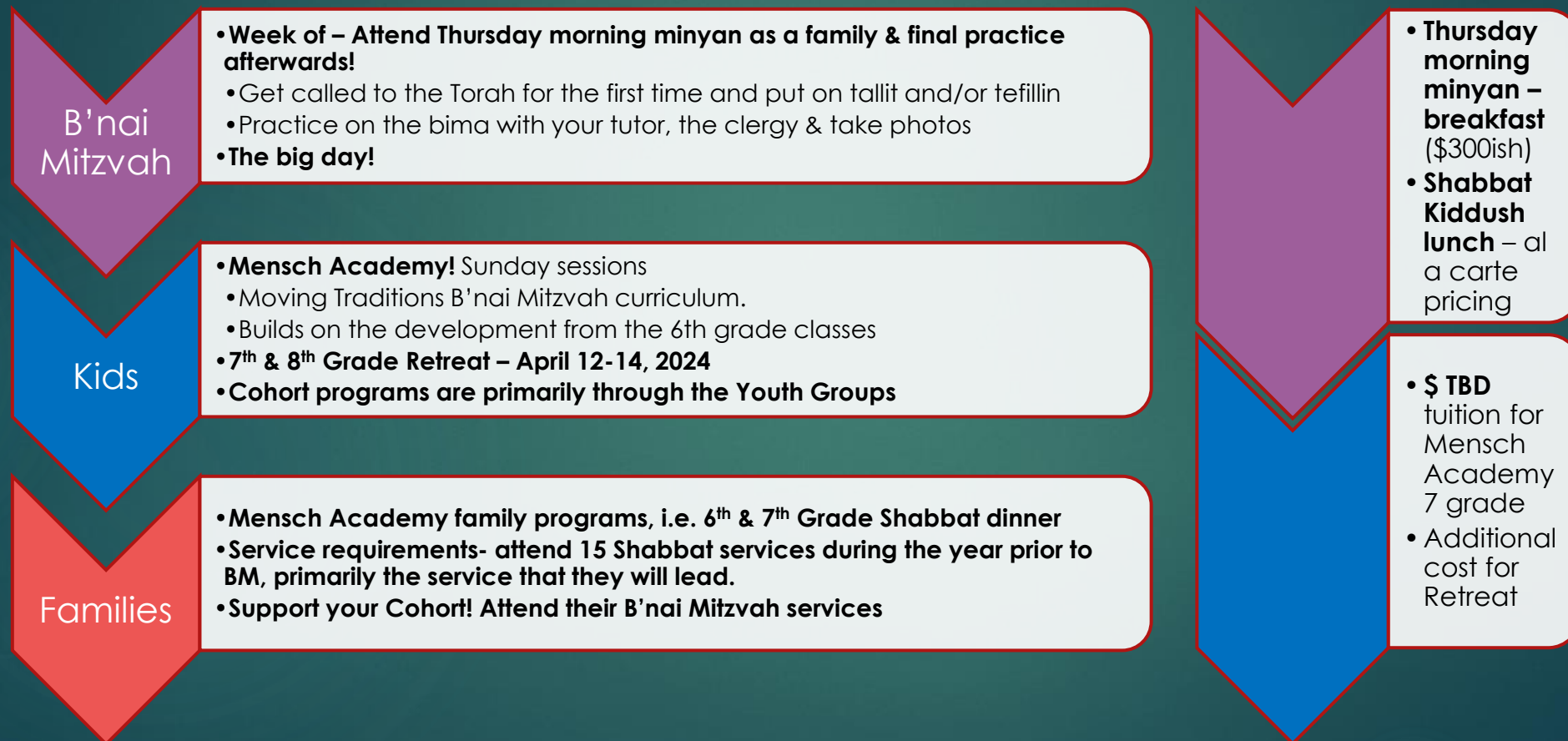
Families

1 Shabbat Cohort dinner for 4th & 5th grade families

6th grade



7th grade



B'nai Mitzvah preparation timeline

13 months before

- **Initial family meeting with Officiating Rabbi & B'nai Mitzvah coordinator**
- **Interview 3 HEA Approved tutors, select a tutor and begin tutoring at least 12 months before date**
- **Continue going to services to learn choreography and prayer in practice**

6 months

- **1st meeting w/ Eitan Kantor**
- **Begin mitzvah project (optional)**
- **Check in w/ BM Coordinator** Update us on the progress with your tutor

5 months

- **Submit all rental contracts for use of HEA space (for Social Hall party, e.g.)**
- **Reach out to Rabbis' assistant to set a D'var Torah writing meeting with officiating rabbi**

2-3 months

- **Check in w/BM Coordinator- making sure everything is planned and no detail is forgotten.**
- **Set dates to start participating in upcoming services to lead 1-2 prayers**

1 month

- **Check in with officiating rabbi at ~ 6 weeks & 2 weeks**
- **2 Shir Hadash rehearsal/practices with Eitan**
- **Submit Honors form to BM Coordinator at 3 weeks**

Questions?





Contact Jenn Zucker if
you have ideas or
questions about your
upcoming simcha

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