

*Beth Shalom*  
*Parent/Student Handbook*

2019-20

5780



*"The world stands upon three things: Torah, Worship and Loving Deeds." ~~ Pirkei Avot 1:2*

# *From the Rabbi*

It is a pleasure to welcome you and your children to engage together in our core tradition: Talmud Torah - study and learning. In Jewish tradition we are all "Torah students", which means we strive to always be 'knowledge and wisdom seekers'. At Beth Shalom we do this participating of the many programs and opportunities to learn and study from the rich sources of our tradition, through our regular classes, family education, special Mitzvah programs, and in our holidays and celebrations.

We have worked intensely preparing for this new school year, introducing new ways of doing things, to provide a better experience for our children and their families. I hope you will make the best of this year of learning.

Rabbi Ariel Edery

## *From the Religious School Director*

In the years that I have been a religious school director, I have seen so many changes occur in my students. I am eager to maintain the same excitement for learning this year as in years' past and to watch your students fly!!

This year we are using Judaic and Hebrew curriculums put together by me using a variety of learning styles. Activities in all classrooms encompass a variety of learning styles to reach each student in a way that makes sense to them. Monday/Tuesday weekday school will focus on both Judaic and Hebrew, but in a more hands-on way. We will use games, art and cooking again this year.

The feeling of *kehillah* (community) that our children derive from attending religious school is an important part of their Jewish identity and watching them change and grow from year to year is extremely fulfilling to me. Thank you for your decision to make this journey with us.

I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year.

B'Shalom  
Lynn Calnek

At Beth Shalom, we are aware that not every child learns the same way. Below is a check-off list that will help us to educate your child. Please fill it out and return it no later than the second day of school. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Your child may:

- Need to sit near the board
- Need to sit near the teacher
- Function best with oral directions
- Function best with written directions
- Need advance notice for a test or quiz
- Need to frequent a lavatory (more than once an hour)
- Need to get up and move around
- Need to eat frequently
- Be extremely sensitive
- Be extremely quiet and shy
- Have difficulty reading orally
- Have left/right issues
- Be color blind
- Have a 504 or IEP in secular school
- Others

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Student's Name

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Grade

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Student's Name

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Grade

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Student's Name

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Grade

## 2019/20 Religious School Calendar

|                                                                                                            |                          |                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| September 8 – First Day<br>Mandatory Parent Meeting followed by 7th grade LDVD Meeting                     | September 9 – School     | September 10 - School |
| September 15 – School                                                                                      | September 16 – School    | September 17 – School |
| September 22– School                                                                                       | September 23 - School    | September 24 - School |
| September 29 – NO SCHOOL                                                                                   | September 30 – NO SCHOOL | October 1 – NO SCHOOL |
| October 6 – School                                                                                         | October 7– NO SCHOOL     | October 8 - NO SCHOOL |
| October 13 – School<br>KINDERGARTEN FAMILY ENGAGEMENT W/RABBI                                              | October 14 – School      | October 15- School    |
| October 20 - School<br>LDVD 7th Grade                                                                      | October 21 - School      | October 22 - School   |
| October 27 - School 3RD GRADE FAMILY PROJECT                                                               | October 28 - School      | October 29 - School   |
| November 3 – School<br>2ND GRADE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT W/RABBI<br>3RD GRADE FAMILY PROJECT<br>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS | November 4 – School      | November 5– School    |
| November 10 - School                                                                                       | November 11 School       | November 12 - School  |
| November 17 – School<br>5TH GRADE FAMILY PROJECT                                                           | November 18 – School     | November 19– School   |
| November 24 – School<br>7TH GRADE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT W/RABBI                                                | November 25 –School      | November 26 –School   |
| December 1 – NO SCHOOL                                                                                     | December 2 – NO SCHOOL   | December 3 –NO SCHOOL |
| December 8 – School                                                                                        | December 9 – School      | December 10 – School  |

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1ST GRADE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT<br>W/RABBI & FAMILY MITZVAH<br>CARNIVAL<br>LDVD 7th Grade |                            |                            |
| December 15 – School                                                                  | December 16 – School       | December 17 – School       |
| December 22 – NO SCHOOL                                                               | December 23 – NO<br>SCHOOL | December 24 – NO<br>SCHOOL |
| December 29 – NO SCHOOL                                                               | December 30 – NO<br>SCHOOL | December 31 – NO<br>SCHOOL |
| January 5 – School                                                                    | January 6 – School         | January 7 – School         |
| January 12 – School<br>LDVD 7th Grade                                                 | January 13 – School        | January 14 – School        |
| January 19– NO SCHOOL                                                                 | January 20 – NO<br>SCHOOL  | January 21 – NO<br>SCHOOL  |
| January 26 – School<br>3RD GRADE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT<br>W/RABBI                         | January 27 – School        | January 28 – School        |
| February 2 – School<br>4TH GRADE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT<br>W/RABBI                         | February 3 – School        | February 4 - School        |
| February 9 – School<br>LDVD 7th Grade                                                 | February 10 – School       | February 11 - School       |
| February 16 – NO SCHOOL                                                               | February 17– NO<br>SCHOOL  | February 18 - NO<br>SCHOOL |
| February 23 – School<br>5TH GRADE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT<br>WITH RABBI                     | February 24 – School       | February 25 - School       |
| March 1 – School<br>6TH GRADE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT<br>W/RABBI                            | March 2 – School           | March 3 - School           |
| March 8– School<br>7th Grade LDVD<br>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS                                 | March 9 – School           | March 10 - School          |

|                                                                                             |                                         |                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| March 15 – School<br>1st Grade Family Mitzvah Carnival 2<br><b>5TH GRADE JEWISH WEDDING</b> | March 16– School<br><b>LDVD Cooking</b> | March 17 - School<br><b>LDVD Cooking</b> |
| March 22 – School<br><b>2ND GRADE FAMILY PROJECT</b>                                        | March 23 – School                       | March 24 - School                        |
| March 29 – School<br><b>4TH GRADE FAMILY PROJECT</b>                                        | March 30 – School                       | March 31– School                         |
| April 5– NO SCHOOL                                                                          | April 6– NO SCHOOL                      | April 7– NO SCHOOL                       |
| April 12 – NO SCHOOL                                                                        | April 13– NO SCHOOL                     | April 14– NO SCHOOL                      |
| April 19 –School                                                                            | April 20– School                        | April 21– School                         |
| April 26 – School<br><b>6TH GRADE FAMILY PROJECT</b>                                        | April 27 – School                       | April 28 - School                        |
| May 3 – School<br><b>6TH GRADE FAMILY PROJECT</b>                                           | May 4 – School                          | May 5 - School                           |
| May 10 – NO SCHOOL                                                                          | May 11 – NO SCHOOL                      | May 12 - NO SCHOOL                       |
| May 17 – School                                                                             | May 18 – School                         | May 19 – School                          |
| May 24 – NO SCHOOL                                                                          | May 25- NO SCHOOL                       | May 26 – NO SCHOOL                       |
| May 31–School                                                                               | June 1 - School                         | June 2 - School                          |
| June 7 - MACCABIAH                                                                          | June 8 - NO SCHOOL                      | June 9 - NO SCHIOOL                      |

## Curriculum

We are excited to introduce our revised curriculum beginning this school year. Students will continue to learn about Judaism in developmentally appropriate ways with topics that align with their growing knowledge and curiosity. Below you will find a taste of what your students will learn in religious school:

**PreK/Kindergarten** students explore bible stories, holidays and mitzvot. Students learn through play, books and crafts.

**First Grade** students will spend Hebrew time learning and Alef Bet complete with vowels. Students will learn the concept of reading Hebrew letters combined with vowels in one-syllable words. Students will have weekly written homework that should be returned to their teacher on the next Sunday. In Judaic time, students will learn about mitzvot and why they are important through a variety of games, crafts and stories.

**Second Grade** students will learn Jewish holidays in connection with the Jewish calendar. Students will engage in numerous hands-on activities to enhance their learning. In Hebrew, students will build on the reading skills they learned last year. Students will have weekly written homework that should be returned to their teacher on the next Sunday.

**Third Grade** students will learn Torah stories through their curriculum book, art, and other hands-on activities that will engage them in a fun way. In Hebrew, students will put their reading knowledge into high gear by reading words of greater length. Students will engage in games to enhance their proficiency. Students will have weekly written homework that should be returned to their teacher on the next Sunday.

**Fourth Grade** students will move on to the book of Prophets and explore the different prophets and their relationships with God and the Israelites. In Hebrew, students will take all of their knowledge of Hebrew letters and vowels and put them to use as they learn B'rachot for holidays, foods and mitzvot. Students will have weekly written homework that should be returned to their teacher on the next Sunday.

**Fifth Grade** students will learn about Jewish Lifecycle events, beginning with birth and going through b'nei mitzvah, choosing judaism, Jewish weddings and death and

mourning. The wedding unit will culminate with students acting out a Jewish wedding, complete with food and dancing! In Hebrew, students will dive into the Shabbat morning service. All students will learn the prayers beginning with the tallit blessing and continuing through the Amidah. Students will have chanting homework that should be worked on during the week. Students will be tested on each prayer, so midweek practice is a must!

**Sixth Grade** students will spend the year preparing in B'nei mitzvah preparation. Students will explore their place in their community, synagogue, and home as young Jewish adults. In Hebrew, students will work on prayers beginning with the Torah service and continuing through concluding prayers. Students will have chanting homework that should be worked on during the week. Students will be tested on each prayer, so midweek practice is a must!

**Seventh Grade** students will explore the State of Israel by understanding the complexities and nuances of Israel and developing their own personal connections to the modern state. In Hebrew, students will perfect the Shabbat morning service prayers and learn the ins and outs of what their service will look like.

### **Homework - DON'T SKIP THIS SECTION!**

**Homework** expands upon what is done during the day in the classroom. Your overall educational experience is better, because **homework** helps you to gain and retain more knowledge than **would** be possible with only classroom work.

Written homework in grades 1-4 is as important as reading homework in secular school. Your student will be more confident in reading Hebrew if they spend just five minutes per day doing some type of Hebrew work. Just as with any other skills in life, practice is the key.

For students in grades 5-7, being proficient in prayers will make their b'nei mitzvah process easier. Students who practice their prayers are more confident on the bimah and that spills over into their lives in general. It's not easy to get up in front of a group of people and sing in another language. The more confident they are, the more competent they will be!

## What to Bring

1. Tzedakah money.
2. Food pantry items and lightly used clothing.
3. HOMEWORK!
4. Prek/K/1st grades should bring a nut-free snack and drink weekly.

## What NOT TO bring

1. **No student may bring medication of any kind, unless the school has been notified.**
2. **No toys, sports equipment or electronics.** If they are found they will be taken away and returned to the parent.
3. **No active cell phones** are to be brought into religious school. If a cell phone rings in class it will be taken away and returned only to a parent. **No texting is permitted in school. In an emergency, please call the temple directly and we will connect you with your student.**

## Rules and Important Information

1. School begins **promptly** at 9:30. It is very important that all students arrive by 9:25. Students arriving late cause an interruption that delays class time. Please make sure your child is seated in class and ready to begin by 9:25.
2. Only registered students of Beth Shalom religious school are permitted to attend class. Please refrain from bringing guests to class.

We feel that in religious school, just as in other school settings, disruptive behavior impairs the teachers' abilities to teach and the students' abilities to learn. We want your students to receive the maximum religious school experience and, therefore, have adopted the following behavior policies. This policy only works with parental cooperation.

### **Students should:**

- Attend school regularly with supplies needed for each class.
- Behave with decorum befitting a House of G-d in the hallways, classrooms, lavatories, and Sanctuary.
- Behave here as they are required to in their secular school. Please be supportive of your student's teacher. Students should not interrupt teaching, nor another student's learning.
- If called by them to discuss your student's behavior, please try to remember that their goal is to provide the best religious school experience possible.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. We are all working together for the same purpose, to maximize your student's Jewish education.

## Dismissal

It is very important for the safety of all of our students that everyone follows the dismissal policy.

For Sunday dismissal, **all** (including prek-2nd grade) students will leave from the main entrance. All cars should come around to the back of the building, continue behind the first island of flowers and continue back around, ending up at the front door. Madrichim and teachers will be on hand to get all students to cars safely and quickly.

If you would like to pick your student(s) up from their classroom, in the interest of everyone's safety, please do one of the following:

1. Park in the gravel lot behind the building and walk your student(s) out, or
2. If you park in the main parking lot, please wait until the carpool line has finished before you exit the building so that you and your students can exit safely.

If you choose not to wait in the carpool line, please follow the following directions so that we can insure everyone's safety:

1. **Please wait in the social hall for your child.** Beginning this year, we will have a madrichim come there to get a list of students' names. A madrichim will bring your student to you in the social hall.
2. Please do not come into the sanctuary, socialize in the hallway or pull your students from their class line as they are heading to the sanctuary for dismissal. Remember, we are trying to keep everyone safe. Too much activity in the lobby and sanctuary makes it difficult for students to hear their names called and get them out to carpool quickly and safely.

Monday and Tuesday dismissal will be at the main entrance only! Please enter from the street and circle around the main parking lot to the front door and your students will be brought to you just as they are on Sunday dismissal.

### **Remind Messages**

Due to the success of using this Remind Messaging last school year, we will continue to use it for the 2019-2020 year.

For those of you who are new to Remind, the application is a simple way for the Religious School to communicate important information to you. Each Sunday, about 10 minutes prior to picking up your children from Religious School, Remind will send you a brief message (140 characters or less), detailing what they learned that day. We hope that this will start some wonderful discussions on the car ride home. Remind may also be used if teachers wish to remind you to bring in certain supplies or if they are planning something special in class.

Joining a class is a very easy process. The following list shows the 6-digit code for each child's class, as represented by hashtags in the instructions below:

ebaeg6 for Pre-K/ Kindergarten  
4fb77a for First Grade  
bethshalo for Second Grade  
49dgah for Third Grade  
a6hb29 for Fourth Grade  
a6hb29 for Fifth Grade  
2k3fg9 for Sixth Grade  
6kd9k4 for Seventh Grade

Choose one of the following two options:

Option 1: If you have a smartphone, you may opt to receive push notifications. On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the link:

rmd.at/##### (For example, if your child was in first grade, you would enter rmd.at/49dgah). Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

Option 2: If you don't have a smartphone, you may still sign up to receive text notifications.

Text the message @##### to the number 81010. (For example, if your child was in first grade, you would text @49dgah to 81010)

For those families who received Remind messages last year, you will continue to do so. Your children's grades have already been updated - there's nothing for you to do!

You might receive messages from Lynn Calnek (Religious School Director), Shana Lieberman (Office Manager), or Stefanie Chautin (School Committee Chair) through the Remind application. You can always respond back via the system if you have questions.

**Please understand there may be weeks where the remind message does not align with what your student learned that day. Teachers are encouraged to continue discussions the children are engaged in and this may or may not align with the topic listed on that day's message. The weekly school email is the best way to know what your student(s) did in school. Listed on the next page are other questions to spur conversation on the ride home on those days:**

- What was the best thing that happened at school today?
- Tell me something that made you laugh today.
- How did you help somebody today?
- How did somebody help you today?
- Tell me one thing that you learned today.
- When were you the happiest today?
- Tell me something good that happened today.
- Where do you play the most at recess?
- Who is the funniest person in your class? Why is he/she so funny?
- Tell me about three different times you used your pencil today at school.

# Parent/Student Agreement Form

Please sign and return no later than September 22, 2019.

We, \_\_\_\_\_  
(print your name and your student(s) name(s))  
have read and understand the policies and procedures for religious school.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Parent)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Student)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date