



***CBJ Religious School  
Family Information Guide  
5782: 2021-2022***



***ENGAGING  
STUDENTS &  
PARENTS IN  
JEWISH LEARNING  
& LIVING***



5304 RFD \* Long Grove, IL 60047 \*

(847) 634-8380 \* [www.bethjudea.org](http://www.bethjudea.org)

## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION & CONTACT INFORMATION

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Cantor Elizabeth Bat-Sarah, Education Director  
[cantorbatsarah@bethjudea.org](mailto:cantorbatsarah@bethjudea.org)

Adele Ennis, Secretary  
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SCHOOL: 847-634-8380; FAX: 847-634-8055

## CONGREGATION BETH JUDEA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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The Education Committee acts as an advocate for the educational programs of the school and synagogue. Committee members work closely with Education Director, Education VP and clergy to direct Religious School and Adult learning opportunities. The Education Committee meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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#### Sunday Session

*Kindergarten – Heh*  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### Mid-Week Sessions

Monday evenings  
*jCoop: Community Jewish High School*  
*8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade*  
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

#### Tuesdays

*Aleph – Dalet: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade*  
4:15 pm – 6:15 pm

*Heh: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade*  
6:15 pm – 8:00 pm

### MISSION STATEMENT

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Congregation Beth Judea Religious School's mission is to encourage the desire for lifelong Jewish learning. Educational experiences are designed to nurture personalization of the words of Torah, creating a comfort with *tefillah*, and cultivating each child's Jewish identity. We strive to develop an awareness of the Jewish people's ongoing connection to the land and people of Israel. Through the learning of Torah, *tefillah*, Israel, and God, students learn the importance of *g'milut hassidim* (deeds of loving kindness). Appreciating Conservative Judaism as a vehicle for spiritual fulfillment, our students will grow to become responsible, literate young adults contributing to the future of the Jewish people.

## EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

We are links in a long chain of tradition and history which has endured for thousands of years. By providing a loving and supportive atmosphere in which our children can study their heritage, we hope to instill in our students a sense of pride in who they are and a feeling of responsibility and caring for the continuity of the Jewish people.

CBJ Religious School provides a supportive environment where all of our students are respected and encouraged to become active participants in a life-long learning process.

## CONGREGATION BETH JUDEA RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Shalom! Welcome to the Congregation Beth Judea Religious School. Here you will find children learning and experiencing Judaism through prayer, study, projects, holiday celebrations and family workshops.

### **Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

We strive to instill and encourage a sense of excitement and pride in being Jewish. Through hands-on activities relating to Holiday and Shabbat observances, Jewish symbols, Torah, and *mitzvot*, students learn what it means to be a Jew through the lens of the home, the family, and the synagogue. Jewish values are integrated in everyday lessons. Students are introduced to Hebrew letters, blessings, and songs. Our program is designed to engage students in Jewish learning through music, study, drama, arts and much more!

### **Aleph through Heh (3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

Students are instilled with knowledge, respect, and love of elements of the Siddur, Hebrew language, Torah, and Jewish rituals. We cultivate experiences of holiness and a sense of God. Spiritual growth is encouraged during school *tefillah* sessions and classroom discussions.

- ✧ **Hebrew** – Through “Hebrew by Achievement Level”, students will learn grade-level prayers at their own pace. Focused on the reading and understanding of a wide variety of prayers, students will learn important synagogue skills that they can use throughout their lifetime.
- ✧ **ShalomLearning** – ShalomLearning is an interactive, Jewish values-based curriculum that helps children develop a positive Jewish identity. It is built on the principle of creating relevancy between a student’s secular life and Jewish tradition. Rather than being a linear, content focused curriculum, ShalomLearning has a modern, integrated, and holistic approach that is appealing to 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. Torah stories, Jewish history, Israel, holidays, and more are integrated throughout each unit.
- ✧ **Heh Class/7<sup>th</sup> Grade** – In this class, students will have the opportunity to learn intensively about Ethics and Values, Holocaust studies, and Social Action.

## Kindergarten

*Time: Meets once a week for a total of 3 hours per week*

**Hebrew:** Begin to build a basic Hebrew vocabulary based on holidays and rituals. Learn Consecration prayers & songs: *Sh'ma, Torah Tsiva Lanu Moshe, Shehehyanu, Motzi.*

**Holidays:** Introduce basic concepts and ritual symbols of Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Simhat Torah, Hanukkah, Purim and Passover.

**Torah:** Become acquainted with various Torah stories ranging from Creation to the Giving of Torah at Sinai. Explore basic concepts about God including how we talk to God, how we act in God's image, our covenant, Mitzvot and what it means that God is one.

**Values:** Explore basic concepts of mitzvot, work together to perform mitzvot and tie their ideas into the Torah component when applicable. Foster a feeling of classroom and synagogue as a community.

Tzedakah	Derech Eretz	Welcoming Guests
Honoring our Parents	Feed the Hungry	Kindness to Others
Visiting the Sick	Saving the Earth	Talmud Torah
Tikun Olam	Guarding Your Tongue	Kindness to Animals

**Israel:** Introduce basic concepts of Israel as the Homeland of the Jewish people. Inspire a love of the land of Israel in students.

## First Grade

*Time: Meets once a week for a total of 3 hours per week*

**Hebrew:** Learn names, shapes, and sounds of the Aleph-Bet as well as sight-read their names and holiday vocabulary words.

Prayers: *Sh'ma, Modeh Ani, Mah Tov, Oseh Shalom, Motzi.*

**Holidays:** Building on knowledge gained in kindergarten, students will continue learning concepts of Shabbat and Holidays through stories, arts and crafts, games & activities, and songs.

**Bible:** Students will continue learning stories in the Bible; specifically focusing on Moses, The Exodus, Moses on the Mountain, Samson, Ruth & Naomi, David & Goliath, Solomon the Wise King, and Jonah & the Great Fish. Continue exploration about God including how we talk to God, how we act in God's image, our covenant, mitzvot and what it means that God is one.

**Values/Synagogue:** Explore the synagogue, the places in it and the people who work there, so as to make the students feel comfortable and welcomed at CBJ. Relate Torah stories as lessons, which can teach us the difference between right and wrong. Put mitzvot into action throughout the year. Foster a feeling of classroom and synagogue as a community.

**Israel:** Study the symbols of the State of Israel and learn basic geography. Inspire a love of the land of Israel in students.

## Second Grade

*Time: Meets once a week for a total of 3 hours per week*

**Hebrew:** Learn letters and sounds of the Aleph-Bet and be introduced to vowels. Develop decoding skills and begin reading one and two syllable words accurately.

Prayers: Shabbat Blessings, *Bar'khu*, *Sh'ma*, *Miy Khamokha*, *Modeh Ani*, *Mah Tov*, *Oseh Shalom*, *Motzi*.

**ShalomLearning** is based on Jewish values. Throughout each value unit Torah stories, Jewish history, Israel, holidays, and more are woven and integrated so that each student explores his or her personal connection to our heritage. Second Grade will learn these values through the Arts & Literature lens.

**Bible:** Learn about some of the Heroes/Great Jews of the Bible, including Abraham, Ruth, Hannah, Rabbi Akiba, and Hillel.

**Israel:** Inspire a love of the land of Israel. Study Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and create connection to it.

## Aleph – Third Grade

*Time: Meets twice a week for a total of 5 hours per week*

**Hebrew:** Through “Hebrew by Achievement Level”, students will work at their own pace mastering the Aleph-Bet letters and vowels followed by developing phonetic reading skills for accuracy and fluency.

Prayers: Shabbat Candles, *Bar'khu*, *Sh'ma*, *Miy Khamokha*, *Modeh Ani*, *Mah Tov*, *Oseh Shalom*, *Motzi*, *Kiddush shel Shabbat*, *V'ahavta*, *Birkat Hamazon*, *Hatikvah*, Four Questions.

**ShalomLearning** is based on seven Jewish values. Throughout each unit Torah stories, Jewish history, Israel, holidays and more are weaved and integrated so that each student explores his or her personal connection to our heritage. Aleph will learn these values through the Family lens.

Students will also be engaged in authentic, dynamic Bible study. They will explore the Bible as Jewish have done for centuries—by pondering, personalizing, and wrestling with the text. Students will work all year on creating their own Torah scroll with synopses of the stories they've learned.

### **Shabbat Participation:**

Stay tuned for opportunities to gather with friends to celebrate Shabbat.  
Class-let service: Friday, May 6, 2022

### **Kallah:**

We are hoping to hold Kallah (retreat) for the Aleph and Bet classes on:  
Friday, April 8 – Saturday, April 9, 2022

## Bet – Fourth Grade

*Time: Meets twice a week for a total of 5 hours per week*

**Hebrew:** Through “Hebrew by Achievement Level”, students will work at their own pace to master prayers and blessings as well as develop an understanding of the meaning of these prayers. Students will have opportunities to participate in weekly Tefillah assemblies based on Shabbat services.

Prayers: Shabbat Candles, *Bar’khu*, *Sh’ma*, *Miy Khamokha*, *Modeh Ani*, *Mah Tovu*, *Oseh Shalom*, *Motzi*, *Kiddush shel Shabbat*, *V’ahavta*, *Birkat Hamazon*, *Hatikvah*, Four Questions.

**ShalomLearning** is based on seven Jewish values. Throughout each value unit Torah stories, Jewish history, Israel, holidays, and more are woven and integrated so that each student explores his or her personal connection to our heritage. Bet will learn these values through the Self lens.

### Shabbat Participation:

Stay tuned for opportunities to gather with friends to celebrate Shabbat.  
Class-let service: Friday, May 6, 2022

### Kallah:

We are hoping to hold Kallah (retreat) for the Aleph and Bet classes on:  
Friday, April 8 – Saturday, April 9, 2022

## Gimmel – Fifth Grade

*Time: Meets twice a week for a total of 5 hours per week*

**Hebrew:** Through “Hebrew by Achievement Level”, students will work at their own pace to master prayers and blessings as well as develop an understanding of the meaning of these prayers. Students will have opportunities to participate in weekly *tefillah* assemblies based on Shabbat morning services.

Prayers: Torah Service

**ShalomLearning** is based on seven Jewish values. Throughout each value unit Torah stories, Jewish history, Israel, holidays, and more are woven and integrated so that each student explores his or her personal connection to our heritage. Gimel will learn these values through the Peers lens.

Students will also be introduced to Israel’s history, geography, and cultural life through age-appropriate content.

### Shabbat Participation:

Stay tuned for opportunities to gather with friends to celebrate Shabbat.  
Class-let service: Friday, Mar 5, 2022

### Kallah:

We are hoping to hold Kallah (retreat) for the Gimmel & Dalet classes on:  
Friday, May 6 – Saturday, May 7, 2022

## Dalet – Sixth Grade

*Time: Meets twice a week for a total of 5 hours per week*

**Hebrew:** Through “Hebrew by Achievement Level”, students will work at their own pace to master prayers and blessings as well as develop an understanding of the meaning of these prayers. Students will have opportunities to participate in weekly *tefillah* assemblies based on Shabbat morning services. Prayers: *Ashrei*, Torah Service, *Musaf Amidah* (1<sup>st</sup> 3 paragraphs), & Concluding Prayers,

**ShalomLearning** is based on seven Jewish values. Throughout each value unit Torah stories, Jewish history, Israel, holidays and more are weaved and integrated so that each student explores his or her personal connection to our heritage. Dalet will learn these values through the Community lens.

Students will also participate in Project Etgar, which is designed to facilitate students' search for answers to real-life questions through the lens of Conservative Judaism. Project Etgar offers text-based experiential learning opportunities, engages students in making personal and communal choices, and gives students a new lens for exploring Judaism's core values.

### **Shabbat Participation:**

Stay tuned for opportunities to gather with friends to celebrate Shabbat.

Class-let service: Saturday, March 5, 2022

### **Kallah:**

We are hoping to hold Kallah (retreat) for the Gimmel & Dalet classes on:

Friday, May 6 – Saturday, May 7, 2022

## Heh – Seventh Grade

*Seventh Grade meets twice a week for a total of 4 ¾ hours per week.*

The objective is to provide our students with relevant study and activities during the normally stressful Bar/Bat Mitzvah year. Students attend Tuesday nights and Sunday mornings and engage in units emphasizing Holocaust Studies, Jewish Values, and Social Action projects. Occasional field trips and speakers add to this unique year.

**ShalomLearning** is based on seven Jewish values. Throughout each value unit Torah stories, Jewish history, Israel, holidays and more are weaved and integrated so that each student explores his or her personal connection to our heritage. Heh will learn these values through the Tikkun Olam lens.

Students will also be introduced to age-appropriate information about the Holocaust. During this unit, students will have guest speakers as well as a visit to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie.

### **Shabbat Requirements:**

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all B'nai Mitzvah services of their classmates.

Find these dates in the school calendar.

# CONGREGATION BETH JUDEA RELIGIOUS SCHOOL GUIDELINES



## **ATTENDANCE**

A successful school experience is a partnership between the family and synagogue. We know there is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement, interest and attitude. Consistent Religious School attendance enables our students to learn and grow Jewishly. While we understand that our children have busy lives, attending religious school regularly and for the full session helps to ensure that a student will benefit fully from the program. Furthermore, coming late or leaving early disrupts the entire class and disrupts your child's classroom routine. Your support of our attendance policy is appreciated.

- ✧ A **minimum of 80% attendance is required for all students in each school year**, through Heh (Grade 7). Attendance encompasses Sunday and Tuesday Religious School classes.
- ✧ If you cannot meet any of the above requirements, please contact the Education Director and/or Education Vice-President.

## **COMMUNICATION**

School communications will be mainly done via email. School communication consists of notification of school-sponsored events, synagogue sponsored events, family education material and occasionally, community sponsored events.

## **CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT OF LEARNING**

Every student has the right to participate in and contribute to class discussions. However, he/she must also give the same right to fellow students and teachers. At CBJ Religious School we emphasize the following:

- (a) Mutual respect and consideration
- (b) Cooperative learning
- (c) Respectful expression of disagreement
- (d) Respect for individual differences
- (e) Social integration through classroom dynamics and school social functions
- (f) Respect that CBJ is a place of worship and the building must be treated as such. The Robbins Sanctuary and Beit Midrash are regarded as special places within the building.

*The following procedures will apply to all students:*

1. In the event that an individual problem arises, the teacher of the class has the right to deal with the students in a manner deemed appropriate by the teacher and the school. This may include a reprimand or special assignment.
2. If a student's conduct or attitude becomes too disruptive, and the teacher determines that the student's continued presence in the class is not appropriate, the student shall be referred to the Education Director.
3. If a student is dismissed from class a second time for the same conduct, parents will become involved in the process.

## **DROP OFF and EARLY PICK UP**

***We have limited time with your children and every minute counts.*** Please have students at CBJ a few minutes before class starts so they can get to their classroom on time. Drop off is at the main school entrance on the lower level of the parking lot.

Any parent picking up a child prior to the end of a class must first go to the Religious School Office in order to sign the child out. This is very important – please help us to ensure the safety of our children.

## **DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE** (for students and parents)

A grievance is a complaint involving the individual rights of a student or parent as it relates to the program of Congregation Beth Judea Religious School, a complaint involving the conduct of another student or member of the staff, or a complaint arising from an interpretation or application of a school policy or procedure. **Any aggrieved student or parent wishing to file a grievance shall do so in accordance with the following steps:**

### **1. Informal – Congregation Beth Judea Religious School Staff**

The student and/or parent will meet with the appropriate Religious School staff members and attempt to solve the problem informally within five days of the specific incident precipitating the grievance.

### **2. Informal – Education Director**

If the matter cannot be resolved in Step 1, the aggrieved party may request a meeting with the Education Director. The aggrieved party will meet with the School Director to attempt to informally resolve the problem. If it cannot be resolved within 10 days of the meeting, the aggrieved party may proceed to Step 3.

### **3. Formal – Education VP**

The aggrieved party may request to meet with the Education VP. The written request will indicate what the grievance is (refer to definition of a grievance). The Education VP will meet with the aggrieved party and attempt to solve the problem within the limits of the Religious School policy and within ten days. The formal decision will be in writing.

### **4. Formal – Education Committee**

The aggrieved party may, within five days of the receipt of the written decision in Step 3, request in writing to meet with the Education Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The Education Committee, after hearing the complaint, will render its decision, which shall be final.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is an effective tool for achieving and reinforcing the goals of the Religious School. Assignments will always be realistic in their duration keeping in mind the demands of a child's secular schoolwork load.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER /SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

Every attempt will be made to broadcast announcements when weather conditions cause school to close. Check [www.emergencyclosings.com](http://www.emergencyclosings.com) for CBJ closings. Notifications will also be sent out via:

✧ Email

✧ Posted on synagogue website [www.bethjudea.org](http://www.bethjudea.org)

## **KALLAH**

The Aleph/Bet and Gimel/Dalet Kallot (Shabbat retreats) have become a much anticipated highlight during the course of the school year. Programming includes services, interactive games, experiential activities, ropes course, and the opportunity for our children to experience Shabbat in the company of their Religious School peer group.

Aleph-Bet: April 8-9, 2022

Gimel-Dalet: May 13-14, 2022

## **PARENT ROLE**

Parents play a vital role in the Jewish education of their children. It is their enthusiasm that reflects on their child's ability and willingness to learn. We ask that you be supportive of Congregation Beth Judea's Religious School and its learning process. The school's goal is to provide the children with the interest and motivation to keep the learning process going throughout their adult Jewish life. If parents have any concerns about their child's classes, they should not hesitate to contact the teachers or Education Director.

## **PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION**

***Parent-Teacher:*** In addition to a scheduled mid-year parent-teacher conference, teachers will maintain regular communication with each parent of his/her students. This may be through personal conversations, over the phone, by mail or e-mail. Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their student's progress in school and should contact the teacher on a regular basis with any concerns or suggestions.

***Parent-Education Director:*** The Education Director is always available for formal or informal conversations with each and every parent. Please feel free to contact the Director personally, by phone or e-mail. Parents will also receive regular communication on school events or general news from the Director by mail and e-mail. Cantor Bat-Sarah's e-mail address is: [cantorbatsarah@bethjudea.org](mailto:cantorbatsarah@bethjudea.org)

***Parent-Teacher Conferences:*** These conferences will be via phone calls. Parents can set up a scheduled time to talk to the teachers and discuss any concerns.

## **SNACKS**

Any food brought into the school for classroom celebrations must be Kosher, dairy or parve, and free of peanuts and tree-nuts. In order to respect the laws of Kashrut, no food prepared in any private home may be brought into the school or Synagogue. We appreciate your cooperation with these policies.

## **VISITATION / GUESTS**

Students who are not enrolled in our Religious School are welcome in the classroom on an occasional basis during the year provided that arrangements are made with the Education Director prior to the visit. Parents are always welcome in the classroom but are expected to notify the Education Director prior to their visit.

**KINDERGARTEN**

- 6 large Elmer's School Glue Sticks
- 2 boxes 24 crayons
- 1 box of washable markers
- 1 bottle washable school glue
- 1 roll of tape (scotch, masking or packing)
- 1 roll brown craft paper
- 1 container of disinfecting wipes

**FIRST GRADE**

- 1 classroom primary journal
- 1 folder
- 1 supply box
- 1 box of markers
- 1 box of crayons
- 6 sharpened pencils
- 2 large-size glue sticks
- 1 black dry erase marker
- 1 5 oz. can of play-dough  
(labeled with your child's name)

**SECOND GRADE**

- 1 supply box
- 1 folder
- 2 large glue sticks
- 3 highlighters
- 1 pair of scissors
- 6 sharpened pencils
- 1 box of washable markers
- 3x3 Post-its (any color; 1 pkg)

**THIRD GRADE – ALEPH**

- 2 two-pocket folders
- 12 sharpened pencils
- 1 packages of broad tip markers
- 1 packages of thin tip markers
- 1 package of dry erase markers
- 3 black flair pens

**FOURTH GRADE – BET**

- 2 two-pocket folders
- 1 pair of scissors
- 12 sharpened pencils
- 1 package of dry erase markers
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 package of broad tip markers
- 1 white cotton pillow case
- 1 Siddur Sim Shalom  
(received at end of Aleph)

**FIFTH GRADE – GIMEL**

- 2 two-pocket folders
- 1 spiral notebook
- 1 pair of scissors
- 2 highlighters
- 6 sharpened pencils
- ½" or 1" Post-it Tabs (for annotating/labeling)
- 1 package of dry erase markers
- 1 package of markers
- 1 Siddur Sim Shalom  
(received at end of Aleph)

**SIXTH GRADE - DALET**

- 12 sharpened pencils
- 2 highlighters
- 1 package thin markers
- 1 package of dry erase markers
- 1 spiral notebook
- ½" or 1" Post-it Tabs (for annotating/labeling)
- 1 Siddur Sim Shalom  
(received at end of Aleph)

**SEVENTH GRADE – HEH**

- 1 folder
- 1 Pink Pearl or White Pearl eraser
- 4 pencils
- 6 pens
- 1 spiral notebook