

Temple Beth Tikvah Religious School Handbook



2020-2021



9955 Coleman Rd. ~ Roswell, GA ~ 30075
770.642.0434
www.bethtikvah.com

TBT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL MISSION

The mission of Temple Beth Tikvah's Religious School is to develop a strong Jewish identity within each of our students. Our curriculum focuses on Jewish life and religious practice, *tefilah* (prayer), the Torah and its lessons, the Hebrew language, Jewish social studies, and the value of *mitzvot* (commandments, often understood as good deeds). We hope that our children will feel comfortable in any synagogue they go to with this foundation. We want them to have a special connection to God, the synagogue, Israel, and Judaism. We enhance that connection through study, art, music, discussion, social action projects and other meaningful Jewish experiences throughout the year. It is our hope that these wonderful components of our education program will, in conjunction with what happens in the home, create a positive attitude about Judaism that children will carry into their adult lives.

The Goals of Temple Beth Tikvah's Religious School Program are for each of our students:

- To be knowledgeable about Jewish life and practice.
- To be engaged in Jewish life and religious practice.
- To be proud of and take pride in their Judaism.
- To use Judaism as a guide as they make decisions in life.
- To develop a relationship with and reverence for God.
- To be connected to our synagogue community.



Dear TBT Families,

Bruchim Haba'im—Welcome to a new year with the Beth Tikvah religious school community. This handbook is filled with important information about our philosophy, policies and programs to illustrate Beth Tikvah's commitment to engaging and meaningful Jewish learning experiences for our students.

Every time we read the Sh'ma, we read "*V'shinantam l'vanecha*, we are instructed to "teach our children diligently," making it our responsibility to give our children the Jewish education they deserve—an education shaped by vision, hope, and purpose, so that they will have the tools to look at the world through Jewish eyes and know how to respond to the peaks and valleys we find in "real life."

Thank you for entrusting us to be partners with you in providing your children with a Jewish education. The synagogue in Hebrew is called a *Beit Kneset* (house of gathering), *Beit Tefillah* (house of prayer) and a *Beit Midrash* (house of study). It is our hope that TBT and our religious school will be a second home for your children: a place for them to have extended family; a place to feel safe and secure to ask any question; and a place for them to grow cognitively, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

The clergy and educators at Temple Beth Tikvah will seek out ways not only to engage your children in Jewish learning, but to deepen their understanding and commitment to their Jewish journeys. We are sensitive to how they learn, their self-esteem, and their capacity for compassion. We need our students' parents and families to journey with them. And we are here to support you in this endeavor as you reinforce "doing Jewish" in your homes, in our synagogue, and places in-between.

As much as we are a people of thinkers and questioners, we are first and foremost a people of action. We are not supposed to simply study about life, but to fully embrace life, develop meaningful relationships, and bring God's presence into our lives. For all who wish to make Jewish choices for yourselves and your families, we are here for you.

We stand ready to act in covenant with you to fulfill these responsibilities to benefit our congregation, the Jewish people and each and every one of you. In addition to educating your children, we offer many opportunities for adult and family learning as well. We hope you take full advantage of all we have to offer and that you will be an active part of our *kehillah*, our community.

With warm wishes and *shalom*,

Suzanne Hurwitz
Director of Education

Alexandria Shuval-Weiner
Rabbi

Nancy Kassel
Cantor

Joseph Dunn
Temple President

Beth Asher
Board of Education Chair

Donald Tam
Rabbi Emeritus

Temple Beth Tikvah Religious School 2020-2021 Calendar*

SUNDAY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL (Kindergarten – 7th Grade)

August

16 – Ruach Return
23 – Virtual; Kindergarten/1st on-site
30 – Virtual; 6th on-site

September

13 – Virtual; Rain date

October

4 – Virtual; 2nd/3rd on-site
18 – Virtual
25 – Virtual; 4th on-site

November

1 – Virtual; 5th on-site
8 – Virtual; 7th on-site
15 – Virtual; 7th on-site

December

6 – Virtual
13 – Virtual

January

10
24
31

February

7
28

March

7
21

April

18
25

May

2

Kindergarten through 4th grade in Zoom classrooms at 9:30AM

5th through 7th grade in Zoom classrooms at 10:30AM

2021 on-site (outside, safely-distanced) vs. virtual (on Zoom) formats will be determined at a later date

Hebrew lessons will be arranged by parent and teacher and will be conducted virtually

Family Sababa on Zoom at 12:30PM

MONDAY NIGHT TBT KICKS (Keshet, Confirmation & Kivunim)

August

24 – Keshet, Kivunim

September

14 – Keshet, Kivunim

October

5 – Keshet
19 – Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim
26 – Keshet, Confirmation

November

9 – Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim
16 – Keshet, Confirmation
30 – Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim

December

7 – Keshet, Confirmation
14 – Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim

January

11 – Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim
25 – Keshet, Confirmation

February

1 – Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim
8 – Keshet, Confirmation
22 – Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim

March

1 – Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim
8 – Keshet, Confirmation
22 – Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim

April

12 – Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim
19 – Keshet, Confirmation
26 – Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim

Monday Night KiCKs in Zoom classrooms beginning at 7:30PM

Small group, on-site activities may replace virtual gatherings

*All dates and formats are subject to change

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Temple Beth Tikvah Religious School Office

9955 Coleman Road

Roswell, GA 30075

(770) 642-0434 phone

(770) 642-0813 fax

Email education@bethtikvah.com

Website: www.bethtikvah.com

Facebook: Temple Beth Tikvah Religious School - Roswell, GA

ADMISSION

Temple Beth Tikvah Religious School provides education to students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Children admitted to Kindergarten must be five years old by September 1st.

Children will be placed into the same grade as their weekday school whenever possible. There are exceptions, however, if a child does not have the Religious School background required. In these cases, placement will be at the discretion of the Director of Education after consultation with the parents. We welcome all children of temple members in good standing.

Temple Beth Tikvah strives to be an inclusive and responsive community. We embrace the full range of dynamics present in family structures. We warmly welcome interfaith families to participate fully in congregational life and want non-Jewish spouses to be fully involved in their child's Jewish learning.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HOURS (When in person)

K – 7th grades

4th – 6th grades

4th – 6th grades

8th – 12th grades

Sunday Option

Tuesday Option

Sunday, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Tuesday, 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Monday, 6:45 pm – 8:30 pm

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is essential to a quality Jewish education. Our educators work to make the time at school engaging and meaningful. All class sessions begin punctually; even a few class minutes missed may take away from your child's learning and cause a disruption of the class. If your child will be absent please let their classroom teacher and/or the Director of Education know.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students who will become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Tikvah must have a minimum of four years' attendance in mid-week Hebrew classes. Exceptions can be made by the Director of Education or Rabbi. Students are monitored on their Hebrew fluency to ensure they are on track for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Enrollment and regular attendance and participation in Religious School through 7th grade is required. Students who have completed 7th grade and who plan to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in 8th grade must be enrolled in our Keshet program.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Our school follows the lead of Cobb and/or Fulton county schools closures and delayed openings*. Announcements may be made on television channel 11 (WXIA). Please watch this channel for the announcement. If you are still in doubt, call the religious school number and we will have an answering machine recording confirming or denying the cancellation.

*If Cobb and/or Fulton County cancel after school activities, the Religious School may not always follow suit. In case of threatening weather conditions we will keep our parents informed.

HOMEWORK

Teachers assign meaningful homework at their discretion. Homework can be an important reinforcement of Religious School studies and is designed to facilitate excellence in our student's Jewish knowledge. Acquiring skills in a new language takes time. The importance of Hebrew practice

cannot be emphasized enough. Please make sure that your child spends at least 10 minutes a day between class sessions reviewing their Hebrew lesson. As well, attendance at Shabbat services helps to reinforce Hebrew fluency. If any assistance is needed in working with your child on their Hebrew skills, please contact us.

SECURITY

The safety and security of our students is our number one priority. Roswell police officers patrol the premises during religious school to keep our building safe and secure. The police officers constantly survey the building, monitoring the coming and going of visitors to our building. Just as in any situation, we rely on everyone to keep ourselves safe. If you witness anything suspicious, please report to a police officer or a TBT staff member. If you see something, say something!

EARLY PICK-UP

In order to take a student out of class early, a parent must come to the religious school office prior to 11:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings, 1:15 p.m. on Sunday afternoons, and 6:15 p.m. on Tuesdays. They must show their driver's license and sign the child out of school. Students will be called to the office. Teachers will not release students unless a school staff member has instructed them to do so.

CARPOOL

Each family will be assigned a carpool number and given a card to place on the right-hand side of your car's dashboard. Carpool drop-off begins fifteen minutes before the start of the school. Please do not park in the carpool line until 9:45am on Sunday and 5:15pm on Tuesday. If you intend on staying in the parking lot throughout the school day, please park in the lot until these times.

We will utilize our intercom system for carpool dismissal. Students and teachers will remain in their classrooms during carpool. If students do not hear their number called the first time we will call the student by name. If your child does not come out when their number is called you will be asked to pull over to the side of the parking lot so we can locate your child and allow other parents to leave the parking lot in a timely manner.

Please respectfully follow the direction of the staff and madrichim in carpool. No cell phone use. Please wait until you are told to leave before driving away. The safety of all of our children is our number one concern!

STUDENT EVALUATIONS

Teachers evaluate students on an ongoing basis and are available for any feedback needed.

TUITION REFUND POLICY

Temple Beth Tikvah Religious School will not issue tuition refunds beyond the first 3 sessions of the school year. Refunds will incur a \$100.00 processing fee. Refund requests must be in writing. Approved refunds will be issued within 60 days of the request.

TZEDAKAH

An important aspect of our tradition is *tzedakah*. We are obligated as Jews to help others. Each week students are asked to bring in a small sum of money, preferably from their personal allowance, which will be used to help others. We encourage every student's participation to the extent that he or she is able.

DRESS CODE

Students must show respect for our school, sanctuary, teachers, and fellow students by wearing respectful attire.

CLASSROOM DISTRACTIONS

Toys, stuffed animals, electronic devices, cell phones, iPods, and similar items are not permitted in the classroom (unless the child is participating in a teacher initiated "show and tell"). These items can

be distracting to teachers and other students and are not conducive to learning. Each classroom will have a cell phone parking lot for students to park their devices during school hours.

BANNED ITEMS

Weapons of any kind are not permitted on our Temple property. Any form of possession, use, or distribution of vapes or e-cigarettes containing THC oils (THS, etc.), hallucinogenic contents, or other illegal contents is a very serious violation and will result in long-term suspension or expulsion from school. Religious school fees will not be refunded in a case of dismissal from religious school. We thank you for your cooperation in implementing our rules. Together, we can provide a safe and productive learning environment for our children.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

We need to take special care of Temple Beth Tikvah because it is our "home." We therefore expect all of our students to show *kavod* (honor, respect) to the temple property.

GUEST POLICY

In the spirit of hospitality, we are thrilled to welcome guests. Please obtain advance permission from the director of education to bring a guest.

VOLUNTEERING

We desire all Temple Beth Tikvah parents to become involved. There is always something to be done at the school. Please give of your time by being a room parent, volunteering for holiday and special programs, working as a substitute teacher or assisting with communications.

PLAYGROUND

Students will be allowed to play on the playground when supervised by a parent or teacher. The playground will be open during religious school hours for our youngest students. Students must stay off the fence and not climb on top of the playground structures.

STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES

Accommodations and supports will be implemented within our means and within the structure of our program on a case-by-case basis. We are committed to building open communication and partnership with families so that we can most effectively meet the needs of each child. Please share with us any information relevant to the learning style of your child. The family is financially responsible if a child has special needs that require a staff person for his or her success.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

We are fortunate to have an active Board of Education. The Board is involved with overseeing events and decision-making that relates to our educational programs at Temple Beth Tikvah. We encourage parents to become actively involved in the education of their children by participating with the Board members in their continuing support of the ongoing programs.

OUR RABBI AND CANTOR

Rabbi Alexandria Shuval-Weiner and Cantor Nancy Kassel are integral to our education program. They lead *tefillah* (prayer services), holiday assemblies and discussion groups for all grades, provide classroom demonstrations, work closely with the Bar/Bat Mitzvah students, and coordinate Shabbat service participation. Rabbi Shuval-Weiner teaches the Confirmation class to our students in tenth grade and Cantor Kassel teaches music to our students and leads our junior choir and B'nai Mitzvah tutoring program.

POST BAR/BAT MITZVAH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Temple Beth Tikvah is devoted to its students of all ages. It is our position that Jewish learning is a lifetime endeavor. As our students become b'nai mitzvah, they are not only reaching a life cycle

moment, they are affirming their commitments as Jews. Therefore, we offer programming for post-b'nai mitzvah students in grades 8 through 12. On Monday nights, all gather for dinner as part of one single community (TBT "KiCKs – Keshar, Confirmation and Kivunim), and then divide into their own classes.

TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH BRIT (BEHAVIOR COVENANT)

In our tradition, we believe that each and every soul is created in the image of God. As such, the way in which we interact is a sacred covenant. Our Brit makes sure that our school is safe and warm for all involved. The students and teachers in each class will together compile a list of rules.

Developing a positive school climate involves the use of (1) age appropriate consequences (2) a simple structure (3) reasonable rules (4) and the child assuming an important role in his/her own educational environment.

Should a situation arise in which behavior by a student results in the loss of instructional time, the teacher will positively refocus the student by reminding the class of the expectations. Students who continue to not follow the class rules will receive logical and appropriate consequences. Parents may be contacted as deemed necessary by the teacher and the Education Director. If a situation arises in which property is stolen or destroyed, the repair or replacement cost will be incurred by the student.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, THREATS, AND BULLYING BEHAVIOR:

Harassment is defined as: Intentional, substantial, and unreasonable verbal, physical or written contact that is initiated, maintained, or repeated. No student shall engage in harassment, intimidation, or abuse of or toward any other student(s).

Bullying is defined as: Willful attempts or threats to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or intentional displays of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm. No student shall engage in verbal or written harassment or bullying of or toward another student or students or employees. No student shall threaten, either verbally, in writing, electronically, or by physical presence, expressed or implied, or conspire to cause bodily injury to any student or employee. No student shall harass or bully another student. At least one parent/guardian will be required to attend a conference with the Education Director and/or Rabbi concerning the student's behavior.

CURRICULUM: KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 7TH GRADE

Our curriculum is values-based, relying heavily on Shalom Learning, a curriculum developed in 2011 and used by approximately 100 congregations in North America. Each grade will learn about Israel, holidays and rituals, *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), God, sacred texts, and Jewish values at a level appropriate to them. Hebrew will be implemented into classroom learning beginning in kindergarten, to familiarize students with the appearance and sounds of the letters and language from an early age.

CURRICULUM: KESHER, CONFIRMATION, KIVUNIM (8TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE)

Our teen program is strong and robust, and focuses on the bigger picture. It involves a great deal of discussion and connection to one another and to the larger Jewish community. Students also spend a great deal of time reflecting on themselves. How do we, as Jews, see our place in the world? What kind of impact do I wish to make? Who are my heroes? What is Jewish culture in my eyes? And much, much more.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's formal religious education!