



KOLTIKVAH Religious School



2023-2024



Youth & Teen
Education



ENGAGING, INNOVATIVE & WELCOMING

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Welcome to Kol Tikvah Religious School (KTRS)



Mission, Vision, and Philosophy

At Kol Tikvah Religious School we are dedicated to making everyone feel welcome and comfortable in our community.

Our **MISSION** is to foster the continuity of Jewish Peoplehood through educating for empowerment, molding to achieve menschkeit, and supporting the ideals of social action to make the world better for all people.

Our **VISION** is one of inclusion, connection, strength and safety for current and future generations through actions that we take today.

Our educational **PHILOSOPHY** is one of active engagement, hands-on participation and innovation delivered with an appreciation for learning styles and differences.

WHO?

KTRS reflects the great diversity of our community. We are young, old and in-between. We are Ashkenazi and Sephardic, Jews by birth and Jews by Choice. We are cis, gay and trans. We are neurodiverse, standard learners and those who work at our own pace. We are differently abled. We are multi-colored. We celebrate our differences proudly.

WHY?

KTRS goals are simple: We work to ensure that today's Jewish children can become tomorrow's Jewish adults filled with pride in our heritage, knowledgeable about our rituals, prayer and song, and comfortable in their Jewish identity no matter where life takes them.

**Our Jewish future
starts today.**

HOW?

KTRS & Youth Programs...

Self

are dedicated to helping your child develop in their own unique way. We celebrate the self in a safe place where each child knows they are valued, heard and appreciated

provide a vibrant and welcoming community for the student and the entire family with activities that bring a feeling of Home and Belonging

Community

connect each child to the Kehillah, the family of Jews across the world, through hands-on and experiential programs that recognize the great diversity that is the Jewish people

Kehillah

Tikvah Tots (Ages 2-3) and Transitional Kindergarten (Ages 4-5)

Tikvah Tots and TK provides our youngest learners with a joyful first bite of KTRS and synagogue life through developmentally geared activities calculated to whet their appetite for more learning. Classes are small with one teacher and multiple madrichim (teaching assistants) to ensure that every child receives the attention they deserve.



Highlights include story time, art activities, manipulative play, outdoor play, holiday celebrations and shira (song time) both in the classroom and twice monthly with the entire Religious School.

Tikvah Tots & TK Meet on Sundays 9:00-11:30 a.m.
Diapers don't scare us and the snacks are healthy.
The FUN starts here!



New At Kol Tikvah Shabbat Happenings!

Saturdays | 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

October 7 - Simchat Torah
November 11 - Rainbow Shabbat
December 2 - Chanukah
January 27 - Tu B'Shevat
March 16 - Purim
May 11 - Shavuot

Our six Shabbat Happenings bring parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends together for a morning filled with indoor/outdoor play, a special art project, holiday-themed story time, songs, and a brief service with blessings and a kiddush snack. Open to non-congregants.

Kindergarten – 3rd Grade



The Kindergarten-3rd Grade curriculum captivates our students through interactive learning experiences focusing on the self, the family, and the Jewish community both local and world-wide.



Students learn Torah stories, rituals, and synagogue and home practices for Shabbat and holidays. Hebrew is introduced through shira, the innovative Hebrew-Through-Movement program, and an early exposure to Hebrew letters, sounds and basic vocabulary.

Snacks, outdoor play, art, cooking, and holiday experiences PLUS special Family Education days make this learning level so exciting!

Grades K-3 meet on Sundays from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

4th – 7th Grade

4th-7th grade at Kol Tikvah finds our students on the path toward Jewish identity culturally, spiritually, and cognitively. Jewish values and life-cycle events figure prominently in these years as our students become increasingly proficient in the rituals and prayers of a rich and active Jewish life. Our connection with Israel is prominently featured in 6th and 7th grades.

Grades 4-6 meet on Sundays from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Grade 7 meets on Tuesdays from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday Yachad

For Students in Grades 3-6, we are offering a mixed grade Tuesday option that will meet weekly from 4:00-6:30 p.m.



Hebrew Acquisition

- Hebrew instruction permeates all aspects of our programming from the letter and words of the day, our incorporation of Jewish Life Vocabulary, weekly t'filah (prayer sessions), Hebrew-Through-Movement, and service and holiday-related shira (song sessions).
- ULPAN, our small ability-level pods focusing on letter recognition, blending, and decoding takes place as part of the 6th Grade curriculum. Supplemental Hebrew 1:1 tutoring begins when the student is one year from their B'nai Mitzvah.

B'N A I M I T Z V A H

REVOLUTION

A journey for the whole family begins in the 4th Grade. The B'nai Mitzvah Revolution (BMR) brings families together to celebrate, learn, and reflect. We strive to spark meaningful conversations, provoke insights and questions as we explore our connection to Judaism and the life challenges that this age group may face.



BMR is required for students and families in 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th Grades.

4th Grade BMR

L'Dor V'Dor: Generation to Generation **Sunday, October 29**

11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

At this initial gathering for families, we celebrate the start of the B'nai Mitzvah journey together, passing important ideas and memories from generation to generation that reflect the importance of B'nai Mitzvah as a life cycle event affecting the entire family.



Havdalah: Welcoming a New Week **Saturday, March 9**

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Our families learn about the ritual of Havdalah under the stars (weather permitting), and create their own Havdalah set.



5th Grade BMR

Putting the Mitzvah in B'nai Mitzvah Sunday, October 15

11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.



Tikkun Olam, healing the world, is an ethical responsibility for every Jew. Families will learn about how their child can fulfill their Tikkun Olam requirement and earn their first Kemach (Social Action) credit toward their B'nai Mitzvah.

Faux Mitzvah and Shul-In (5th & 6th Grades) Saturday, March 2

4:00 – 9:00 p.m.

It's not the real thing but it sure feels like it! Families will review the B'nai Mitzvah service and their joint responsibilities as they approach this milestone. Then we eat, drink and party, sending the families home while our students enjoy a rare sleepover at KT !



Biblical Heroes Bootcamp Sunday, April 14

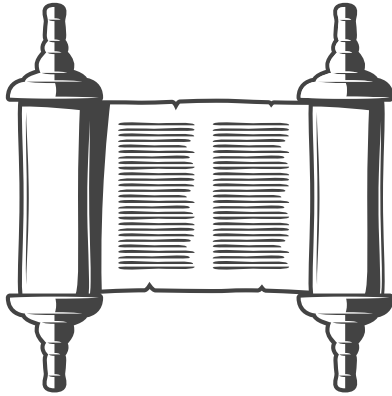
11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.



Families will reflect on their child's personal strengths and, with the assistance of a "matchmaker," pair the child with one of their Biblical ancestors. The children will then teach the community about their Biblical counterparts.

6th Grade BMR

In addition to the Faux Mitzvah and Shul-in, our students participate in 3 more great BMR experiences:



Torah & Traditions **Sunday, October 8**

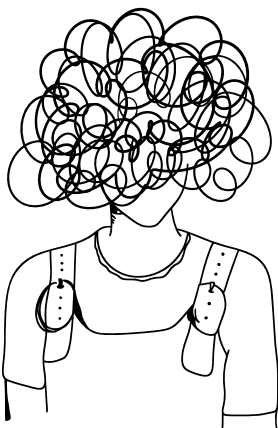
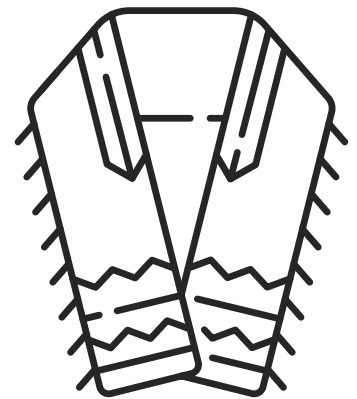
11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Each family will review their child's parashat (Torah portion) and hear from the KT team who will provide guidance and support through the many facets of the B'nai Mitzvah experience.

Tzitzit & Stress **Sunday, December 17**

11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

We explore the ritual of wearing a tallit and learn how to tie the tzitzit, its fringes. We also discuss family and pre-teen stressors and learn how to be a source of comfort and support during difficult moments.



Tied Up in Knots **Sunday, February 11**

11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Families learn how to deal with family, peer, and teacher/student conflict. We will also introduce the act of laying Tefillin and explore how this process can be a source of strength and calm.

Teen BMR

7th Grade
Tuesdays, October 17 and April 30
Topics TBD

4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.



The teen years bring new challenges for teens and their families. Temple Kol Tikvah is a safe space for teens to discuss and confront issues such as cyberbullying and suicide prevention. We explore topics chosen by the teens with experts in the field.

Parent BMR

5th & 6th Grade Parents
Sunday, November 12

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Parents will meet to review essential prayers with clergy and educators, and learn how to write a speech for their child's upcoming B'nai Mitzvah.



Social Action: Kemach 5th – 7th Grades



Our innovative KEMACH program brings our 5th-7th graders together to learn about the needs of our local community. Through age appropriate experiences, our students work with their peers to address social needs while earning Kemach credits toward their B'nai Mitzvah requirement.

L'Taken

Tzedek, tzedek tirdof. Justice, justice you shall pursue.

At the Bernard and Audre Rapoport L'Taken Social Justice Seminars, teens from across North America converge on Washington, DC for four days of advocacy and action. January 19-22, 2024

Cost: TBA

Registration must be complete by September 13



Learn how the Reform Movement applies Jewish perspectives to mobilize around issues like reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, climate change, Israel, and health care.

Meet new people and reunite with old friends, explore Washington, DC, travel to Capitol Hill to meet with Congress to advocate for the things teens care about.



Madrichim



Madrichim (teaching assistants) gain valuable experience working with children through classroom activities and workshop sessions focusing on how to write a lesson plan, evaluation of plans and experiences and teaching the lesson to the class with private feedback.

Workshop dates:

August 27: Orientation & Safety Procedures

November 12: Curriculum Issues

December 23: Lesson Plan Review

February 25: Teaching Day

March 24: Program Evaluation



**Madrichim must be in high school.
8th and 9th graders may apply to be a
madrich in training.**

TEEN TUESDAY

If it is Tuesday, Kol Tikvah
is the place to be!

6:30 – 8:00 PM

TZEDAKAH TEENS

(8th– 12th Grade)

6:30-8:00pm

October 17

November 21

December 19

January 16

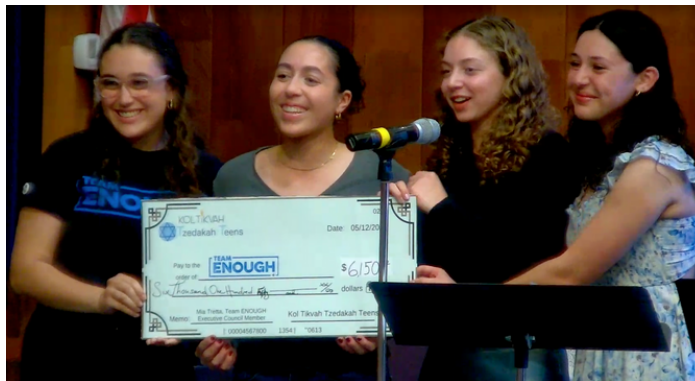
February 27

March 19

April 30

May 21

Through 8 innovative and inspiring sessions, teens will examine the values motivating Jewish philanthropy. Teens will form their own philanthropic organization and select a social need and worthy nonprofit to fundraise for. Culminating with a Shabbat service and banquet with a check presentation ceremony on May 24, 2024.



6:30-8:00pm

September 12

October 3

November 7

December 5

January 9

February 6

March 5

April 16

May 7

KTTY LOUNGE (9th–12th Grade)

An opportunity to just hang out,
brainstorm ideas for fun and
connection, and enjoy activities
with your besties!

TEEN TUESDAY continued...

BETTER TOGETHER (8th- 12th Grade)

6:30-8:00 pm

October 10
November 14
December 12
January 23
February 13
March 12
April 9
May 14

Better Together is a nationally recognized intergenerational program. The program is a component of Teen Tuesdays in partnership with the Renaissance Senior Group. Amy Cecil and Stefanie Elkins will be working together to create opportunities for dynamic intergenerational connections culminating in a special project that will be developed over time.



SEMINAR (8th-12th Grade)

New for 2023-24, SEMINAR is designed for busy teens to "dip a toe" into various subjects, many of which have been suggested by them for exploration such as Jewish Cooking, Conversational Hebrew, and Jews in Sports. These sessions will meet on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

We will offer two seminars in 2023-2024:

Seminar #1

September 19
October 24
November 28

Seminar #2

January 30
March 26
May 14





The **KTTY Board** and events are for high school students in 9th - 12th grades. These students also mentor and provide leadership development training for the 8th grade KTTY Board members.



KTTY 678 provides events for middle schoolers. The KTTY 8 Board plans its events as well as events for the **KTTY 345** elementary school students.

KiTTYn events are for our youngest students from Tikvah Tots (age 2) through 2nd grade. The Shabbat Happenings on selected Saturday mornings are specifically designed for this age group.



MEET OUR TEAM



Rabbi Jon Hanish



**Cantorial Soloist
Joel Stein**



**Director of Education
Amy Friedman Cecil**



**Youth Advisor
Cameron Sobelman**



**Torah Instructor
Shira Fox**



**Hebrew & Curriculum Specialist
Sara Scharff**



Let's Thrive Together

#KolTikvahStrong

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Kol Tikvah is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism and opens its doors to families of all types – Traditional, LGBTQ+, Interfaith, and Dual Faith. At our core resides a single idea: joy. Our School serves children from age 2 (Tikvah Tots) – 12th grade through a series of programs aimed at instilling a love of Jewish learning, prayer and song, inculcating the importance of community, social action and social justice, and preparing our youth to live lives informed by Jewish values and traditions.