

## Education Programs at Congregation Beth Or

K-12<sup>th</sup> grade education at Congregation Beth Or develops Judaic and Hebrew knowledge, and we divide the school into three major categories:

Keren (K-3 <sup>rd</sup> grades)	Eych (4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> grades)	Yedah (7 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades)
Keren means a foundation, and our youngest students will study the WHAT of Judaism, the foundational knowledge that goes into being educated Jews.	Eych is Hebrew for HOW, and students put their knowledge into action to learn how we are Jewish, through topics like Torah, Israel, Jewish Values, Prayer/worship, and God.	Yedah means knowledge, and these students examine the WHY of Judaism in classes on Jewish living for maturing, young adult Jews.

Our classes at Congregation Beth Or focus on hands-on learning, where students discover the information they need with the guidance and expertise of their teachers. Each class culminates in a project of some kind, a durable representation that encompasses student learning. Congregation Beth Or becomes the **KEY** to your child's positive, meaningful Jewish education!

### Keren (K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades)

By the end of Keren, students will be able to:

- Retell basic Bible stories
- Express a core Jewish vocabulary
- Identify Jewish holidays and their related customs and ritual items
- Describe Israel as a modern and an ancient land
- Practice a range Jewish customs appropriate to their families
- Demonstrate comfort in the synagogue

#### Kindergarten through 2nd Grade

**Our youngest learners come to class only on Sunday mornings.**

Register for Sunday:

- ☐ Sunday In Person (9:30am – 11am)
- OR
- ☐ Sunday Virtual (9:30am – 11am)

#### Kindergarten

**Yehudi (The Jewish Me):** Our youngest learners begin their Jewish journey with how to use “all of themselves” in celebrating Jewish life. They focus on what it means to be Jewish using our senses, including taste, fragrance, movement, music, feeling, and joy.

#### 1st Grade

**Bayit (Home):** Our 1<sup>st</sup> grade focuses on the idea of “home” and how it acts as the center of Jewish life. Students will explore the importance and influence of the

Jewish home over time, from Jewish home and family life in the Bible to their own Jewish home of today. Additionally, these students will discover the synagogue as a spiritual home for Jews and Judaism.

## 2nd Grade

**Kehillah (Community):** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders focus on the important Jewish task of building a *kehillah kedoshah* (holy community) and the ways the Jewish community has anchored our people throughout the ages. They will uncover the key Jewish values that support efforts to create and strengthen our connections to and responsibility for one another.

## 3rd Grade

Hebrew education begins in earnest in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, so an extra learning session is added.

### Choose

Register for Sunday School

- ☐ Sunday In Person (9:30am – 11am)
- ☐ Sunday Virtual (9:30am – 11am)

### And

Register for Hebrew

- ☐ Sunday In Person (11:15am – 12:45pm)  
OR
- ☐ Monday In Person (4:30pm – 6pm)  
OR
- ☐ Tuesday In Person (4:30pm – 6pm)  
OR
- ☐ Mid-week Virtual Hebrew (Day of week/time to come)

**Sippurim (Stories):** 3<sup>rd</sup> graders discover the stories of our people. Using key foundational moments found in the Bible, these students will work to begin uncovering the messages found in Torah, how they have changed over time, and the role they play in shaping contemporary Jewish life.

## Hebrew

Our Hebrew program incorporates both a phonics and a whole-language approach toward Hebrew literacy. By teaching sound decoding and word recognition in context, students gain important skills for reading Hebrew. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade focuses on basic Hebrew literacy. Students use the Siddur, technology, and primary sources to build a prayer vocabulary, explore prayer meaning, and work towards prayer fluency.

## Eych (4th-6th grades)

Students in Eych take trimester-long classes that focus on Torah, Israel, Jewish Values, Prayer/worship, and God. By the end of Eych, students will be able to:

- Arrange Jewish sacred texts by timeframe and type
- Experiment with different approaches to understanding God
- Differentiate between prayers within a prayer service
- Relate key concepts about Israel with clarity
- Outline Jewish values and beliefs

## 4th through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade continue to come two sessions a week.

### Choose

Register for Sunday School

- ☐ Sunday In Person (9:30am – 11am)
- ☐ Sunday Virtual (9:30am – 11am)

### And

Register for Hebrew

- ☐ Sunday In Person (11:15am – 12:45pm)  
**OR**
- ☐ Monday In Person (4:30pm – 6pm)  
**OR**
- ☐ Tuesday In Person (4:30pm – 6pm)  
**OR**
- ☐ Mid-week Virtual Hebrew (Day of week/time to come)

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

4th grade makes learning personal by helping students explore where they come from as they explore themselves. Students learn **how** Judaism helps make them who they are. Students rotate through the following classes: Who Am I? An Exploration of Jewish Families and Values; Where Am I from? Understanding the American Jewish Immigrant Experience; and What Can I Do? Building Menschies through Jewish Values

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

5th grade puts learning into practice with practical applications of mitzvot in the world. Students learn **how** they can make the world a better place through Jewish values. In the first trimester, students study “Tzedek and Tzedakah: How to Start Making a Better World”; the next two trimesters, students put mitzvot into action, learning that “Repairing the World Begins with You.”

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

6th grade examines the holiness of bar/bat mitzvah, giving students the tools, language, and understanding that frame this next big lifecycle moment. Students learn how the bar/bat mitzvah process connects them to concepts larger than themselves—God, Israel, and Judaism.

### **4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Hebrew**

Continuing from their foundation in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students work on prayer mastery and understanding, examining the meaning and structure of our liturgy, and they gain important service-leading and Torah-centric Hebrew skills. Students use the Siddur, technology, and primary sources to build a prayer vocabulary, explore prayer meaning, and work towards prayer fluency.

## **Yedah** (7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades)

Yedah classes examine the Why of Judaism. This curriculum presents Jewish living for maturing, young adult Jews using the same categories explored in Eych: Torah, Israel, Jewish Values, Prayer/worship, and God. **Our 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade program is also called YOBO, Youth Of Beth Or.** By the end of Yedah, students will be able to:

- Participate meaningfully in Jewish worship
- Assess different approaches to Jewish tradition
- Extrapolate their own practice as adult Jews from the material they’ve studied
- Measure the value sacred texts bring to their lives
- Justify their Jewish choices from an informed perspective
- Determine their relationship to Israel

YOBO brings together components of youth group, religious school, social functions, and service projects for 7th-12th graders.

- Hands-on, engaging content focused on living meaningful Jewish lives
- Time to interact with friends and create social networks
- More chances to do mitzvah projects and earn service hours

How does it work?

Each month, we offer

- 1-2 week-long hands-on classes on fun Jewish topics or ideas (Jewish cooking, Jewish film, Jews in sports, and so on)
- 1-3 Core sessions for 10th grade (Confirmation) and 11th/12th grade
- A mitzvah project for hands-on doing and volunteer hours

When does it meet?

- YOBO meets on Sundays from 5pm-7pm (including dinner, if conditions allow)
- Sessions will be scheduled about three times a month, and students attend sessions as they are able to.
- We have two exceptions for 8th-12th graders: Madrichim (classroom assistants) and Songleading Lab will still meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am (and/or Sunday/Monday/Tuesday Hebrew school for Madrichim)

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade YOBO

7<sup>th</sup> grade students return to a once-a-week study of Judaic topics.

Register for YOBO:

- ☐ Sunday Evenings In Person (5pm – 7pm)

### 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade YOBO

In 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades students can choose among a number of class options.

#### Choose

Register for YOBO

- ☐ Sunday Evenings In Person (5pm – 7 pm)

#### AND/OR

Register for alternative In-Person options

- ☐ Songleading
- ☐ Madrichim
- ☐ Chai Notes

Madrichim (Sundays, 9:30am-12:45pm; mid-week Hebrew 4:30pm – 6pm)

This YOBO class places students in Sunday school classrooms as assistant teachers, or madrichim. Madrichim report to their assigned class every Sunday during the year for their classroom duties. They may also receive further training and development in our monthly Madrichim workshop sessions from 1 pm to 2:30 pm. These workshops provide teens with information on organization, classroom management, teaching responsibilities, and leadership. Madrichim registration is based on approval from the Director of Religious School.

Songleading Lab (Sundays, 9:30am-12:45pm)

If you have always dreamed of being a Songleader, this is your chance to learn how to do it! Students will meet with Cantor Murley to learn songleading skills and then they will assist in teaching music classes to grades K-6th. Each session will end with the students getting the chance to lead music classes ON THEIR OWN to practice what they've learned. This class will give students the confidence and skills to stand up in front of a group in any situation. It will also increase their knowledge of Jewish music. Note: This will NOT be a music instruction class, so students must already play an instrument from which they can lead a group (guitar, ukelele, piano, etc).

Chai Notes (Sundays, 5pm-7pm)

This singing group will be open to students in grades 7-12 and will serve as an elective in our YOBO program. Chai Notes will have two hour rehearsals once a month while students are already in the building for YOBO. Chai Notes will sing more complex musical compositions along with awesome Jewish A Capella tunes, to match their growing musical tastes and abilities. This group will also share a meal with peers, providing much needed social time with friends.

### **10th Grade: Confirmation**

Students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade spend the year learning about Judaism—history, culture, and theology—and discussing what Judaism means to them.

### **Register for Confirmation Class**

- ☐ **Sunday Night In Person (5pm - 7pm)**

Confirmation is for our 10th grade students and meets 3 times a month on Sundays from 5 - 7pm. Taught by Rabbi Marx and the Director of Religious School, Aaron Niensenshultz, the class focuses on big events in Jewish history and Jewish theology. It includes several optional experiential learning trips: a social justice lobbying program to Washington, D.C., a trip to the lower East Side of New York City, and a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Israel. The class culminates in the Confirmation service during Shavuot.

### **11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade YOBO**

Our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes are designed to keep students engaged in meaningful ways. There is no tuition for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### **Choose**

#### **Register for YOBO**

- ☐ **Sunday Evenings In Person (5pm - 7pm)**

#### **AND/OR**

#### **Register for alternative In Person options**

- ☐ **Songleading**
- ☐ **Madrichim**
- ☐ **Chai Notes**

Madrichim (Sundays, 9:30am-12:45pm; mid-week Hebrew, 4:30 - 6pm)

This YOBO class places students in Sunday school classrooms as assistant teachers, or madrichim. Madrichim report to their assigned class every Sunday during the year for their classroom duties. They may also receive further training and development in our monthly Madrichim workshop sessions from 1 pm to 2:30 pm. These workshops provide teens with information on organization, classroom management, teaching responsibilities, and leadership. Madrichim registration is based on approval from the Director of Religious School.

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