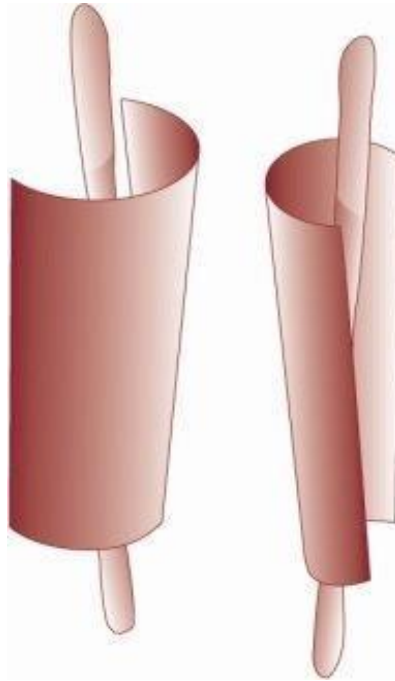


Temple Isaiah

Lexington, MA



B'Mitzvah Handbook: Understanding Preparation and Logistics

B'MITZVAH DATES

The dates for B'nai Mitzvah are assigned in the winter of the child's fifth grade year by the Director of Jewish Family Journeys.

The assignment of dates is a complicated procedure, taking into consideration many important factors, the most important of which is the child's age.

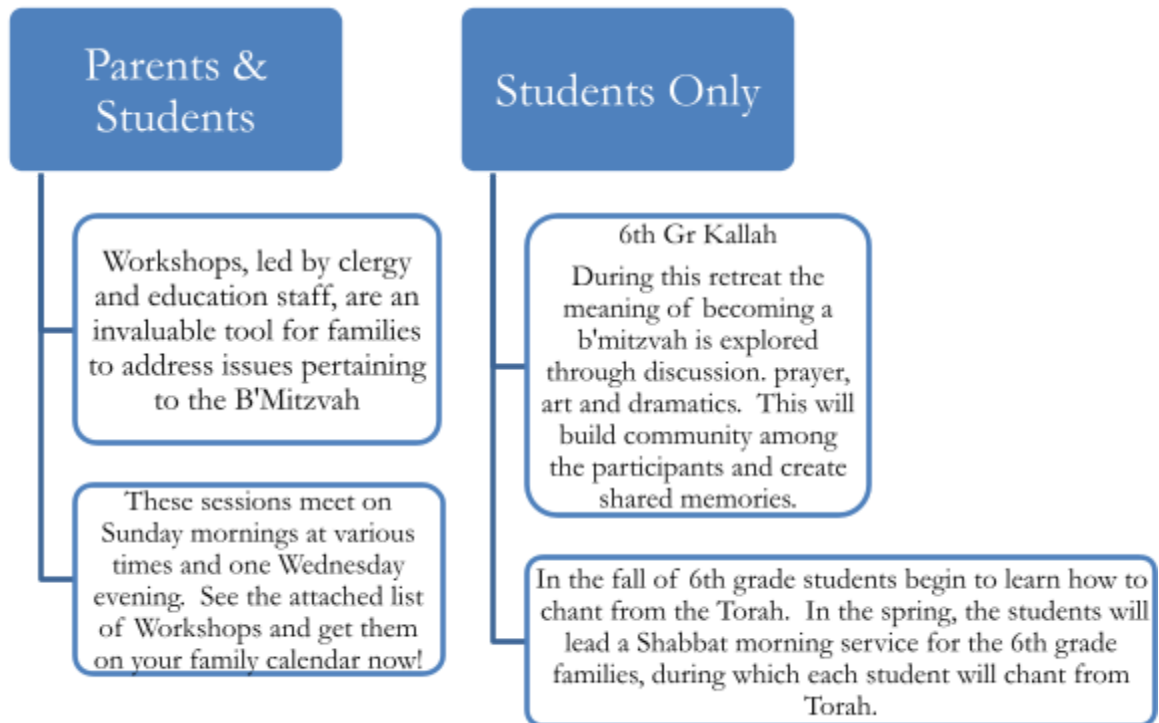
- Every effort is made to schedule the B'Mitzvah date no earlier than 2 months prior to the child's 13th birthday.
- Other factors include:
 - the child's abilities,
 - the individual needs of the student (as determined by the education team) and
 - anticipated number of guests.

The Director of Jewish Family Journeys must have all of the pertinent information prior to determining dates, **as dates cannot be changed once they have been assigned.**

PREPARATION

The Fifth Grade Program Goals: To build community among 5th Grade Parents			
Objective: To provide a foundation of knowledge for families about the history and place of B'Mitzvah as part of leading a Jewish Life	Objective: To learn about B'Mitzvah at Temple Isaiah	Objective: To explain how the date assignment process works along with the rationale behind it	Objective: To provide families with the opportunity to connect with and dialogue with clergy at the beginning of the B'Mitzvah process

The Sixth Grade Program



Individual & Family Meetings

Initial Meeting

- To explore the preparation process, distribute study materials, discuss methods of successful home study and begin to develop an atmosphere of cooperation with paired peer family (if applicable)
- Approximately 1 hr meeting 6 - 7 months prior to ceremony
- Cantor Doob meets with parents and student, and if paired, with paired family as well

Prayer Practice

- To master the prayers of the Friday night and Saturday morning services
- Students meet one-on-one on Zoom all year for 15 minute prayer mastery sessions.

Torah Tutoring

- 16 sessions of 30 minutes each beginning 5 - 7 months prior to ceremony
- Student will meet with a Torah tutor weekly generally on Tuesdays or Wednesdays

Haftarah Tutoring

- To work on Haftarah, review Torah and prayers to help your child finish their preparation for the Friday night and Shabbat morning services
- 8 sessions immediately following Torah tutoring, each 30 minutes
- Students will meet with Cantor Doob

D'var Torah Prep (Speech)

- To assist your child in uncovering ways to apply Torah to "real life" and formulate those ideas in order to teach the congregation a life lesson drawn from their Torah portion
- Student will meet with Rabbi Battis for 30 minutes up to 3 times.

Rehearsals

- To put the finishing touches on the B'Mitzvah service and ceremony
- Students participate in the first rehearsal with Cantor Doob (parents welcome to attend)
- The final two rehearsals are with Senior Rabbi~ both student and parents attend the final rehearsal. It is generally, but not always, held the Thursday afternoon before the B'Mitzvah

Mazal Tov Meeting

- To debrief the process, celebrate students' accomplishments and begin to plan next steps in the journey of lifelong Jewish learning
- Students meet with Director of Jewish Family Journeys 3 - 4 weeks after the b'mitzvah ceremony for about 20 minutes

ENSURING YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS

Guiding Principles:

Our guiding principle is that every student will be successful at their B'Mitzvah without exception. If a student needs more sessions than we can provide within our typical tutoring, we will work with you to identify options which may include contracting for additional, privately-hired tutoring.

Please know that we are aware that everyone has unique needs and learning styles and we do our best to meet students where they are. We also encourage you to work with your child to develop homework strategies, time management skills, accountability for completing assignments and communication with the tutor throughout this process.

Our Shared Responsibilities:

As you can imagine, scheduling all of these sessions for the entire class is a challenging process for families and our professional staff. As we are all dedicated to your child's success, please follow these guidelines regarding your appointments.

1. Please arrive punctually and keep your designated meeting times. It is difficult to reschedule these meetings. Please cancel only in cases of illness or an unavoidable conflict.
2. If your child must miss a session with a Torah tutor, please notify Jennie Goldfarb, Director of Jewish Family Journeys, at least 24 hours prior to the session as the Temple is responsible for paying the tutor regardless of whether or not your child attends. Makeup for one missed session will be provided by Temple Isaiah. If we have not received 24 hours' notice and/or if make-up sessions are needed, it may be necessary to schedule private make-up sessions at your own expense.
3. If your child will be unable to attend a session with Cantor Doob, please call Jenny Keegan at least 24 hours prior to the appointment.

Thank you for entrusting us with this milestone in your child's Jewish education. We are looking forward to working with you on what will undoubtedly be an unforgettable and enriching journey. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any other information.