

April 2019- Adar II 5779

Dear Religious School Parents,

Another great year at the Berman-Lipavsky Religious School is winding down. With the addition of food educator Miri Rotkowitz, we had many delicious multi-sensory experiences on Sunday morning. Students also engaged with the author of *Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas*, did science experiments with JCRAFTS and took part in service projects with Jewish Volunteer Connection. We look forward to bringing the students many more engaging opportunities for the coming year!

Again, for the 2019-2020 registration, **we continue to offer the application online.** The registration form is available to complete online on the Beth El website and the link is on the religious school email updates. Please be in touch if you have questions as you complete the form online. You have the option to pay the deposit online by credit card (with a 3% processing fee) or by check. You are also welcome to complete the form by hand and send it in with a check. The paper application is available on the Beth El website or in the religious school office.

GENERAL REGISTRATION- Please Read Carefully

CHANGES IN STRUCTURE

This year, in effort to better study the concept of a Sunday-only model, students in the Kitah Bet (2nd grade) class opted into an extended one day a week program or the traditional two day a week program. The model worked well this year, but the religious school staff, clergy and board feel strongly about continuing the research and waiting to make any big changes this year.

In the effort to continue the study, led by Towson University Professor Dr. Bethany Willis-Hepp, the one- day extended model will be offered to the incoming 3rd grade (Kitah Gimel) as well as incoming 2nd graders (Kitah Bet). Families will be able to select the Sunday ONLY 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. option or the Sunday/Tuesday model (Sunday-9:30-11:30 a.m. and Tuesday 4:15-6:00 p.m.) Please see **One Day a Week Program Description for more information.**

This coming year will bring the religious school staff an opportunity to do more research and prepare a program for your family that will meet the needs of everyone. We look forward to your continued support, feedback and partnership in this upcoming endeavor.

MID-WEEK HEBREW SCHOOL

In the past several years, the Wednesday mid-week option has decreased in number of students. Tuesday afternoons have always been the more attended mid-week option. Many Hebrew Schools in the area that offer two day a week options only offer one mid-week day.

Beginning the 2019-2020 school year, TUESDAYS will be the ONLY mid-week option for 2nd-6th grade families. We will continue to offer satellite school options throughout the week

- Roland Park Country School (Mondays, 3:45-5:30 p.m.)
- Hunt Valley (Wednesdays, 4:30-6:00 p.m.) & ALL NEW Towson (Thursdays 4:30-6:00 p.m.)
- Federal Hill (Thursdays, 4:00-5:15 p.m.)
- Howard County: Waverly Elementary (Thursdays, 4:30-6:00 p.m.)

B'nai mitzvah tutoring will continue to be offered on Sunday mornings and Monday through Wednesday afternoons.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Due to the time differences of the students in the Sunday only extended program, we will continue to offer a before and after school program for the siblings of these students. Students will engage in more engaged learning next year as well as the option for after school Hebrew tutoring.

IN ADDITION

Technology Based Curriculum

With a successful pilot year behind us, we will continue to utilize the ShalomLearning Curriculum in 2nd grade (Kitah Bet) and expand it into 3rd grade (Kitah Gimel). The ShalomLearning Curriculum is a technology-based curriculum that focuses on a spiralized approach to learning Jewish values. In addition, we will pilot the Bar Ilan University's Lookstein Curriculum: The Big Ten for the 6th grade (Kitah Vav) classes. This program focuses on the Ten Commandments and the Jewish values that connect to them.

All School Programs

School-wide programs are a great opportunity for students to gather as a community at Beth El. Whether it's a holiday program or a general program that reinforces classroom learning, school-wide programs are a key component to a well rounded Jewish education. We have had some very successful programs including holiday food programming featuring Morah Miri. In the coming year, Beth El religious school plans to schedule several school-wide programs for the entire family. Some ideas include continued PJ Library programming, JCRAFTS holiday and science-based events, and Shabbat and Holiday workshops featuring Morah Miri. Families-please join us!

Shabbat Services for the Family

During the past two years, each grade was assigned to co-lead a Saturday morning Shabbat service with Student Cantor Melanie Blatt. It was nice to see so many families coming to Beth El on Saturday mornings! **We will continue this program by again assigning each grade to one Shabbat service during the school year that they will prepare for and lead together.** Look for your child(ren)'s assigned service on the school calendar.

Both the **T'FILAH TEAM** and **MITZVAH MONSTERS** will continue next year. These are two amazing organic opportunities for students to become comfortable and empowered to participate in Shabbat morning services.

Again, please submit your registration online, by mail or in person to the Berman- Lipavsky Religious School office by the last day of Religious School on Sunday, May 19th. If you do so, you will be entered in a raffle for discounts on tuition: \$200 for a family and \$100 for a second family.

Thanks in advance for your prompt reply.

Dr. Eyal Bor

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