

# BEIT SEFER SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE 5780 2019 – 2020

NEW RELIGIOUS SCHOOL  
PARENT Q&A  
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4, 5-7 PM

## **Temple Sholom: a sacred community that embraces, inspires, and matters.**

Guided by, and grounded in, our sacred Jewish texts and traditions, we are committed to learning that embraces, inspires, and matters to our congregation and community at every age and level. At Temple Sholom, we:

- instill Jewish values
- further the development of a strong and positive Jewish identity, and
- cultivate an appreciation for Jewish history, culture and language

resulting in deep resilience, empathy for others, and a meaningful spiritual context for our modern lives not only as Jews, but as humans. Through our engaging and inclusive approach, our education program aims to create and deepen the connection of members to their lifecycle events, the synagogue, each other, and to the broader Jewish community.

## THOUGHTS ON JEWISH EDUCATION ACROSS THE AGES

***You shall love Adonai your God with all your heart, and all your soul and all your might. Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise up.***

*(Deuteronomy 6:5-7)*

***[Torah] is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it to us, that we may hear it, and do it?" Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it to us, that we may hear it, and do it?" But the word is very near to you, in your mouth, and in your heart, that you may do it.***

*(Deuteronomy 30:12-14)*

***The Torah is a tree of life to those who cling to it. All who uphold it are happy.***

*(Proverbs 3:18)*

***We sow the seeds of light to bring out the best of our noble selves.***

*(Psalms 97:11, adapted)*

***The world stands on three things: the study of Torah, worship, and deeds of loving kindness.***

*(Pirke Avot 1:2)*

***Know where you came from, and where you are going.***

*(Pirke Avot 3:1)*

***If there is no Torah, there will be no civility. If there is no civility, there is no Torah.***

*(Pirke Avot 3:17)*

***These are the things for which a person enjoys the dividends in this world while the principal remains for the person to enjoy in the world to come. They are: honoring parents, loving deeds of kindness, and making peace between one person and another, but the study of the Torah is equal to them all.***

*(Talmud Shabbat 127a)*

***If you truly wish your children to study Torah, study it yourself in their presence. They will follow your example. Otherwise, they will not themselves study Torah but will simply instruct their children to do so.***

*(Rabbi Menahem Mendel of Kotzk)*

***The golden key to Jewish education is the Hebrew language.***

*(Chaim Nachman Bialik)*

***Where Jewish education is neglected, the whole content of Judaism is reduced to merely an awareness of antisemitism. Judaism ceases then to be a civilization and becomes a complex.***

*(Mordecai Kaplan)*

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# הִנֵּה מַה טוֹב וַיְמַה נְעִים שְׁבֶת אַחִים גַּם יַחַד

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for people to dwell together in unity!

*Hineih mah tov umah na'im shevet achim gam yachad!*

Psalm 133:15

## How Good It Is!

By Jay Rapoport, RJE

With this year's theme, **Hineih Mah Tov**, we celebrate the power of gathering together. In our *Beit Sefer Shalom* Religious School this year, we will offer new opportunities to build community amongst our students, including:

- **JK-2nd Grade Children's Shabbat Experience** as part of *Shabbat Mishpacha*
- **3rd Grade Orientation** to the sanctuary, *t'filah*, and our formal Hebrew program
- **3rd-6th Grade Midweek t'filah** (prayer) and **Hebrew Through Movement**
- Additional **6th & 7th Grade Yom Horim** (Parents' Day) experiences
- **7th & 8th Grade Ma'amad** (creative prayer ritual) monthly gatherings
- **9th-12th Grade trip to New Orleans** and multi-denominational **Tikkun Chicago** community program
- **Parallel learning for parents** on Sundays and weeknights related to student topics

As indicated by the Hebrew name of our Religious School, *Beit Sefer Shalom*, we are a home of peaceful learning. We hope students will find time at Temple Shalom to be a break from stressful routines during the rest of the week - a chance to be themselves while addressing big questions of life and learning about answers Judaism offers.

When we ask parents to share their goals as part of Religious School registration, we most commonly hear about **Jewish learning, community, tradition, Hebrew, culture, identity** and **values**. We encourage you to find a way to discuss and model your goals with your children, so that their experience connects to their home life outside our walls.

**If your goal is Jewish learning:** consider taking an adult education class (offered six days a week), and joining us for *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day) programs offered for each grade.

**If your goal is community or friendships:** encourage your child to connect with peers through 3rd-12th grade youth group events, weekend retreats, and our midweek Kef (fun) club. But also, make time for yourself to connect to other families through our *Mishpacha* (Family) events like *Shabbat Mishpacha* dinners and our JK-4th Grade *Mishpacha* (Family) Camp Getaway.

**If your goal is social justice, morals or values:** get involved in our weekly Monday meal, Sunday morning Feed the Hungry, or other one-time or ongoing projects.

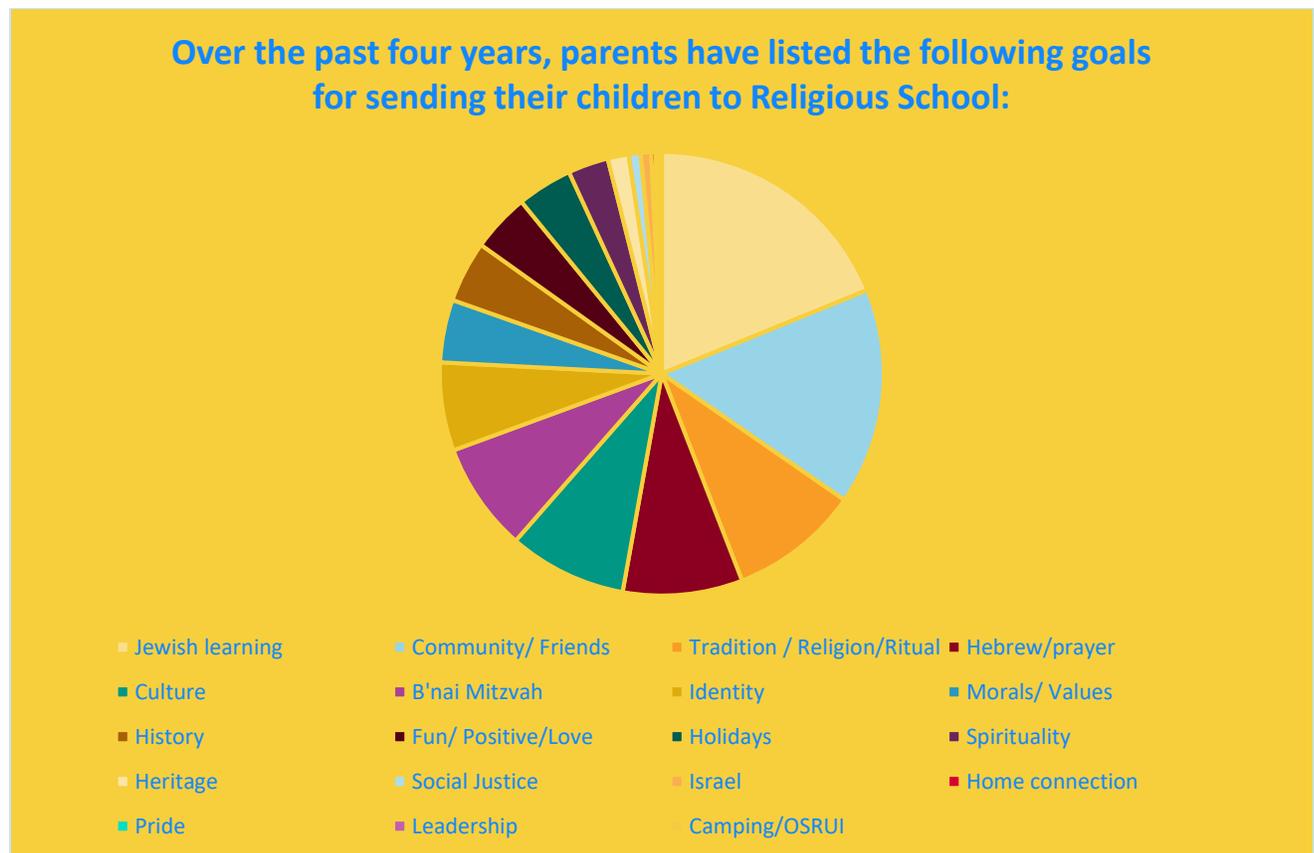
**If your goal is connection to tradition, Hebrew, or spirituality:** join us on Friday nights, Saturday mornings or Saturday afternoon for our musical and inspiring Shabbat services. If your child has to miss a day of Religious School this year, attending a Shabbat service is the best way to make up for it! Junior Congregation is another opportunity for JK-2nd grade families to connect with our clergy on Sunday mornings.

**For all of the above, we will have events for you on the first day of Religious School:**

- 9:30am **Feed the Hungry** Social Justice Project
- 9:30am **Mishpacha Schmooze** for returning parents
- 9:45am **Meet the Temple Sholom Team** for new parents
- 11am **Preparing for the High Holy Days** Adult Ed kickoff with Rabbi Rossoff

**If your goal is nurturing a love of Jewish culture or identity:** studies have shown that Jewish camping, Israel trips and family education are the strongest influences on positive Jewish identity. Consider joining us for our June 2020 Congregational Israel Trip, trying out our own URJ Camp OSRUI, or joining us for family experiences and celebrations throughout the year.

Looking forward to a sweet new year of enjoying how good it is to be together!



## 2019-2020 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION & CLERGY



**NEW!** Rabbi Donald B. Rossoff

Rabbi Shoshanah Conover

Cantor Sheera Ben-David

Rabbi Scott Gellman

Jay Rapoport, RJE, Director of Lifelong Learning

Caleb Bromberg, Youth Engagement & Curriculum Coordinator

**NEW!** Hannah Klegon, Religious School Coordinator

Emma Harmon, Family Engagement & Member Services Coordinator

Dr. Irene Goldstein, Vice-President Lifelong Learning

**NEW!** Michelle Rest, Religious School Committee Co-chair

**We have an amazing team to support Jewish education at Temple Sholom!** We are excited to move from strength to strength with our returning Lifelong Learning team members – Jay, Caleb, Emma and Irene – along with the wonderful additions of Hannah as our new Religious School Coordinator and Michelle Rest as our new parent committee co-chair.

We are fortunate to have Rabbi Rossoff as our Interim Senior Rabbi this year, as well as Rabbi Scott Gellman who continues to teach in our 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Crown Family High School. Our entire clergy team joins our *T'filot* (prayer) experiences for all ages, leading classroom conversations and family education events, as partners in our work to provide positive meaningful experiences for our students and their families.

Visit [www.sholomchicago.org/staff](http://www.sholomchicago.org/staff) for staff and clergy bios!

## About Religious Education at Temple Shalom of Chicago

- **Beit Sefer Shalom Religious School (Jr. K-7<sup>th</sup> Grade)**
- **Pathways/Netivot Shalom (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**
- **Crown Family High School/Tichon Shalom (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)**

The goals of our *Beit Sefer Shalom* Religious School are:

- To provide a joyful, high-quality and inclusive Jewish education for students from preschool through high school.
- To immerse students in a learner-centered, diverse, and inclusive community that cares about them
- To lead students towards an awareness of themselves as Jews and an understanding of their Jewish heritage and traditions
- To foster a love of Torah and pride of being Jewish
- To instill in students a timeline of Jewish history
- To develop in our children a positive, joyous, and resilient Jewish identity and a kinship with the Jewish People
- To illustrate historic Jewish beliefs about God and help students explore the God of their own understanding
- To teach students to read and appreciate the Hebrew language with an emphasis on developing competence and confidence in leading a prayer service
- To cultivate knowledge of and connection the Land and People of Israel
- To help young people appreciate the role of Jewish values and ethics in becoming *menschen* (good people) and pursuers of social justice
- To build meaningful relationships amongst students and with teens, faculty, educators and clergy
- To nurture the desire to be lifelong learners and to live fulfilling Jewish lives

**Family involvement and participation** are integral parts of our school program; they demonstrate that Jewish commitment and involvement do not begin and end with becoming *B'nai Mitzvah*, but are lifelong endeavors and that the family is the cornerstone of Jewish living. Please join us for our family holiday celebrations, *Yom Horim* parent-child learning days throughout the year (see calendar for schedule of events), and Sunday morning adult education classes.

Children of member families are eligible to enroll in **Religious School/Beit Sefer Shalom** which meets Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m. – 12:05 p.m., September – May. **Sunday** classes are for Junior Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. **Pathways/Netivot Shalom** for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students also meets on Sunday mornings.

6<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in a *B'nai Mitzvah* preparation course which meets twice weekly. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students are strongly encouraged to participate in our **Midweek Hebrew** program, which offers an additional hour of Hebrew instruction that is crucial to learning language and contributes to stronger Jewish identity and relationships with peers. Students can choose either Tuesday afternoons from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. or Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Crown Family High School/Tichon Shalom**, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades, meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### **Beit Sefer Shalom Religious School Overview**

Students in Junior Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade spend the entire morning with their teacher in one classroom. Each teacher has at least one teen *madrich/madricha* (teacher assistant) from our high school youth group community. Students are introduced to Hebrew in these grades and begin learning the *alef-bet*. Our Music Specialist meets with each class every morning to teach songs about Jewish themes in both Hebrew and English. Junior Congregation, a brief worship experience featuring visits from our clergy and lots of singing, is held monthly at 11:30AM (see dates on page 19). Parents are invited and encouraged to participate in Junior Congregation to nurture your child's spiritual development and join in the fun!

For students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade, the schedule on Sunday morning consists of two one-hour instructional periods (one period of Jewish Studies and one period of Hebrew), and a half hour for *T'filah* (prayer) or the occasional special program.

Once a month, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders join Rabbi Gellman and Cantor Ben David for a special student-led *t'filah* (prayer) in our *Beit Midrash*. This gives our upcoming and recent *B'nai Mitzvah* students a chance to lead their peers as they prepare for, and return from, leading our congregation on Shabbat. **NEW!** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders also have the opportunity to participate in a monthly *Ma'amad* (creative prayer experience) on Sundays.

### **About Our Teachers**

Our teachers are adults in the Chicagoland community from all walks of Jewish life. Many of them are young professionals, most are not professional teachers, but all share a passion for teaching children about Judaism. They are excited to inspire the next generation as role models of positive Jewish identity. We invite you to join us on the first days of Religious School to meet your child(ren)'s teachers, and we encourage them to reach out to you via email or blogs with regular classroom updates and discussion points for conversations with your child(ren) about Judaism in general and their classroom learning in particular. We host monthly paid teacher training workshops to strengthen our teachers' pedagogical and Judaic background.

## Inclusion/Learning Specialists

**Temple Shalom is committed to providing an inclusive atmosphere for all students.** Our goal is to create a successful, supportive environment in which each child develops a love for Judaism and one another. In order to best achieve this goal, we employ Learning Specialists to push in and pull out of classrooms as needed, to create differentiated learning and emotional regulation among students, as well as behavior interventions and classroom management for teachers. Our Learning Specialists observe students in classrooms and correspond with parents/guardians in order to help teachers best support students' learning. We partner with parents in order to integrate the same successful strategies used in regular school and home. Additionally, we offer parents the opportunity to meet with our Learning Specialists in advance of the school year as part of registration, and **we ask families to share any known learning needs and/or if preferred, provide information around if a child receives resource services; such as an IEP, 504 plan, or other related services** (i.e. speech language, social work, reading, occupational therapy). Should any student require or benefit from one-on-one time with specialists, we will ensure that we are accommodating each child's individual needs.

## Parent Communication

Information about Religious School and Youth Group is shared in a variety of formats:

- Weekly "Religious School Matters" e-letter
- Weekly Temple Shalom e-blast
- Event-specific emails
- Emails from teachers
- D'var mailed bi-monthly newsletter
- Mailed postcards
- Elevator & Café bulletin boards
- [www.sholomchicago.org](http://www.sholomchicago.org)
- [Facebook.com/sholomchicago](https://www.facebook.com/sholomchicago)

# Jewish Studies Curriculum

## Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten: "Who am I as a Jewish child?"

Through hands-on activities relating to holiday observances and Jewish symbols, students learn what it means to be a Jewish child in the context of the home, the family, and the synagogue. They are introduced to basic *b'rachot* (blessings), Hebrew songs and words, and Torah stories. A snack is served, and students get to enjoy Jewish music and movement, learning Hebrew letters, stories, and art projects. Parents are invited on a monthly basis to join our Junior Congregation, an age-appropriate family worship experience in our sanctuary led by our clergy during the last half hour of school.

## Grades 1-4

In grades 1-4 our lessons are largely based on the CHAI Curriculum, developed by the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). The CHAI lessons follow a curriculum model known as "backward design," as outlined in the book *Understanding by Design (UbD)* by Wiggins and McTighe, and published by the [Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development \(ASCD\)](#). This approach, and that of the CHAI curriculum, is designed so that student learning will go beyond the specific classroom activities and will reach a deeper enduring understanding, establishing the basis for later Jewish learning and living. The CHAI curriculum is based on a set of learning objectives (called "enduring understandings") that define what it means to live a full Jewish life, as expressed in *Pirke Avot* (Wisdom of our Ancestors): The world rests on three things: the study of *Torah*, *Avodah* (worship), and *G'milut Chasadim* (deeds of loving kindness).

**Torah:** Torah is an ongoing dialogue between the text and its students. Torah is real in our daily lives; it goes with us wherever we are. Developing the skills to study Torah is essential to integrating Torah into our lives.

**Avodah:** Avodah is the work we do to find sacred connections to God, community, and self. Engaging in the work of *avodah* can bring order, beauty, meaning and insight to our lives and our community.

**G'milut Chasadim:** We have a responsibility to perform personal acts of *g'milut chasadim* to make the world a better and holier place.

Each grade level of the CHAI curriculum interprets these "enduring understandings" in an age appropriate manner:

### First Grade: Bereshit, Holidays, My Community

*Adapted from CHAI Curriculum Level 1 by Karen Sackheim*

**Torah:** I am part of the ongoing story of Torah and the Jewish people.

**Avodah:** My Jewish acts help me discover the beauty and order of sacred time and my place in the Jewish story.

**G'milut Chasadim:** I am a part of the ongoing story of the Jewish people when I perform acts of *g'milut chasadim*.

**Second Grade: Shemot, Feeling Connected to God, Mitzvot**

*Adapted from CHAI Curriculum Level 2 by Carrie Rosen*

**Torah:** The Torah teaches me how to be part of the Jewish People.

**Avodah:** Jewish stories, celebrations and rituals help me understand and express my relationship with God.

**G'milut Chasadim:** We make the world a better place by performing acts of *g'milut chasadim* in our everyday lives.

**Third Grade: Holiness Curriculum: Vayikrah**

*Adapted from CHAI Curriculum Level 3 by Caleb Bromberg, Kendra Gerstein, and Sarah Kamenetsky*

**Torah:** An in-depth study of ritual & worship traditions for all holidays in Vayikrah.

**Avodah:** Holy people, places, objects, times, and actions.

**G'milut Chasadim:** Practicing & studying *Tikkun Olam*, mending a broken world.

**Fourth Grade: Bamidbar/Dvarim (Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, Medinat Yisrael), Kavanah and Keva, Accepting Differences in Each Other**

*Adapted from CHAI Curriculum Level 4 by Josh Harlow and Sam Waldorf*

**Torah:** With the promise of *Eretz Yisrael* (holy land), we as *Am Yisrael* (holy people) have a responsibility to work towards becoming holy by observing the *brit* (covenant).

**Avodah:** *Keva* and *kavanah*, the fixed order of worship and the personal intention we bring to prayer, are complementary aspects of Jewish worship, combining to help us to make sacred connections.

**G'milut Chasadim:** We have a responsibility to perform acts of *g'milut chasadim* for the people we encounter in our daily lives.

**Grades 5-7**

Students explore Jewish values and rituals in the context of Reform Judaism as well as our local Jewish community. In addition to their continued study of modern Hebrew, students will learn to read and chant the prayers they will lead in their *B'nai Mitzvah* services as well as study the meanings and origins of our liturgy. These years are full of leadership opportunities within and beyond the Religious School.

### **Fifth Grade: Jewish Life Cycle Curriculum compiled by Sarah Kamanetsky**

**Life Cycle Events:** Students will study Jewish life cycle events, including *Brit Milah*, *B'nai Mitzvah*, Marriage, Conversion, and Death/Mourning. Students will learn what it means to participate in these events and engage in simulations of age-appropriate aspects of them in class.

### **Sixth Grade: Mechina l'B'nai Mitzvah with Rabbi Scott Gellman**

**My Jewish Journey:** Students will explore the responsibilities that come with being counted as a member of our community, develop the skills to chant their *Torah* and *Hafarah* portions, and engage with our sacred texts.

**T'filah:** During the hour of midweek class, students will get an in-depth look at each of the major prayers in our worship service. They will learn not only the vocabulary, meanings and choreography of the prayers but also their origins and significance.

**Modern Hebrew:** Students continue their study of conversational Hebrew with the goal of being able to communicate on a basic level when they visit Israel in 8<sup>th</sup> grade with *Ta'am Yisrael!*

### **Seventh Grade: Modern Jewish History: The Reform Movement, the Shoah, and Israel**

This class covers Jewish history from the beginning of modernity to present day, which encompasses the rise of the Reform Movement, European Jews' struggle with citizenship, peoplehood and identity, Antisemitism, the Holocaust, the creation of the modern State of Israel, and the contemporary politics of the state. Students will continue their study of conversational Hebrew with the goal of being able to communicate on a basic level when they visit Israel in 8<sup>th</sup> grade with the *Ta'am Yisrael* Chicagoland community trip to Israel! They will be exploring modern Israel one city at a time while learning the vocabulary necessary to navigate the major attractions in those cities. We also offer an optional Wednesday night advanced Hebrew class for students who are excited to further their study of conversational Hebrew.

### **Multi-Grade Electives**

Several times throughout the year, including our winter *Tarboot v'Omanut* Israeli Arts & Culture Festival, we break up the routine by offering students the opportunity to choose their own course of learning through elective multidisciplinary *chugim* (choices). This allows students to take ownership of their learning and to cultivate relationships with peers, teens, and teachers beyond their classroom or grade, to get to know the cohort they will eventually be part of in youth group and Crown Family High School.

## Hebrew Curriculum

The goals of our Hebrew program are to:

- Explore speaking, decoding, reading, writing, and praying in Hebrew
- Reinforce Jewish identity and connection to language of our people and Israel
- Develop familiarity with *Mishkan T'filah*, our Reform movement *siddur* (prayer book) and the tunes of our Shabbat liturgy
- Empower students with leadership opportunities to share and demonstrate their learning and knowledge
- Build the competency to meaningfully lead a worship service as a *B'nai Mitzvah*
- Lay groundwork for reading *Torah* at our *Simchat Torah* service, participating Jewishly on the college campus, or a future trip to Israel – perhaps *Ta'am Yisrael*, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Chicagoland community trip

Our Hebrew curriculum focuses on two interrelated skills: Hebrew reading and building blocks of Jewish liturgy; and foundations of modern Hebrew. A student who completes our Hebrew program should be able to:

- feel ownership, comfort and confidence with Hebrew
- participate actively in, and confidently lead portions of, Reform worship
- explain meaning and intention of individual prayers and prayer vocabulary
- develop a basic Modern Hebrew vocabulary
- read Hebrew text with vowels

Beginning in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, students have an hour of Hebrew on Sundays and are strongly encouraged to attend an additional midweek class. The expectations for midweek students, in terms of both the amount and the depth of material in which they become proficient, are corollary to the amount of learning time they have. For example, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade midweek students are expected to master the *alef-bet* by December's end, while Sunday-only students are expected to master it by April.

**Students attending midweek master more prayers, with deeper understanding of their meaning than students in the Sunday-only program. They also build deeper connections with peers and teachers, have stronger confidence in their Hebrew abilities, and, according to studies, develop an overall more positive Jewish identity.**

Students receive 1-on-1 support and evaluation at various points throughout the year. Students are expected to master each prayer (i.e., read fluently and without mistakes) and learn key vocabulary before moving on to the next prayer.

In an effort to develop and encourage use of some basic Hebrew vocabulary, we have created a "No-Translate List" of Hebrew words, included at the end of this guidebook. Each week, students learn a *Milat Hayom* (word of the day) that focuses on classroom vocabulary, holidays and the like. After a word has been taught, students and teachers are encouraged to use only the Hebrew for that word. Ask your child(ren) to tell you the *Milat Hayom* after Religious School each week!

# Social Justice Curriculum

## Tzedakah

A sense of responsibility for and toward others is a value we teach through a weekly collection of funds (usually between \$1-\$5 each week). Students vote to send donations to many of the organizations represented in our *annual* Mitzvah fair. Each student is encouraged to bring some contribution each week. Throughout the 2018-2019 school year, we raised over \$1000 for charities around the city and nation!

## Feed the Hungry

5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders have an amazing opportunity to assist with Temple Sholom's long-standing "Feed the Hungry" program. This meaningful community project has run continuously at Temple Sholom for over 25 years! On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month, congregants gather to assemble lunches for distribution at a west side church. Jewish congregations in the city and suburbs have partnered to ensure that meals are delivered to the church continuously every Sunday afternoon year-round. At Temple Sholom, volunteers form an assembly line in Bettie Port Hall and make 200 bag lunches in less than 1 hour, which are driven over to our church partner, Greater Bethlehem Healing Temple. On their assigned day, students will meet their teacher in Bettie Port Hall at 9:30 AM and pack lunches during the first 20 minutes of Religious School.

## Mensch Circles

The purpose of Mensch Circles, an old idea with a new name, is to:

- build a *Menschlikite* community, shaping relationships around Jewish values
- intentionally slow down and communicate more thoughtfully
- allow each participant to be seen, heard and known
- enable participants to bring their best selves into the circle and to class

Rabbi Conover meets with JK - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade families as well as 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders to share this vital work.

## Mitzvah Fair

Our annual Mitzvah Fair is an opportunity for our pre-and-post *B'nai Mitzvah* students to showcase their personal *B'nai Mitzvah* projects to the wider Religious School community. Additionally, the Mitzvah Fair brings together social justice organizations from around Chicago to engage with students and community members, explain more about the work they do, and provide opportunities for involvement. Organizations such as PAWS, National Runaway Hotline, Cradles to Crayons, and Special Olympics often send representatives. The Mitzvah Fair coincides with International Good Deeds Day where 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders have the opportunity to attend an off-site Mitzvah project after Religious School. The Mitzvah Fair culminates with our students casting a vote and deciding where they would like to send the largest chunk of *Tzedakah* (literally "righteousness," but often translated as "charity") they have raised over the year. Every organization that attends the Fair receives a donation.

## Experiences for Youth & Teens

### Youth Group at Temple Shalom

Our youth programs offer students the opportunity to connect socially and build Jewish friendships in an informal setting. Our three groups are *Chavrei Shalom* for students in 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, *Noar Shalom* for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders, and *Orr Shalom*, our high school youth group. Junior youth groups have several events each year and *Orr Shalom* holds monthly events. 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders have the weekly opportunity to socialize or work on homework in our “Kef (fun) Club” with our Youth Engagement & Curriculum Coordinator Caleb Bromberg in our 4<sup>th</sup> floor Youth Lounge before and after Midweek Hebrew on Tuesdays, 4-4:25 PM and 5:30-6 PM, and on Wednesdays, 6-6:25 PM. Snacks and pizza are available for purchase on a daily or annual basis via [sholomchicago.org/register](https://sholomchicago.org/register).

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pathways/*Netivot Shalom*

*Netivot Shalom/Pathways* is designed for the transition year between *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and the Crown Family High School. Students explore their identity as young teenagers, as Jews, and as members of the Jewish community. During Sunday classes from 9:30 a.m. -12:05 p.m., students will plan and implement projects in the community, connect with other Jewish teens in the city, and prepare to be leaders in our *Madrachim* High School Teacher Assistant training program. The curriculum focuses on six content areas:

- Jewish and Teen Identity
- Foundations of Social Justice
- Stereotypes and Isms
- Judaism and Urban Poverty
- Leadership
- Exploring Jewish Chicago

8<sup>th</sup> grade students have opportunities to serve as leaders in the Religious School, for example, assisting in midweek Hebrew classes through our Midweek *Madrachim* program, helping to plan and lead the annual 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat, helping to run the Purim Carnival, sharing their *B'nai Mitzvah* projects with younger students at our Mitzvah Fair and leading other synagogue programs. Additionally, students will participate in *Ta'am Yisrael* – an 8-day Chicagoland community 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Israel taking place February 16-24 and March 22-30. Students are invited and encouraged to serve as “Midweek *Madrachim*” (see below) in weeknight Hebrew classrooms. Throughout the year, students will explore Lakeview Jewish community institutions together with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Anshe Emet Synagogue on the following dates:

- September 15: Urban Poverty Program
- September 22: visit to JCUA
- December 8: host at Temple Shalom
- January 26: visit Anshe Emet Synagogue
- February 9: visit Anshe Sholom & Milt's BBQ

## Crown Family High School/*Tichon Shalom*

The Crown Family High School/*Tichon Shalom* program, leading to a “Senior Seminar” and Graduation/*Kabbalat Torah* ceremony at the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade, is open to students in grades 9 through 12 whose parents are Temple members. Teens meet on Wednesday evenings with our faculty consisting of the Rabbis, Cantor, Director of Lifelong Learning, and Youth Engagement & Curriculum Coordinator. The evening begins with dinner discussion and social time, followed by *Ma’ariv* (Evening Worship), and a class session. This year’s curriculum, based on our educational theme, *Hinei Mah Tov*, will be taught by Caleb Bromberg and Rabbi Scott Gellman, along with other members of our clergy and special guests. Students have the opportunity to suggest their own topics of discussion throughout the year, and teens are always welcome to stop by and try it out!

### **The goals of the program are:**

- To provide the students with a welcoming, safe, social environment in which to connect to other Jewish teens, the Chicago Jewish Community, clergy, and Temple Shalom.
- To provide students an opportunity to explore, adapt, solidify, and/or change their own Jewish beliefs, practices, and traditions.
- To generate enthusiasm for the depth and breadth of Jewish culture, love for the Jewish people and our way of life.
- To provide students with the tools to function as articulate, socio-politically aware Jews on the college campus and beyond.

## **Madrichim Teacher Assistant Program**

*Madrichim* (teacher assistants) are 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders who help out in Religious School classrooms or our office on Sunday mornings, during Midweek Hebrew, and/or Junior Youth Group events! All Temple Shalom high school students are eligible to apply for this opportunity to earn money or service learning hours while making a positive impact upon younger students as mentors and role models. We offer *Madrichim* training in our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday class as well as regular check-in lunches after school with Rabbi Gellman and Youth Engagement & Curriculum Coordinator Caleb Bromberg. Participation in this program keeps teens connected to their Jewish community and helps them to be stronger candidates for summer jobs and stand out on college applications.

8<sup>th</sup> Graders have the opportunity to practice and hone the skills learned in their Sunday *Madrichim* training class during Midweek Hebrew on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Midweek *Madrichim* will be placed in a classroom or the Religious School office and be given further training, leadership roles, and opportunities to apply their learning from Sunday class. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students can opt to be Midweek *Madrichim* on Tuesdays from 4-5:30 PM or Wednesdays from 6-7:30 PM. Participation in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade program on Sundays is highly recommended, but not required to participate in the Midweek *Madrichim* program.

**Madrichim applications can be found online at: [sholomchicago.org/teens](https://sholomchicago.org/teens)**

## **NEW! High School Trip: Judaism and Social Justice in New Orleans, Louisiana!**

High school students have an amazing opportunity to travel to New Orleans with Temple Shalom teens, clergy, and educators to learn about the Jewish community, social justice opportunities, and the lasting effects of Hurricane Katrina, climate change, and the institutionalized racism that brought an entire city to its knees and left them stranded. Planned by the teens in the *Orr Shalom* high school youth group, this trip is open to ALL teens whose families are temple members. Scholarship and financial assistance is available.

## **NEW! Tikkun Chicago: A Multi Denominational Jewish High School Experience**

Tikkun Chicago is an innovative, multi-denominational Jewish high school program for teens from across the city. Participants build friendships and strengthen their Jewish knowledge through meaningful courses offered in a wide variety of content such as: Social Justice, Israel, the Arts, Text, and Hebrew. A flexible schedule and wide array of courses lean into the busy lives of teenagers and allow students to explore topics that speak to them through a blend of classroom, online and experiential learning that inspires creativity, critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the world. Tikkun Chicago celebrates *ALL* Jewish teens and is inclusive to students who are unaffiliated and those who *are* affiliated with any of the Jewish movements: Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox.

## Retreats at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute

The Reform movement's original overnight camp, Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI), offers one of the finest Jewish recreational experiences in the country, and the unique opportunity for children to see their "camp friends" at Sunday School! Children learn by doing, and immerse themselves in a camping experience that teaches, in practical and fun ways, the positive attributes of Jewish life and tradition, while offering all the joy of summer camp (sports, swimming, horseback riding, water skiing, etc.). Our clergy and educators serve as *segel* (faculty) for the camp.

URJ Camp OSRUI provides an extension of our reform youth culture as the site of our retreats as well as a summer destination and supports the strengthening of our youth programming. Our retreats allow deeper connections to foster through singing, shared meals, learning and spending Shabbat together.

### **JK-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Mishpacha (Family) Camp Getaway – January 24-26, 2020**

Connect with other families, our clergy and staff while enjoying the magic of Shabbat at camp!

### **5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Retreat – November 8-10, 2019**

A weekend to strengthen connections to our community, deepen friendships and enjoy camp!

### **9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Orr Shalom retreat – December 6-8, 2019**

An opportunity for teens to experience a weekend planned and led by our youth group board.

## Jewish Camping & Scholarships

Temple Sholom feels an obligation to support Jewish camping, long regarded as the best builder of positive Jewish identity, including our own URJ camps, and especially our regional camp, OSRUI. We are sensitive to creating inclusive messaging and experiences related to OSRUI, URJ Camping and Jewish camping. To learn more about Jewish camping, visit [www.jewishcamp.org](http://www.jewishcamp.org).

Temple Sholom has a long history of providing a special subsidy for member families who might have trouble paying full tuition for OSRUI and other Jewish overnight camps. Students must be in good standing in the school for the current year and must register and complete the following school year to be eligible for a subsidy. Additional funds may also be available from other sources, such as [www.onehappycamper.org](http://www.onehappycamper.org).

Many families can afford full tuition to camp. Others may even be able to assist needier families as they struggle to provide meaningful enrichment for their children. Please consider your own situation, and your ability to help others. If possible, consider a gift to provide scholarship funds to make camp available to all. For more information, contact Director of Lifelong Learning Jay Rapoport at [jay@sholomchicago.org](mailto:jay@sholomchicago.org).

# Experiences for Families

## Junior Congregation

Our Director of Lifelong Learning, along with members of our clergy and our Music Specialist, leads a monthly Junior Congregation for JK through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students.

**Parents are encouraged to join us for this service geared towards the children at 11:30 AM to share in their children's spiritual development on the following dates:**

- September 15
- October 27
- November 24
- February 23
- March 22
- April 26

## Consecration

Each year, we invite families of students in pre-school to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade who are beginning their Jewish education to celebrate this important milestone in a special ceremony called Consecration. Parents recite a special prayer and the clergy bless our consecrants, who also receive a miniature *Torah* scroll and a certificate to mark the occasion. This year consecration will happen in conjunction with *Simchat Torah* on **Sunday, October 20 beginning with a family dinner at 5 PM.**

## Yom Horim – Parent/Child Learning Days

Every Religious School/*Beit Sefer Shalom* grade has a *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day) during the school year, when parents have the opportunity to join their children for a day of learning and fun, and to learn with our clergy about topics related to their children's classroom curriculum. We hope that every student will be able to share this experience with a parent, guardian, or other family member. We therefore ask that you reserve this time on your calendar for the dates below. Reminders will be sent during the year, however please note that parent attendance is not required for children to participate. JK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade parents are invited to stay afterward for Junior Congregation at 11:30 AM. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade parents are invited to join students for a *Yom Horim* trip.

JK-1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents are invited to

- JK & K: Nov. 24, 9:45-11 AM
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Dec. 15, 9:45-11 AM
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Mar. 22, 9:45-11:30 AM
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Feb. 2, 9:30 AM-noon to Cradles to Crayons
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Apr. 26, 9:30-11:30 AM
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Apr. 19, 9 AM-12:15 PM to Community Mikvah
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:
  - ❖ **NEW!** Oct. 27 9:30AM-noon to Westlawn Cemetery
  - ❖ Feb. 23, 9:30-11:30 AM
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:
  - ❖ Sept. 15, 9:30-11:30 AM
  - ❖ Feb. 4, 8:45 AM-2:00 PM to IL Holocaust Museum
  - ❖ May 3, 9:30-11:30 AM
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:
  - ❖ Sept. 22, 10 AM -1 PM to JCUA
  - ❖ Mar 1, 9:30-11:30 AM

## Shabbat Mishpacha and Birthday Blessings

At *Shabbat Mishpacha*, families are invited to a congregational dinner, and children join the clergy on the *Bimah* for Kiddush and lead *Shabbat* prayers or songs. This is an opportunity for children to gain comfort in the sanctuary and leading on the *Bimah* from an early age. **NEW! Shabbat Children's Experience** is available for younger children in the first floor *Moadon*.

### SHABBAT MISHPACHA SCHEDULE

- 5:30 – 6:15 PM – Congregational Dinner & *Shabbat* Blessings
- 6:15 – 7:15 PM – Congregational *Shabbat* Service
- 6:15-7 PM – **NEW!** Shabbat Children's Experience in the *Moadon*
- 7:15 PM – Dessert *Oneg*

*Shabbat Mishpacha* is appropriate for children of all ages. The Shabbat Children's Experience is appropriate for children 18 months – 7 years, and older children are encouraged to remain in the service. A family cost of \$36 is requested to offset the cost of the dinner or purchase a "season pass" for \$216 – register online at [sholomchicago.org/register](http://sholomchicago.org/register).

Each month we will feature a particular grade (JK–12<sup>th</sup>) to encourage families with children in that grade to share *Shabbat*. Day school and religious school students alike will be invited to the *Bimah* to lead the congregation in *Shabbat* songs, blessings and prayers. Of course, families with children of all ages are invited to attend each month.

### SHABBAT MISHPACHA CALENDAR

- Sept. 6 – Welcome Back *Shabbat*!
- Nov. 15 – Featuring 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Jan. 17 – Featuring 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Feb. 7 – Featuring 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades
- Apr. 24 – Featuring JK and Kindergarten
- May 15 – Featuring 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

**Birthday blessings** take place during our *Shabbat* Services on the third Friday night of every month. Our Rabbis and Cantor bless members of the congregation who have birthdays that month. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend services so that you and your children experience being part of our congregational family.

## Family Holiday Celebrations

We look forward to celebrating the Jewish Holidays with families at Temple Sholom this year! Please join us for the following events:

- **Simchat Torah** – Sunday, October 20, 2019, 5-7:30 PM
- **Chanukah** – Sunday, December 15, 2019, 11:15 AM-noon
- **Purim** – Sunday, March 8, 2019, Shpiel at 9:30 AM followed by carnival at 11:30 AM

## Adult Education

At Temple Sholom we offer a robust catalog of adult education opportunities. On Sunday mornings while your children are in school, what better way to serve as a role model of lifelong learning than to enroll and learn something new? Taught by our clergy and community members, available topics include Hebrew, *Talmud*, modern and ancient Jewish history, Jewish text, short stories, spirituality and more.

### This year's Sunday class topics include the following series:

- Focus on the Holidays with Rabbi Don and Fran Rossoff
- Sacred Symphonies: Music as Midrash with Rabbi Rossoff
- What Americans Get Wrong About Israel with Rabbi Conover
- Prayer & Worship 101 with Cantor Sheera Ben-David
- A Tale of Love and Darkness with Roberta Schwartz
- Reform Responsa with Cliff Scott-Rudnick
- The Moment Judaism Began with Rabbi Steven Bob
- Taking God Seriously with Rabbi Michael Zedek
- Raise Your Jewish Consciousness and Encounter the Infinite with Tzivia Garfinkel
- Writing as a Spiritual Practice with Ellen Blum Barish
- Just How Jewish Is Cartooning? with Ken Krimstein

### In addition to Sunday classes, we also offer:

- Monday evening Introduction to Judaism and A Taste of Judaism classes
- Monday evening monthly film screenings & discussion
- Tuesday morning weekly *Talmud* study with our rabbis
- **NEW!** Tuesday/Wednesday parallel classes for parents during Midweek Hebrew
- Wednesday morning weekly discussion group with our clergy/education team
- Friday monthly downtown lunchtime *Talmud* study
- Shabbat morning Torah study minyan with clergy

For details about our adult education curriculum visit [sholomchicago.org/adult-education](https://sholomchicago.org/adult-education) or contact [lori@sholomchicago.org](mailto:lori@sholomchicago.org).

## School Policies

In order to achieve our shared goals, the following policies have been established. All of these policies fall under the umbrella of "creating a positive learning environment." Please do your best to adhere to these policies and to explain them to your children so as to maximize our ability to teach effectively and influence for a lifetime.

### Our Expectations of Students

As part of the partnership between the parent and the school, parents will ensure that their child(ren) meet these expectations:

1. For the safety of all students, it is important for children to conduct themselves in a respectful manner and follow given instructions.
2. The Temple is a place of worship, and the building—both inside and outside—must be treated as such. The sanctuary is to be regarded as the special place it is; boisterous or mischievous behavior in the sanctuary is inappropriate.
3. Respect is due to teachers, and students are expected to abide by and follow directions or rules made by the teacher in their classroom. In the event that an individual problem arises, the teacher of the class has the right to deal with the students in a manner deemed appropriate by the teacher and the school. This may include a reprimand or special assignment.
4. If a student's conduct or attitude becomes too disruptive, and the teacher determines that the student's continued presence (either temporarily or permanently) in the class is not appropriate, *Madrachim* and Learning Specialists are available for individual classroom support, after which the student shall be referred for conversation to the Director of Lifelong Learning, and finally, if needed, parents/guardians/families will be contacted.
5. The minimum of class work and completion of any assignments required before a student may advance to the next grade will be determined by the teacher and Director of Lifelong Learning.

### Attendance

A successful Religious School experience is a partnership between the family and the synagogue; one important component is the family's commitment to regular attendance. Students who attend sporadically are more likely to have difficulties academically and socially.

Attendance at all sessions is expected. We expect students to be in class on time, and to remain through to the school end of the school day. A minimum attendance is required. **If a student is falling behind we may share some materials with parents to review at home.** Students preparing for *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* are expected to maintain

excellent attendance and to complete the school year. The best substitute for missing a session of Religious School is attending a Shabbat service as a family.

**If your child must miss more than one day of religious school, it is important that the Religious School Office is notified as soon as possible, and that absences be confirmed by a parent.**

### Cell Phones/Technology in The Classroom

Our Religious School Parent Committee has crafted and endorsed a classroom technology policy:

We understand that some students may bring cell phones and other technology with them to class. These devices must be put away during class; we provide iPads for student use as needed. If a student uses a personal device during class, it will be collected until after class ends. Please help to support our teachers by reinforcing this policy with your child(ren) and avoiding contacting students directly when they are in class. The best way to get a message to a student is by calling the Religious School office at 773-435-1545 or emailing [hannah@sholomchicago.org](mailto:hannah@sholomchicago.org).

### Drop-Off

We have limited time with your children, and every minute counts! Please have students at the Temple a few minutes before class starts, allowing adequate time for stairs or elevator, so they can get to their classrooms on time. Late students disrupt the entire classroom. You may walk your child(ren) in or drop them off if they are comfortable getting to class on their own. Consider how a child feels being late for school, camp, or another activity, and model the same respect for attending synagogue. **Please make sure that your children are in their classrooms and ready to learn by 9:30 AM on Sundays, 4:30 PM on Tuesdays, and 6:30 PM on Wednesdays.**

### Early Pick-Up

We ask for your cooperation regarding early pick-up. Students will not be released without prior arrangements made through our office. If it is necessary for your child to leave early, please contact [hannah@sholomchicago.org](mailto:hannah@sholomchicago.org) and include child(ren)'s name(s), grade, time, and reason for the early pick-up. A teen *madrach(a)* will bring the student(s) downstairs at the appropriate time to wait at the security desk for a parent to arrive. If a note is not provided, then a staff member will call a parent or guardian before releasing a child.

We are responsible for the safety and security of all children during the hours they are at Religious and/or Hebrew school, and we take this very seriously.

***Note to parents of teens: Even though many high school students come and go on their own, they may NOT leave early on Sundays without a note from a parent. Independent Release dismissal passes are distributed at the end of class, and do not permit a student to leave early on their own. We are responsible for the safety of all students and cannot allow students to leave early without parental permission, no matter what the circumstance.***

## Religious School Schedule

Sunday School	Grades JK-8	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:30 AM – 12:05 PM</b>
Midweek Hebrew School	Grades 3-6	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>4:30 PM – 5:30 PM</b>
Midweek Hebrew School	Grades 3-7	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6:30 PM – 7:30 PM</b>
Crown Family High School	Grades 9-12	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6:15 PM – 8:30 PM</b>

Upon arrival to the Temple, all JK–8<sup>th</sup> grade students should proceed directly to their classrooms.

### Class periods on Sundays for grades 3-8 are:

<b>First Period</b>	<b>9:30 AM – 10:30 AM</b>
<b>T'filah</b>	<b>10:30 AM – 11:00 AM</b>
<b>Second Period</b>	<b>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b>
<b>Dismissal</b>	<b>12:05 PM – 12:15 PM</b>

## School Closings

Although we will try to notify all families by phone if school is canceled for any reason, in the event of bad weather, we suggest that you check [EmergencyClosings.com](https://www.emergencyclosings.com) for school closing information. You can also sign up at this site for automatic notification of a school closing. More details regarding access to school closing will be sent in a separate mailing in late fall.

## Financial Support

We never want Jewish education to be a financial burden. Each year we have a limited number of scholarships available for Religious School. Please contact [jay@sholomchicago.org](mailto:jay@sholomchicago.org).

## Sunday Dismissal Procedures

### Sunday pick-up:

The following dismissal procedure will be used every Sunday (but not midweek Hebrew). Please be patient and follow the directions of those overseeing traffic to ensure everyone's safety. **You may sign up with your online school registration to pick up by driving, walking, or independent release (5<sup>th</sup> grade & up).**

**Dismissal begins at 12:05 PM. The entire dismissal process usually takes between 10 and 15 minutes.**

- Children being picked up by car will wait in Bettie Port Hall.
  - To ensure a smooth dismissal we ask that parents wait outside or in the Stratford lobby. Please do not come into Bettie Port Hall looking for your child(ren), so that they may be dismissed in an orderly fashion.
- Children regularly walking home with an adult will be dismissed from the Lake Shore Lobby entrance.
  - To sign up as a weekly walker from Lake Shore Lobby, indicate in your online registration
- Children in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and older (plus younger siblings) **with a written parent release** are permitted to leave the building on their own to meet an adult at a previously determined location away from Temple premises. **Visit [sholomchicago.org/beit-sefer](http://sholomchicago.org/beit-sefer) to register for Independent Release.**

Each family is assigned a pickup number and given a placard with your number to display on your dashboard (for drivers) or in hand (for walkers in Lake Shore Lobby) – **pick up your card on the first day of school!**

- If you regularly carpool with another family, please indicate in your online registration.
- If students are going home with a different carpool than usual, please email [hannah@sholomchicago.org](mailto:hannah@sholomchicago.org)

**Please be consistent in your pickup practices so that your child(ren) will be waiting in the proper place:**

- If you regularly drive but happen to be in temple, display your number at the entrance as usual.
- If you are usually in the building, register online to be a weekly walker.
- If you usually walk but happen to drive, park and walk in.

Pick-up for **JK through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students** (without siblings in 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) is at the Cornelia St. entrance on the north side of the building.

- Take Broadway to Cornelia, go east and drive to the Temple door, ***staying as far to the right as possible while waiting***. A staff member or teen madrich(a) will come to your car to see your number, escort children to cars, and assist them in getting in. We have a loading zone allowing you to pull up to the curb.
- If you are running late and do not see anyone at the Cornelia exit, proceed to the Stratford side of the building. For security reasons, the Cornelia doors only remain open while there is a line of cars for pickup.

Pick-up for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, along with younger siblings (if any) is at the Stratford Pl. entrance.

- Approach on Lake Shore Drive from the North and go west on Stratford Pl. to the Temple entrance on the right, lining up your car as far to the right as possible so other vehicles can pass on the left. A staff member or teen madrich(a) will come to your car to see your number and will escort children to the car.

**Please note: Cars driving up Lake Shore Drive from the south will NOT be allowed to turn left onto Stratford Pl.!**

All students are required to stay with their teachers and cannot meet you in the temple lobby or in front of the building unless they have independent release. It only creates congestion, making it difficult for the *madrichim* to bring other students out to their cars. For safety reasons, students will **NOT** be allowed to leave school unescorted.

**If you must enter the building, please park in the Stratford Pl. parking lot. Otherwise, please stay in your car. Under no circumstances should you leave your car unattended in the pick-up line.**

These procedures are in place for many reasons, the most important being the safety of your children. If you have any questions about these procedures or would like to volunteer to help things run smoothly, please contact Director of Lifelong Learning Jay Rapoport at 773-435-1544 or [jay@sholomchicago.org](mailto:jay@sholomchicago.org).

### **7 Steps to A Quicker Dismissal Process**

- 1) Be patient – dismissal begins at 12:05 PM (classes end at noon and children need to walk downstairs).
- 2) Go to the correct location – JK-3<sup>rd</sup> grades on Cornelia, 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and their siblings on Stratford, signed-up weekly walkers in Lake Shore Lobby, Independent Release wait at a predetermined off-site location (not car line).
- 3) Wait outside – line up in your car or outside the door. Please don't come into Bettie Port Hall or leave your vehicle in the loading zone (at any time).

- 4) Display your card (the whole time) – your numbered card helps identify you when you arrive AND get your child(ren) to you.
- 5) Be nice to *Madrichim* – we love our teens and hope your child(ren) will join their ranks someday!
- 6) Set up a carpool or shop and park at local businesses to help make the line shorter.
- 7) Keep perspective – it takes about 15 minutes on Sundays to dismiss nearly 400 students. Think of how long it takes your family to get out of the house! We appreciate your cooperation in making this a safe and friendly experience for all involved.

**And when your children do get to you, ask them what their favorite part of the morning was, and engage with them on what they learned. We are constantly striving to do better, but most importantly, our goal is to get students out safely, and every little bit of cooperation helps.**

### **Independent Release (“IR”) Policy**

Temple Sholom Religious School holds the safety of its students paramount. With written parental or familial permission and subject to Temple Sholom approval, students in grades 5 and up will be allowed to leave the building independently at 12:05 p.m. after Religious School classes end. If a younger student has a sibling in grade 5 or above, a parent may also give permission for the younger child to leave with the older, subject to Temple Sholom approval. IR students must meet parents/guardians at a pre-determined location and not walk outside and wait for the parent/guardian to pull up. Any IR younger siblings will only be allowed to leave with the older sibling; if the older sibling is absent, the younger child will have to wait inside for adult pick-up. Parents must complete an online release form to cover the entire school year and specify which child/children it covers. Parents/guardians should discuss with their children where they are allowed to go after school, the routes they can and cannot take and at what streets they can cross Inner Lake Shore Drive. **Visit [sholomchicago.org/beit-sefer](http://sholomchicago.org/beit-sefer) to register for Independent Release.**

**Please note**, if Temple Sholom agrees to independent release, after children leave the Temple Sholom building, Temple Sholom staff including security personnel will not monitor or be responsible for children's safety

### **Midweek Dismissal**

Midweek Hebrew students walk downstairs with teachers and wait outside or in the lobby with our security officers and educators.

### **Questions?**

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our team. We are here for you and your family!

English	Transliteration	עִבְרִית
Yes / No	Ken / Lo	כן / לא
Thank you	to-dah	תּוֹדָה
Please/You're welcome	b-va-ka-sha	בְּבִקְשָׁה
Okay! Cool!	B-say-der	בְּסֵדֶר
Goodbye	L-hit-ra-ot	לְהִתְרַאוֹת
Quiet	Sheh-ket	שָׁקֵט
Bathroom (lit. "services")	she-ru-teem	שְׂרׁוּתִים
Sanctuary	beit t'fee-lah	בַּיִת תְּפִלָּה
Class	ki-tah	כִּיתָה
Book / Books	seh-fer / S'farim	סֵפֶר / סִפְרִים
To read	Leek-ro	לְקַרֵּא
Study Partner	Chav-ru-tah	חֲבֵרוֹתָא
To write	Leech-tov	לְכַתּוֹב
Group / Groups	K-voo-tzah / K-voo-tzot	קְבוּצָה / קְבוּצוֹת
To walk / To go	La-lech-et	לְלַכֵּת
Downstairs / Upstairs	L-ma-ta / L-ma-la	לְמַטָּה / לְמַעְלָה
To sit	La-sheh-vet	לְשֵׁבֵת
To stand	La-koom	לְקוּם
Blessing	B-ra-cha	בְּרַכָּה
Friend / Friends	Cha-ver / Cha-ver-im	חֵבֵר / חֲבֵרִים
Excuse me / Pardon	Slicha	סְלִיחָה
Good / Not Good	Tov / Lo Tov	טוֹב / לֹא טוֹב
Sermon / Words of Torah	D-var Torah	דְּבַר תּוֹרָה
Chair	ki-seh	כִּסֵּא
Pencil	ee-pa-ron	עֵפְרוֹן
Whiteboard / Blackboard	Loo-ach	לוּחַ
Door	Deh-let	דֶּלֶת
Lesson	Shee-ur	שִׁיעוּר

# 2019-2020 Beit Sefer Shalom Religious School Calendar

## September

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<del>29</del>	30					

## September

- 4 New Parent Q&A, 5:00pm
- 6 *Shabbat Mishpacha* Welcome Dinner (all families welcome), 5:30pm
- 8 Religious School Opening Day, 9:30am-12:05pm
- 8 *Orr Shalom* (9th-12th Grade) Youth Group Laser Tag Kickoff, 12:15pm
- 10 Kef Club Kickoff, 4:00-4:30pm & 5:30-6pm (pizza served)  
Tuesday Midweek Hebrew begins, 4:30-5:30pm
- 11 Kef Club Kickoff, 6:00-6:30pm  
Crown Family High School begins, 6:15-8:30pm  
Wednesday Midweek Hebrew begins, 6:30-7:30pm
- 15 7th Grade *Yom Horim*, 9:30am  
8th Grade Urban Poverty Trip  
JK-2nd Grade Meet the Parents (social), 11-11:30am  
Junior Congregation (JK-2nd Grade family service), 11:30am  
3rd-8th Grade Meet the Teachers, 12:30-1:30pm  
*Chavrei/Noar Shalom* (3rd-8th Grade) Youth Group Kickoff, 12:15-2pm
- 22 8th Grade *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day) trip to the JCUA  
Shofar Choir Rehearsal, 12:15pm
- 29-1 Rosh Hashanah
- 30 JK-3rd Grade *Rosh Hashanah* Experience, 10:30am

## October

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		<del>1</del>	<del>2</del>	3	4	5
<del>6</del>	7	<del>8</del>	<del>9</del>	10	11	12
<del>13</del>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## October

- 8-9 Yom Kippur
- 9 JK-3rd Grade *Yom Kippur* Experience, 10:45am  
Teen *Yom Kippur* Experience, 1:45pm
- 12 *Noar Shalom* (6th-8th Grade) Youth Group *Sukkah* Building, 5:30-7:30pm
- 13 No Religious School - Chicago Marathon  
*Erev Sukkot*
- 15 5th-8th Grade Retreat Info Session @ Kef Club, 5:30-6pm
- 16 5th-8th Grade Retreat Info Session @ Kef Club, 6-6:30pm
- 20 *Yom Ruach* (Camp Spirit Day)  
Consecration/*Erev Simchat Torah* Congregational Celebration, 5pm dinner
- 27 6th Grade *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day) Westlawn Cemetary Trip  
Junior Congregation (JK-2nd Grade family service), 11:30am

## November

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	<del>26</del>	<del>27</del>	28	29	30

## November

- 8-10 5th-8th Grade Retreat at OSRUI
- 15 3rd & 4th Grade *Shabbat Mishpacha* 5:30pm dinner  
*Chavrei Shalom* (3rd-5th Grade) Youth Group Shul-in
- 24 JK/K *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day)  
Junior Congregation (JK-2nd Grade family service), 11:30am
- 26-1 No Religious School - Thanksgiving Break

## December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
<del>1</del>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<del>22</del>	23	<del>24</del>	<del>25</del>	26	27	28
<del>29</del>	30	<del>31</del>				

## December

- 6-8 *Orr Shalom* High School Retreat at OSRUI
- 15 1st Grade *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day)  
*Chagigat Chanukah* Family Celebration
- 17 JK-4th Grade *Mishpacha* (Family) Retreat Info Session @ Kef Club, 5:30-6pm
- 18 JK-4th Grade *Mishpacha* (Family) Retreat Info Session @ Kef Club, 6-6:30pm
- 22 1st candle of *Chanukah*
- 30 8th candle of *Chanukah*
- 22-Jan 5 No Religious School - Winter Break

# 2019-2020 Beit Sefer Shalom Religious School Calendar

## January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			X	2	3	4
X	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## January

- 1-5 No Religious School - Winter Break
- 12 Religious School resumes/Tarboot v'Omanut (Israeli Arts & Culture Festival)
- 17 5th & 6th Grade *Shabbat Mishpacha* 5:30pm dinner
- 24-26 JK-4th Grade *Mishpacha* (Family) Camp Getaway at OSRUI
- 26 8th Grade trip to *Anshe Emet*

## February

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
X	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

## February

- 2 3rd Grade *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day) Cradles to Crayons trip
- 7 1st & 2nd Grade Camp *Shabbat Mishpacha* , 5:30pm dinner
- 9 *Tu Bishvat* Celebration
- 7th Grade *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day) IL Holocaust Museum trip, 8:45am-2pm
- 8th Grade trip to *Anshe Shalom* & Milts BBQ
- 16 No Religious School - Presidents' Day Weekend
- 16-24 8th Grade *Ta'am Yisrael* /Taste of Israel Community Trip
- 23 6th Grade *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day)
- Junior Congregation (JK-2nd Grade family service), 11:30am
- Chavrei/Noar Shalom* (3rd-8th Grade) *Hamentashen* Hurrah, 12:15-2pm

## March

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## March

- 1 8th Grade *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day)
- 4 8th Grade Taste of Crown Family High School, 6:15-8:30pm
- 8 *Purim* Shpiel & Carnival (Religious School Fundraiser), 12:15-2pm
- 15 7th Grade *Yom Yisrael* (Israel Day)
- 22 2nd Grade *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day)
- Junior Congregation (JK-2nd Grade family service), 11:30am
- 22-30 8th Grade *Ta'am Yisrael* /Taste of Israel Community Trip
- 29 Mitzvah Fair

## April

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	X	X	8	9	10
X	13	X	X	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## April

- 5 Class Seders
- 7-15 No Religious School - Spring Break/Passover
- 17-19 *Orr Shalom* (9th-12th Grade) Trip to New Orleans
- 19 5th Grade *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day) Mikvah trip
- Yom HaShoah* Tekes (Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony)
- 24 JK & K *Shabbat Mishpacha* , 5:30pm dinner
- 26 Junior Congregation (JK-2nd Grade family service), 11:30am
- Yom Ha'Atzmaut* Tekes (Israel Independence Day Ceremony)
- 4th Grade *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day)
- Madrichim* Appreciation Day

## May

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## May

- 3 Faculty Appreciation Day
- 7th Grade *Yom Horim* (Parents' Day)
- 12-13 Last days of Midweek Hebrew and Crown Family High School
- 15 7th & 8th Grade *Shabbat Mishpacha* 5:30pm dinner
- Crown Family High School *Kabbalat Torah* Graduation Shabbat, 6:15pm
- 17 Last day of Religious School
- Family Closing Celebration and Lunch, 11:15am-1pm