



# THESE ARE THE GENERATIONS OF TEMPLE ISRAEL

13111 Sterling Ridge Drive · Omaha, Nebraska 68144  
templeisrael@templeisraelomaha.com  
402.556.6536 · templeisraelomaha.com

## **Temple Israel B'nai Mitzvah Schedule and Expectations**

### **Beginning your B'nai Mitzvah Journey!**

- Fall 5<sup>th</sup> grade, parents will be asked to choose a top three of available B'nai Mitzvah dates for their family. Assignments will be balanced with consideration to other's priority choices and birthdates.
- Fall/winter of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, all students will receive confirmation of your B'nai Mitzvah Date at the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Date Ceremony with parents and students together.
- Starting in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students need to attend **Shabbat services** to increase their familiarity with Temple Israel prayers and Temple Israel traditions, the requirement is 20 services. Each time students attends they should email Cantor, [jalexander@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:jalexander@templeisraelomaha.com), and she will track how many they have attended. All Shabbat services (online or in person) count.

### **Now your B'nai Mitzvah is getting close! Getting to know all the people who will be on the bima with you is a value to us. You will have the opportunity to study, chat, and plan with us.**

- Nine months before B'nai Mitzvah, students will begin mentoring (studying weekly with a tutor). Misty will arrange a forty-five minute meeting, called "mentor meeting" with Cantor to kick off the whole process and discuss all the requirements.
  - Mentors work with students weekly to learn their prayers for 12 weeks. The B'nai Mitzvah fee will be billed at this time.
- Nine months before B'nai Mitzvah, parents will meet with Nate Shapiro and Mindi Marburg for 30 minutes regarding Family dinner, luncheon, party, photography, etc.
- Four / Five months before B'nai Mitzvah, student and at least one parent will start meeting with Cantor thirty minutes weekly to continue studying prayers and begin learning the Hebrew and chanting of their Torah portion.
- Continuing to study with your Mentor past the 12 sessions will incur an additional fee per session. Speak to Cantor for approval.
- Three months before B'nai Mitzvah, you will have a forty-five minute Parent/child meeting with a Rabbi to discuss the parents' prayer, honors sheet, and get to know you.

- Two / Three months before B'nai Mitzvah, student and at least one parent will meet with a Rabbi three times to discuss the Torah portion and write their sermon/d'var torah.
- Two / Three months before B'nai Mitzvah, parents will meet with Nate Shapiro and Mindi Marburg for an hour to finalize the arrangements for the Family dinner, luncheon, party, photography, etc.
- One month before B'nai Mitzvah, you will receive a reminder email with the Honors Sheet attached; return this form to Misty, [mweidner@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:mweidner@templeisraelomaha.com), by email before your first one hour rehearsal.
- The final three lessons for the student and at least one parent will meet with Cantor on the bima for a one hour run-through of the whole service from the sanctuary.
- Week of B'nai Mitzvah,
  - Thursday evening - student, parent, and siblings will have the third and final dress rehearsal for one hour in the Sanctuary with Cantor.
  - Friday Night at 6 p.m. – student and family will participate in services.
  - Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. - Mazal Tov on celebrating your B'nai Mitzvah!

#### **Some requirement basics:**

- **Students continued attendance in Temple Israel's Youth Learning Programs (Religious School)**, is a requirement throughout the process to continue learning and continue relationship building with the Temple Israel community.
- **Starting in 5<sup>th</sup> grade**, students need to attend **20 Shabbat services**. Each time student attends, they should email Cantor, [jalexander@templeisraelomaha.com](mailto:jalexander@templeisraelomaha.com), and she will track how many they have attended. All Shabbat services (online or in person) count.
- **Student is responsible for a Tzedakah project** - during the 9-12 months prior to B'nai Mitzvah students should choose a tzedakah/volunteer work project to engage in for a minimum of 18 hours of service.
- **It is expected students will invite all and attend classmates B'nai Mitzvah services.**