



E.G. Scoblionko Religious School

Parent Handbook



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Table of Contents

A Message from the School Director.....	page 2
Shared Education Vision and Mission Statement.....	page 3
School Hours.....	page 4
Overview of Learning Objectives.....	page 5
Communication.....	page 6
Emergency Closing.....	page 6
Inclusion Policy.....	page 7
Tikkun Olam Projects.....	page 7
Parent Involvement.....	page 8
School Board / PTO.....	page 8
Youth Service Descriptions.....	page 9
Something For Everyone Shabbat.....	page 10
Shabbat Shalom Club.....	page 11
Temple Beth El Youth Choirs.....	page 11
E. G. Scoblionko Religious School Standards.....	page 12
Mensch Program.....	page 13
Guidelines for Students and Parents.....	page 14
Food Policy.....	page 15
Drop Off/ Pick Up Procedures	page 16
Peek into each Grade.....	page 17

Welcome!

בְּרוּכִים הַבָּאִים!

Dear Parents,

WELCOME TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL! I know it is your child who will actually be attending, but you play a big part in making this a success. You have already made the commitment to make Judaism a priority in your life by enrolling your child here, and your commitment will continue as you arrange carpools, rearrange dinner times, schlep here on Sunday mornings, and that is just the beginning. I will ask even more of you as the parents of our future Jewish leaders. **Please take a real interest in what your child is learning about Judaism and allow it to enhance your family life.** It is important for your child to know that Judaism is a family affair, so learn along with your child.

You are, of course, the most important people in your child's life. I am looking forward to working together with you. I encourage you to communicate directly with your child's teacher and also with me. Email, call or just stop by the school office. I welcome questions, comments, and suggestions and I will be happy to discuss ways in which we can better serve your family.

I am honored to be a part of your child's Jewish education. I am confident in the program we offer and look forward to a great year with each and every one of you!

Shalom,

Alicia Zahn

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Alicia Zahn, Religious School Director

610-435-3521 EXT.106

school@bethelallentown.org

Temple website: www.bethelallentown.org

Shared Education Vision

The E. G. Scoblionko Religious School of Temple Beth El, a Conservative egalitarian synagogue affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, strives to foster deeper understanding and appreciation of how our rituals are rooted in Jewish history and spirituality. Temple Beth El's religious school encourages our students and their families to be active participants in prayer and to integrate Jewish customs and traditions into their daily lives. We strive to be an inclusive, joyous and supportive learning environment in which G-d, Torah, and community are the foundation of the learning experience.

Mission Goals

In order to realize our vision, we have identified the following mission goals we strive to achieve through the religious school.

- ✧ We will provide our students with knowledge which will promote the desire to celebrate Shabbat, holidays and life cycle events that are part of our heritage.
- ✧ We will promote an understanding of Jewish history through the ages and its contributions both past and present.
- ✧ We will emphasize the importance and relevance of modern Israel as we study various aspects of its development and illustrate how current events throughout our world affect the Jewish community.
- ✧ We will nurture a positive and prideful Jewish identity, helping students to develop a framework which they may draw upon as Jewish adults.
- ✧ We will provide opportunities within and outside the educational environment for our children and their families to practice *Mitzvot*, embodying Jewish values and a positive life-long contribution to their community.
- ✧ We will strive to teach students Hebrew prayer skills while actively conveying the spiritual and historical message of the Siddur.
- ✧ We will provide experiences in which students can explore their spirituality and their relationship with G-d.
- ✧ We will foster responsible social interactions in a welcoming and positive learning climate in order to create an educational foundation that develops students as life-long learners of Torah.

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees
Temple Beth El, October 1999*

Temple Beth El

Religious School Hours

Our school is not just a Hebrew School because Hebrew is just one component of the curriculum. It is a Religious School that encompasses many aspects as we strive to realize our vision. Each year, we focus on the following aspects: Holidays & Traditions, History & Heritage, Israel, Hebrew, Prayer, and Judaic Beliefs & Practices including mitzvot (commandments) and middot (values). Our faculty works hard to fill every moment with learning and fun so please plan on having your children attend the hours listed below.

MEETING AT TEMPLE BETH EL:

Ganim (Pre-K and K) and Kitah Alef (First grade) students meet once a week in the building:

- Sunday mornings 9:30 a.m. to noon

Kitah Bet through Kitah Vav (grades 2,3,4,5,6) students meet twice a week in the building:

- Sunday mornings 9:30 a.m. to noon
- Tuesday afternoons 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Kitah Zayin (Seventh grade) students meet twice a week in the building:

- Sunday mornings 9:30 a.m. - noon PLUS MIDRASHA

PLUS MEETING ONLINE (these online hours are IN ADDITION to meeting in person)

Ganim-Kitah Bet (PreK, K, grades 1 and 2) can enjoy an optional storytime over Zoom each Wednesday evening 7:00pm

Kitah Gimel-Kitah Zayin have 20 minute weekly individual Zooms for Hebrew and prayer practice

Midrasha High School (see separate handbook) Grades 7,8,9 students meet for Midrasha once a week: Monday evenings 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Shalsholet High School (see separate handbook)_Grade 10, 11 and 12 students meet according to their specific calendar: selected Monday evenings 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

In addition to classroom hours, we offer our Something For Everyone Shabbat once a month which school families are expected to attend as part of our program.

If you have a conflict with the Something For Everyone Shabbat date, then please enjoy any of our other Shabbat family services offered each and every Friday evening and Saturday morning at Temple Beth El.

Overview of Learning Objectives

Please see the separate **GRADE OBJECTIVES** tab to view the learning objectives for each grade. In addition to these learning objectives, we have many other parts of our school program such as our Music program, Mensch character recognition, Clergy in the Classroom, Shabbat and holiday programs, fieldtrips, Family programs, etc. The objectives below do not state HOW the teacher presents this material (such as our Hebrew Through Movement program to introduce the language). It also does not explicitly state the Jewish values that are infused in our whole school and modeled by our teachers, teen madrichim, and fellow classmates. Although we often share our love of Judaism as a whole way of life, the learning objectives are divided into the following topics:

Judaic Basics: *Demonstrate mitzvot(commandments) and middot(values) of Judaism, making choices based on Jewish ethics and values *Identify central themes and ethical messages within the Torah and integrate them into our lives *Explore personal relationship with G-d and with Jewish community *Identify religious texts and basic Jewish religious thoughts and practices



Hebrew: * Value Hebrew as the language that binds the Jewish people together through generations, as the language of the Torah and our siddur, and as the language of modern Israel *Be comfortable reading from the siddur *Translate key Hebrew prayer vocabulary *Develop a solid foundation of modern Hebrew vocabulary



Prayer: *Understand why we pray and to whom we are praying *develop kavanah (intent/spirit) * Pray with comprehension, by understanding the general meaning of a prayer and the basic structure of prayer services *Be comfortable participating in synagogue prayer services



Israel: *Articulate why Israel was important to Jews in the past and why it is important now *Outline the history of Israel *Be familiar with important people, demographics, culture, and geography of Israel *Develop a personal relationship to Israel



Holidays/Tradition: *Celebrate and observe Shabbat, holidays and festivals *Connect to own past through Jewish traditions *Understand the reason each Jewish Holiday is observed and the mitzvot and traditions associated with observance *Use a timeline of lifecycle events to connect us with our past and future



History/Heritage: *connect with our heritage *understand the broad timeline of the Jewish people *Use our past to help explain our present *Use Torah as both a historical narrative and a guide for how God wants us to live



Communication

Teacher-Parent Communication - Your child's teacher will contact you in the beginning of the year to introduce him/herself and open the lines of communication. A teacher might also contact you during the year if he or she believes more frequent or direct communication is needed.

You are encouraged to contact the teacher, but please do not expect a conference at the end or beginning of class unless you have made a prior appointment.

Teachers write two student evaluations which are sent home at the end of each semester.

These evaluations are for the purpose of communicating the class goals and student progress.

School-Parent Communication - School emails are sent every Friday. Please read these emails carefully and mark your calendar. Emails from school are from *ShulCloud* so please check these do not go into your spam folder.

There is also a school column each month in the synagogue bulletin.

In addition, check your child's folder.

Please contact Alicia Zahn, Religious School Director with any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions. Alicia is always happy to hear from parents!

Website www.bethelallentown.org

The website is a work in progress so please keep checking it as we work to make it more useful to you. Information about the school can be found under the Education tab. Look for an updated calendar, the parent handbook, Shabbat youth dates, our Mensches of the Month, and much more.

Facebook **Temple Beth El**

Please LIKE our page and sign up for notifications.



Other Communication Methods

There are so many communication platforms these days. If these methods are not what you usually use, then please talk to Alicia about adding something else that would help meet more of everyone's needs.



Emergency Cancellation

We will list cancellations on WFMZ Channel 69 and on **WFMZ.com**.

In addition, emails will be sent out.

Please make sure you are receiving school office emails from Constant Contact



Our Inclusion Policy

We are all made in the image of G-d and we believe a diverse, wholly inclusive student body enriches learning and serves as a model for community.

We strive to educate each child, with special attention to the identities and needs of each individual.

We welcome those with learning differences and know that diversity in education benefits everyone.

We welcome those with physical, emotional, social, or mental challenges and know that these challenges do not define a person.

We welcome those who label themselves as LGBTQ and those who do not wish to be labeled.

We welcome interfaith families and families at all levels of observance and know our similar beliefs about love and family far outweigh our differences.

We ask families to let us know how we can best include and accommodate them.



Tikkun Olam Projects

During our religious school year, we will introduce a variety of organizations to personalize the *Tzedakah* brought in by students each school day. Families may read about these projects in the synagogue monthly bulletin and will also receive an email at the beginning of each new project. Most of the projects involve both monetary collections and material collections.

In addition to our school collections, our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students each take on a Tikkun Olam project. You can read about these projects on the bulletin board in the school wing and we encourage you to support them.

☆ WAYS FOR YOU TO BE INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S JEWISH EDUCATION ☆

Help out by becoming a classroom parent or helping with special events throughout the year. Just return the form that will come on the first day, see the forms on the Education Tab of website, or call the School Director.

Speak with your child's teacher about coming in to the classroom to share a talent or a story.

Ask your child about what they are learning and be willing to learn along with them.

Bring them to Shabbat services, participate with them, and enjoy the kiddush lunch with your synagogue family.

Listen to your child read Hebrew. You do not need to correct them. You do not even have to know how to read Hebrew to listen to your child and be impressed.

Notice the family programs, special events, and class services in the school calendar and make attendance a priority.

Want more ideas? Just ask your child's teacher or call the School Director and we will be happy to make sure you are a real partner in your child's Jewish education.

There are also formal ways to be involved with the school such as joining the School Board or the PTO. Your input is valued and appreciated.

Temple Beth El School Board

The School Board serves as the congregation's representative in assessing its quality, maintaining its strong standards, and driving for continuous improvement. The work of this committee helps the school run efficiently.

The School Board is currently comprised of school parents, other congregants, a faculty representative, and the school director.

The Board is chaired by Michael Finley, Temple Beth El's Vice President of the Religious School. If you have comments or are interested in joining the School Board, please contact the school director to put you in touch with Michael.

P. T. O.

We are currently looking for co-chairs to volunteer for our PTO. Please contact the school office if you might be interested in this rewarding position.

The PTO supports the religious school in several vital ways:

- Provides room parents for coordinating a classroom specific events needing parental support.
- Provides volunteers for school-wide special activities such as hamantashen baking, model seders, and Mensch of the Month Lunches.
- Supports fund-raising for specific school programs or needs not covered by the school budget.

If you would like to volunteer for the Religious School PTO or would like to volunteer as a class parent, please contact the school at 610-435-3521, extension 106

Children's Youth Services

COVID NOTICE: We are currently having our youth lead some Friday evening services for the congregation instead of having our separate Saturday programs. Some of these Friday evening services will be remote and some will be in person. We hope to switch back to our Saturday morning programs at some point during the year.

KinderShul (Pre-K to 2nd Grade) Daven With Doughnuts! We meet in the Gr 2 classroom and then go to the main service for the conclusion of services. Our leader, Morah Gloria Lowy, provides Shabbat and age appropriate activities, including prayers, songs, stories, drama, games and more. We use the beautiful new prayer book "Siddur Mah Tov", which allows meaning and spirituality to readers and non-readers alike

Junior Congregation (3rd-6th Grade) Daven with Doughnuts! We meet in the Gr 4 classroom for a spirited camp-like Shabbat full of ruach and song. This positive and energetic Shabbat setting encourages participation with intention and attention to what we are doing – building a prayer community. Parsha plays, games, and prayers fill our morning and then we conclude in the main service.

Dor L'Dor Services are intergenerational Shabbat morning services with activities geared to families with children of all ages, where adults participate with their children to engage in Shabbat learning and praying. Parents and/or grandparents with their children gather for services and age appropriate activities will be offered focusing on different themes. A mini-kiddush will be held at the end of programming, and families will then proceed to the main sanctuary for the end of services together with the entire congregation.

Family Havdalah Rabbi Re'em leads us in saying good-bye to Shabbat and saying hello to the beginning of a good week. Sing along with his guitar, listen to a story and enjoy a light dinner. This program is perfect for families with young children because it is short and full of fun!

Class Services Each class has been assigned a date for either a Friday evening or Saturday morning service. The class will be leading parts of the regular service. We encourage all families to attend ALL class services as these are family-friendly services. It is especially meaningful to bring your child to the class service for the grade ahead so the children can get excited about what is coming up next year!

Something For Everyone Shabbat This morning includes **KinderShul**, **Junior Congregation**, plus **Bim Bom Buddies** for 0-3 year olds and their favorite grown-ups. Also offered is **GPS**, a Guided Prayer Service for all interested adults with no background knowledge needed. **Teens** are encouraged to help lead our Junior Congregation. We all meet up in the main sanctuary for the conclusion of services and then shmooze over a kiddush lunch.

*We encourage families to regularly attend Shabbat services, especially when the children's Shabbatot are in session. **Please see synagogue website for the dates of upcoming family-friendly services.***

I have some questions about

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

SHABBAT

1) What is the TIME?

9:30am Main Service
10:00am Drop-off for children (PreK-6) in the school wing so they can Daven with BimBom Buddies also begins at this time in the school wing.
10:15am GPS leads in the library
11:15ish We will wait for children to the main service so they can wit with parents for last part of the service and they can join Olam at the conclusion. Please make sure to supervise your children in the main service.

2) What are the ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS?

Shabbat once a month which is an important part of our program. If you have a conflict with another Shabbat service this month (Friday evening or morning), then please plan on attending another Shabbat service (morning.)

3) What about SHABBAT DRESS?

Shabbat is a special time that we set apart from the rest of the week. One way to make it special is to wear special Shabbat clothes. If your children do not like to dress up, then they are welcome to wear whatever they are comfortable wearing. Of course, if they look forward to dressing up, we encourage the Shabbat finery. We welcome your children regardless of what they are wearing.

4) What are the restrictions with FOOD?

Doughnuts served at Youth Services. BUT the entire congregation kiddush lunch is nut-free, including the challah and other baked goods. **Those with food allergies should be cautious about making safe choices and parents should be with their children at this time.**

5) What can I expect for child SUPERVISION?

We expect appropriate behavior from all children. This includes not wandering into unsupervised areas, no running, no cell phones or other electronics. We supply supervision for children in Youth Services. **Parents are expected to be in the synagogue building the entire time that their children are in Youth Services and to supervise their own children after Youth Services and during the kiddush lunch.**

6) Is there really SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE?

YES! Ages 0-3 can participate in BimBomBuddies with a grown-up. PreK-Gr 6 children can participate in Daven with Doughnuts Youth Services (KinderShul or Jr Congregation). Teens can either participate in GPS or help out in youth services. Adults can participate in GPS (Guided Prayer Service). ALL ages can participate in the main service at any time.

7) What is SHABBAT PEACE?

When you wish someone "Shabbat Shalom", you are wishing them a peaceful Shabbat. During Shabbat, our entire synagogue (sanctuary, school wing, social hall, etc) is a no-cell-phone-zone. Please leave your devices at home and **enjoy the peace of Shabbat with us! SHABBAT SHALOM!**

COVID NOTICE: We are NOT currently running these programs. Contact the school office for our youth service plan, as this is continually being modified.



Shabbat Shalom Club

The Shabbat Shalom Club is an incentive program offered to our Temple Beth El children, PreKindergarten through 6th Grade. The children do not need to be enrolled in our religious school. Children who attend six Shabbat Services per session will be honored for their dedicated attendance.

Stars with each child's name will be up on the school wing bulletin board. Simply find the School Director at the end of services and we will give your child the sticker to place on the star.

The first session begins in September. **Children may attend ANY Friday or Saturday Shabbat services, including (but not limited to) Youth Services, Family Havdalah, and Dor L'Dor.** We ask that at least five of the six Shabbat services be attended at Temple Beth El.

Children can earn prizes during the year and are honored when they enter the Shabbat Shalom Club.



Temple Beth El Youth Choirs

The Junior Choir is open to all children, Kindergarten through Grade 6, in our congregation. They hold regularly scheduled practices during and outside of Sunday school time. The Junior Choir sings at many worship services and school functions in the synagogue and may also perform throughout the community at large. **WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS NOW!**

No choir at this time – we hope to revive it soon – see school director if interested

E. G. Scoblionko Religious School Standards

The standards presented here were created to enable the E.G. Scoblionko Religious School to provide our students with the best Jewish education possible and to create a positive environment consistent with the school's **Shared Education Vision and Mission Goals**.

Academic and Classroom Achievement

Achievement levels of the students are evaluated relative to the child's learning abilities. There are two formal progress reports issued to parents each academic year.

If the child's teacher notes that the child is having difficulty in mastering Hebrew skills at the child's grade level, the teacher will notify the child's parents and recommend remedial tutoring for the child that will either be provided by the school's Hebrew support staff during school hours or obtained privately by the parents.

A student is expected to work up to his or her capabilities within the religious school. The teacher will inform the child's parents if it is perceived that the child is showing insufficient effort toward the classroom work. If progress is not made, then the student, teacher, parents, and Religious School Director will work together to improve a student's effort and achievement.

Promotion

Promotion to the next higher grade is granted at the discretion of the current year's teacher and School Director and will be based upon attendance, homework completion, classroom work, test scores and child's attitude. Remedial summer work may be required for promotion.

Attendance

The E.G. Scoblionko Religious School attendance requirements for all grades are as follows:

Students are expected to attend all classes, but are required to attend a minimum of 80% of the religious school classes each term. Parents are expected to call the school office or send in a note of explanation following each absence.

To facilitate students achieving academic success, they may be required to make up class work missed as a result of absenteeism. If it were anticipated that one or more classes would be missed, a parent is expected to notify the teacher in advance of the absence so that the teacher can give your child his/her assignments. In this way, your child will be able to keep up with the class, and will not return at a disadvantage after the absence. Homework completion from missed classes is always expected (see above).

On occasion there may be extenuating (special) circumstances that could lead to anticipated absenteeism of greater than 20% for the term. This might be permitted at the discretion of the School Director and the teacher, and will likely require make-up work outside of the classroom.

Consequences of Excessive Absenteeism

If a child's absenteeism exceeds 20% during the first term, the parents must meet with the School Director prior to the start of the second term, as a condition of continuing studies within that grade. Summer tutoring or repeating the grade may be required to move to the next higher grade.

Tardiness and Early Dismissal

Tardiness is disruptive to the class and unfair to those who do arrive on time. If the door to the Religious School entrance is locked, please buzz in and proceed to the school office BEFORE going to class. Chronic tardiness will require a meeting between the School Director and the parents.

Early dismissal is also disruptive and should be avoided. It requires a parent to send a note to the child's teacher prior to class. Prior to departure, the parent must sign the child out at the school office. The child's classroom will be notified and the child will meet the parent in the office. **Please do not go directly to your child's classroom.** This is for the safety of our children

Discipline

Derech Eretz (behaving appropriately) in all areas of life is at the essence of what we teach, no matter what the subject or content of the lesson. Kavod (respect), Chesed (kindness), Emet (truth) and other Jewish values cannot be taught without the expectation that these behaviors will be modeled by our staff and demonstrated by our students.

Should a child's behavior become detrimental to the welfare of the class and/or hinder the learning of other children, the school reserves the right to remove the child from the class.



Mensch of the Month *see current Covid policies to determine if luncheon is permitted at this time*

A mensch is kind, respectful, humble...and loves to do mitzvot

We are so proud of our children and love to recognize those students who make our world a better place. Each month, each teacher choose a student who is a role model for what a mensch is. These students, along with their families, are invited to a celebration lunch where they receive special bumper stickers and certificates. YASHER KOACH to all our mensch honorees and their families!

Guidelines for Students and Parents

Responsibilities of the Student

- To maintain good standing in our Religious School Program, we expect that students attend classes regularly, arrive to class on time, put forth best effort, and complete homework assignments.
- They will be expected to remember to bring to each class all folders, textbooks, pencils and other supplies required by the teacher. Students are responsible for keeping textbooks in good condition. Books will be checked at the end of the school year.
- They will cooperate in absorbing the instruction and participate in class projects, discussions, prayers, assemblies and special activities.
- They will cooperate with other students and with their teachers to maintain proper classroom decorum always.
- In the event of absence, make-up class work and homework assignments should be done in a timely manner.
- They will remember a few good rules of the school:
 1. BE POSITIVE
 2. TRY YOUR BEST
 3. LET OTHERS LEARN
 4. BE KIND (NO Lashan Hara!)

Responsibilities of the Parents

- Should a child need to leave early, parents must notify the teacher before class begins and arrange to pick up the child in the school office. (**Please do not go directly to the classroom**)
-  Parents must keep their emergency phone numbers and medical information up to date so the staff can handle any emergencies or medical problems quickly.
-  In case of illness, keep the student home and obtain assignments by phone. *Please notify the school office if your child will miss class sessions due to illness or vacation.*
- Parents are responsible for notifying the School Director of any medical, physical or social problems or conditions that might adversely affect the child while attending school sessions.
- Homework is given to enhance a child's school experience. We request that parents support our expectation that assignments will be completed on time.

General Information

The use of a cellphone by any student is prohibited until after dismissal. Cellphones should not be in view before class time or during class time, including break. Any infraction will result in the phone being confiscated until dismissal time.

We will provide a snack and beverage before Religious School starts on Tuesdays. This snack will be available from **3:35pm-3:55pm ONLY**. If you are dropping your child off after this time then please provide them with a snack in the car before they arrive.

Faculty will break individually at their discretion during the school day. Some classes like to have a light snack at their break time around 5:00pm on weekdays and in the middle of the morning on Sundays. This class snack is optional and is provided by parent volunteers in each class. Any food or beverage brought into the synagogue *must be certified kosher and comply with our food policy*. SEE FOOD POLICY BELOW.

The faculty is always happy to make appointments for parent-teacher conferences. Also, parents are always welcome, and are encouraged, to observe in the classroom. Please let the teacher know your plans at least 24 hours before your visit.

Tzedakah is part of the school program. Children are encouraged to bring a few coins for the *tzedakah* box EVERY DAY.

Food Policy - see this year's Covid policy

Our school strives to be a nut-free environment. No peanuts or tree nuts, peanut products or tree nut products, or products containing traces of peanuts or tree nuts will be brought into the Religious School wing. Please note that this policy is for the school only, as the synagogue is not a nut-free building.

All foods brought into the building and school must be certified kosher. A list of approved kosher symbols is available in the school office.

No home-made goods are permissible.

**All foods must be checked in at the School Office prior to distribution to the students.
(If no one is in the office please mark you child's name and grade on it.)**

Packages that are opened prior to being checked in will not be approved.

Please do not bring in any kitchen utensils for use in the synagogue. Paper plates and unopened packages of plastic cutlery are acceptable.

All fruit and vegetables are kosher, but must arrive uncut and unwashed.

Use of the synagogue kitchen must be under the supervision of a registered supervisor.

Drop Off and Pick Up Information - see current Covid policy to determine if parents are permitted in building during school hours

Please share this information with anyone transporting your child to or from Religious School.

Drop off Procedure

All vehicles should enter the property using the Temple Beth El main driveway.

Drop your child off at the curb and then proceed out of the parking lot using the Amherst Road exit.

You are welcome to park and drop off your child personally.

Students are not allowed to walk into the parking lot unattended regardless of age.

If dropping off late after doors have been locked, students must get buzzed in and then check in to school office before proceeding to class.

Pick Up Procedures

For curbside pickup: Make a one way line following the curb of the building, entering on Springhouse Road. Stop at the **Sanctuary entrance** of the synagogue as indicated by the orange cones and stay in your car.

OR: You may park in the parking lot and come into the building to pick up your child at any time. If so, please park in the lot by the school wing doors and enter the school wing doors. The sanctuary entrance is for curbside pickup only. Children must be accompanied by an adult when entering the parking lot.

Please do not park in front of the School or Sanctuary entrance.

Children in Ganim through Grade 2 should be picked up by a parent at their classroom.

Please let your child's teacher know if an older sibling may pick them up.

If picking up early, parent must sign out at main office.

Please do NOT go to classroom.

Students will not be released during school hours to anyone other than a parent or individual who has been authorized for pick-up on the registration. Please send a note to give anyone else permission to pick up your child.

TO ALL OUR FAMILIES INVOLVED
IN SPORTS:



Please note that cleats are not permitted to be worn in the building.

We appreciate your trying to fit it all in and you are welcome to have your child dressed and ready for soccer, baseball, football, etc so you can be ready for the next activity, but please wait to put on cleats until outside the building or in the car, as they are made to be worn outside and can damage the floors. Thank you for your cooperation.

Dear Kids,
Here is a sneak peek into the year:

In elementary school (PreK-grade 7) our learning objectives include Hebrew, Prayer, Holidays & Traditions, History & Heritage, Israel, and Judaic Beliefs, Values and Practices. These learning objectives are infused in all the elementary grades as developmentally appropriate.

GANIM

PreK and Kindergarten: Sundays 9-12

You will be introduced to the fun of being Jewish through crafts, stories, and songs. Each week will include simple prayer such as Shema and Modeh Ani, music time with Morah Nellie, tzedakah time, and the celebration of holidays. Hebrew Through Movement time will have you jumping and twirling! You will get comfortable with the synagogue and your synagogue family. Throughout the year, you will participate in school-wide activities such as a monthly Shacharit service (where you are buddied with an older student), a Hanukah fair, Purim shpeil, and Passover model seder.



Kitah Alef (grade 1) Sundays 9-12

You will have a more formal learning of the Alef Bet and some short prayers. You will explore many mitzvot and be the "big kids" up on the bima leading the conclusion of a special Shabbat service. You will learn basic Hebrew words by playing active games (such as Simon Says) and by following along in Hebrew Through Movement. By year's end, you will have many ritual objects to use on holidays such as Passover pillowcases and Shabbat Kiddush cups - and these will be so special because you will create them yourself!



Kitah Bet (grade 2) Sundays 9-12, Tuesday 4-6

Kitah Bet will be full of songs that help you remember Judaic learning such as the books of the Torah and full of games that help you to put Hebrew letters and vowels together to make words. You will explore year-long themes of gratitude and the peace of Shabbat. A virtual scavenger hunt will take you through Israel. This year also includes a fun and active introduction to simple Hebrew words. You'll learn the numbers, colors, days of the week, months of the year, and parts of your body in Hebrew - all through songs and games. Your class helps bring Shabbat joy to the congregation when they sing some songs and prayers at their own Friday evening service. A special highlight is making A Kotel tzedakah box and afikoman cover.



Kitah Gimmel (grade 3) Sundays 9-12, Tuesdays 4-6

You will be reading the stories from Genesis and discussing how they relate to you. You will receive your Israeli pen pal and begin our Same Moon project to make personal connections in Israel. Rabbi Re'em will visit your class once a month to explore your questions about G-d. Special focus is put on learning the Friday evening service as you learn to read entire prayers. The year culminates by celebrating your Siddur Ceremony when your class helps to welcome Shabbat by leading prayers for the entire congregation and you receive your own siddur (prayer book)!



Kitah Dalet (grade 4) Sundays 9-12, Tuesdays 4-6

Although the whole school is about becoming a mensch, this year is when we focus on what that means and how to be one. In Hebrew, the focus will turn to understanding the reading of conversational Hebrew. This will help you understand the prayers you will be reading at the Friday evening service your class will lead. You will explore Torah stories from Exodus and other books. Learning about the symbols, currency, government, and heroes of modern Israel will help you to connect to our homeland. The fourth grade Mitzvah Trip is to Country Meadows where you will be handing out hamantashen, telling the Purim story, and singing songs to perform the mitzvah of honoring the elderly. One highlight of the year is learning about Havdallah and making family Havdallah kits to use at home.



Kitah Hay (grade 5) Sundays 9-12, Tuesdays 4-6

Kitah Hey's focus is on critical thinking and applying skills you used in past years to be an independent Hebrew reader and thinker. You'll play games and use fun classroom competition to read more fluently and by year's end be able to read and write your own Hebrew stories. Kitah Hay would not be complete without learning about the Oral Law and how the Rabbis used it in Jewish traditions: You'll become the expert by building a classroom Sukkah and making your own kosher Chanukiah. Put yourself into Jewish history as you debate the choices of the Maccabees and the Roman-era Sadducees vs. Pharisees. And let's not forget learning about Israel and her melting-pot: where does your family come from and how do Jews around the world contribute to the culture of our Jewish homeland?



Kitah Vav (grade 6) Sundays 9-12, Tuesdays 4-6

Over the course of the year, we will learn about the *nevi'im* (Prophets), acquire a basic understanding of their messages, and determine which *middot* (ethical values) are drawn from those messages. All of this information will help prepare you for our annual Eizeh Hu Gibor -- Jewish Here Breakfast. We will learn the history of Jews in the diaspora, both Sephardic and Ashkenazic. Using our holidays as a backdrop, we will explore the similarities and differences of Jewish customs throughout the modern world. We will continue reading and writing Hebrew stories and use new vocabulary to explore prayers. Parashat HaShavua (the weekly Torah portion) will be examined using many different methods in order to help you learn how to draw lessons out of the *parsha*. One highlight of Kitah Vav is a fieldtrip to Sons of Israel where we will get a chance to weave a tallis pattern on an actual loom and knot *tzitzit* as you learn about some of the mitzvot you can take on after Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We focus on the Shabbat morning service and you will help to lead the Torah Service and *musaf* as a class, as well as give a group d'var Torah. This, along with an introduction to trope, will help to prepare you for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons next year. Finally, multiple special family programs during the year will help to bond our Bar/Bat Mitzvah families as we learn together.

In Midrasha (grades 7-9) we have a concentrated focus on one subject each year plus elective choices.

Kitah Zayin meets in the elementary school on Sunday mornings and with Midrasha on Monday evenings. It is our transition year when most of the children are also having individual Bar/Bat Mitzvah lesson.



Kitah Zayin (Grade 7) Sundays 10-12, Mondays 6:30-8:30

You will lead the elementary school and get the chance to tutor younger students, lead special programs, and learn about mitzvot you can take on as a Jewish adult. More mature topics are explored, such as Mourner's Kaddish and how to comfort a mourner. You will trace the story of Judaism in America and visit the American Jewish History Museum in Philadelphia. You will get to debate topics and practice using Jewish values to make decisions. This is the first year you will attend Monday evening Midrasha where you will focus on the creation of modern Israel from the beginning of Zionism through the waves of settlements in our homeland to the modern challenges and great advances of today. You will also get to choose an elective so you can decide from choices such as Jewish Cooking, Israeli Music, Social Action, Judaic Art - the choices change each term.



Kitah Chet (Grade 8) Mondays 6:30-8:30

In the first hour of Midrasha, your core class will explore the roots of anti-Semitism as you learn about the lessons from the Holocaust. The year culminates in a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC. The second hour is your choice from the offered electives. Mitzvah trip for Midrasha is to Country Meadows to lead a Passover Seder for the elderly residents. This is the first year that you get the chance to volunteer as part of our Madrichim Team and be a classroom aide for younger students.



Kitah Tet (Grade 9) Mondays 6:30-8:30

This is your Confirmation year! You will study midrash with the Rabbi and learn about what it means to be a leader and an active participant in Jewish life. Rabbi will also help you explore the Book of Ruth in depth. You will explore how to use Jewish values to change the world around you, including making and serving a meal for the local Rescue Mission. You will reflect back on your time in Religious School and you will work with Morah Spark to participate in the Shavuot service in celebration of your Confirmation!

In Shalshet (grades 10-12) our curriculum is largely based on student interest focusing on Israel, social justice, and teen issues. Shalshet is a community program which does not require synagogue membership. We bring together teens from the entire Lehigh Valley.



Shalshet(grades 10-12) Two Mondays a month 6:30-8:30

You are in high school and have many questions about what it means for you to be a Jew, about Israel, about social justice and your role in the world, and about sensitive teen issues. You also want to socialize with all kinds of Jews and hear many different perspectives. In these three years, you will enjoy dinner with your friends at the beginning of each session and then have a guest presenter to facilitate group discussion on the topics in which you are interested.