



Temple Beth El

***E.G. Scoblionko Religious School  
and Midrasha***

***Family Handbook***

***2023-2024***

***5784***



FRAMEWORK FOR EXCELLENCE SCHOOL

"Happy are they  
who dwell in  
Your House"



אשר  
יֹשְׁבֵי  
בֵּיתְךָ

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# Welcome!

## בְּרוּכִים הַבָּאִים!

Dear Families,

Welcome to Religious School and Midrasha! I am excited to begin the new school year. I am looking forward to all of the exciting learning and teaching that will happen here.

Many people make Religious School and Midrasha possible, including you, the adults in the students' lives. Our tradition recognizes the importance of adult contributions to teaching children. The Torah tells us, וְשִׁנַּנְתָּם לְבִנְיָךְ *v'shinantam l'vanecha*/you shall teach your children (Deuteronomy 6:7). Providing your children with a Jewish education is a mitzvah. It is a privilege to be teaching your children in Religious School and in Midrasha. The Torah continues by giving us some specific times when we are supposed to be teaching our children: וּבְלֶכְתְּךָ בַּדֶּרֶךְ *b'shivt'icha b'veitecha, u'vlecht'cha va'derekh* when you are at home and when you go out.

Thank you for all that you do, teaching by example, driving your children to and from Religious School and Midrasha, talking with them about the importance of a Jewish education. It makes a difference. When children see the adults in their lives involved in Judaism and Jewish learning, they want to be involved too.

I am looking forward to meeting you and working together to create an amazing experience for your children in Religious School and Midrasha. Please contact me with questions, concerns, or suggestions, or if you just want to talk.

I look forward to learning with you and from you.

B'Shalom,

*Beth Daskin*

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Beth Daskin, Religious School Director  
and Jewish Family Educator  
(610) 435-3521, extension 106  
[Beth@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Beth@bethelallentown.org)**

## Shared Educational Vision

The E.G. Scoblionko Religious School of Temple Beth El, an egalitarian congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, strives to foster a 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 lives. We strive to be an inclusive, joyous, and supportive learning environment in which God, Torah, and community are the foundation of the learning experience.

To realize our vision, we have identified the following goals that we strive to achieve through the religious school.

- ☆ We provide our students with the knowledge to inspire the desire to celebrate Shabbat, holidays, and life cycle events that are part of our heritage.
- ☆ We promote an understanding of Jewish history through the ages and its contributions to both the past and the present.
- ☆ We emphasize the importance and relevance of modern Israel as we study various aspects of its development and illustrate how current events throughout the world affect the Jewish community.
- ☆ We nurture and have pride in a positive Jewish identity, helping students develop a framework upon which they may draw as Jewish adults.
- ☆ We provide traditional classroom learning and experiential opportunities for students and their families to practice mitzvot, embodying Jewish values and a positive, lifelong contribution to their community.
- ☆ We strive to teach students Hebrew prayer skills while actively conveying the spiritual and historical messages of the siddur.
- ☆ We teach modern Hebrew language to promote a connection to Jews around the world and throughout history through a common language.
- ☆ We seek to inspire our students to connect to Jewish texts through studying *Tanach*/Bible.
- ☆ We provide experiences in which students can explore their spirituality and their relationship with God.
- ☆ We foster responsible social interactions in a welcoming and positive learning climate to create an educational foundation that develops students as lifelong

## **Temple Beth El Religious School Hours**

**Ganim (Pre-K and K) and Kitah Alef (First Grade) students meet once a week:**

- Sunday mornings, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

**Kitot Bet, Gimmel, Dalet, Hay, and Vav (Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grades) students meet twice a week:**

- Sunday mornings, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
- Tuesday afternoons, 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

**Kitah Zayin (Seventh Grade) students meet twice weekly:**

- Sunday mornings, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
- PLUS MIDRASHA (see below)

### **Midrasha**

Kitot Zayin, Het, and Tet (Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Grades) meet for Midrasha once a week:

- Monday evenings, 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
- In addition to classroom hours, we offer our Something for Everyone Shabbat approximately once a month. These are Saturday mornings with programming for all ages. Everyone is always welcome to join Shabbat prayers and programming in all weeks.

# **TEMPLE BETH EL** **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DATES** **2023-2024/5724**

**Sunday classes are in bold and are 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. for Gan – Grade 7**  
*Monday classes are italicized and are 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. for Grade 7 – Grade 9*  
 Tuesday classes are 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. for Grade 2 – Grade 6

## **SEPTEMBER**

**10, 11, 12, 18, 19, 26**

## **OCTOBER**

2, 3, 9, 10, **15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24,**  
**29, 30, 31**

## **NOVEMBER**

**5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 28**

## **DECEMBER**

**3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19**

## **JANUARY**

2, 7, 8, 9, **14, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30**

## **FEBRUARY**

**4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 20, 25, 26, 27**

## **MARCH**

**3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26**

## **APRIL**

**1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16**

## **MAY**

**5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 19**

## **SPECIAL DATES TO MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR**

Sept. 10: First Day of School Family Breakfast

Sept. 11: Welcome to Midrasha Dinner

Nov. 12: Kitah Vav Program

Nov. 19: Open House

Dec. 3: B'Mitzvah Parent Class

Dec. 10: School Mitzvah Day

Jan. 14: Parent/Teacher Conferences

Jan. 27: Ganim Class Service

Feb. 4: Kitah Vav Program

Feb. 9: Kitah Bet Class Service

Feb. 11: Kitah Gimmel Program

April 5: Kitah Dalet Class Service

April 7: B'Mitzvah Parent Class

April 13: Kitah Hay/Vav Class Service

May 3: Kitah Gimmel Siddur Ceremony

May 19: Last Day of School

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLASS SERVICES**

### **Friday Evening, 6:00 P.M.**

February 9: Kitah Bet (Grade 2)

April 5: Kitah Dalet (Grade 4)

May 3: Kitah Gimmel (Grade 3)

### **Saturday Morning, 10:00 A.M.**

January 27: Ganim and Kitah Alef (PreK - Grade 1)

April 13: Kitah Hay/Vav (Grades 5 and 6)

**ALL DATES AND UPDATES CAN BE FOUND ON [WWW.BETHELALLENTOWN.ORG](http://WWW.BETHELALLENTOWN.ORG)**

## **Communication**

### **Teacher-Parent Communication**

Your child's teacher will contact you at the beginning of the year to introduce him/herself and open 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 always encouraged to contact the teacher, including if you would like to schedule a meeting. Please do not expect the teacher to be available for a meeting at the end or beginning of class unless you have made an appointment.

Teachers write two student evaluations, which are sent home at the end of semesters. These evaluations communicate the class goals and student progress.

### **School-Parent Communication**

School emails are sent monthly and as needed. Please read these emails carefully and mark your calendar with the dates of school events. There is also a school column each month in the synagogue bulletin. In addition, please check your children's folder for other communications.

### **Website**

**[www.bethelallentown.org](http://www.bethelallentown.org)**

The website provides important information about the Temple and the Religious School and is frequently updated. Information about the school can be found under the education tab. Look for a school calendar, Family Handbook, class Shabbat service dates, and much more.

### **Temple Beth El Facebook**

Please LIKE our page and sign up for notifications.



### **Emergency Cancellation**

We will list cancellations on WFMZ Channel 69 and WFMZ.com. In addition, emails will be sent out.

**Please make sure you are receiving school office emails!**



## **Our Inclusion Policy**

We are all made in the image of God and we believe a diverse, wholly inclusive student body enriches learning and serves as a model for the 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 the school year, we will introduce a variety of organizations to personalize the *Tzedakah* that is brought in by students each school day. Additional information is included in the monthly synagogue bulletin. Many of the projects involve both monetary and material collections.

In addition to our school collections, our BMitzvah 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. Return the form that will be available on the first day, see the forms on the education tab of the website, or call the School Director.

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

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

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

Listen to your children 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.

Ask your children to teach you something they learned in school. Children enjoy being the expert!

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 discuss options.

### **Temple Beth El School Board**

The School Board serves as the congregation's representative in assessing its quality, maintaining its strong standards, and striving 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 Dan Leisawitz. If you have comments or are interested in joining the School Board, please contact Dan at [dleisawitz@gmail.com](mailto:dleisawitz@gmail.com).

### **P. T. O.**

The PTO supports our Religious School in several vital ways:

- Provides room parents for coordinating specific classroom events
- Provides volunteers for school-wide special activities such as hamantashen baking, and holiday programming.
- Supports fund-raising for specific school programs and needs not covered by the school budget.

If you would like to join the School Board or PTO, please contact Dan Leisawitz at [dleisawitz@gmail.com](mailto:dleisawitz@gmail.com), or Beth at [Beth@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Beth@bethelallentown.org), or 610-435-3521.

## **Children's Youth Services**

Jewish tradition describes Torah as a tree of life, "עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה"/Etz Hayim Hi, L'Mahazikim Ba/It is a tree of those to those who grasp it. Families are invited to root themselves in Jewish tradition with participation in a variety of Shabbat programming. Watch our children blossom as they grow in Jewish learning, branching out and continuing to grow every step of the way.

### **Shabbat for Everyone**

The morning includes **Shorashim**, for 0-4 year-olds and their grown-ups, **Nitzanim**, for children in kindergarten through second grade, and **Anafim** for children in third grade through sixth grade. **GPS**, a Guided Prayer Service learning opportunity, is for all interested adults with no background knowledge needed. Teens are encouraged to help lead Anafim. Everyone meets up in the main sanctuary for the conclusion of services and schmoozing over kiddush lunch. Join us for Shabbat for Everyone on Yom Kippur morning, (September 25th), October 28th, December 16th, February 24th, and May 11th.

### ***SHABBAT FOR EVERYONE INCLUDES THESE:***

Snacks are provided at children's programming.

#### **Shorashim (Roots) (0-PreK)**

Shorashim, "roots", is our Shabbat programming for the youngest members of the community and their grown-ups! With activities, songs, movement, and more, families will enjoy growing their Jewish roots together. We join the congregation for concluding prayers on the bimah at the end of services.

#### **Nitzanim (Blossoms) (Kindergarten-Grade 2)**

Our leader, Morah Gloria Lowy, provides Shabbat and age appropriate activities, including prayers, songs, stories, drama, games, and more. Nitzanim uses the beautiful new prayer book "Siddur Mah Tov", which allows meaning and spirituality to readers and non-readers alike. The group joins the congregation in the main sanctuary for the conclusion of the service.

#### **Anafim (Branches) (Grade 3 - Grade 6)**

A spirited camp-like Shabbat experience full of ruach and song! Participation is encouraged with intention and attention to what we are doing: building a prayer community. Parsha plays, games, and t'fillah fill our morning and we conclude in the main service.

#### **GPS (Guided Prayer Service)**

Dive into the meaning and execution of the prayers and rituals of our services.

GPS is user-friendly, for adult learners of all levels. Enrich your understanding of and enhance your participation in our tefillah. Join us for GPS\*

*\*GPS is on Shabbat for Everyone dates, as well as other times to be announced*

## **Main Sanctuary Service**

Always open to everyone, come and join the service in the main sanctuary.

### **Other Family Shabbat Programming:**

#### **B'Yachad (Together)**

B'Yachad is intergenerational Shabbat and holiday morning services with activities geared to all ages. Adults participate with their children, engaging in active Shabbat and holiday learning and praying, with a focus on a variety of themes. Snack is always included before we proceed to the main sanctuary for the end of services together with the entire congregation. Stay for a delicious kiddush lunch!

#### **Family Havdalah**

Rabbi Re'em leads us in saying goodbye to Shabbat and saying hello to the beginning of a good week. Sing along with his guitar, listen to a story, and enjoy fun programming. This program is perfect for families with young children: together with your friends and full of fun!

#### **Class Services**

Each grade is assigned a date for either a Friday evening or Saturday morning service during the school year. Students lead parts of the congregational Shabbat service. We encourage all families to attend ALL class services! It is especially meaningful to bring your child to the class service for the grade ahead so children become excited about what is coming up next year!

***\*We encourage families to regularly attend Shabbat services!***

# *I have some questions about*

**SOMETHING  
FOR EVERYONE**

**SHABBAT**

## **1) What is the TIMING?**

**9:30 A.M.** Main Service begins

**10:00 A.M.** Drop off your school children (PreK - Grade 6) in the school wing so they can enjoy Youth Services.

**10:15 A.M.** GPS learning with Shari Spark in the library.

**11:30-ish** We will walk the children to the main service so they can be with their families for the last part of the service and they can help lead concluding prayers, beginning with Ein Keloheinu.

## **2) What are the ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS?**

We always encourage attendance on Shabbat and holidays. Shabbat for Everyone counts towards the Shabbat Shalom Club.

## **3) What about SHABBAT DRESS?**

Some, but not all children, enjoy dressing up. Clothing that is comfortable for children is appropriate for them.

## **4) What are the restrictions with FOOD?**

The school wing is nut-free, including the snack served at youth services. **BUT** the entire synagogue is **NOT**. **Those with food allergies should be cautious about making safe choices during the congregation kiddush lunch – adults should be with their children at this time.**

## **5) What can I expect from child SUPERVISION?**

Children are children! As adults we model appropriate synagogue behavior including reminding children not to wander into unsupervised areas, that running in the hallways is not okay, and not to use cell phones or other electronics. We provide supervision for children at youth services. **Parents are expected to be in the synagogue building the entire time 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 0-4 can participate in Shorashim with a grown-up. Students in kindergarten through Grade 6 can participate in Nitzanim and Anafim. Teens can either participate in GPS (Guided Prayer Service) or help out in youth services. Adults can participate in GPS. 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 quiet cell phone zone. Please place your phone on silent and enjoy the peace of Shabbat with us! SHABBAT SHALOM!



## **Shabbat Shalom Club**

The Shabbat Shalom Club is an incentive program offered to our Temple Beth El children, PreKindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. All Temple Beth El children are included in this program. Children who attend six Shabbat services per semester will earn prizes and will be honored for their dedicated attendance.

Stars with each child's name will be up on the school wing bulletin board. Find the School Director at the end of services on Shabbat or holidays, or on Sunday morning, and you will get a sticker to place on your star. You can also contact the director by email to add a sticker to your star.

Shabbat Shalom Club begins in September and continues throughout the school year. **Children may attend ANY Friday Kabbalat Shabbat service, Saturday Shabbat services, or holiday services, including (but not limited to) Youth Services, Family Havdalah, and B'Yachad.**

## 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 sent to families each academic year.

If a teacher notices that a student is having difficulty mastering grade level Hebrew skills, the teacher will notify the director and the student's family. Tutoring will be recommended and will be provided either by the school's Hebrew support staff during school hours or obtained privately by the family.

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

### **Promotion**

Promotion to the next grade is granted at the discretion of the current year's teacher and School Director and will be based on attendance, homework completion, classroom work, classroom assessments, and the student'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 semester. Families are expected to call the school office or send an email to the director ([Beth@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Beth@bethelallentown.org)) with an explanation following each absence. Please also notify the teacher. Advance notice of planned absences is requested and appreciated.

Academic success is important! Students will be required to complete make up work if they are absent. If you know your children will be missing class, you are expected to notify the teacher and the director in advance so that the teacher can give your children his/her/their assignments. This way, your children will be able to keep up with the class,

and will not return at a disadvantage. Homework completion from missed classes is always expected.

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

Please understand that putting together make up assignments is extra work for teachers. Classroom lessons are designed for a group. Many times those lessons do not transfer well to independent work, requiring teachers to rewrite plans to accommodate a student who is absent.

### **Consequences of Excessive Absenteeism**

If a child's absenteeism exceeds 20% during the first semester, the parents must meet with the School Director prior to the start of the second semester, as a condition of continuing studies within that grade. Mid semester or summer tutoring, may be required for promotion to the next grade.

### **Tardiness and Early Dismissal**

Tardiness is disruptive to the class and unfair to those who 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 family.

Early dismissal is also disruptive and should be avoided. If it is necessary, a parent/authorized adult is required to send an email to the school office ([Rebecca@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Rebecca@bethelallentown.org), or [Beth@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Beth@bethelallentown.org)) and to the children's teacher before class. Parents/authorized adults may also call the school office and speak to Rebecca or Beth to discuss early dismissal. Prior to departure, the parent/authorized adult must sign the children out at the school office. The children's classroom will be notified and the children will meet the parent/authorized adult in the school office. **Please do not go directly to your child's classroom.** This is for the safety of our children. Students will be required to complete any assignments they miss if they leave early.

### **Derech Eretz/דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ/Behaving Appropriately**

Derech Eretz/דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ/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/כבוד/respect, Hesed/חסד/kindness, Emet/אמת/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.

If behavior becomes a challenge for any student, the director, teacher, and adults in the student's family will meet to discuss the situation and determine an appropriate course



of action. If the student is able to do so, he/she/they is encouraged to be part of the discussion and solution.

## Guidelines for Students and Parents

### **Responsibilities of the Students**

- ★ To maintain good standing in our Religious School program, we expect that students attend classes regularly, arrive to class on time, put forth their best effort, and complete homework assignments.
- ★ Students are expected 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.
- ★ Students will be cooperative in class and participate in class projects, discussions, prayers, assemblies, and special activities.
- ★ Students will respect their teacher, classmates, and their surroundings (classroom, synagogue, outside space, etc.), demonstrating an understanding of the value of kavod/כבוד/respect.
- ★ In the event of an absence, make-up class work and homework assignments should be completed in a timely manner.
- ★ Students will remember a few good rules of the school:
  - Come to school
  - Try your best
  - Let other students learn
  - Ask for help when you need it
  - Be kind and respectful

### **Responsibilities of the Families/Adults**

- ❖ Should a child need to leave early, parents/authorized adults must notify the school office and the teacher before class begins and arrange to pick up the child in the school office. **(Please do not go directly to the classroom)**. Please email or call the office ([Rebecca@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Rebecca@bethelallentown.org) or [Beth@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Beth@bethelallentown.org) or (610) 435-3521) if you need to pick up your children early.
- ❖ Parents must keep their emergency phone numbers and children's medical information up to date so the staff can handle any emergencies or medical problems quickly.
- ❖ In case of illness, keep the students home and obtain assignments by phone or email. Please notify the school office if your child will miss class sessions due to illness.
- ❖ Parents are responsible for notifying the School Director of any medical, physical or social problems or conditions that might affect the children while attending school.
- ❖ Homework is given to enhance a student's school experience. We request that families support our expectation that assignments will be completed on time.

### **General Information**

The use of a cell phone by any student is **prohibited** until after dismissal. Cell phones should not be in view before or during class time, including break. Any infraction will result in the phone being confiscated until dismissal time. If you need to reach your children during school, please call the office.

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

Faculty will break individually at their discretion during the school day, including on Sundays. The school is asking families to donate mini bagels and cream cheese for snacks on Sundays. Please contact the director ([Beth@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Beth@bethelallentown.org)) or Rebecca ([Rebecca@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Rebecca@bethelallentown.org)) for the signup page. Any food or beverage brought into the synagogue *must be certified kosher and comply with our food policy*. SEE THE 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 and director know of your plans at least 24 hours before your visit.

*Tzedakah*/תְּדָקָה is part of the school program. Children are encouraged to bring a few coins for the *tzedakah* box each day.

### **Food 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 your child's name and grade on it, or include your name if you are donating mini bagels and cream cheese.**

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 raw 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**

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

You are welcome to park and come into the building with your children.

**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 be buzzed in and then check in at the 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. If so, please park in the lot by the school wing doors and enter through them. 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.**

**If picking up early, parents must sign out at the school office. Please do NOT go to classroom.**

Students will not be released to anyone other than a parent or individual who has been authorized for pick-up on the registration. Please send an email ([Beth@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Beth@bethelallentown.org) or [Rebecca@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Rebecca@bethelallentown.org)) to give anyone else permission to pick up your child.

### ***\*TO ALL FAMILIES INVOLVED WITH SPORTS:***

Please note that cleats are not permitted to be worn in the building. If heading to sports activities after school, 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 Families and Students,  
Here is a sneak peek into the year.**

### **GANIM**

#### **PreK and Kindergarten: Sundays, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

Students will be introduced to the fun of being Jewish through crafts, stories, and songs. Each week will include prayers such as Shema and Modeh Ani, tzedakah time, and the celebration of holidays. Hebrew Through Movement will have students jumping and twirling! Students will become comfortable with the synagogue and their synagogue family. Throughout the year, students will participate in school-wide activities such as a monthly Shacharit service, a Hanukah Fair, Mitzvah Program, Purim Shpiel, and much more!



#### **Kitah Alef (Grade 1) Sundays, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

Students are reintroduced to the Alef Bet and prayers. Students will explore many mitzvot and be the "big kids" up on the bima leading the conclusion of a special Shabbat service. Students will learn more Hebrew words by playing games, such as Simon Says, and by continuing with Hebrew Through Movement. By year's end, students will have many ritual objects to use on holidays such as Passover pillowcases and Shabbat Kiddush cups; these will be special because students created them!



#### **Kitah Bet (Grade 2) Sundays, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and Tuesdays 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

Kitah Bet will be full of songs that help students remember Judaic learning such as the books of the Torah, and full of games that help students to put Hebrew letters and vowels together to make words. Students will explore year-long themes of gratitude and the peace of Shabbat. A virtual scavenger hunt will take you through Israel. Build on Hebrew vocabulary by learning numbers, colors, days of the week, months of the year, and parts of the body in Hebrew, all through songs and games. The class helps bring Shabbat joy to the congregation when they sing songs and prayers at their

Friday evening class service. Highlights include making a Kotel tzedakah box and an afikoman cover.



**Kitah Gimmel (Grade 3) Sundays, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and  
Tuesdays 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

Explore stories from **בְּרֵאשִׁית**/Breisheit/Genesis and discuss how they relate to modern students. Write to an Israeli pen pal, through the Same Moon project, beginning to make personal connections to Israel. Rabbi Re'em will visit the classroom once a month to explore your questions about God. Special focus is put on learning the Friday evening service as students learn to read entire prayers. The year culminates with a Siddur Ceremony when the class welcomes Shabbat by leading prayers for the entire congregation. Students receive their own siddur (prayer book)!



**Kitah Dalet (Grade 4) Sundays, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and  
Tuesdays 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

In Hebrew, the focus will turn to vocabulary and grammar of conversational Hebrew. This will help students understand the prayers they will be reading at the Friday evening class service. Students will explore a variety of Torah and Tanach texts. Learning about the symbols, currency, and government of modern Israel reinforces a connection to our Jewish homeland. The fourth grade Mitzvah Trip is to Country Meadows where students will hand out hamantashen, tell the Purim story, and sing songs to perform the mitzvah of honoring the elderly. A highlight of the year is learning about Havdallah and making family Havdallah kits to use at home.



**Kitah Hay (Grade 5) Sundays, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and  
Tuesdays 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

Kitah Hay's focus is on critical thinking and applying skills learned in past years to be an independent Hebrew reader and thinker. Students play games and use

fun classroom competitions to increase reading fluency. By year's end, students will be able to read and write their own Hebrew stories. Kitah Hay would not be complete without learning about the Oral Law and how the Rabbis used it in Jewish traditions: Become the expert by building a classroom Sukkah and making your own kosher Chanukiah. Step into Jewish history as you debate the choices of the Maccabees and the Roman-era Sadducees vs. Pharisees. And don't 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, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and  
Tuesdays 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

Over the course of the year, students 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 students for the annual EizehHu Gibor -- Jewish Hero Breakfast. Students history of Jews in the diaspora, both Sepahrdic and Ashkenazic. Using holidays as a backdrop, students explore the similarities and differences of Jewish customs throughout the modern world. Students continue reading and writing Hebrew stories and use new vocabulary to explore prayers. Parashat HaShavua (the weekly Torah portion) is examined using many different methods to learn how to draw lessons out of the *parsha*. Students focus on the Shabbat morning service and help lead the Torah Service and *Musaf* Service as a class. Students also give a group d'var Torah. This, along with an introduction to trope, prepares students for BMitzvah lessons next year. Finally, three special family programs during the year create a bond among our BMitzvah families as they learn together.

**Midrasha (Grades 7-9)**



**Kitah Zayin (Grade 7) Sundays, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and  
Mondays, 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.**

Kitah Zayin will lead the elementary school and have opportunities to tutor

younger students, lead special programs, and learn about mitzvot students take on as Jewish adults. More mature topics are explored, such as Mourner's Kaddish and how to comfort a mourner. Trace the story of Judaism in America and visit the American Jewish History Museum in Philadelphia. Debate topics and practice using Jewish values to make decisions. This is the first year students attend Monday evening Midrasha where they focus on the creation of modern Israel from the beginning of Zionism through the waves of settlements in our Jewish homeland to the modern challenges and great advances of today. Students also participate in electives.

***\*Kitah Zayin meets in religious school on Sunday mornings and with Midrasha on Monday evenings. It is a transition year when most of the students are also having individual Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons.***



### **Kitah Het (Grade 8) Mondays, 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.**

In the first hour of Midrasha, the core class will explore the roots of anti-Semitism, learning 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 model seder for the elderly residents. This is the first year that students may volunteer as part of the Madrichim Team and be a classroom aide for younger students.



### **Kitah Tet (Grade 9) Mondays, 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.**

**Midrash in the Modern World** – This course will examine a collection of midrashim (rabbinic lessons, parables, sayings), on the theme of violence. It introduces students to the rabbinic world and the value concepts of Judaism between the first and sixth centuries C.E. We will deal with moral and philosophical problems that emerge in biblical stories and consider how they were dealt with by the ancient rabbis and other Jewish thinkers such as Yehuda Halevi, Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, and Franz Kafka.



## **Shalshélet (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.

***\* Shalshélet (Grades 10-12) curriculum is largely based on student interest focusing on Israel, social justice, and teen issues. Shalshélet is a community program that does not require synagogue membership. We bring together teens from the entire Lehigh Valley.***

If you are interested in Shalshélet, please contact the school director, [Beth@bethelallentown.org](mailto:Beth@bethelallentown.org). This program can happen if there is sufficient interest.

### **Youth Services/Something for Everyone Shabbat**

Saturday, October 28th, 2023

Saturday, December 16th, 2023

Saturday, February 24, 2024

Saturday, May 11, 2024