

Temple Beth Sholom

Cherry Hill, NJ TBSONLINE.ORG



Rabbi Albert and Sarah Lewis Religious School בית ספר



Dear Rabbi Albert and Sarah Lewis Religious School families,

We are so excited to welcome you back to an exciting and meaningful year in our Rabbi Albert and Sarah Lewis Religious School at TBS. We hope that you are having a relaxing summer and are ready for a year of joyous celebrations and learning. Thank you for your dedication to our TBS community and your child's Jewish education. We appreciate your partnership and commitment to our community.

The following pages of this family handbook will outline the educational philosophy as well as the procedures we will implement to safely and joyfully have religious school classes and programs throughout the year. Our goal is to create a joyful and fun environment for your family to continue to grow and learn in our community!

Thank you again for your trust, partnership and support—it is a blessing to continue raising children together in our community. All of the clergy and staff are here to support your family and help in any way. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

B'Shalom,

Alex

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Health and Safety

The health and safety of all our Temple Beth Sholom members is our top priority.

At Home

Before coming to TBS, please check all members of your household to ensure that no one has a temperature of above 100.4. **If anyone in your house has a temperature of 100.4 or above, or has any of the symptoms listed below, please do not come to TBS and seek medical care:**

- Shortness of breath
- Rapid or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Sore throat or cough

If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep them at home and contact the Education Department office.

If someone becomes ill at TBS or we learn that an individual was in contact with someone diagnosed with Covid-19 or other communicable diseases, we will alert the affected classes or the entire school, as appropriate, as well as contact the New Jersey Department of Health. To that end, if you or a member of your family is diagnosed with Covid-19 or another communicable disease and have been to TBS within 14 days of the diagnosis, we ask that you immediately notify Alex Weinberg, Director of Congregational Learning.

At Temple Beth Sholom

Masks

Masks wearing in the religious school is optional for all participants. If Covid-19 cases in our area rise TBS may require masks to be worn based on state and local government guidance.

Social Distancing

Social distancing will be prioritized in our classrooms, programs, and services throughout the year. Classrooms will be set to maximize social distancing, and hallways will be monitored by the religious school faculty as well.



Cleaning

All class spaces are cleaned and sanitized before every class using electrostatic sprayers and other cleaners. All classrooms will also have cleaning supplies (wipes, gloves and spray) as well as hand sanitizer and tissues.

HVAC and Air Circulation

Temple Beth Sholom has installed a Global Plasma Solutions needlepoint bi-polar air ionization product in our HVAC system. It eradicates COVID-19 in our ventilation system in addition to other viruses, bacteria and fungi. The HVAC system will be running during all classes and programs to create constant air circulation. In addition to the HVAC system, windows will be opened when possible, to increase airflow into your room. Classes will also be encouraged to have sessions outside weather permitting.

Sunday Morning Drop Off and Pick Up

Drop off-9am Students must enter the building through the main entrance.

Students in grades K-1

An adult or responsible older sibling must walk the student to their classroom.

Students in grades 2-6

Adults are welcome and encouraged to walk with their student to their classroom. Alex Weinberg, Morah Harriet and other Education Department staff will welcome students at the entrance to TBS and help them find their classroom.

Dismissal 11:15am

Students in grades K-1

Adult or responsible older sibling must meet the student in their classroom.

Students in grades 2-6

Students in grades 2-6 will be dismissed through the front door of TBS. Adults are welcome to meet their child in the school lobby, main lobby or at the front of the building.

Wednesday Afternoon Drop Off and Pick Up

Drop off-4pm Students must enter the building through the main entrance.

Adults are welcome and encouraged to walk with their student to their classroom. Alex Weinberg, Morah Harriet and other Education Department staff will welcome students at the entrance to TBS and help them find their classroom.

Pick Up-6pm

Students will be walked by their teachers to the main entrance to meet their parents outside the building. Teachers will stay with their students until they have connected with a parent or carpool. **Parents, for the safety of all of our families, please park and walk with your child to your car.**



Late Arrival / Early Dismissal

Students arriving on Sundays after 9:15am or Wednesdays after 4:15pm —Parents please call the Education Department office so we know to look for your child when they arrive. Your child should walk to the school office to check in and then they will be escorted to their class.

If you need to pick your child up early from religious school classes, please call Morah Harriet or Morah Amanda in the school office 856-751-1824. Please meet your child in the Education Center office. Please do not call your child on their cellphone to arrange dismissal so we can account for all of our students throughout the day.

Food and Snacks in the Classroom

We ask students to limit eating their snacks brought from home to the first 15 minutes of class.

Students are encouraged to bring in a refillable water bottle from home and use the bottle water filling station next to the gift shop.

Sunday Bagel mornings

Students are encouraged to bring a light snack on Sunday mornings.

On October 22, November 19, December 17, January 7, February 11, March 3, and April 4, all students will be given a **bagel breakfast** as part of their class morning. These breakfasts will be a great way for our classes to create community as well as learn some of the blessings we say with our meals.

Wednesday afternoons

All students will be offered a piece of fruit (apple, orange, banana etc) and or a bag of pretzels when they arrive at TBS.

On September 27, October 18, November 1, December 6, January 24, February 21, March 13 and April 10 students will have the opportunity to purchase a soft pretzel for snack for \$1

Class Schedule:

K-1

Sunday 9-11:15am

2-6 grade

Sunday 9-11:15am and

Wednesday 4-6pm

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Tutoring

One of the many important goals we have in our religious school is to help each child reach their potential with Hebrew reading fluency. We recognize that for many students, this is a challenging skill. To aid our students in learning Hebrew, we offer individualized Hebrew reading support. This support is flexible and tailored to the needs of each student. At the beginning of the school year we evaluate the Hebrew level of every student and then for students who need, we provide 1 on 1 tutoring over Zoom outside of class time. If you would like your child to receive Hebrew tutoring enrichment, we are happy to create a schedule for your child as well. Please contact the Education Department Office with any questions.

Shabbat Attendance Requirement

Students in grades 3-6 are required to attend 10 Shabbat or holiday services throughout the year.

All students in grades Gimmel (3rd grade) through Vav (6th grade) are required to attend Shabbat Family Services and other Shabbat or Holiday Services 10 times during the school year. Students in grades K-2 are also strongly encouraged to attend Shabbat services and will be welcomed into all of our services. Attendance boxes are kept in the Joel A. Rose Chapel/Jenofsky Beit Midrash Beit Midrash. If you attend a virtual service or a service at another synagogue, please email Morah Harriet, harrietb@tbsonline.org so your child gets credit for the service.

Attendance records will be checked throughout the school year. Please note that Bar and Bat Mitzvah training and congregational B'nai Mitzvah participation may be impacted if a child does not attend the required amount of Shabbat services. Attendance will be taken at the end of each of our virtual Shabbat or holiday services. Services will be offered virtually four times a month and will include a combination of Friday evening, Shabbat morning, and Havdallah.

Tzedakah

A fundamental idea in Judaism is our responsibility for one another. In order to help our students perform this mitzvah, please send a little bit of money with your child to every Religious School class session. *Tzedakah* will be collected and donated to worthy causes throughout the year.

Homework

The supplemental nature of religious school makes it necessary to reinforce material at home. We recognize that we compete with the extracurricular programs of the secular schools. Our teachers are aware of these and other demands on your child(ren)'s time. They will assign appropriate amounts of homework to reinforce previously learned material and to give students a chance to respond creatively.



Guests

We strive to create a safe classroom environment for our students where they feel comfortable in our classes. **Therefore, please do not send guests with your child (except for special community-wide events) without consulting Alex.**

Cell Phones

The use of cell phones by any student is not allowed during school hours. **Please have all communication go through our Education Department Center at 856-751-1824 so that the school is aware of any special family arrangements. This includes early pickup arrangements.**

Family Programs

Family programs are designed to enhance classroom experiences and bring the family together in Jewish learning. These programs are fun, engaging, and meaningful for everyone. Younger, pre-religious school age siblings are invited to attend family programming. At least one parent is expected to attend family programs with their child(ren).

Attendance Expectations

With the limited timing of the program, it is very important for our students to attend all classes and programs. It is crucial that our students attend all class sessions. Students who miss more than 12 sessions in a year will be asked to do supplemental work and work with a tutor to complete classroom assignments. These tutoring sessions are not covered in our tuition fees and are the responsibility of the family.

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, the Religious School will announce its closing via email.

Code of conduct

The Temple Beth Sholom Rabbi Albert and Sarah Lewis Religious School strives to create a fun, supportive and engaging learning environment. We are excited for our students to have dynamic new classroom experiences throughout the year. To help create this atmosphere, we ask that all students and families adhere to our code of conduct including our online sessions:

Students must show *Kavod*—respect—to their fellow students, teachers and themselves. Language, whether written, typed or said out loud must reflect the *kavod* we strive to create at TBS. This also



includes proper use of muting a microphone and being aware of images that may be captured by a computer camera.

Honoring our teachers is a core Jewish value—students need to honor their teachers by helping create a fun environment in the classroom and adhering to rules that the teacher sets together with their students.

Students may not share any digital or print material, either through screen shots or other recording means, without the express written consent of the TBS Administration.

Behavior that is deemed to be bullying or not supportive of fellow students or teachers will not be tolerated. A student who displays this type of behavior either in person or online will be unable to participate in religious school classes and programming.

Full official policies for behavior are on file in the Education Department and will be provided upon request.

It is the responsibility of the entire school community - students, parents, teachers, and the director to share in encouraging and maintaining a standard of proper behavior in the school. Each person must assume certain responsibilities in order to ensure that the rights of all are protected.

Education Center Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:	9 am to 6 pm
Friday:	9 am to 3 pm
Sunday: (when in session)	9 am to 1 pm

Kippot

All boys are required and girls are encouraged to wear kippot. Please keep a kippah with your child's religious school materials.

Egalitarian Learning

Temple Beth Sholom is an egalitarian Conservative synagogue. All students of all genders will be given equal opportunity to participate in all ritual and learning experiences. All students will be encouraged to learn and try new experiences in a supportive and caring environment. Please contact the Education Center if your child or family does not feel comfortable participating in a specific ritual or learning experience. We will work with you to accommodate your request.



Food/ Nut Sensitive Policy

The Temple Beth Sholom Education Department is built on the foundation that every child grows and thrives in an atmosphere that is safe and nurturing. Each year we have a number of children with peanut/tree nut allergies. To help ensure the health and safety of all of our students, Temple Beth Sholom schools will all be a Peanut/Tree Nut- Sensitive environment.

Peanuts, peanut products, or products containing traces of peanuts or tree nuts may not be brought into the school wing of TBS. For some children with a nut allergy, even the smell of peanuts can cause life-threatening symptoms. Foods that are brought to TBS for group consumption must be certified Kosher, in their original packaging and not contain nuts. For the safety of all of our students, please contact the Education Department office before you bring in any food for group distribution. Thank you for your help as we work ensure the health and safety of all the members of our community!

For families that have a child with a nut or other food allergy:

We will work with you to provide a safe learning environment for your child! Please make sure we have all of your child's allergy information and care plans on file. If you have questions or concerns about your child's allergy, please contact the Education Department office.

Our general procedures for food distribution are:

- Before any food is given out in our school we contact our families that have children with food allergies (either by email or phone call).
- When food is given out, we save all food labels.
- If there is ever a question or concern about a child being given a food, we try to err on the side of caution.

Learning in Our Community

We strive to create the most effective and meaningful learning environment for all of our students in our religious school. If your child has an IEP, 504 plan or other special learning modifications in their secular school, please inform the Education Department office so we can continue the learning approaches in our Religious School. All information shared with the Religious School is held in strict confidentiality and will only be used to help our students be successful in our programs.

