

CRS Co-Director Letter for August 2021 Temple Bulletins

We hope by now you've seen plenty of publicity about the new Community Religious School (CRS) opening this fall and are as enthusiastic about it as we are!

Thank you to the Jewish Journal of WNY for featuring us on the front cover of their July issue and including a great write-up of the school inside. Thank you to all of the parents who have already completed the online registration for their children. If you haven't yet registered your children, pre-K thru 7th grade, please do so now. *The sooner you register, the better we can plan for the upcoming year!* Our easy-to-use registration form is online at <https://www.jotform.com/211467225215146>. (No payment is required at the time of registration.)

Your CRS Co-Directors, Beth Steinberg and Einav Symons, are working through these hot summer months on numerous aspects of this exciting new venture: hiring and preparing our faculty, reviewing our curricula, choosing materials for teachers and students, developing our *Tefilah* and minyanim, determining our building usage and making classroom assignments, promoting the CRS throughout the community, processing our online registrations, and planning for our Opening Day on September 12th!

Note to Parents: You are encouraged to stay all morning (9-11:30AM) with us on Opening Day! You will spend some of that time with your child and also have an opportunity to connect with other CRS parents as well as learn more about our program.

We are delighted that several teachers from the CSS/Gesher and TBZ Religious Schools will be staying on with us in the new school. We are enthusiastically welcoming other qualified, passionate individuals to

our team. We are also looking to connect with college students living in the area who would like to enhance their own Jewish life and experiences while contributing their skills and energy to the wider Buffalo Jewish community.

The CRS is proud to continue the wonderful tradition of utilizing volunteer teens as *Madrachim* (volunteer guides). The *Madrachim* program helps our teens (8th-12th graders) to build self-confidence, strengthens their pride in being Jewish, reinvigorates their thirst for Jewish knowledge, and confirms a meaningful place for them in our community. The students in our religious schools look up to their *Madrachim* as role models and relate to them in a very special and loving way.

Madrachim may engage in assisting teachers in lesson preparation, leading small group discussions or activities, devising and leading classroom games and activities, providing 1-on-1 assistance to students, modeling Jewish values, providing a safe and caring environment for every student, sharing their *ruach* (spirit), and showing how “cool” it is to be Jewish! If you or someone you know would like to participate in the CRS *Madrachim* program, please contact Beth or Einav. Most, if not all, local high schools recognize these hours for their volunteer service requirements.

While the CRS is a collaboration of Congregation Shir Shalom, Temple Beth Tzedek, and Temple Beth Zion, we welcome students whose families aren't currently members of any of these three congregations. If you are new to the area, haven't yet made a commitment to synagogue membership, or are affiliated with another synagogue in the Buffalo area, we are delighted to welcome you and your children! Feel free to use our online registration link. You will be contacted to discuss billing arrangements or you can email either of us directly.

We look forward to welcoming all of our new and returning parents and students on 9/12/2021 and beginning to build a wonderful partnership and model of Jewish learning for our whole community!

L'shalom,

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