

Temple Beth Am Religious School

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Temple Beth Am Religious School Vision

To provide an outstanding education for our inclusive community of lifelong learners as we strive to cultivate literate and ethical Jews according to the values of Reform Judaism.

Temple Beth Am Religious School Mission

To encourage a lifelong, meaningful expression of Judaism through: an innovative curriculum that inspires and challenges spiritually, intellectually, and ethically; a staff that is nurtured and nurturing; and a supportive community that embraces diversity.

Temple Beth Am Religious School Core Values and Principles

The Temple Beth Am Religious School is founded on three core values and supporting principles:

Torah (Jewish Learning)

1. Offering students a basic foundation in Jewish literacy
2. Nurturing a love of learning that continues throughout a student's life
3. Modeling how Jewish values inform personal decision making
4. Teaching students to wrestle with text, ask questions, think critically, and appreciate that Judaism is sophisticated and beautiful
5. Providing students with possible ways to explore answers to life's ultimate questions through an understanding of Jewish history and exposure to ancient and modern Jewish wisdom
6. Fostering an appreciation that Reform Judaism is an authentic outgrowth of the development of Jewish tradition over the centuries
7. Encouraging connection with families by extending learning opportunities beyond the classroom and into the home and community
8. Promoting Hebrew literacy in order to open doors to future study of Hebrew

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Avodah (Worship)

1. Providing opportunities for students to wrestle with their God beliefs, explore their personal spirituality and theology, and connect with God and spirituality in their everyday lives and in settings beyond the sanctuary walls
2. Encouraging a commitment to lifelong participation in Jewish worship
3. Helping students see themselves as made in God's image and capable of being God's hands in our world
4. Fostering an understanding that students can be prayer leaders, not just participants in prayer led by others
5. Modeling the value of prayer and service literacy by helping students become comfortable with the customs of Reform Jewish worship
6. Teaching Siddur Hebrew to increase student comfort with worship in any synagogue, regardless of denomination or location

G'milut Chasadim (Acts of Loving-Kindness)

1. Encouraging pride and joy in being a part of the Jewish community and in being part of the covenant between God and the Jewish people
2. Teaching an appreciation of Klal Yisrael (the entire community of Jews around the world), including respect for Reform Judaism and all varieties of Jewish practice
3. Respecting the diversity within the Jewish community, so that all of our students feel included and valued
4. Ensuring that our school addresses the needs of all learners with specific outreach to those with special needs, so that all students have the opportunity to receive a Jewish education
5. Modeling how Jewish teachings, ethics, and values teach students to behave in their homes, school, community, and the world at large; practice tzedakah and tikkun olam; and care for the most vulnerable in our society
6. Understanding the benefits of being a part of a community in both good times and bad throughout one's lifetime
7. Fostering friendships among students, so they will feel comfortable in the Beth Am community
8. Teaching our students to value our historic and modern connection with the land and people of Israel
9. Promoting Hebrew literacy in order to foster our students' connection with the land of Israel and with Jews around the world