



If you are reporting an absence, please let us know as early as possible.

Thank you!

Organization

Beit Midrash: Junior Kindergarten through grade 6, Sundays, 9:30am-12:30pm

Beit Noar: Senior School, grades 7 – 10, Mondays, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Beit Ivrit: Afternoon Hebrew, grades 3 – 6, Tuesdays, 4:45pm – 6:45pm

Philosophy and Goals

Beit Midrash, Beit Ivrit, and Beit Noar provide the building blocks for students to develop and deepen their Jewish identity by:

- teaching a rich, engaging curriculum that includes holidays and traditions, Torah and Tanach (Hebrew Bible), G'milut Chasadim (deeds of loving-kindness), Tzedakah, Israel, Jewish history, and Jewish ethics;
- teaching a Hebrew curriculum: including Modern Hebrew and prayer skills allowing the students to develop literacy skills so that they may follow and participate in worship services
- helping our students and their families form connections with other temple families, thereby strengthening their ties to Temple Har Zion and the greater Jewish community.

Interested in Getting involved?

Please contact Judy at judy@harzion.ca regarding any of the following:

Share Your Skills

Do you have a skill to share with the school? Some skill ideas include (but are not limited to): cooking, art, building, guest reader.

HeLP – Hebrew Learning Partners

This year we are continuing with Hebrew Learning Partners (HeLP). We are welcoming volunteers to listen to students read Hebrew on Tuesday afternoons. Basic Hebrew reading skills required. Please contact Judy for more information or to sign up.

Donations Accepted

There are many things that can help us out. For example, working laptops and tablets, costumes, art supplies, Hebrew learning materials and games. Please arrange all donations with Judy prior to dropping them off at the synagogue.

School Policies

Nut Policy

To ensure the health and safety of students and teachers with severe food and nut allergies, we ask that **NO NUTS, NUT PRODUCTS, OR NUT OILS** be sent to school at any time.

If you are sending food items to school, please check with the classroom teacher to see if there are any other food allergies in your child's class group.

Please help us keep our school safe for everyone!

Health Protocols

If your student is not well or symptomatic, please contact us through email or a phone call and have them stay home.

Behaviour Expectations

Students are expected to treat each other, all staff, ideas, and property with *kavod* – honour and respect. Should this not be the case, the teacher will talk with the student, and will follow up with parents and senior staff as necessary. If the behaviour of any student disrupts the learning environment of the classroom, the family will be contacted and immediate action will be taken so that the learning in the Beit Midrash, Beit Ivrit, and Beit Noar classes can continue in a positive manner. If necessary, the disruptive student will be removed from the program and, where appropriate, an alternative educational program will be arranged.

B'nai Mitzvah Requirements

To be eligible to be called to the Torah as B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Har Zion, students must study Hebrew for a minimum of three years. Students entering Grade 3 are automatically enrolled in Hebrew classes. In addition, students must have completed three years (or the equivalent) of formal religious education studies in our school setting.

Any exceptions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the Educator, Rabbi and Cantor.

Interfaith Families

Temple Har Zion welcomes interfaith families. However, enrolment in the Religious School is offered only to children who are not receiving formal education in any other religion.

Diversity Equality Inclusivity Statement

We are an inclusive, diverse, multicultural, and multigenerational congregation. Our focus is warmth, friendship, caring, and acceptance. We welcome Jews by heritage, Jews by choice, secular Jews, and interfaith families; members of all ethnicities, abilities, socioeconomic statuses, political affiliations, ages, sexual orientations, or gender identities.

Emergency School Closing

In case of an emergency school closing we will make every effort to contact all families in a timely manner. Please call Temple Har Zion at 905-889-2252 or click [here](#) if you are unsure if a school session has been cancelled.

School Fees Policy

Outlined below is the school fees policy for refunds to families who choose, for various reasons, to withdraw their child(ren) from Temple Har Zion Religious School.

1. **School fees are non-refundable.** Teachers are hired, supplies ordered, and programs are set up based on the paid fees for the school year.
2. **In circumstances deemed extraordinary by the Temple Har Zion Executive, consideration will be given to a partial refund as indicated below, provided the request is received prior to December 31 of any school year.**
 - a. **For a Temple Har Zion family, consideration will be given to a refund of 50% of the pro-rated balance of the school fees, such refund to be applied to either**
 - i. continued education at Temple Har Zion for any child of the family; or
 - ii. membership contributions for the following year.
 - b. **For a family that is not a member of Temple Har Zion, consideration will be given to a refund of 25% of the pro-rated balance of the school fees, such refund to be applied to either**
 - i. continued education at Temple Har Zion for any child of the family; or
 - ii. the cost of becoming a Temple Har Zion member; or
 - iii. the cost of High Holy Day tickets for the following year.

Opening Days

Opening Dates		
Beit Midrash Gr. Jk-6 בית מדרש Sunday, October 1 9:30 am - 12:30 pm	Beit Noar -Gr. 7-9 בית נוער Monday October 2 6:00- 8:00 pm	Beit Ivrit Gr. 3-6 בית עברית Tuesday Oct. 3 4:45- 6:45 pm

WELCOME BACK TO ALL OUR FAMILIES- PARENTS AND STUDENT DAYS!

Beit Midrash – Oct 1 – 9:30-12:30pm

Come meet our staff, meet our teachers, sing, celebrate Sukkot and enjoy some great hands-on activities to start the year! T'fillah with a twist, gather under the THZ Sukkah with our Clergy, and add your own special touch to beautify it! Join the High Holiday Challenge, go Apple Picking off site or stay to cook and/or plant in THZ's garden!

Beit Ivrit - October 3 – 4:45-6:45pm

Follow your students and experience an afternoon of Beit Ivrit ! Meet our teachers, learn some Hebrew, eat some snacks and find out what Beit Ivrit is all about!

Beit Noar – October 2- 6:00-8:00pm

Join us for a very special evening for our Beit Noar students and parents! Pizza dinner, Beit Noar orientation for grades 7, 8 and 9. Special parents' workshop with Lisa Goodman and Kevin Greene while the students meet with our teachers. Confirmation parents are welcome to join us at the workshop.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures – SIGN IN AND OUT!

If you are unable to pick up or drop off your children on time, please contact Judy as early as possible so that we can reassure your child(ren) and supervise appropriately. judy@harzion.ca or 905 889 2252 ex 104

Late Arrival

Our classes and activities begin promptly at 9:30, and it is important for students to arrive on time. If a student is frequently late, a staff member will make a home contact to discuss the situation, and try to help solve any problems, ensuring that school requirements are being met. Please contact us early if there is to be an absence or a late arrival. Thank you.

Early Departure

The following procedure ensures the safety of our students and minimal disruption of classes if early dismissal is required:

1. A written authorization from parents/guardians must accompany the child to class.
2. Please make sure to indicate who will pick up the child, especially if it is not a parent.
3. The teacher will forward this information to the office and a record of the early departure will be made.
4. Please go the main doors when it is time for your child to leave school. One of our office staff will be informed by the security guard of your arrival your child will be accompanied to the main doors.

No student will be dismissed without adult supervision.

School Routines

School – Home Communication

Most notices home will be sent via e-mail. This approach will enable us to keep in closer contact, and to provide you with information that will not get lost at the bottom of the student's bag. Please keep us informed of any changes in your e-mail address. Once a month a newsletter will be published containing updates from each of our classes and upcoming events for the following month.

Attendance

Being On Time

Children do best when they're not stressed! Please make every effort to bring your children to Religious School on time so that they can transition comfortably into the learning activities of the day.

Communicating About Absences

If possible, please let us know, by phone, e-mail, or written note, if your children will miss class for any reason.

Participating in less than 75% of scheduled learning time in a supplemental school setting has been shown to interfere with students' learning and social adjustment. Please help us to provide your children with the best possible experience at Temple Har Zion Religious School by seeing that they miss as few classes as possible.

If there are two absences in a row, you will receive a postcard in the mail with information regarding contacting the teacher to see what was missed.

Hafsakah (break) and Snack

This coming school year, snack time (Challah) will be served to all our classes. Families are being asked to send a reusable water bottle. If the weather allows, *hafsakah* can be taken outside.

Shabbat Service Attendance

All students in our Religious School are encouraged to attend Shabbat services each year. Attending worship services, whether online or in person. It serves several purposes: It allows the child (and the family) to become familiar with the beautiful prayers and melodies at THZ; it encourages the warm feeling of community; and it enables our students to practice their Hebrew. Together, these make B'nai Mitzvah and Confirmation preparation much easier when the time comes.

Family Education Program

Lilmod B'Yachad – Learning Together (Family Education)

During Beit Midrash, there will be three Sunday morning programs for all of our students and families. **Sukkot – October 1, Congregational Mitzvah Day (NEW) – November 19, and Pesach – April 21.** Details will be sent to you well in advance of each Lilmod B'Yachad event.

Class Shabbatot

Each grade group will be attending and hosting a Friday night Shabbat Service. They will prepare an interpretation of the Shabbat Parasha and present it during the service.

Dec 1 - Grade 5-6

Feb 2 - Grade 3-4

April 5 - Jk-2

Music

Students in JK through Grade 6 will have weekly music classes taught by Jakey Berman and Tal Rozenblit. They will meet each week in the Sanctuary. You will have an opportunity to hear your students sing at Shabbat Family services once a month, and Shabbat Shira.

Israel Engagement (The ShinShinim program)

This year our *ShinShinit* is Shira Eliahu. Shira is an Israeli high school graduate who has chosen to postpone army service by a year and come to Toronto for a “Year of service – *Sh’nat Sherut*”. (The word ShinShin [pl. ShinShinim] is an acronym formed from Sh’nat Sherut, using the first letter – shin – of each of the two words.) Shira will be working with students in Beit Midrash, and Beit Ivrit, bringing Israel to them and helping to connect our students to Israel.

Shira will also be leading Israel Culture Club programs for our Temple Har Zion community one Tuesday every month.

The ShinShinim program is funded in part by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Beit Midrash/Beit Noar Curriculum

Curricula	Core Yr. 1	G'milut Chasadim Yr 1	Israel as a Shared Space	Holidays and Hebrew
Jk-K	My Jewish Home	Jewish and Me Mitzvot	Language, What is a Jewish Country? Intro to Shared Space	HTM Marking the holidays throughout the year
Grade 1/2	B'reishit (Genesis) Chai Level 1	We are all Heroes Chai Level 1	Language, What is a Jewish Country? Intro to Shared Space	HTM Marking the holidays throughout the year
Grade 3-4	Jewish Life Cycle	Acts of Holiness (Vayikra) Chai Level 3	Language, What is a Jewish Country? Shared Space – RJCC Curriculum	Beit Ivrit Marking the holidays throughout the year
Grade 5-6	My Jewish Identity	Exploring my roots	Language, What is a Jewish Country? Shared Space – RJCC Curriculum	Beit Ivrit B'nai Mitzvah prep – trope Marking the holidays throughout the year
Grade 7-8	Discovering my Judaism Asking the big questions	Tikkun Olam in action Menschlichkeit Exploring the Middot	Understanding the Conflict Contemporary Israel, Shoah	Getting back to T'fillah – B'nai Mitzvah Conversational Hebrew
Grade 9	Finding Strength in Judaism	Tikkun Olam in action, Resilience of the Soul	Understanding the Conflict Contemporary Israel, Shoah	Jewish Life Hebrew Vocabulary
Confirmation	Confirming Commitment to Torah through study, prayer and Acts of Loving-kindness	Understanding of other faith communities: Visiting different houses of worship Volunteering	Who we are: Holocaust, Israel, Our beginnings in North America (NYC)	Attending Services and Preparation for Confirmation on Erev Shavuot. Leading the congregation in prayer and chanting Torah and Haftarah portions will be assigned to the Confirmation class.

Beit Ivrit (Hebrew) Curriculum

JK through to Grade 2 will participate on Sunday mornings in Hebrew Thought Movement HTM).

HTM is a language acquisition strategy in which students learn Hebrew by hearing and responding to Hebrew commands. It introduces Hebrew in a playful and meaningful way, creating a positive first link between children and Hebrew.

The Tuesday afternoon program, *Beit Ivrit*—House of Hebrew—is where students focus on acquiring and strengthening their Hebrew skills—skills that will enable them to participate as B’nai Mitzvah, to worship and study with other Jews, to identify with Israel and the Jewish world, and to evolve their own spiritual identities.

Each class (*kitah*) goes by their Hebrew letter name: *Kitah Gimel*, *Kitah Dalet*, *Kitah Hey*, *Kitah Vav*— Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 respectively.

Students in Grades 3 through 6 will engage in Hebrew through an individual reading program. They learn to decode Hebrew (to sound out the consonants and vowels), build a vocabulary of Hebrew meanings and ideas that underlie Jewish values and beliefs, and become familiar with simple elements of Hebrew grammar. We are continuing with “*Halvrit Sheli*” (My Hebrew) providing Hebrew engagement through various resources and activities. Shira Eliahu will be joining us and leading the students in fun Hebrew activities.

Components of Beit Ivrit

Students will engage in Hebrew:

- mini-lessons
- individual reading time, Halvrit Sheli, ShinShinit activities; and
- whole-school T’filah – services.
- Snack time gives the students a chance to practice their Hebrew skills!

All these components of the program include ongoing Hebrew skill assessment so that students receive the support they need to become proficient Hebrew decoders.

- **Special Hebrew Needs:** Students who have special learning needs or who are receiving Hebrew tutoring because of other circumstances follow the same curriculum and use the same materials as their peers. The Director of Education oversees and facilitates the learning process with these students and their tutors. Frequent, detailed communication is provided to ensure your children’s success!
- All students in grades 3 – 6, including those who are tutored for Hebrew, attend Beit Midrash on Sunday mornings 9:30 – 12:30.
- All students in grade 7, including those who are tutored for Hebrew, those who attend Jewish day school, and those who have begun their B’nai Mitzvah lessons, attend Beit Noar on Mondays 6:00 – 8:00pm

Beit Noar

Grade 7-8

The Grade 7-8 year is a year of *Middot* and *Menschlichkeit*, exploring their own Judaism through creative experiences, our shared Jewish History and exploration of our Jewish holidays throughout the year.

Students will have the opportunity to engage in class discussions and learn more about their Jewish selves as they enter their years of becoming Jewish adults.

Grade 7 Students will focus on their Hebrew prayer reading skills (T'filah) and Grade 8 students will engage in Modern Hebrew during Beit Noar. There will be a weekend retreat on November 3-5 at Lake St. George for a weekend of learning, group building and Tikkun Olam. Pizza Dinner served once a month. Please check the calendar.

Grade 9

Trip to Montreal

A fall weekend retreat with students from other Reform Temples across the GTA brings them to amazing Montreal. Our Grade 9 students, alongside Cantor Littman, will have the opportunity to spend Shabbat at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, visit the Jewish Museum, enjoy the Old Port, Montreal's Biodome and, of course, eat fresh Montreal bagels!

Learn with Cantor Littman

Each month the class will join Cantor Littman in her "Resilience of the Soul" program.

Guest speakers and hands-on activities

Cooking with Marnee, exploring Israel through a contemporary lens, field trips, and working with a visual artist are just some of the highlights of this program focussed on living Jewishly as a young adult.

Pizza dinner every Monday, except when we are off-site. Please check the calendar.

Confirmation – Grade 10

The Grade 10 year is the year of Confirmation – the year during which Jewish teens confirm their commitment to *Torah* (study), *Avodah* (prayer), and *G'milut Chasadim* (acts of loving-kindness). Showing commitment to Torah is demonstrated by attendance at the Monday study sessions with the Rabbi and other staff. Attendance at a required number of services, as well as preparing and leading the Confirmation service on Erev Shavuot shows commitment to Avodah. In addition, students choose an area of interest for regular community service. The year includes a weekend trip to New York City with Rabbi Weiss April 12-14. Pizza Dinner every Monday, except when we are off-site. Please check the calendar.

The culmination of the Confirmation year is the Confirmation service on Erev Shavuot, June 11, 2024

Madrichim program (School assistants)

All our Grade 7-12 students are eligible to become a madrich(a) at Beit Midrash and/or Beit Ivrit this year! *Madrich* (masculine) or *madricha* (feminine) are the Hebrew terms for guide or leader.

Madrichim will have the opportunity to work in our school as assistants in our classes and gain valuable experience working with children. Our Madrichim coordinators, Julie Sermer and Paul Beard, will be teaching and guiding our Madrichim throughout the year. Please contact the office for more information.

Programs for our Youth

Programs for Young Families

Watch for information coming your way for programs designed especially for our youngest members and their families! Family Services, Shabbat Fun, Havdalah and other programming is coming your way throughout the year!

Youth Groups: Julie Sermer and Paul Beard

Youth Group Advisors
youthadvisor@harzion.ca

JHAZY – Grades 7 & 8

The JHAZY youth group is a fun way for our Grade 7 and 8 students to continue building on the relationships they have developed with their classmates in an informal and engaging environment. Events are socially focused and infused with Jewish components to allow students to begin to develop an identity of who they are as a young Reform Jew, as well as to develop the social skills necessary as high school approaches. Overnights, weekend retreats and youth services are just some of the programs available to JHAZY members. JHAZY also has the unique opportunity to attend two NFTY regional events for the year, where they will meet with other grade 7 and 8 students across Ontario and the Northeastern Great Lakes region.

MHarZY – Grades 9-12

MHarZY is a fantastic opportunity for teens to connect with their friends in a social, educational and cultural environment, while creating opportunities to build new and lasting relationships with classmates, as well as teens from other teen groups across Ontario and Northeastern Great Lakes region.

Events offered range from social overnights, social action and community service for local and international Jewish charitable organizations to culturally based learning opportunities. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer and to help with younger Temple youth programs. The senior teen youth group also belongs to NFTY NEL, the Northeast Lakes region of NFTY, and has between four and seven trips per year to different locations to participate in leadership conferences, retreats and camp get-aways.

Links and support materials:

<https://www.akhlah.com/>

“Hebrew for Children” link has many resources for parents and children including sound recordings for each letter of the alef-bet, work sheets and flash cards to print. The website itself covers a range of Jewish topics with respect to all branches of Judaism.

<https://www.bimbam.com/>

Short, animated videos that cover a range of topics from holidays to Torah, Texts and Jewish traditions

<https://urj.org/>

find out what’s going on at the Union of Reform Judaism

<http://www.isitajewishholidaytoday.com/>

Ever wonder if it’s a Jewish holiday? Get your yes or no here!

<https://www.hebc.com/>

Yearlong holidays, Holiday dates, and Torah readings

DATES AT A GLANCE. “Keep this on your fridge”

BEIT MIDRASH CELEBRATES WITH OUR FAMILIES

Sunday Oct 01, 9:30-12:30 - **Sukkot** - All school-All families Sukkah celebration – Apple Picking and fun.

Sunday Nov 19, 9:30-12:30 - **Congregational Mitzvah Day** - All School-All families

Sunday Mar 24, TIMES TBD - **Purim Carnival** - More information to come!

Sunday Apr 21, 9:30- 12:30 – **Pesach Family Day**

BEIT MIDRASH COOKING DAYS WITH MARNEE BIRNBAUM-PEARL

Oct 22, Nov 26, Dec 17, Jan 14, Feb 4, Mar 3, Apr 14, May 5

TRAVELS AND RETREATS – BEIT NOAR/GRADE 9/CONFIRMATION

Nov 3-5 - **Grade 7-8** – Retreat @ Lake St. George,

Nov 27- **Beit Noar (7-10)** Toronto Holocaust Museum

Nov 10-12 **Grade 9** – Trip to Montreal

Apr 12-14 **Grade 10 / Confirmation** – Trip to New York City

WORKSHOPS

Monday Nov 13 & 20 **Grade 7** Tallit Workshop. Students and parents/guardians will attend both sessions.

Monday Nov 13 & 20 **Grade 8** Tikkun Olam workshop.

IMPORTANT DATES TO GATHER AT THZ!

Saturday Nov 4 - **Consecration Service** for Kindergarten students and New Students: All are welcome!

FRIDAYS, 6:30 PM **CLASS SHABBATOT NEW!**

Friday Dec 1 - **Grade 5-6** Camp George Shabbat. Camp Scholarship Reward

Friday Feb 4 – **Grade 3-4**

Friday Apr – **JK-2**

Saturday Jan 27 10:30-12:30 **Shabbat Shira** Students and their families, along with the rest of the THZ community, will attend the Shabbat Shira service at THZ. Please note that Beit Midrash will not be meeting that **Sunday, Jan.28.**

Saturday May 11, 10:30 am - **Last Day of School Shabbat Extravaganza!** This includes: Matan Siddur (Grade 3), V’ahavta, (Grade 6), and Teacher Appreciation – All Families

Mon May 06 - **Beit Noar 7-8/Grade 9 and Grade 10** - Participation in Yom Hashoah Memorial Service – No classes that day.

Friday Jun 2, 7:00 pm - **High School Graduation and Camp Blessings** Tuesday June 11, TIME TBD - **Grade 10** – Students lead Shavuot and Confirmation Service