



5782 | 2021-2022

**CONGREGATION BETH AM YOUTH EDUCATION
PARENT HANDBOOK**

YOUR YOUTH EDUCATION TEAM!



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BETH AM CLERGY & STAFF

Rabbi Jeremy Morrison, Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Jonathan Prosnit, Associate Rabbi

Cantor Jaime Shpall, Cantor

Rabbi Heath Watenmaker, Associate Rabbi

Rabbi Sarah Weissman, Associate Rabbi

Rachel Tasch, Executive Director

Wendy Askenas, B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator

Jhonathan Azurdia, Custodian

Jaime Castaneda, Custodian

Kelsey Cole, Synagogue Operations Manager

Orlando Dejesus, Custodian

Mandy Eisner, Director of Development

Paige Kaplan, Engagement & Experience Manager

Bria Silbert, Rabbis' & Executive Director's Support

Talia Turkenitz, Accounting Specialist

Liz Vaisben, Communications Manager

Karen Wilkinson, Accounting Manager

Valdemar Vazquez, Facilities Supervisor

HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

HOLIDAYS

Leil S'lichot - August 28, 2021
Erev Rosh Hashanah – September 5, 2021
Rosh Hashanah - September 6-8, 2021
Erev Yom Kippur – September 14, 2021
Yom Kippur - September 15-16, 2021
Sukkot - September 20-22, 2021
Simchat Torah - September 28-29, 2021
Chanukah - November 28-December 6, 2021

Tu Bishvat - January 16-17, 2022
Purim - March 16-17, 2022
Pesach - April 15-22, 2022
Yom HaShoah - April 27-28, 2022
Lag B'Omer - May 18-19, 2022
Shavuot - June 4-6, 2022

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday Program Open House - September 12, 2021
Kindergarten Consecration - September 24, 2021
Family Chanukah Celebration - December 3, 2021

Purim Carnival - March 20, 2022

HAGIGAH PERFORMANCES

December 11 and 12, 2021

May 14 and 15, 2022

FAMILY EDUCATION DAYS

October 17, 2021 - 3rd Grade
November 7, 2021- 6th Grade
November 14, 2021 - 4th Grade
December 5, 2021 - 1st-2nd Grade
December 12, 2021 - 7th Grade

January 9, 2022 - 6th Grade
January 23, 2022 - 5th Grade
February 13, 2022 - PreK-K

GRADE LEVEL SHABBATS

September 24, 2021 - Kindergarten
(Consecration)
October 1, 2021 - 1st and 2nd Grade
November 5, 2021 - 3rd Grade

January 28, 2022 - PreK (with Tot Shabbat)
February 4, 2022 - 4th Grade
March 4, 2022 - 5th Grade (B'nei Mitzvah Launch)

3RD-5TH GRADE MONTHLY CLUBS

September 26, 2021
October 24, 2021
December 5, 2021

January 23, 2022
February 27, 2022
March 27, 2022
May 1, 2022

REFORM JUDAISM

TEACHING WITH A REFORM JEWISH LENS MEANS...

- **INVITING QUESTIONS.** Encourage learners to ask questions and engage in debate. Don't feel like you need to have the answers. Inviting children to give their own answers and to find traditional Jewish answers brings them into the very Jewish act of questioning and interpreting all of life's questions.
- **FOCUSING ON VALUES.** Everything we do is to help give children a moral center rooted in Jewish values and ethical *mitzvot*. Judaism is a touchstone that can help them make the right decisions in difficult situations and contribute to making the world a better place.
- **INFORMED CHOICE.** A central tenet of Reform Jewish education is that we give students a foundational knowledge of Jewish tradition. We hope that they will take what they learn and interpret it, and implement Jewish practice in such a way that they bring meaning, connection and Judaism into their lives. When students create a new way to practice a Jewish value or holiday that's based in Jewish teaching, that's informed choice at its best!
- **CREATING AN INCLUSIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY.** Everyone, no matter their learning or physical abilities, gender identity, sexual orientation or parent's sexual orientation, ethnicity, Jewish practice at home, or if they have non-Jewish family members, are full, valued and equal members of our community. Great teachers help children live this by fostering learning communities in which children and the teacher value each other.
- **CONNECTING WITH *KLAL YISRAEL*** (all of Israel). Jews are a people, "Israel." We strive to develop in students a connection with other Jews and with the State of Israel.

BETH AM BRIT

OUR COMMUNITY NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS



Beth Am Youth Education Brit

Kavod • כבוד • Respect

כבוד

Kavod

for

Self

- We are kind to ourselves and open to growth
- We make safe and thoughtful choices
- We show we are fully present and engaged by actively participating
- We ask for help when needed
- We listen to and take care of our bodies

כבוד

Kavod

for

Others

- We show care for others through our words and actions
- We treat one another with kindness and honor
- We include and stand up for each other
- We offer any help we can give to others
- We always ask permission before entering someone else's space or touching them

כבוד

Kavod

for

Space

- We protect our campus by keeping it clean
- We understand Beth Am's ritual spaces and objects to be sacred
- We treat our indoor and outdoor areas with care
- We keep our spaces safe for ourselves and others
- We are aware of our impact on the environment

POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND PROCEDURES

THE EDUCATION OFFICE

The Education Office will be open during Sunday and Wednesday programs. A staff member will be present at all times in the Education Office to help with early student pickup, medical emergencies, and/or other situations that may arise.

LOST AND FOUND

Most lost Youth Education items end up in the Education Office. Feel free to check out the Lost and Found bin and/or contact a member of the Youth Ed team if your child has lost something on campus. We highly recommend that you label all of your child(ren)'s items so they are easier to identify.

PICK UP/DROP OFF PROCEDURES

PREK-2ND GRADE STUDENTS

- **DROP OFF:** Students can be dropped off directly at the Drop Off spot (the stairs by Chapel/BATY Lounge) **OR** can be walked to the Outdoor Chapel for t'filah by their parent/guardian.
- **PICK UP:** All PreK-2nd Grade students will be picked up from the Drop Off area. 3rd-5th grade siblings can join their younger sibling(s) at the Drop Off area.

3RD-7TH GRADE STUDENTS

- **DROP OFF:** Students can be dropped off directly at the Drop Off spot (the stairs by Chapel/BATY Lounge).
- **PICK UP:** All 3rd-7th Grade students should be picked up either at the Pick Up spot (the stairs by the Conference Room/Beth Am Admin Office) or can be picked up directly from t'filah in the Outdoor Chapel.
 - If you plan to pick up your 3rd-5th grade child *directly from t'filah*, please be sure to notify your child's teacher before you leave.
 - Teachers and/or madrichim will escort the rest of the students to their designated pick up spot.

Appendix A shows a full map of campus, designating the Drop Off and Pick Up spots as well as the location of t'filah. T'filah will take place in the Outdoor Chapel this school year, weather permitting.

If someone other than your child's parent/guardian will be picking them up from programs, please tell your child's teacher ahead of time.

WHAT IF I HAVE CHILDREN IN BOTH PREK-2ND GRADE AND 3RD-5TH?

Email a member of the Education Team! We will inform the appropriate PreK-2nd grade teacher that a sibling (or siblings) will be joining their student for pick up, and you can pick up all of your children at the PreK-2nd Grade Drop Off area.

STUDENT EARLY PICKUP PROCEDURES

Parents can only pick up students early from class by first going to the Ed Office. You will sign your child/ren out using the **"Sign-Out Clipboard."** The Ed Office staff will use the walkie talkies to radio that a student needs to come to the Ed Office and they will come to meet you.

STUDENT LATE PICKUP PROCEDURES

If you know you will be late (over 15 minutes) picking up your child/ren, please call the Education Office to let the staff know (650-493-4665). Your child will wait for you in the Education Office and you should pick them up directly from there.

Any child who has not been picked up within 15 minutes of the designated pick up time will be escorted to the Education Office. Either a staff person or the child will call parents/guardians directly. If we cannot get in contact with a parent/guardian, we will call the additional people listed on your child's registration form.

ATTENDANCE

In a normal year, all students are expected to attend at least 80% of class sessions. Missing over 20% of a school year will impact students' learning and ability to connect with their cohort and our Beth Am community. Enrollment and attendance are eligibility requirements for B'nei Mitzvah or Confirmation.

HOWEVER, we're still in a pandemic and want to keep everyone as safe as possible! If your child has even the slightest sniffle, we encourage you to keep them home from Beth Am. Please be sure to email your child's teacher if they will be absent for the day.

TZEDAKAH

Our primary reason for collecting Tzedakah is to teach a Jewish value—we give to those who need it because it's the right thing to do, not just because we want to. Each classroom will receive a Tzedakah box at the start of the school year.

We encourage you to send your child with a little bit (the act of giving matters more than the amount!) of Tzedakah each week. At the end of each month, each class's Tzedakah will be donated to the fund that Beth Am has chosen for the month.

CLASSROOM GUESTS

Due to the current pandemic, students are not permitted to bring friends with them to programs this year.

SNACKS

Please send your child to programs with a snack and water. Each class has time built in for a break and snack. Beth Am's classrooms are nut-free, so please keep this in mind when packing snacks.

COMMUNICATION

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Every week, you will receive an email from the Youth Education team with general program updates and events that are happening in the community.

TEACHER EMAILS

All PreK-5th grade teachers and all Hebrew teachers will send a weekly update to their class after programs, focusing on what the class did in that session as well as some followup items, such as dinner table topics.

If you notice that you are not receiving these weekly recap emails, please get in touch with a member of the Youth Ed team.

THE YOUTH ED HUB: OUR BLOG SPACE

We're shifting our Youth Ed Hubs to be a space for sharing exciting Youth Ed projects and experiences, and for highlighting our teachers! Keep an eye on these spaces to see what everyone's been up to in Youth Ed.

PARENT RESOURCE PAGE

Looking for the yearly calendar? How about tuition information or daily schedules? All of this information is now located on this parent resource section of the Beth Am website:

betham.org/youth-ed-registration

INCLUSION

Beth Am's Youth Education strives to be a community where each child feels safe, welcomed and valued. For children who might need accommodations, our educators, together with our Inclusion Specialist, work with parents/guardians, students and teachers to make sure that each child has the tools they need to be successful.

If you shared notes on your child's registration form related to Inclusion, you will be contacted at the beginning of the school year by our Inclusion Specialist. Should you wish to share additional information about your child, please don't hesitate to reach out to Sarah Lauing (sarah_lauing@betham.org) at any time throughout the school year.

In addition to classroom support, we also have a robust selection of tools used by our classroom teachers, including fidgets, wiggle cushions, timers, and stretchy chair bands.

If a student needs some time away from their class, we also offer an area in the room behind the Education Office (Room 17). This quiet space is a calm place for students, with activities like music and coloring.

COVID-19 POLICIES

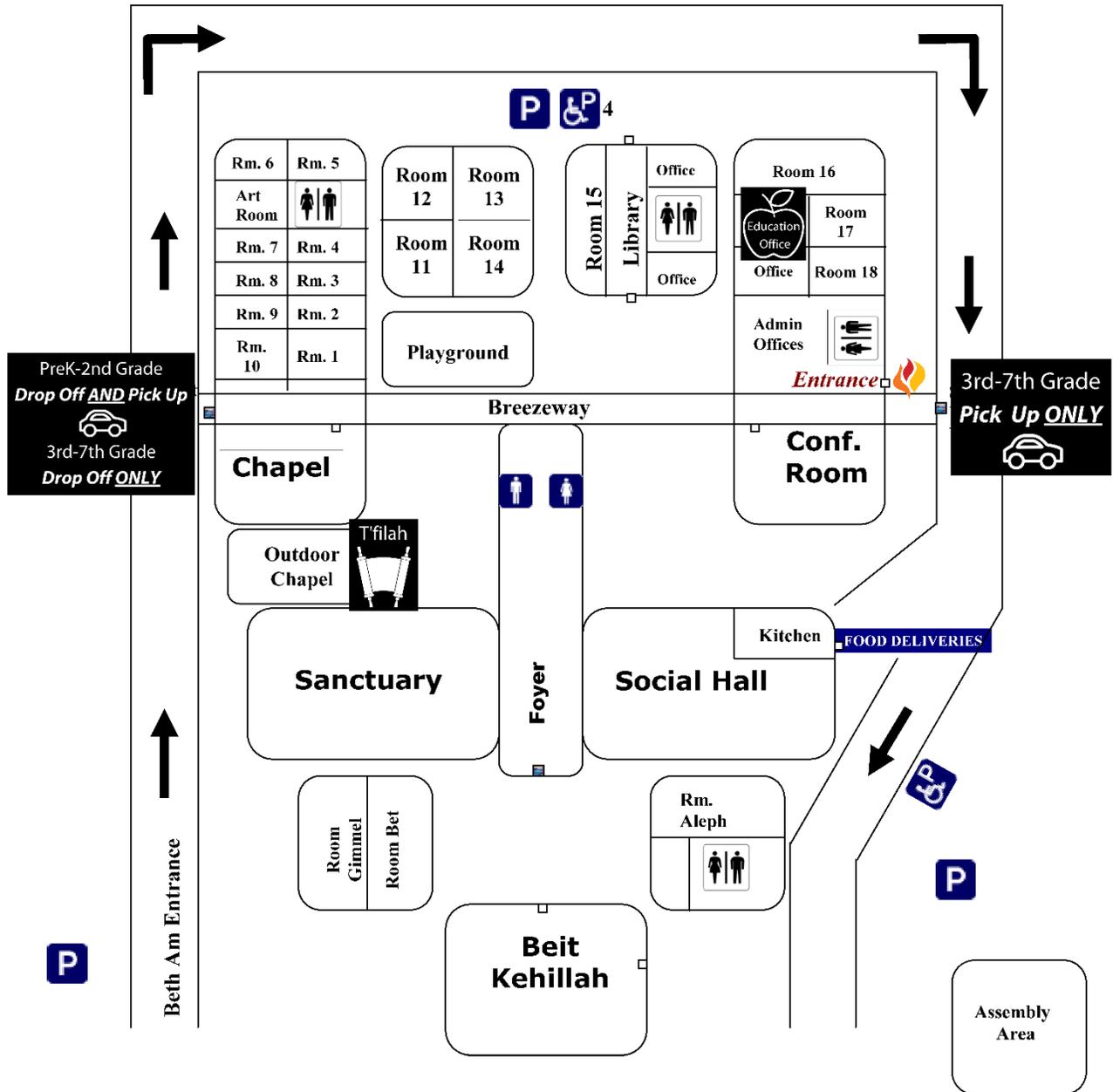
Beth Am's response to the COVID-19 is ever-evolving based on the health situation and guidance from local, state and national agencies. You will be provided with the most up-to-date policies and procedures for our Youth Education programs. For your safety and the safety of our community, you and your family are required to adhere to all COVID-19 protocols.

You can find our most up-to-date Youth Ed COVID-19 policies here: betham.org/youth-ed-registration. You will also receive email notifications of any updates.

APPENDIX A: CAMPUS MAP



Facilities Map



26790 Arastradero Road