

Netzer Teen Program

Netzer Program Overview:

Our Teen Program for 8th-9th and 11th-12th is divided into 4 types of sessions:

- 1) Mercaz-Core Classes (1st and 2nd Sunday)
- 2) Taglit-Electives (2nd/3rd Sunday)
- 3) Tikkun- Social Justice (4th Sunday)
- 4) Kehillah- Community Building and Youth Group (4th/5th Sunday)

***Confirmation (10th Grade)**

Confirmation classes take place weekly from 12:30-1:45pm unless there is a Tikkun or Kehillah event. A separate e-mail will be sent with Confirmation details.

Mercaz-Core Classes (Grade Level)

	Fall	Spring
8th Grade	Comparative Judaism	Moving Beyond Tolerance (Becca Cook)
9th Grade	Comparative Religions	What is my Israel Story?
10th Grade	Confirmation	Confirmation
11th/12th	Coffee with Clergy: Hot Topics, Current Events You ask. We answer.	Coffee with Clergy: Hot Topics, Current Events College Bound.

Netzer Alternative Track is an option for 8th and 9th grade students to enroll in Religious School while only attending one or two sessions a month for either Core or Elective Classes.

Taglit-Electives (Mixed Grades)**

Students will be able to sign up for at least 2 electives per year (elective offerings subject to change)

Confirmation does not participate in Taglit.

**Offerings depend on interest

Tikkun (Mixed Grades)

8th-9th and 11th-12th graders come together to learn about major issues facing our world today. When having a speaker

Kehilah (Mixed Grades-Community Time or Youth Group Activity)

Students will join together for a fun social activity either as part of the Teen Program or through BEFTY.

What about Madrichim?

Madrichim and Mitzvah Core:

We love our Madrichim (8th-10th graders). They do such important work, and we want them to be able to deepen their learning of leadership and teaching by serving in their placements during the Religious School Day. With this in mind, Madrichim and Mitzvah Core students will serve in their placements from **10AM-12PM on Sundays AND/OR 6:15-8PM on Wednesdays**. Both Madrichim and Mitzvah Core students are expected to be at their placements 15 minutes before classes begin, and to let their teachers or placement directors know they will be absent via text or e-mail at least 24 hours prior.

Our 8th graders are highly encouraged, but not required, to apply and interview to be Madrichim or in the Mitzvah Corps. They may attend our Teen Program regardless of whether or not they serve the community on Sunday mornings. Our 9th-12th graders are encouraged to be involved in Madrichim or Mitzvah Corps. Eight Grade Madrichim and Mitzvah Corps students can receive service hours for their work. Students in 9th-12th grade will have the option to take service hours or to be paid a small stipend per semester.

Teaching Assistants:

Our teaching assistants are very important at Beth El. Our 11th and 12th grade TA's lead breakout groups, plan parts of lessons, and often take on one on one tutoring opportunities. Our TA's are paid monthly for hours worked and are required to sign in to be paid.

Mercaz-Core Classes (1st and or 2nd Sundays)

8th Grade Fall

Comparative Judaism- Becca Cook

Students will learn about the differences and similarities between Reform, Conservative, Modern Orthodox, Chabad, Reconstructionist, Renewal, and Ultra-Orthodox Jews all within the frame of Klal Yisrael, we are all part of the people of Israel. As a part of their learning, they'll meet and engage in meaningful conversations with Rabbis, community leaders, and other teens, helping them to better understand why they are Reform Jews and why it's important for all Jews to support each other.

8th Grade Spring-Becca Cook

Moving Beyond Tolerance: Antisemitism, Diversity, and Equity-Becca Cook and Gal Spinrad

Our teens are trying to make sense of the prejudices in our country and to advocate for change. This course will be broken up into two sections. One section will cover the history of Antisemitism and how we can combat it today. The second section will help our students to welcome the diversity of the Jewish people, to learn about the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to become advocates and allies for diversity everywhere.

9th Grade

Fall: Comparative Religions- TBA

If there is one God, why are there so many religions? What does it mean to be Jewish in a world filled with other religions? In this class, students will learn about Christianity, Islam, and eastern religions through an introductory lesson and conversations with various worship leaders and teens in their communities. They'll explore these religions with the goal of better understanding what resonates with them about Judaism and how Judaism helps them make sense of the world.

Spring: What is my Israel Story? TBA

Our history and experiences with Israel are diverse and complicated, but each of us has our own story to tell about our lives as Jews, and our connection to Israel. Together we will explore the stories that make up the narratives we tell about Israel; and we, through debate, and discussion, will find our own voices to tell our own individual Israel story.

10th Grade (Every Sunday Unless Otherwise Noted)

Confirmation: Todd Bolick

During their 10th grade year, our Confirmation students spend time bonding as a class in Alexandria through mini golf, a ropes course, and an escape room. They also spend a weekend in NYC, exploring different Jewish communities and enjoying dinner and a musical. They learn

about and practice the value of Tzedek, justice, by volunteering at Beth El and in NOVA, as well as by participating in L'Taken: the Religious Action Center's Social Justice Seminar in Washington, DC. Finally, they culminate their learning and time together by going on a class retreat where they spend time creating the elements that go into their Confirmation Service. They spend time throughout the year exploring big questions about what it means to be Jewish, to believe (or not) in God, to deepen their understanding of Jewish texts and the Torah, wrestle with their connection to the land and state of Israel, and better understand the ways in which the 10 Commandments can be used as a frame for applying Jewish values to difficult decisions and challenges in their lives. In the spring, they spend their time working to create a Shabbat evening service that culminates in creative readings, chanting of Torah and the commitments our teens make to choose to live as Jews throughout their lives. Confirmation is both a personal and collective experience that helps our teens move beyond where they were developmentally during their B'nei Mitzvah to being able to clearly understand how they will think, feel, and do Jewish into adulthood.

11th/12th (1st Sundays)

Fall

Coffee with Clergy: Hot Topics, Current Events You ask. We answer.

Students in 11th and 12th grades are invited to have coffee with their clergy. Rabbi Spinrad, Rabbi Romano, Cantor Kaufman, and Rabbi Isserow will rotate through the months covering hot topics and current events. Topics may include Jewish Medical Ethics during COVID-19, Civic Engagement and Elections, LGBTQ+ issues, Race Equity and BLM, Technology and Social Media.

Spring

Coffee with Clergy: Hot Topics, Israel? It's Complicated, College Bound.

Students in 11th and 12th grades are invited to have coffee with their clergy. Students will deepen their knowledge of Israel and Israeli politics and how to love and support Israel while advocating for change. Students will also get a chance to learn more about what Jewish life looks like in college by meeting students from Hillels and college campuses all over the country and discussing the joys and challenges they may face when navigating their own Jewish lives on campus.

Taglit-Electives (2nd or 3rd Sundays)

1. Sports and Jewish Values

Do you love sports? Do you play sports? Join coaches Keith Hirsch and Gregg Mervis to explore Jewish values and ethics in an active way that can guide you through life and in your sport.

2. Jewish Meditation and Wellness

We can all use a little quiet and meditation these days. Learn about how Judaism and meditation can help improve our health and wellbeing.

3. Bringing Jewish Stories to Life: Learn how to Podcast!

Learn the basics of podcasting and to bring your Jewish story and others' to life.

4. Cooking Through the Diaspora

Discover and make Jewish recipes representing diverse Jewish communities from around the world.

5. Netflix and Jew

Do you want to watch the newest "Jew-ish" film or tv show? Do you want to know more about why Jews are more often depicted as Orthodox rather than Reform or Conservative on screen? Spend some time with peers watching and exploring the way we as Jews portray ourselves or are portrayed by non-Jewish directors on tv and in film today.

6. Krav maga

Have you always wanted to learn Krav Maga? In the Fall, learn with Krav Maga teacher Josh Frey!

7. Got Game?

Play games and learn about Jewish values with our resident D&D Dads and Ben Lowsen.

8. Great Debates: From Moses to RBG

Do you love debating? Do you want to be able to use Jewish values to argue with friends? Then, this class is for you! Learn about debating legends from Moses, Maimonides and Spinoza, all the way to the great RBG, all while applying Jewish values to issues we encounter today.

9. Jewish Art Around the World

Learn about Jewish artists throughout history and from around the world while exploring painting, drawing, and multimedia artistic expressions to enhance your own craft as an artist, or just to have fun!

10. From Fiddler to Stephen Schwartz

Learn about Jewish playwrights and composers through film and music, and create your own skit or one act play based on your Jewish experience.

11. Eipho HaKitah? Modern Hebrew Cont.

Did you enjoy learning Modern Hebrew with Moreh Larry? Continue your exploration of Modern Hebrew with friends learning how to order food, buy things at the shouk, or ask for directions!

**Offerings will depend on interest and a survey will go out in January for elective preferences.
2-3 Electives are typically offered each semester depending on enrollment.