



**Temple Israel of Sharon
Youth Education and Programming**

Parent Handbook

Phone: (781)784-3986

Abby Newman Wallach

Director of Youth Education and Programming

Anewmanwallach@tisharon.org

Rabbi Jeremy Fineberg

Rabbi

Jfineberg@tisharon.org

Cantor Jamie Gloth

Cantor

Jgloth@tisharon.org

Karen Nahary

Executive Director

Knahary@tisharon.org

Lisa Kritz

VP of Education

Lnkritz@aol.com

WELCOME TO TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

We are excited to continue this year with our successful and interactive program, and to offer new unique programs.

Our program is offered to students in grades K-7 and promotes a love of Jewish learning and a culture of socializing, relationship building, and creating memories. Our goal is to strengthen our student's Jewish identity, knowledge, and commitment to lead a lifestyle that is deeply rooted in Jewish tradition and practice. We foster a love of Israel and Jewish holidays.

Our students continue to learn through their Jewish Studies and improve their Hebrew language and prayer skills through experiential learning that includes art, music, movement, games, real-world experiences, Shabbat programming and more.

MISSION

The Temple Israel Religious School's mission is to provide a nurturing, multi-faceted and inspiring learning environment for everyone. We offer an engaging education experience that fosters Jewish identity, builds a commitment to Jewish living and values, creates a connection to one another, and sparks a concern for the world around us. We meet families where they are and offer flexible options to ensure that every child can build a foundation of Jewish literacy and receives the tools they need to grow into proud, informed, and inquisitive Jews who are full participants in their Jewish communities. Temple Israel is dedicated to offering programming for our youth of all ages from toddler years through high school and we strive to provide opportunities, such as USY and TI Youth Group Outings, Madrichim Leadership Training, Shabbat morning experiences, holiday programming for young families and students and teen bi-weekly learning opportunities.

VISION

- To create an institute that will transform the endeavor of Jewish learning through a multigenerational approach.
- Fostering a positive attitude towards Jewish learning, life, holidays, and Israel.
- Developing the knowledge and skills needed to practice Judaism at home, in the synagogue, and in their lives.
- Instilling a strong sense of identification with the Jewish people.
- Developing and maintaining within our children a strong moral compass based on the values of the Torah by establishing a vital partnership with our parents and families.

CURRICULUM GOALS

At Temple Israel, we strive to ensure that our students see the synagogue as a safe, welcoming, and joyful place for learning. Our primary goal is to help them develop a strong and positive Jewish identity. Since holidays fall on different days each year, our standard practice is to provide 26–28 sessions of Religious School for each weekday on which we offer programming. This approach allows students to engage meaningfully with a variety of subjects and ensures sufficient time for practice, reinforcement, and application of their learning.

OBJECTIVES

As they progress through the school's curriculum, the students will:

- Develop proficiency in Hebrew reading.
- Be exposed to modern Hebrew language.
- Become familiar and well-versed in Shabbat, holidays, and daily Jewish liturgy by gaining a better understanding of the main ideas relayed by Jewish prayers.
- Become familiar with Jewish living by participating in and learning about Jewish life-cycle events, celebrations, holidays, and most importantly, Shabbat.
- Become acquainted with Israel's history, geography, culture, population, and current events.
- Develop a connection to our fellow Jews around the world and the State of Israel, the historic homeland of the Jewish people.
- Learn selected stories from the *Tanach* (Bible).
- Identify the *Tanach* as a record of the evolving *brit* covenant between the Jewish people and God.
- Recognize the struggles of our forefathers, as an important part of the universal dilemmas of human ethical behavior, struggles that remain relevant today.
- Understand how through these stories, the *Torah* became the inspiration source of *mitzvot* (commandments) for the Jewish people.
- Through learning, develop a commitment to God and Judaism.
- Become responsible for other fellow Jews and other peoples in need, by actively undertaking *mitzvot*, *tzedaka* (charity), and actively participate in *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).
- Become familiar with modern Jewish history and the Holocaust.
- Experience Jewish literature, music, and the arts as creative expressions of our heritage.
- Have opportunities to lead others in Jewish experiences.
- Develop a deep understanding and commitment to the Jewish people and the Jewish community.

Our Religious School Program

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Students in Grades K-4 will learn Hebrew reading skills, blessings, prayers, and Jewish Studies integrating a variety of learning strategies such as art, music, and movement. Students in Grades 5-7 will continue their Jewish learning, which includes improving their Hebrew reading skills, blessings, prayers, and Jewish Studies integrating art and movement.

On Mondays we offer a semesterly Chugim (extracurricular program) for grades K-8. Students learn, explore and experience Hebrew and Jewish extracurricular activities. Our goal is for students to learn about Judaism not just by sitting in the classroom and listening to a teacher but by becoming proactive in their learnings. We aim for students to experience learning by performing Jewish activities and making Judaism relevant to their lives.

Gan (Kindergarten):

Area of Concentration: Holidays and Shabbat

Children are introduced to the sights, smells, tastes and symbols of Jewish holidays. We utilize arts and crafts, dance, music and physical movement in exploring Jewish themes. We visit the Sanctuary and pray with the Rabbi and the Director, to foster a comfort level and familiarity with the Synagogue just like on Shabbat. The children learn basic blessings and prayers.

Our Kindergarteners will become familiar with Jewish symbols at home and at the synagogue: kippah, tallit, Torah, shofar, lulav, Channukiah and others. Symbols, stories, songs, blessings and home celebration of each holiday will be studied. Students will explore the source of each holiday and the different customs associated with it. Special emphasis will be devoted to Shabbat and Havdallah. In addition, Hebrew letters will be introduced so the children become familiar with the shapes, names and sounds of Hebrew letters.

Kitah Aleph (First Grade):

Area of Concentration: Torah

The learning focuses on the stories and themes of Genesis, the creation of the world, the beginning of the Jewish people, and establishment of the covenant between the Jewish people and God. In addition, the first graders will continue in a Hebrew language and reading program with a goal of mastering all of the Hebrew letters.

Kitah Bet (Second Grade):

Area of Concentration: Mitzvot and Tzedakah

In addition to the continuation of a Hebrew language and reading program, the second-grade students will focus on Jewish values and Mitzvot. Students will explore the concept of Mitzvah and various mitzvot including: Tikun Olam, Tzedakah, Hachnassat Orchim, Kindness to others, respect for the elderly and others. Programs will be planned that give the students the opportunity to practice these mitzvot.

Kitah Gimel (Third Grade):

Area of Concentration: Israel

The learning focuses on Hebrew reading and to be able to read simple Hebrew prayers. Students will begin to work on their prayer goals for the year. In Jewish Studies students will be introduced to Israel- Geography, history, dance, cities, culture, and discuss current event in Israel and the Middle East.

Kitah Dalet (Fourth Grade):

Area of Concentration: Relationship with G-d, the Synagogue, Shabbat

The program continues with Hebrew and Jewish Studies. The objective of the Hebrew language is to develop an understanding of and a fluency in liturgy so that the students can participate meaningfully in services. The primary focus of the Dalet prayer goals is mastery of the evening Shabbat Service (Ma'ariv). Students will explore their own relationship with G-d, the Synagogue and Shabbat.

Kitah Hay (Fifth Grade):

Area of Concentration: My Family Story

The Hebrew program introduces the Shabbat morning service and the Torah service. Students will research and will explore their own Jewish family story and connect to their own story and to the broader story of the Jewish people.

Kitah Vav (Sixth Grade):

Area of Concentration: Jewish Values, Life Cycle, and Jewish Laws

The sixth graders will complete the study of the Shabbat morning (Shacharit and Musaf) services. The students learn the Torah and Haftarah trop in preparation for Bnai Mitzvah. The Judaic portion focuses on Jewish Values and Jewish Laws. The students examine Jewish laws that are based on social action and social justice.

Kitah Zayin (Seventh Grade):

Area of Concentration: Generation to Generation

Students will continue with mastery of the Shabbat morning service in preparation for leading tefillot at B'nai Mitzvah. The Jewish Studies focus is on the history of Global Judaism both American Judaism as well as Israel and Holocaust studies. As they learn about Jewish history, they will engage in meaningful conversation about anti-Semitism, its origins, and skills to identify anti-Semitism and how to handle it. Additionally, the students will explore the relevance of Israel in the lives of all Jews as well as Jewish customs and traditions as it relates to pop culture.

New: Kitah Het (Eighth Grade):

8th graders are invited to continue their Jewish journey through engaging, thought-provoking sessions led by Rabbi Fineberg. Together, we'll explore big Jewish questions, current events, hot topics, and what it means to live Jewishly today. Each class includes one hour of dynamic learning, followed by hangout time in the youth lounge with 6th and 7th graders.

ENRICHMENT CHUGIM PROGRAM ON MONDAYS

3:30-5:30pm

**Minimum of 8 students are needed to run each elective activity*

Enrichment Program for Israelis

Grades K-5

Led by our Hebrew teacher, Joan Waldman, this immersive Hebrew enrichment program is designed for Israeli families seeking continued language development in a fun and meaningful environment. Students will engage in contemporary Hebrew language instruction, Israeli culture, social play, and hands-on projects. Through art, music, stories, and games, participants strengthen both their Hebrew fluency and connection to Israeli identity.

Youth Choir

Grades 3-8

Led by our very own Cantor Gloth, our NEW youth choir helps students build confidence in Hebrew language through music. Participants will learn and perform a variety of Hebrew and Israeli songs while developing vocal skills and stage presence. Singing together strengthens community and deepens cultural connection, plus, it's a lot of fun! Performances will be shared throughout the year.

Jewish Enrichment Through Art

Grades K-5

Led by Liza Silver, this creative after-school program brings Jewish learning to life through visual arts. Each week, students explore a Jewish concept—ranging from holiday traditions and Torah stories to brachot (blessings) and values—and express their learning through a unique art project. With access to materials like clay, beads, paint, and more, students will create meaningful pieces to take home and share.

Mitzvah Makers

Grades K-5

Led by Gila Yudewitz, this dynamic program empowers students to explore core Jewish values and the power of mitzvot (commandments). Through interactive games, group discussions, and real-world connections, students learn what it means to be a mensch and how even small actions can make a big impact. Projects include community outreach, kindness challenges, and learning how Jewish teachings can guide our everyday choices.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Sundays

9:00-9:28	<i>Grades K-7</i>	Havdalah and Community Tefillah (Sanctuary)
9:30-11:30	<i>Grades K-7</i>	Religious School (Classrooms)
11:30+	<i>Grades K-12</i>	* By Calendar-Youth Groups (Art room or off-site)

Mondays

3:30-4:55	<i>All students</i>	Snack and Youth Lounge
4:00-5:00	<i>All Students</i>	Chugim Activities (Classrooms)
5:00-5:30	<i>Israeli Enrichment</i>	Art Class
5:00-5:30	<i>Chugim Students</i>	Tefillah and <i>Parsha</i> (torah portion)

Thursdays

2:30-3:30	<i>Grades 6-8</i>	Religious School (Classrooms)
3:30-3:45	<i>All Students</i>	Snack and Youth Lounge
3:50-5:18	<i>Grades 2-5</i>	Religious School (Classrooms)
3:50-5:18	<i>Grades 6-7</i>	Youth Lounge, Study Hall, Mitzvah Projects
5:20-5:30	<i>All Students</i>	Tefillah

Saturdays

10:00-10:15	Torah Service	<i>Sanctuary</i>
10:15-10:45	Shabbat Services	<i>Chapel</i>
10:45-11:15	A Closer Look: An Investigation of Torah & Tefillah	<i>Chapel</i>
11:15-11:40	Shabbat Schmooze	<i>Youth Lounge</i>
11:40-12:00	Musaf	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Family Kabbalat Shabbat Grades K-7
 Family Shabbat Service Grades K-7

* Friday per calendar
 *Shabbat per calendar

* All classes and/or program dates are tentative and will open with enough registered students

SHABBAT MORNINGS: JR. CONGREGATION

Join us on Shabbat for a fun youth service! Jr. Congregation meets on Shabbat mornings according to the calendar from 10:00am-12:00pm for a service that is geared towards RS (Religious School) students in grades K-7 (though it is open to all).

Junior Congregation begins with Shacharit (morning prayers) and is appropriate for all grade levels. Participants will have time for Shabbat morning prayer, learning about the parsha (*torah portion*), prayer or song, and have time to hang out in the youth lounge.

Attendance is highly recommended to help prepare students for their upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah and their leading role in the Jewish community. Fifth graders have a goal of attending Jr. Congregation 1x a month and 6th and 7th have a goal to attend Jr. Congregation 2x a month. By offering Jr. Congregation, we hope to provide an authentic Shabbat experience where your children can practice their prayer knowledge as well as leading in front of others.

In addition to our Jr. Congregation, every Shabbat year-round families with infants through children younger than kindergarten are invited to join our Family Educator Gila Yudewitz for a Shabbat morning experience of songs, prayers, stories, and play.

FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM

“A Jewish home is where Judaism is at home.” – Abraham Joshua Heschel

Throughout the year, our Family Education program provides families the opportunity to learn and celebrate Judaism with their child/ren in a communal setting. We learn about Jewish traditions, rituals and values through interactive student-family workshops for various holidays. These programs take place on Sundays as well as specific grade-wide programs that reflect student learning.

FAMILY KABBALAT SHABBAT AND SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

We integrate Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday night service), Shabbat morning services, and Havdalah into our family programs. During these services, our Religious School students in grades K-7 lead the congregation in prayers, readings, teachings, and songs. These services reflect the skills gained, and the *ruach* (spirit) of Shabbat and provide a unique way for families to be together in our community.

SCHMOOZE ‘N’ BREWS

Parents are invited to socialize, nosh (eat yummy apps) and have drinks together after dropping their kids off. This occurs a few times throughout the year and is a favorite among parents. Parents are encouraged to attend to socialize and also connect about the religious school, learn about local events and offerings, and meet with each other. If you are interested in hosting an event or need more information, please get in touch with Rebecca Corke at rcorke@tisharon.org

YOUTH GROUPS AND USY

USY is USCJ's (United Synagogue Youth of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism) youth movement for Conservative Jewish teens across North America. For more than 60 years, USY has taught young Jews the values and skills they need to become exceptional leaders in their religious and secular communities.

Our Youth Group at Temple Israel program is for grades K-2, 2-5, 6-8 (*Gesher*), 9-12 (*USY*). Each group meets monthly on Sundays. Our youngest group meets at Temple Israel and will do fun and engaging projects that enrich their Jewish learning. Grades 2-12 will have some events at Temple Israel and some events off-site. The program offers informal learning and social activities to create a community based on a deep engagement, love for Israel, and a commitment to Jewish living. Participating students gain both meaningful and fun experiences based on the ideology of Conservative Judaism.

MADRICHIM TEACHER ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Our Madrichim (“guides” or teacher assistants) are students in grades 8–12 who serve as role models and mentors while assisting in Religious School classrooms, supporting office operations, and helping run programs on Sunday mornings, Monday *Chugim*, Thursday Religious School, or Saturday Junior Congregation.

All Temple Israel high school students aged 14 and older are eligible to apply for this opportunity, which offers either service-learning hours or a paid stipend. Teens under the age of 14 may also participate as part of our Madrichim-in-Training program to earn community service hours. This program helps teens stay connected to their Jewish community, build valuable leadership skills through their participation in the Madrichim Leadership Training, and strengthen their resumes for summer jobs and college applications.

We are proud to offer this program as a pathway for our teens to grow, lead, and continue their Jewish learning in a supportive and enriching environment.

POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND STANDARDS

Registration - All fees and tuition are to be paid according to the arranged schedule with prior balances due in order to register for a new academic year.

If you decide to withdraw your child mid-year, you must submit DATED WRITTEN NOTIFICATION and schedule a meeting with Rabbi Fineberg and Abby Newman Wallach

Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures

Every child's safety is important to us. We have revised the pick-up and drop-off procedure to ensure that students enter and exit cars in a safe and organized way. We need your help to keep the children safe.

General Precautions

- Please drive slowly and watch out for the children.
- Note that traffic through drop off and pick up times is ONEWAY, so it is important that you always enter and exit correctly and carefully.
- Please use the curb in front of the carpool door for drop-offs and pick-ups only - NO PARKING.
- Do not use your cell phone while driving in the drop-off and pick-up lane.
- Pull as far forward as possible before dropping - off and loading your children.
- Children should exit and enter on the passenger's side only.
- Do not pass other vehicles to pull in front of them to pick up your child.

- Once your child is in the vehicle, you may pull carefully out.
- Devote more time and be extra cautious on snowy, rainy, or foggy days. Drive with your headlights on, to see and to be seen.

Pick-Up and Drop-Off

- Drop off will be at the front entrance of Temple Israel and so will pick up. In case of an event or when the main entrance is blocked, the drop off and/or pick up will be through the side doors next to the Chapel. You will be notified via email if there is a change in drop off/pick up procedures. When entering the parking lot from Pond Street, keep right and circle around the parking lot driving toward the main entrance of the parking lot. In case of change of drop off and/or pick up location, prior notice will be sent to parents.
- Do not exit your vehicle.
- All students will be led by their teachers to the front of the building and sit with their class until their name is called.
- If you choose to pick up your child, please enter the building and escort your child out of the building safely.
- Pick-up is supervised by our Religious School Staff. Teachers will escort your child and his or her belongings to your car.
- If your child is not available when you arrive at the pick-up area, you may be asked to pull up all the way to the front. This helps prevent excessive delays while teachers relocate children to the right place.
- Children will enter and exit the vehicle through the passenger's side.
- Please shut off the engine of the car while reloading.
- All parents will wait until all children are safely loaded into the cars in the loading zone area.
- All parents in the loading zone area will wait for a clear signal from staff before moving.
- Continue forward to exit. Do not turn around. Traffic is one-way only during drop-off and pick-up times.

Transportation Policy- For students who are registered to participate in transportation to Religious School, either by walking from Cottage Street School with a supervising adult or riding in a designated vehicle, a permission slip must be signed during registration to authorize participation.

To ensure a smooth and timely arrival to Temple Israel, families must notify the school office in advance if a student will be absent from Religious School or not use the provided transportation on a particular day. This communication is essential so that staff are not delayed while waiting for students who will not be attending.

Students are expected to follow the directions of the supervising adult at all times. Whether walking or riding, students must behave respectfully and responsibly to ensure everyone's safety. This includes:

- Walking in an orderly manner and staying with the group
- Listening to and following all instructions
- Speaking at an appropriate volume and using respectful language

Any behavior that compromises safety may result in a reevaluation of a student's eligibility for transportation.

Attendance and Tardiness – For an effective and positive learning experience, it is essential that all students make every effort to attend classes regularly and promptly. In case of absence, please notify the school office. Attendance is critical for learning the skills, content and materials taught at Religious School. If the scheduling of classes poses a challenge, please speak with Abby Newman Wallach.

Early Dismissal - The curriculum and education program for our children is quite ambitious and requires every minute of class time for the accomplishment of these goals. For any early dismissals, parents must pick up their children at the school office and sign their child out. Students are not allowed to leave class and go out to the parking lot to a waiting car or to walk home. Students will be released only to individuals listed on the emergency contact form. Please let Abby Newman Wallach know if consistent early dismissal is necessary and we will do our best to accommodate your scheduling needs.

Emergency School Closing - In general, when the Sharon Public Schools announce they will be closed due to weather, TIRS will be closed. On Sundays, the decision on a school closure will be made in conjunction with surrounding synagogues, and the professional staff at Temple Israel as well as the conditions of the roads which impact families and staff. On the occasion we may have to close due to severe weather or other conditions beyond our control while we are in session, we will communicate with you via e-mail. Please also listen to the radio for news of these closings or call the Temple office at (781) 784-2986.

General Dress Code: *Please remember that our school is part of the larger Temple Israel synagogue complex. As such, we expect all students and madrichim to dress in a way that is respectful of the sacred space we share.* Clothing appropriate for public school settings is permitted. Please ensure that your attire reflects the values of our synagogue community—modest, respectful, and suitable for a learning environment. For safety reasons, flip flops are not permitted.

Head Coverings: It is a longstanding Jewish tradition to cover one's head in synagogue as a sign of respect and awareness of God's presence in holy spaces. In our inclusive and egalitarian community, we encourage people of all genders, ages, and backgrounds to wear a head covering of their choice. This may include a kippah, doily, hat, headband, or other appropriate head coverings.

Food/Kashrut - Snack is provided by Temple Israel and includes one packaged snack and a fruit/vegetable. Food and beverages are not permitted in school, classrooms or in any part of the building unless requested as part of a school or class program. Only certified kosher products may be brought into the school and synagogue complex. If you have any questions regarding kashrut, please call Rabbi Fineberg. If your child requires additional snacks, please let Abby know and adhere to the laws of Kashrut as Temple Israel observes.

Tikun Olam and Tzedakah - One of the greatest goals we can teach our children is the value of "Repairing the World" (Tikkun Olam). Students are encouraged to bring in Tzedakah money throughout the year and to contribute to our Tzedakah Fund on a regular basis.

Class Visitations and Guests - Students may bring friends to visit the RS classes. For any visit, please plan with the school office. Parents who desire a class visit should plan with the school office as well.

Accident/Illness - Parents or guardians will be notified at the time of an injury or accident or if a child becomes ill. If the parent or guardian can't be reached, the provided emergency contacts will be called. Please keep all contact numbers current. If the accident or injury warrants transport to the hospital via 911, a staff member will escort the child and the parents, guardians, emergency contact will be notified of the hospital where the child was transported.

Lost and Found – Items left at the school will be lovingly cared for in the school office until claimed by their rightful owner. At the end of the year any unclaimed items will be donated to a worthy organization.

Electronics Use Policy- To maintain a focused and respectful learning environment, personal electronic devices such as cell phones, smartwatches, and tablets are not permitted for use during school hours, unless explicitly approved by a teacher for a classroom assignment or educational task.

All devices must remain silenced and stored in students' backpacks or pockets during class time, unless otherwise instructed by a teacher. Unauthorized use of electronic devices during school hours may result in the device being held by a staff member until the end of the day and/or communication with a parent or guardian.

Classroom Behavior - Respectful Behavior (Derech Eretz) Our goal is to create a positive school atmosphere where learning is fun, and the faces of faculty and students are smiling and happy. A central component of our curriculum in every grade is *derech erez*, thoughtful and respectful behavior. Translated into action, *derech erez* means that students treat with respect their classmates, teachers, madrichim (teachers assistants), professional staff, clergy, custodial staff and visitors. Moreover, students should exhibit respect for property, whether it be furniture, school displays, materials or supplies. *Derech Eretz* means that students adopt appropriate behavior as they enter the synagogue and especially when they enter the sanctuary. Students are expected to come prepared to class and ready to learn.

We would appreciate your reinforcing with your student(s) this central Jewish value, explaining that your expectations of them while in the synagogue are the same as your expectations of them in regular school, as guests in someone's home and in a sacred place.

PARENT/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Parent/student/teacher communication is essential for positive and effective learning experiences. It is critical to the success of our work that we have excellent communication with our families. Please keep the religious School calendar handy along with the flyers that are sent home with your child(ren). TIRS will share information through multiple modalities including weekly e-mail newsletters, Facebook group posts, flyers, and the TI website. All school correspondence is for official TIRS business only.

Twice a year we offer parent/teacher conferences where families can sign up to meet with a teacher to learn more about your child's progress. Back to School Night, where parents get to

meet the teachers and learn more about the curriculum, is scheduled for the fall. If you feel you would like an extended discussion of your child's progress, please feel free to contact the school office and schedule a conference with your child's teacher. For questions relating to classroom dynamics and issues, please contact your child's teacher. Should you remain dissatisfied, parents can then contact the Director. Questions regarding policy should be brought to the attention of the Education Committee. If you wish to speak at the meeting of the committee, please contact either the Director or the Chair of the Education Committee (*Rebecca Corke*) prior to the meeting to be included on the agenda.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

We must provide an environment in which students can learn effectively. Helping students learn to be responsible members of a group is an important part of our curriculum through all grade levels. The purpose of our discipline policy is to maintain an atmosphere which is conducive to learning and to establish positive relationships. Clear and common expectations for behavior - based on Jewish values and principles and articulated and modeled both at home and at school - will help our students to develop responsible self-discipline. An important aspect of this process is permitting an individual to learn from his/her mistakes. Therefore, our emphasis is not on punishment but rather on changing or controlling inappropriate behavior.

Student Responsibilities

- Be respectful of everyone in speech and action.
- Observe the rules and expectations for behavior where the activities are conducted.
- Suit your voice and energy levels to the location and the activity.
- Engage actively in your own learning.
- Take care of property-both your own and others.

Faculty and Administrative Responsibilities

Students and teachers shall establish behavioral expectations at the beginning of the year

- Be respectful of everyone in speech and action.
- Structure a learning environment that is organized, respectful, inclusive, and stimulating.
- Set clear behavioral expectations.
- Be fair and consistent in enforcing expectations and providing consequences.
- Assist students in developing academic and social responsibility.
- Help students learn skills for working and playing in community.

Parent Responsibilities

- Be respectful of everyone in speech and action.
- Work in partnership with the TIRS faculty and administration to promote academic and social learning.
- Allow children to take responsibility for their own actions and encourage them to solve their own problems.
- Support TIRS policies, decisions, and consequences regarding their child's behavior.
- Ensure that children come to school regularly and on time.
- Communicate with the Education Director about accommodations your child has so that the teachers and director can best support your child's learning.

Discipline

We must provide an environment in which students can learn safely and effectively. We strive to work with your student(s) to demonstrate compassion for themselves, their classmates, their teachers and their environment.

At times when appropriate behaviors are not demonstrated, TIRS will undertake the following steps:

- **First Offense:** Verbal warning from the teacher
- **Second Offense:** Student is sent to the office for a conversation with the Director to understand the situation, allow student/s to share what happened, and work towards problem solving.
- **Third Offense:** Director sends note home to parents/ guardians
- **Fourth Offense:** Student will be sent to the school office. The director will schedule a follow up conversation with the parents in order to best support the child.

If challenging behavior continues, the student and parents/guardian will be required to meet with the Director to determine a plan of action.

Bullying /Harassment

Bullying or harassment of any kind is not tolerated at TIRS. It is contrary to the values and principles we work and live by. All members of the TIRS community have the right to learn in a secure and caring environment. Every student has the right to learn in a safe and supportive environment. Bullying is defined as intentional, repeated behavior that causes physical or emotional harm, including:

- **Physical:** Hitting, pushing, or aggressive gestures.
- **Verbal:** Name-calling, threats, or teasing.
- **Social/Relational:** Exclusion, gossip, or encouraging others to bully.
- **Cyberbullying:** Using technology to harass, intimidate, or share harmful content.

This includes conduct based on race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or any other personal characteristic. All concerns will be taken seriously and addressed in accordance with our values of kavod (respect), chesed (kindness), and shalom (peace)

WAYS PARENTS CAN ASSIST THEIR CHILD AT THE TIRS

- Have your child attend regularly, be on time and come prepared.
- If your child needs to be picked up early or by someone that the school does not recognize, send a note notifying the teacher and the Director.
- In the event of an absence, request make-up materials.
- Please let us know of any alternative learning needs and/or IEPs, medical conditions, allergies, medications, or other information that will help us to meet your child's needs.
- Become familiar with your child's curriculum and show an interest in your child's learning.
- Observe holidays and practice rituals in your home, e.g candle lighting, having a *mezuzah* or other ritual objects, or attending a Passover *seder*.
- Discuss current events related to the Israel greater Jewish world at home.
- Make time for you and your child to practice Hebrew and prayers at home.
- Encourage participation and positive classroom behavior.
- Participate as a family in our intergenerational learning opportunities, as well as attend

congregational programs and religious events.

- Whenever possible eliminate outside activities that interfere with TIRS activities.
- Take part in opportunities to repair our world (*tikkun olam*).
- Volunteer to help with our programs.
- You are encouraged to participate in our adult learning opportunities.
- Be your child's biggest fan and supporter!

Things Students Can Do

- Come on time, enthusiastic, and ready to learn.
- Participate in class activities, special events and complete assigned projects.
- Attend congregational religious functions with your family.
- Be a part of *Tikun Olam*- social justice and contribute *tzedakah* on a regular basis.
- Be a *mensch*, treating everyone, including yourself, with respect. Always behave ethically and appropriately.

GET INVOLVED

Parent Involvement - There are many opportunities for parents and grandparents to be involved with our program. We hope you find a way to enrich our program and your own life by becoming an active participant!

Education Committees - This committee meets once a month to establish vision, policies, goals and directions for the Youth Education programs. Please reach out to the Education Committee Chair or VP of Education if you would like to be involved

Education Committee VP- Lisa Kirtz

Education Committee Chair- Rebecca Corke

Class Parents - Class parents aid and support for teachers. You may be asked to make phone calls, help with a special project or holiday celebration. This is a great way to be involved with your child's Jewish learning. Please volunteer to be a class parent.

Volunteers- If you are not able to make a regular commitment as a class parent, perhaps you can help occasionally with special projects or events. You can make a difference!

Parent Acknowledgment Form

By signing below or confirming in Enrollment, I confirm that I have received, read, and reviewed the Temple Israel Religious School Handbook. I understand the policies, expectations, and opportunities outlined for students and families.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to discuss these expectations with my child(ren) and to support Temple Israel's efforts to provide a safe, inclusive, and engaging Jewish learning environment.

If I have questions or require clarification about any aspect of the handbook, I understand I may reach out to the Director of Youth Education and Programming for further guidance.

Please complete and return this signed form to the Religious School office before the first day of school.

Student Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____