



Temple Israel

SHARON

Temple Israel of Sharon Youth Education and Programming

Parent Handbook

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WELCOME TO TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

We are excited to continue this year with our successful and interactive programs.

Our program is offered to students in grades K-12 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 to ensure that every child can build a foundation of Jewish literacy. We ensure that each child 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 nurturing the Jewish journey of our youth from toddler years through high school. We strive to offer meaningful and engaging opportunities across every stage, including youth group programming, Madrichim Leadership Training, Shabbat morning experiences, and holiday celebrations for the whole family.

VISION

- To create an institute that will transform Jewish learning through a multi-disciplinary approach.
- To foster a positive attitude towards Jewish learning, life, holidays, and Israel.
- Cultivate a connection to Israel through its language, culture, history, and people,
- To develop the knowledge and skills needed to practice Judaism at home, in the synagogue, and in their lives.
- To instill a strong sense of identification with the Jewish people and develop a strong Jewish identity.
- To develop and maintain a strong moral compass based on the values of the Torah by establishing a strong 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 a minimum of 26–28 sessions of Religious School for each day that 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 ancestors, 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*, *zedaka* (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-7 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 8-12 (on Thursdays) will continue their Jewish learning by exploring the hardest questions of modern life: identity, meaning, justice, technology and more.

On Mondays we offer a 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 being 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, Shabbat, and Havdallah

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, Cantor, and the Education 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, Chanukiah 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 Havdalah. 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

First-grade students will explore the stories and themes of Genesis, including the creation of the world, the beginnings of the Jewish people, and God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Through storytelling, discussion, art, games, and hands-on activities, students will connect these foundational narratives to their own lives and Jewish identities. In addition, students will build their Hebrew vocabulary through songs, play, and interactive learning while beginning to recognize and become familiar with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

Kitah Bet (Second Grade)

Area of Concentration: Mitzvot and Tzedakah

Second-grade students will continue developing their Hebrew reading skills through a structured and engaging Hebrew literacy program. Alongside their Hebrew learning, students will explore the concept of mitzvot and the Jewish values that guide our actions and relationships. Through stories, discussions,

hands-on projects, and community experiences, students will learn about mitzvot such as *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), *Tzedakah* (charitable giving), *Hachnasat Orchim* (welcoming guests), kindness, and respect for others. Throughout the year, students will have meaningful opportunities to put these values into practice and experience how Judaism can be a meaningful part of everyday life.

Kitah Gimel (Third Grade)

Area of Concentration: Tefillah and Siddur literacy

Third-grade students will continue developing their Hebrew reading skills while building confidence and fluency in prayer. Through regular tefillah experiences, students will become more familiar with key prayers, their meanings, and their place within Jewish worship. Students will set individual prayer-reading goals, deepen their understanding of the siddur, and receive their own personal Siddur as they begin an exciting new stage in their Jewish learning journey.

Kitah Dalet (Fourth Grade)

Area of Concentration: Israel

Fourth-grade students will continue developing their Hebrew reading and prayer skills, with a focus on building fluency and confidence in *tefillah* (prayer). Through individualized prayer goals, students will work toward mastery of key prayers from the Friday evening Shabbat service (*Ma'ariv*), helping them participate more meaningfully in synagogue life and community worship.

In Judaic Studies, students will deepen their connection to Israel by exploring its geography, history, culture, cities, and traditions. Through interactive learning, music, dance, current events, and discussions about life in Israel and the broader Middle East, students will gain a greater understanding of Israel's central role in Jewish life, both historically and today.

Kitah Hay (Fifth Grade)

Area of Concentration: My Family Story and Torah Service

In fifth grade, students embark on their personal Jewish journey, one that connects who they are to where they come from and to the story of the Jewish people. In Hebrew, students are introduced to the Shabbat morning service and the Torah service, building the skills and confidence to participate meaningfully in synagogue life. In Judaics, students explore their own Jewish family story, learning about their familial roots, and discovering how their personal narrative connects to the broader tapestry of the Jewish people throughout history.

Kitah Vav (Sixth Grade)

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

Sixth grade is a pivotal and exciting year as students deepen their connection to Jewish prayer, tradition, and identity in preparation for B'nai Mitzvah. In Hebrew, students complete their study of the Shabbat morning service (Shacharit and Musaf) and begin learning Torah and Haftarah trope, building the foundation they will need for their B'nai Mitzvah. In Judaics, students explore Jewish values, laws,

history, and life cycles developing a deeper understanding of what it means to live Jewishly and how our tradition speaks to their lives today.

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 their B-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.

ENRICHMENT CHUGIM PROGRAM ON MONDAYS

3:30-5:30pm

Israeli Literacy Enrichment

Grades K-5 (*min. of 5 students*)

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 stories, books, skits, and games, participants strengthen both their Hebrew fluency and connection to Israeli identity.

Jewish Storytelling Through the Arts

Grades K-5 (*min. of 5 students*)

Led by Gila Yudewitz, this creative after-school program brings Jewish learning to life through the arts. Each week, students explore a different Jewish concept—ranging from holiday traditions and Torah stories to brachot (blessings) and Jewish values—and express their learning through unique creative projects. Students will learn to tell stories through a variety of artistic mediums, including skits, storytelling, visual art, creative writing, and more, while building connections to Jewish traditions and ideas in a fun and engaging environment.

Israeli Folk Dancing

Grades 3-8 (*min. of 10 students*)

Students will explore the joy and energy of Israeli folk dancing while building connections to Hebrew language, Israeli culture, and one another. Through music, and movement dancers will learn traditional and modern Israeli dances in a fun and supportive environment. Beyond learning choreography, this class is designed to help students grow their confidence, stage presence, and comfort performing in front of others. Whether preparing for a B-Mitzvah, school presentations, public speaking opportunities, or leadership roles, students will develop valuable skills in self-expression, teamwork, and confidence while having fun and building community together.

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>All Students</i>	Tefillah and <i>Parsha</i> (torah portion)

Thursdays

2:30-2:45	<i>Grades 6-12</i>	Snack and Youth Lounge
2:45-3:45	<i>Grades 6-12</i>	Religious School (Classrooms)
3:30-3:45	<i>Grades 2-5</i>	Snack and Youth Lounge
3:50-5:18	<i>Grades 2-5</i>	Religious School (Classrooms)
3:50-5:18	<i>Grades 6-12</i>	Youth Lounge, Study Hall, Mitzvah Projects
5:20-5:30	<i>All Students</i>	Tefillah

Saturdays

10:00-12:00	Jr Congregation	<i>Weitzenkorn Family Chapel/ Youth Lounge</i>
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Family Kabbalat Shabbat Grades K-7

* Friday per calendar

Family Shabbat Service Grades K-7

*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 youth services! Jr. Congregation meets on Shabbat mornings according to the calendar from 10:00am-12:00pm for a service that is geared towards Religious School (RS) students in grades K-7 (though it is open to all). Students will participate in Shabbat morning prayer, learn about the parsha (*torah portion*), prayer or a song, and have time to hang out with friends 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.

FAMILY AND PARENT PROGRAMMING

Judaism is best experienced together! Throughout the year, families are invited to step into the classroom, celebrate the holidays, and connect with other TI families in meaningful and joyful ways. From grade-wide programs that reflect and celebrate what your child has been learning, to festive holiday celebrations with the full religious school community, there is always something to attend!

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. We also invite our families to attend a Family Shabbaton to enjoy the celebration of Shabbat all together as a 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 socialize and connect about the religious school, learn about local events and offerings, and meet each other. If you are interested in hosting an event or need more information, please contact Rebecca Corke at rcorke@tisharon.org

YOUTH GROUPS

At Temple Israel, we believe that Jewish community doesn't end when religious school does and our Youth Group programming is where friendships, fun, and Jewish identity are fostered.

Grades K–2 meet quarterly on Sundays at Temple Israel for engaging, hands-on projects that bring Jewish learning to life in a fun and age-appropriate way.

Grades 3–8 meet monthly on Sundays for a mix of on-site and off-site events, offering informal Jewish learning, social activities, and real-world experiences.

Grades 8–12 have dedicated teen programming designed to explore Jewish identity, leadership, and community in a meaningful way.

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 to run programs on Sunday mornings, Monday *Chugim*, Thursday Religious School, or Saturday Junior Congregation.

All Temple Israel members in grades 8-12 are eligible to apply for this opportunity, which offers either service-learning hours or a stipend upon completion of the program. 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 our Education Director, Abby Newman Wallach.

Pick-Up & Drop-Off Procedures at Temple Israel

The safety of every child is our top priority. To ensure smooth and secure arrival and dismissal, please carefully review and follow these guidelines:

General Safety Reminders

- **Drive slowly** and remain alert for children and pedestrians at all times.
- **Traffic is one-way only** during drop-off and pick-up. Enter from Pond Street, keep right, and follow the loop toward the main entrance.
- **No cell phone use** while driving in the parking lot, especially in the drop-off/pick-up lane.
- **Use headlights** in rainy, snowy, or foggy weather to improve visibility.
- **No parking** in the drop-off/pick-up lane—use only for active loading and unloading.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up Location

- All drop-off and pick-up will occur at the **front entrance** of Temple Israel.
- If the front entrance is unavailable (e.g., due to an event), we will use the **side doors by the Chapel**. Families will be notified via email in advance of any change.

Car Line Procedures

- **Pull as far forward as possible** before stopping to load or unload.
- **Do not pass** other vehicles to move ahead in line.
- **Stay in your vehicle** at all times during carline pick-up or drop-off.
- Students will enter and exit through the **passenger side** only.
- **Turn off your engine** while waiting in the loading zone.
- **Wait for staff direction** before moving your vehicle—safety is our priority.

Student Dismissal Process

- Students will be **escorted by their teachers** to the front and wait with their class until their name is called.
- **Religious School staff** will supervise dismissal and help children into vehicles with their belongings.
- If your child is not ready when you arrive, you may be asked to **pull forward** to keep the line moving.

Picking Up Inside the Building

- If you prefer to pick up your child inside:
 - **Park in a designated space**, away from the drop-off/pick-up lane.
 - **Enter the building** and **escort your child out safely**.

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. No students will be allowed to participate in this program without express permission.

Students must follow the directions of the supervising adult. 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 the Religious School Director Abby Newman Wallach.

Early Dismissal - The curriculum and education program for our children is quite ambitious and requires every minute of class time to accomplish these goals. If any students must leave early, the parent 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 send an email. 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 child's 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. Outside 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 make sure that all food and beverage products 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 regularly.

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 cannot be reached, the emergency contacts provided 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 principal 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 children(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). To help parents stay informed, 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 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 directly. If there are further questions or concerns, parents can then contact the Education Director. Questions regarding policy should be brought to the attention of the Education Director and the Education Committee. If you wish to speak at the committee meeting, please contact the Education Director or the Chair of the Education Committee (Rebecca Corke) before 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 Education 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 Education Director to understand the situation, allow student/s to share what happened, and work towards problem solving.
- **Third Offense:** Education Director sends note home to parents/ guardians
- **Fourth Offense:** Student will be sent to the school office. The Education Director will schedule a follow up conversation with the parents to best support the child.

If challenging behavior continues, the student and parents/guardian will be required to meet with the Education 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 Education 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, and 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.
- 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*- practice 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 quarter to establish vision, policies, goals and directions for the Youth Education programs. Please reach out to the Education Committee Chair if you would like to be involved

Education Committee Chair- Rebecca Corke

Class Parents - Class parents aid and support the religious school teachers and Director of Youth Education and Programming. You may be asked to make phone calls, help with a special project or holiday celebration. This is a wonderful way to be involved with your child's Jewish learning. Please volunteer to be a class parent.

Volunteers- If you are unable to make a regular commitment as a class parent, 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 Parent 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: _____