

## Code of Conduct: The Brit of Ethics

Adopted November, 2009, updated September 2011

*Where there is no Torah, there is no proper conduct; where there is no proper conduct, there is no Torah. (Pirke Avot - Ethics of the Fathers 3:21)*

Beth Am Temple Religious School believes that in order for Jewish education to be effective, there must be mutual respect and cooperation between teachers, students and parents. Teachers are expected to treat all students with dignity and respect. Students are expected to follow the guidelines for classroom conduct that their teachers set. Parents are expected to become involved when disciplinary problems arise. The following guidelines have been adopted to deal with disciplinary situations. Please read and discuss this *Brit* (Covenant) with your children.

*Who is wise? One who learns from all people. (Pirke Avot - Ethics of the Fathers 4:1)*

### Goals:

- 1) To provide a safe and comfortable environment for learning.
- 2) To create an environment of respect for self, respect for peers and respect for authority.
- 3) To establish a community where the home and school work together to produce responsible students who are accountable for their actions at all times.

*Learning begins with listening. (Noah Ben Shea, The Word)*

### Expectations:

- 1) Students are expected to:
  - a. Speak, act, and dress respectfully at all times;
  - b. Follow instructions;
  - c. Conduct themselves with self-control;
  - d. Follow all classroom and school rules.
  
- 2) The following are examples of specific behaviors which interfere with the stated goals and expectations of our school and are therefore subject to discipline.
  - a. Disrupting class
  - b. Engaging in any physical act that can hurt someone
  - c. Bullying/teasing another student
  - d. Acting disrespectful toward teacher(s)
  - e. Causing damage or disruption to property, building or items; vandalism; "making a mess"
  - f. Cutting class
  - g. Possessing dangerous items
  - h. Cursing/using offensive language
  - i. Using cell phone/electronics in class, the halls, bathrooms, or sanctuary (cell phone should be off)
  - j. Smoking, possessing drugs or alcohol

## Code of Conduct: The Brit of Ethics, *continued*

*Everyone can raise himself, but only by his own actions. (Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav, 1772-1810)*

### Consequences:

The following measures may be taken when a student engages in misconduct. Generally, progressive steps shall be taken with repetitive incidents. Depending on the nature, severity and/or frequency of the misbehavior, steps may be skipped at the discretion of the teacher and/or Principal. Individual consequences will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- 1) Teacher will discuss incident with student. Where applicable, the following measures may also be taken:
  - a. Teacher may confiscate any forbidden item. At teacher's discretion, item shall be returned at end of class or held until it can be returned to the parent.
  - b. Student shall make restitution for damage/behavior (e.g., apologize to class or individual, replace damaged items, clean up mess).
- 2) Student will be sent to the Principal and student's parents will be contacted.
- 3) Meeting will be held with parent/teacher and Principal. As needed, a behavior management plan will be created (See #4).
- 4) A behavior management plan will be created with consequences built in. Individual circumstances will be considered, such as whether the student has an identified disability, current family issues, etc.
- 5) Parent will be required to sit in during class.
- 6) Meeting will be held with parent and Rabbi. (Principal and/or teacher will be included if appropriate).
- 7) Student will be suspended from class. Suspension will count as an unexcused absence and an appropriate make-up assignment will be required. If the student is currently taking Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons, lessons will also be suspended.
- 8) Dismissal from Religious School.

*Say not, "When I have leisure I will study." Perhaps you will have no leisure. (Pirke Avot - Ethics of the Fathers 2:3)*

### **Beth Am Temple Religious School**

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