



Hebrew High Handbook

For Parents and Students

5772

2011-2012

Beth Am Temple Religious School

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Introduction to Hebrew High

Shalom! Welcome to Hebrew High School!

Please take the time to read this entire Parent ~ Student Handbook where you will find everything you need to know about the program. Included is a description of Core Courses and electives which will be offered this coming year. In addition, information about the Pizza E-Z Slice System is enclosed. Pizza will be served at 6 PM. It's a great opportunity to unwind and socialize with other Hebrew High students before class begins.

After reading through the material, if you haven't already, please be sure that you or your student returns the Pizza Form with payment as soon as possible. (If you haven't already sent in your school enrollment form, that is due now as well.) Forms are available online.

In many ways, post B'nai Mitzvah Jewish experiences and Jewish education could be more important than anything that preceded it. This is a period where our young adults begin to transform into independent people who are forming their own ideas, values, and a way of life. Teenagers question and discuss. These are the tough years, the years preceding college and perhaps living away from home. Continuing in Hebrew High School, having an opportunity to learn, inquire, and develop Jewishly plays an important role for them now and forever. Please encourage your student to enroll, attend, and remain active in our Beth Am Temple.

Hebrew High School (grades 8, 9, and 10) meets every Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 PM. A calendar of School Events and Dates, and the School Curriculum, can be found online at our Religious School web pages: www.bethamtemple.org

The school year is divided into three trimesters. Per trimester, 8th and 9th graders will participate in one core class, assigned by grade, and one elective. Tenth graders will have one core class and one elective during the fall trimester and then spend the 2nd and 3rd trimester with the Rabbi in their Confirmation class.

There will be no required Hebrew classes, although this may be offered as an elective if there's enough student interest.

Please read the Code of Conduct, attendance and Mitzvah hour policies as outlined by our School Committee. We have an active, involved Religious School Committee which meets monthly. We invite you to contact us with any questions.

If you have any ideas, concerns, criticisms, or even compliments, please feel free to call me at the Religious School office at (845) 735-5858 x 15 or email me at principal@bethamtemple.net

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Kol tuv,
Marian Kleinman, Principal
Rabbi Daniel Pernick
Cantor Marcy Kadin

Beth Am Temple Religious School
Code of Conduct: The Brit of Ethics

Adopted November, 2009

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)

Statement of Purpose

Bar/Bat Mitzvah marks a new stage in our Jewish development. In Hebrew High School, students move beyond learning about Judaism and begin using Judaism to elevate the quality of their lives and the lives of those around them.

In Hebrew High School, students will be treated as the young adults that they are now. We want to help them develop and use a Jewish perspective to wrestle with the difficult issues that face them and our world.

Students whose attendance and classroom performance meet our standards will participate in a Confirmation service on *Erev Shavuot* at the end of tenth grade. Eleventh and twelfth graders participate in a monthly post-Confirmation group. After two years in this program, our students graduate from Hebrew High School in a special June ceremony held at Friday night services.

The synagogue is a place of worship, study, and meeting. By successfully blending all three activities in the lives of our students, we hope to make our students better able to deal with the challenges of trying to live lives that make a positive difference in the world.

Attendance Policy

In order to benefit from the courses offered, regular attendance is expected. All teachers will record attendance. As a High School student, there will be times when absences are unavoidable. Our goal is to keep this to a minimum. Any student absent five or more sessions during one semester will be asked to complete an assignment, which covers or approximates the missed material.

Students who are absent more than 50% of the year and have not completed their make-up work will have their names submitted to the Religious School Committee, with a recommendation that they may not be advanced into the next year of Hebrew High School until their work is completed.

Core Courses

Each grade in Hebrew High School has three required core courses, which will be offered. The core courses, which are subject to change, are:

Grade 8: Comparative Judaism, Holocaust Writings, Modern Israel

Grade 9: Holocaust Studies, Pirke Avot, Comparative Religions

Grade 10: Sacred Choices and The Rabbi's Confirmation Class

Elective Classes

The electives are open to all grades. Students are requested to choose 3 electives. We will do our best to give you your choices but we cannot guarantee that your choice will be offered. We are a small school and we do not have the personnel to offer all of the choices offered by larger schools. Please refrain from signing up for an elective taken in a previous year. Students sign up for their electives on the first day of Hebrew High.

Grade 10: Students take one elective, which is offered in the first trimester. The second and third trimester, two thirds of the year, are dedicated to Confirmation class. Tenth graders meet with the Rabbi for 90 minutes beginning in the late fall.

Mitzvah Hours

Participating in the community is important to Judaism. All Hebrew High School students are expected to complete a minimum number of hours of community service. This would include activities such as volunteering at a hospital, nursing home, shelter, or community food bank. Mitzvah hours may also be fulfilled at the Temple through the social action committee or at the Religious School.

A record of completed Mitzvah hours must be submitted to the Rabbi on or before March of each school year. When appropriate, the signature of a supervising adult or director should be included.

It's strongly suggested that students complete their Mitzvah hours as soon as possible.

The number of Mitzvah hours required per grade is as follows:

- Grade 8 – 8 Mitzvah hours
- Grade 9 – 12 Mitzvah hours
- Grade 10 – 16 Mitzvah hours

Students who wish to work in our Religious School must be registered in the Hebrew High School and Post Confirmation and are asked to do the following:

- To serve as a *dugmah*, role model
- To conduct themselves in a mature and respectful manner
- To find a substitute tutor if they're going to be absent from an assigned tutoring session

Volunteers must complete the appropriate number of Mitzvah hours for their grade (see above please) while working in the Religious School before they are able to earn any money for their work. Only students who pass a Hebrew reading test will receive compensation for their work in the Religious School. Seniority, attendance, cooperation, availability, and skills are taken into account when paying tutors.

Letters or emails will be sent out when volunteers/ tutors are scheduled.

If assigned to a specific time, please pay attention to that day and time. We are counting on you! Email and/ or call if the volunteer is unavailable. Please don't rely on someone else to remember to tell us that you are away for the day!

It is up to the student to contact Marian Kleinman to schedule a Hebrew reading test.

The Religious School Committee set this policy forth in Fall 2001.

Please contact the Principal as soon as possible if you desire to work as a volunteer or send in the form with the signature of both the parent and student. Space is limited. Schedules and duties are assigned. You may not work in the Religious School unless you have an assignment to do so on a specific day.



Pizza E-Z Slice System

By popular demand, the Pizza E-Z Slice System is returning this year. For your convenience, you may pre-pay the year with the forms provided. This will entitle your child to one slice of pizza each week during the year. You will save money this way! If you want to sign up for 2 slices, or more, please submit a check accordingly.

Each week, a student may purchase slices of pizza with cash as well, as long as pizza is available. If a student would like more than what they pre-paid, they may also purchase additional slices at the "per slice" cost, if extra slices are available any given evening.

Sorry, pizza missed during an absence cannot be 'made-up' for the next week since your pre-payment will enable us to order accurately each week to ensure that no one goes hungry. If you know you will not be eating pizza one week OR will be absent, PLEASE CALL MARIAN and leave a message on her cell phone on Tuesday BEFORE 12 noon. It is a sin to order more pizza than we will eat.

Please send in your check for the appropriate amount as soon as possible to Beth Am Temple Hebrew High School, ATT.: Marian Kleinman. Checks should be made payable to Beth Am Temple Pizza Account and should be returned with your student's elective form on or before the first day of Hebrew High classes.

Pizza Parents

ALL Hebrew High parents will be scheduled at least one Tuesday night a year from 6 – 8 pm to help with pizza distribution and to sit in the front office during class. Please be sure to bring 5-6 bottles of soda or juice and 40 cups the night you help. You're invited to bring a light dessert such as cookies (optional). Please see our online "Pizza Parents" calendar for your name and date. If you cannot help the day you are scheduled, it is up to you to find a replacement. Assigned dates will be included in the weekly "School News" emails sent.

Post Confirmation

Our 11th and 12th graders will meet approximately once a month. Our mini-adventures, lead by Rabbi Dan, Cantor Marcy, or Minihellet Marian will be on Sundays or sometimes other dates, depending upon special programming we've found. Please encourage your student to attendance or all of the evenings. Please note dates on calendar.

The "RAC" Trip

For a number of years, our 10th, 11th, and 12th graders have attended the 4-day L'taken Seminar of the Religious Action Center in Washington, DC. It is a wonderful social and educational 4-day seminar. Please plan to attend. Dates and cost information will be sent home as soon as they are available. All students must be registered in Hebrew High School or Post Confirmation in order to attend RAC.

Shabbat and Shavuot Services

All Hebrew High Students in Grades 8, 9, and 10, are required to attend the Shavuot/Confirmation Service each Spring. This service, led by our tenth graders, is the informal "graduation" from Hebrew High School. During second and third trimesters, the tenth graders prepare the service by choosing a theme and preparing a creative service.

In addition to Confirmation service on Shavuot, our eighth and ninth graders lead a Shabbat morning service together during the school year. Parents are expected to organize a Kiddush for this service.

Snow Days

If the weather is inclement, you may check the voicemail: 845-735-5858 ext. 15, email Marian Kleinman at principal@bethamtemple.net or log onto

www.cancellations.com

Youth Group

Beth Am Temple's Youth Group ("PRTY") invites students in Grades 6-12 to participate in a variety of social, religious, educational, and community service activities throughout the year. We often join with other area youth groups. Our youth group is affiliated with NFTY and our students take part in several NFTY events.

For more information, please contact our Youth Advisor, Janet Levitt, at prtyouthgroup@gmail.com