Dear Temple Israel Religious School Community —

It is with great joy and excitement that we usher in a new year at Temple Israel. I am excited to witness the learning, growth and community building that is surely in store for us this coming year.

As the Director of Education, I thought it wise to consult age old rabbinic wisdom to help prepare myself and the program for this coming year. I want to share with you what I learned:

“Before saying his lecture to the sages, Rabbah used to tell a joke in order to amuse them.” — Talmud Bavli Pesachim 117a
Lesson: Whatever we do, it has to be fun

“Rava said: If you see a student whose studies come as hard as iron, it is because his teacher does not understand him.” — Talmud Bavli, Taanit 7b-8a
Lesson: Everyone can learn, we must meet our students where they are

“Happy is the student whose teacher concedes that they are right.” — Talmud Bavli Berachot 32a
Lesson: Everyone has something to teach, everyone has something to learn

“Hillel said: a frightened person is not apt to learn.” — Talmud Bavli Sanhedrin 21a
Lesson: First things first, Temple Israel must be a place where all students feel comfortable

Like all of us, children are at their best when they feel safe and confident. Learning is boredom and drudgery if the student does not feel seen, loved, and understood. Prayer is rote if it is not joyful; Torah study seems pointless if it does not connect to our lives.

I became a teacher of Judaism - of Torah, prayer, theology, and Jewish history - because I believe that Judaism is a useful, meaningful lens through which we can understand our world, ourselves, and our human relationships. As a teacher in this institution, I have witnessed the transformational and inspirational power of Judaism. I have watched your children grow up thoughtful, kind, and brave with real questions and powerful ideas about the world around them. I have observed their growing confidence and have been blown away by their insight.

Taking a cue from my rabbinic forebears, here is my hope for our new year together:
May our learning be fun; May we see each student clearly and meet them where they are; May we learn from every person we meet; and finally, may we all find a safe, loving home here at Temple Israel.

My door is always open. I look forward to connecting with you and getting to know you.

My best for a sweet new year,
Rabbi Suzie Jacobson
## TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: AT A GLANCE

### School Hours

**Sundays:** 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
*All Grades*

**Tuesdays or Thursdays:** 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
*3rd-7th Grade; 2nd grade optional*

### WE ARE:

**People-Centered**
- Project based and experiential learning
- Programs that build community
- Classrooms that foster relationships

**Urban, Inclusive and Diverse**
- Students from more than 50 local day schools in the Greater Boston area
- Welcoming to LGBTQ, interfaith, and multi-ethnic families
- Adaptable curricula and modalities, as well as an Inclusion Coordinator and 1:1 student aides on staff, to support all learning needs

**Empowered Judaism**
- Curricula that builds cultural literacy
- Experiences that foster Jewish identity formation

**Content Rich, Spiritually Meaningful and Joyful**
- Intellectually inspiring and skill focused Torah, Hebrew, and Prayer curricula designed for the TI community
- An environment that encourages curiosity and creativity
- Joyful and nurturing spiritual opportunities

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**For more information contact**  
Brigid Goggin, Assistant Director of Education-Operations  
bgoggin@tisrael.org, 617.566.3960  
www.tisrael.org/religious-school
MEET THE EDUCATION STAFF

Rabbi Suzie Jacobson, Director of Education
Rabbi Jacobson is lead on ensuring the development and evolution of the program, hiring and mentoring teachers, developing curricula, and meeting with parents.
sjacobson@tisrael.org

Brigid Goggin, Assistant Director of Education - Operations
Brigid is lead on School Operations, Marketing and Communications, Program Evaluation, and the Madrichim Program.
bgoggin@tisrael.org

Mike Fishbein, Assistant Director of Education - Engagement
Mike is lead on the Teen Program and the Center for Adult Jewish Learning, and is here on Sunday mornings to assist with the Religious School.
mfishbein@tisrael.org

Roberta Bergstein, Education Coordinator
Roberta is lead on Holiday Programming, TI Tribes, The Justice League, Camping, Day Schools, Creative Learning Initiatives, and RYFTI (youth group).
rbergstein@tisrael.org

Tali Puterman, Social Justice Educator and Community Organizer
Tali organizes social justice efforts across the whole TI community, and works closely with teachers and staff to support content and programming.
tputerman@tisrael.org

Sivan Einsohn, Inclusion Coordinator
Sivan has over ten years of experience in K-12 special education and has been part of our community and religious school family since 2009. She is the lead liaison between parents and teachers to support classroom inclusion for all students.
seinsohn@tisrael.org

Ann Abrams, Librarian
Come find me if you’re looking for any book that has to do with Judaism; a website, blog, tweet, post or pin to help you learn about a Jewish holiday, ritual or piece of text; or a place to curl up with a cup of tea and a good book.
aabrams@tisrael.org

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aabrams@tisrael.org

2017-2018 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FACULTY

Iryna Zakhozha, Lead Kindergarten
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Deborah May, 3rd Grade
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Ari Ebstein, 3rd Grade
aebstein@tisrael.org

Natalya Bernstein, Lead 4th Grade
nbernstein@tisrael.org

Art and Holiday Coordinator

Jamie Cortez, 4th Grade
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Tyler Dratch, Lead 5th Grade
tdratch@tisrael.org

Laura Hawkins, 5th Grade
lhawkins@tisrael.org

Jamie Lichtenstein, Lead 6th Grade
jlichtenstein@tisrael.org

Hebrew & Online Learning Coordinator

Josh Gensler-Steinberg, 6th Grade
joshgs@tisrael.org

Jessica Lowenthal, Lead 7th Grade
jlowenthal@tisrael.org

Online Resource Coordinator

Michelle Raskin, 7th Grade
mraskin@tisrael.org
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: THE FOUR ORIENTATIONS

As students approach 3rd grade and beyond, they will learn important skills that will help them deepen their understanding of Torah and find more relevance in the ancient texts. In order to facilitate this skill building, we teach our students about a “tool box” of orientations - different ways to explore and understand the text. Here is a graphic we use in the classroom to explain the orientations:

**Building our Torah Toolbox - The 4 Orientations**

**The Saw - Parshanut**
- Cut through the text with the rabbis to create something new
- Ask questions that we can’t easily answer
- Fill in holes or gaps
- Interesting or confusing grammar and word choices
- Character motivations and emotions
- Mystical or spiritual interpretations
- Explain mitzvot and commandments that are derived from the narrative

**The Screwdriver - Literary Criticism**
- Take apart the text so we can see all the pieces and elements:
  - Grammar, sentence structure, tone and rhythm
  - Comparing and contrasting similar narrative structures, plots or character traits
  - Patterns, repeated words + themes
  - Character development
  - Puns, double meanings
  - Genre

**The Glue - Personalization**
- Paste the lessons and challenges of the text onto your own life
- How does this text inform my moral values and decision making?
- What in this text is relevant to my life?
- What messages and meanings challenge me?
- How does the narrative challenge or help develop my moral compass?

**The Hammer - Contextualization**
- Nail down the real social, political, religious and economic world of the narrative, and when the text was written.
  - Who wrote the text?
  - How was it passed on?
  - Are there parallel texts in other cultures?
  - When was it written?
  - Political perspective?
  - Religious ideas?
  - Geography - Where did it take place?
  - What did ancient people know that we don’t?

CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE

**Kindergarten**

What does it mean to be Jewish? What do Jews do?

We sing and dance, play and create as we explore Jewish holidays, stories, and rituals. Every Sunday, we learn stories from the weekly Torah portion and holiday cycle.

**1st Grade**

What does it mean to be part of the Jewish community?

We explore what it means to be a part of the Jewish community by delving into the stories told by our ancestors, experiencing rituals, and celebrating holidays together in the classroom.

**2nd Grade**

What does a Jew “do?” What does it mean to be a “good” person?

At Temple Israel we learn Torah and prayer, but most of all we learn what it means to be a “mensch,” a human being. We learn what Judaism has to say about ethics and good deeds and then together, we put these ideas into action.

Also... this is the year we learn to read Hebrew!
3rd Grade

Where do Jews come from?
What can we learn from the stories of our people?

This year is all about stories - the stories our ancestors told about their world and beliefs, hopes and dreams, the stories we learn from our families and other modern Jews, and the stories we tell about our own lives and Judaism. We read the book of Genesis as the quintessential book of Jewish stories.

4th Grade

What does it mean to live in the Jewish covenant?

Now that we have the book of Genesis under our belts, it is time to read the sacred myth of Exodus. Through reading this foundational book, we explore themes of covenant, peoplehood, and liberation. We learn that though the Exodus likely did not happen historically, the stories can teach us many truths about what it means to engage in social justice, be responsible to each other, and find our place in the Jewish covenant.

5th Grade

How can we become actors for positive social change?

It is one thing to know what is just, it is another thing to act on our values and fight for justice in this imperfect world. This year, we find inspiration in the passion of prophets found in Torah, the history books, and today. Then, we move our values and ideals into action and discover how we can become actors for positive change, justice, and peace.

Also: Now that we have polished our Hebrew reading skills, we begin to learn some basics of Hebrew grammar and translation!

6th Grade

How have Jews historically responded to political, social, intellectual, and geographical changes?
How did our ancestors evolve their Jewish practices and traditions?

When the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, Jews at the time asked themselves - “How can we be Jewish now that our world has vastly changed?” With the advent of modernity, early Reform Jews were confronted with the same question. With change comes creativity and new ideas. In our ever-changing world, liberal Jews are constantly rediscovering how to make Judaism exciting, relevant and meaningful. This year, we enter that conversation and begin to figure out what it means to make Judaism work for us and our time.

Since we are approaching our B’nei Mitzvah year, we begin to learn some basics of Hebrew grammar and translation!

7th Grade

When I say “I am Jewish,” what does that mean?
Where do I fit into the Jewish community?
What are my responsibilities?

In our final year of the program, students, more than ever, have the chance to choose for themselves the content of their unique Jewish identity. Are you Jewish because your parents are Jewish? Are you Jewish because the stories of the Torah resonate with you? Are you Jewish because you believe in the Jewish God? Before moving into the teen program, we spend some time articulating to each other and ourselves just what we believe and know about our Jewish identity. Equally important, we spend time articulating our questions and doubts.

This year we also learn about the Holocaust through the Facing History and Ourselves curriculum. We ask hard questions like “How could this tragedy happen?” and, “How can we make sure this never happens again?” Students are introduced to the stories of “upstanders” who stood up for justice against the odds, and are encouraged to become upstanders in their own lives and communities.
ALL SCHOOL SUNDAY PROGRAMMING

HOLIDAYS
This year, there will be special Sunday holiday programming during religious school hours for Hannukah (December 17), Purim (March 4), Passover (April 1), and Shavuot (May 20). Each program will include cross-grade learning with an elective-style structure. In addition, we invite all families to participate in congregation-wide holiday celebrations, which we will send information about in our bi-weekly emails.

TIKKUN OLAM DAY
Tikkun Olam Day on Sunday, April 29, 2018 will be the culmination of a year long commitment to Social Justice Learning. All students will participate, and details for preparation will be provided by Tali Puterman throughout the year.

TI TRIBES
From 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. every Sunday, we will come together as a school and learn through high energy, hands on activities, deep Jewish questions, and lots of fun. Our main objective is for your kids to feel a part of a large community while learning about themselves and their Judaism.

Kindergarten and 1st Grade students will meet in the chapel for songs, blessings, and community time. Grades 2 - 7 will meet in Levi Auditorium to participate in a year long “Quest for the Best”. In 4 tribes, students will explore four distinct pathways of Jewish expression and living, so they can determine which Jewish pathway is the most meaningful to them.

HEBREW CURRICULUM
Learning Hebrew is just one of the many pieces of “Jewish literacy” we aim to teach in the Temple Israel education program. Our goals are for students both to learn to decipher Hebrew in order to participate in prayer and read from the Torah at their bar/bat mitzvah, and also to learn enough prayer and Torah vocabulary so they are able to understand foundational Hebrew language. As we are a supplemental program, we do not have the time to teach Modern Hebrew in our program. However, we are happy to connect your student with resources and opportunities for further learning.

OUR HEBREW PROGRAM AT A GLANCE
Hebrew letter recognition begins in 2nd grade on Sundays and ramps up in 3rd grade when our students join either the weekday program or one of our tutorial programs. In our weekday program, students in 3rd-7th grade are placed into Hebrew groups that meet in the first hour of class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In Hebrew groups, students work on letter recognition, fluency, and translation, depending on their skill level and interest. In our in-person or online tutorial programs, students learn at their own pace.

We seek to meet every student where they are and have an inclusion team ready to provide extra support to any learner with reading challenges.

CLASSES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

The Religious School offers a choice between two Sunday classes, based on age group, for our young learners. Both classes meet for two 8-week sessions in the fall and winter on Sundays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Classes are open to both members and non-members as a way to ease into the full Religious School experience.

PRE-K CLASS
The Pre-K class is designed for kids who are one year away from Kindergarten. Class time includes hands-on learning with activity centers and group time to learn about holidays, Torah, the synagogue, blessings, and more.

SUNDAY SANDBOX
The Sunday Sandbox is for 3-4 year olds who will not be going into Kindergarten the following year. The class offers play-based learning to explore Jewish values, community, and holidays.

Natanya Cohen, Lead PreK Teacher
Lindsay Ellis, Lead Sandbox Teacher

2017-2018 SESSION DATES
Fall session:
October 15, October 22, October 29, November 5, November 12, November 19, December 3, December 10

Winter session:
January 21, January 28, February 5, February 11, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25

For more information contact:
Brigid Goggin, Assistant Director of Education
bgoggin@tisrael.org; 617-566-3960 x125
SOCIAL JUSTICE AT TI

Elementary Education Social Justice Framework

Our Social Justice structure provides room for personal exploration of issues of injustice that are important to students and families while also working within and towards community. We are supporting our students and families to take a proactive role in civic life and realize their capacity for making change. We recognize that students and their families at Temple Israel are looking for a learning experience that is engaging, educational, transformative, and fun and our social justice programming strives to realize these diverse and important goals.

Our Social Justice curriculum promises to:
• Reinforce Jewish values, contexts, and understandings as they relate to social justice engagement using texts and stories (biblical and other);
• Teach students the root causes of societal inequalities. Students will be able to identify the difference between tzedakah (charity) and tzedek (justice);
• Create opportunities for students to connect with their classmates, teachers, families, and the greater Boston community;
• Provide students access to legitimate sources of power, therefore reducing the likelihood they will pursue destructive forms of power;
• Provide students with the tools and support they need to analyze the issues in their communities, schools, and personal lives;
• Show students that we respect their ability to make real, meaningful, and positive changes in their schools, communities, and lives.

Our Social Justice curriculum hopes to:
• Provide for Temple Israel students an outlet to engage with one another and their communities in a fun way, while anchoring the fun within social justice activities, projects, and events;
• Instill in students an understanding of systemic and institutionalized inequalities that will strengthen as they grow throughout their years here and into adulthood.
• Provide students with an understanding that the learning we do within Temple Israel is meaningful to their lives outside of this building. Further, that Judaism is relevant for their day-to-day lives.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE

The JL’s mission is to bring together energetic 5th-7th graders from our religious school and day school communities to create dynamic opportunities to explore and become their best selves as they prepare for b’nei mitzvah and beyond. In the JL, kids will:
• Discover their own voice within our wisdom tradition;
• Realize their unique abilities to impact our world; and
• Find their place within our community.

Justice League Core Programs will include:

Shul-ins & Sunday Fundays: At shul-ins, JL members bond with their peers while spending the night at the temple before a day of hard work impacting the world. JL members will sleep on the bima, eat delicious food, worship in fun ways, and play games. On Sunday morning, JL members will go out into the greater Boston area to make change in the world and have fun. The day will end with a youth group style activity.

Kallot: JL members will spend a weekend away at camp with the clergy and JL staff. Students will experience Shabbat in a new way: sleeping in bunks, special camp style worship, outdoor challenges, plus havdallah and s’mores around the campfire, and of course lots of FUN.

Social Justice in Action (SJA): In 5th grade students focus on learning and discovery, in 6th grade on action and reaction, and in finally in 7th grade on reflection and interpretation. In 6th grade, with the SJA project, families have the opportunity to build community while taking action on issues that are important to them with the help and support of the Social Justice Organizer and Educator. Families have the opportunity to engage in a yearlong project (of their choosing) through direct service and grassroots organizing.

For more information contact:
Roberta Bergstein, Education Program Manager or Tali Puterman, Social Justice Community Organizer and Educator rbergstein@tisrael.org; tputerman@tisrael.org
BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM

We view Bar/Bat Mitzvah as one of the transformational moments in the life of a child and his/her family. It marks the transition from Jewish childhood to the next stage of Jewish life and reflects the combined commitment of the adult Jewish community (parents, teachers, clergy) to educate, encourage, and nurture our children.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah is both a privilege and a responsibility. Since Jewish study is a lifelong endeavor that both nourishes the individual and contributes to the continuity and creativity of the Jewish community, we seek to imbue our students with a strong foundation for their continued pursuit of Jewish knowledge.

Students must fulfill these basic requirements in order to be eligible to become a bar or bat mitzvah at Temple Israel:
1. Regular attendance at Religious School.
2. Participation in the 6th Grade Kallah
3. Engagement in The Justice League

A date for a student’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah will be assigned through Cantor Einhorn’s office in 4th grade. A Bar/Bat Mitzvah timeline, outlining the entire Bar/Bat Mitzvah process, is sent to every family along with the date application.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH PREPARATION AND TRAINING

Individual tutoring that accompanies the Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation process is a completely separate program, educationally and administratively. Ten to twelve months before their ceremonies, students work with a tutor on their Torah and Haftorah portion, either privately or through the Temple program. This is arranged through Cantor Einhorn’s office.

For more information contact
Sue Missekbeck – susannm@tisrael.org, 617-566-3960
www.tisrael.org/life-cycle-events

A LOOK AHEAD: THE TEEN PROGRAM

Temple Israel’s Teen Education Program engages teens as participants in Jewish educational experiences that are relevant to their day-to-day lives. Students learn to advocate for themselves and their needs and develop as leaders who have ownership and agency over their education and what their Judaism means to them. There are three main components: The Tent, Madrichim, and RYFTI.

THE TENT: A JEWISH LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR GREATER BOSTON TEENS

In partnership with our Jewish neighbors, The Tent connect teens with a diversity of voices to strengthen them as learners, as thinkers, and as young American Jews. Our program is open to all interested teens, grades 8 through 12. We meet (almost) every Monday, September – May. Students participate in both grade-specific and mixed grade classes that cover diverse topics. 8th graders spend the fall semester learning, working, and discussing their way through the Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum.

Dinner is from 5:45 – 6:30 p.m., 1st Class: 6:40 – 7:30 p.m., 2nd Class: 7:40 – 8:30 p.m

MADRICHIM PROGRAM

The goal of the Madrichim Program is to help our teens develop skills as educational leaders and to provide our Religious School students with excellent role models for youth involvement at TI. Every year, Madrichim (guides), work alongside our K-7 religious school faculty inside and outside of the classroom as Student Teachers, Library Aides, and Office Assistants.

Teens apply to the program in the spring and are offered positions over the summer. Madrichim receive a modest monetary stipend for their work.

RYFTI - REFORM YOUTH FEDERATION OF TEMPLE ISRAEL

Temple Israel provides a broad array of informal, fun Jewish experiences for our teens outside of the classroom. RYFTI holds monthly informal activities and two weekend Kallot held each year: RYFTI Fall Kallah (November) and RFYTI Clergy Weekend (May). These weekend getaways are a time for the teens to bond, have fun, and engage in excellent peer-led learning.

For more information contact
Mike Fishbein, Assistant Director of Education - Engagement
mfishein@tisrael.org, 617.566.3960
www.tisrael.org/teen-ed
CAMPS

Funds Available for First-Time Campers!
If your child has never attended a Jewish overnight camp for a stretch of three weeks or more, he or she is eligible for a $1000 incentive grant toward camp tuition from TI and CJP’s Jewish Educational Overnight Camping Initiative.

To learn more, visit www.onehappycamper.org or contact Roberta at rbergstein@tisrael.org.

ERIC RUBIN, CRANE LAKE AND SIX POINTS SCI-TECH CAMPS

The URJ Camps for Living Judaism are engaged in creative education with the goal of developing a knowledgeable and Jewishly literate community for the future. Tens of thousands of Reform Jewish youngsters experience Jewish living for themselves in a variety of summer and winter camp programs. The concept of total Jewish living includes both study and recreation in a balanced program tailored to the needs and abilities of each age group.

Temple Israel has a long-term relationship with the three URJ camps in Massachusetts, URJ Eisner Camp and URJ Crane Lake Camp, both in Great Barrington, MA, and the new Six Points Sci Tech camp in Byfield, MA.

Please check out these camps online at http://urjyouth.org/camps; the Education staff would also be very happy to talk to you about each camp and how to find a good match for your child’s camping needs.

URJ KUTZ CAMP-INSTITUTE NORTH AMERICAN LEADERSHIP CENTER

URJ Kutz Camp-Institute offers high school student leaders a wide range of programs: through song, dance, drama, study, Hebrew language, and the visual arts Jewish scholars and teachers assembled from around the country lead the informal classes and guide the creation of new forms of Jewish expression. Participants learn song leading, assistant teaching, Israeli dance teaching, and leadership skills that benefit member congregations. For more information, visit http://kutz.urjcamps.org.

ISRAEL

Studies show that an Israel experience cements and strengthens a teen’s Jewish identity and establishes lifelong involvement in the Jewish life. Friendships and bonds with Israel and Israelis forged on teen Israel trips last well into adulthood. Our goal is for our teens to travel to Israel in the summer between 10th and 11th grades, immediately following Confirmation. Temple Israel students have participated in a number of trips, the most popular of which are those run by NFTY, the North American Federation of Temple Youth) and by the Nesiya Institute.

NFTY IN ISRAEL

NFTY trips are affiliated with the Reform Movement and have historically been the most popular with Temple Israel teens, who often participate as a group. NFTY offers several different trip models of 4 and 6 weeks in duration (one begins with a week in the Czech Republic and Poland). Once in Israel, students travel all over the country, hiking, going on an archeological dig, seeing historical and religious sites, and staying with Israeli teens in their homes. NFTY trips also feature a 4-day “chavaya” (special interest) section in which teens can meet kids from outside their particular group, joining together in one of five “electives”: hiking and biking from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean, doing community service, helping at an archeological dig, joining an army training, or delving into the Tel Aviv arts and culture scene.

For more information, please visit http://www.nftyisrael.org/ or contact Mike Fishbein in the Teen Education office at mfishbein@tisrael.org or 617-566-3960 x126.

NESIYA TRIPS

Nesiya trips are six weeks long and mix outdoor adventure, arts and cultural experiences, homestays with Israeli teens and families, and a strong community service component. Nesiya attracts participants and staff from Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, secular and non-affiliated backgrounds, as well as others who have little or no Jewish background. Students spend the entire trip in Israel.

For more information, please visit http://www.nesiya.org/ or contact Mike Fishbein in the Teen Education office at mfishbein@tisrael.org or 617-566-3960 x126.

THE BOSTON-HAIFA CONNECTION: A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR TI TEENS

The Tent is a partner site for Boston-Haifa Connection, facilitated by CJP. Beginning in 5777, we will offer a Boston-Haifa Connection elective as part of The Tent, which will share curriculum and communicate throughout the year with a sibling class at Kiryat Haim High School in Haifa. The course will culminate with a 10-day trip to Israel, and a 10-day visit to Boston for their sibling classmates from Kiryat Haim.
EDUCATION PROGRAM POLICIES

MEETING THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Temple Israel is committed to the inclusion of all children and families in all aspects of Jewish religious and community life, including participation in services, choir, youth groups, family education, Passport to Israel, and special events. Every learner is unique. The most beneficial learning and participation take place when these individual needs are recognized. If your child has a particular learning or behavioral style, or if your family is involved in a difficult time which may necessitate some accommodation, please let us know so that we can make every effort to ensure the provision of appropriate supports. All parents are invited to make an appointment with the Director of Elementary Education Orna Sonnenschein to review your child’s learning needs in order to create the optimal program for each child. We are committed to working in partnership with families toward the shared goal of meaningful and enriching Jewish learning.

SPECIAL NEEDS

School-parent partnerships play an important role in developing the optimal learning program for each student. Parents of children with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) are encouraged to speak with the Inclusion Coordinator or Director of Education each summer and at the end of each term in order to review the year and to assess the child’s individualized needs. Modifications will be made on a case-by-case basis as determined in conjunction with the education staff, clergy, youth staff, family education staff, and the student’s family. Special provisions may include, but are not limited to remedial Hebrew/Judaic assistance, partial mainstreaming with or without individual assistance and support, 1:1 aides to support participation in the classroom, full inclusion with an adapted curriculum, modification of materials, and/or teacher support through individual or faculty-wide training sessions. Progress will be carefully reviewed and monitored throughout the academic year.

Three years prior to each student’s 13th birthday, the families of students with significant special needs begin to work with Cantor Einhorn to prepare for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies. These ceremonies are often modified ceremonies decided upon by the families and clergy in consultation with the education staff.

HEBREW TUTORIAL PROGRAM

Temple Israel Religious School values flexibility and inclusive learning. The Tutorial Program is designed to support students in Grades 3-7 who anticipate significant Sunday absences, cannot participate in weekday programming, and/or would benefit from individualized attention.

The Tutorial Program allows students to engage with our full curriculum and Hebrew learning outside of regular Religious School hours. Tutors will work with your schedule and come to your home for one-to-one or small group tutorial sessions. To register, visit tinyurl.com/RSTutoring or contact Brigid Goggin at bgoggin@tisrael.org.

CONTACT BRIGID

contact Brigid Goggin at bgoggin@tisrael.org.

ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM

Our Online Hebrew Learning Program is a way to support students in Grades 3-7 in Hebrew learning who cannot regularly attend weekday classes, or would benefit from supplemental learning time. Please note the Online Hebrew Learning Program is not designed to replace Sunday learning time.*

The Online Hebrew Learning Program allows a student to consistently engage with Hebrew language learning on their own schedule. Our Online Learning Coordinator and Hebrew Reading Specialist will track their progress and offer support along the way. In addition, students will virtually meet with a tutor who can answer any questions and help meet learning goals.

There are two tracks for the Online Learning Program:

1. Weekday Alternative – For students who cannot attend any weekday classes during the year due to schedule conflicts. Expectations include weekly log-ins and bi-monthly check-ins with a virtual tutor. Goals will be set and progress will be tracked by the Online Learning Coordinator throughout the year.

2. Supplemental – For students who anticipate significant absences from weekday classes throughout the year or have a desire for additional learning time. Expectations for time spent will be set in collaboration between the Online Learning Coordinator and the family to best meet student goals.

*If you anticipate your child missing several Sunday classes over the year, please contact Rabbi Suzie Jacobson, Director of Education, at sjacobson@tisrael.org to discuss options.

FEES

The cost of a full year of tutorial covers payment for 30-one hour sessions with a tutor and the necessary administrative costs. The price varies based on the number of students in a group (see below). If you do not plan to do a full year of tutorial, please contact Brigid to discuss a prorated cost.

- One-to-One Private Tutorial = $2,300 per student
- Small Group Tutorial with 2 students = $1,490 per student
- Small Group Tutorial with 3 students = $1,220 per student
- Small Group Tutorial with 4 students = $1,085 per student

A family may choose to be billed upfront, or arrange for a monthly payment plan by contacting Arlete Ramos in the finance office at apeterson@tisrael.org.

Please Note: The religious school tutoring program is NOT the same as Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparation Tutoring. Tutors for Bar/Bat Mitzvah are arranged through Cantor Einhorn’s office.
ATTENDANCE/BEHAVIOR

Temple Israel is committed to a program of academic excellence for all of our students. Each session of school is important. In order for our students to reach their potential, the school and the parents must engage in a full partnership. We ask for your compliance with the school attendance policy. If this is a hardship for your family, please contact Mike Fishbein.

Sunday classes begin PROMPTLY at 9:30 a.m., and Tuesday/Thursday classes at 4:00 p.m.

In order for teachers and students to enjoy the best possible classroom experience, we ask that students arrive on time. Parents should notify the teacher(s) in advance of any pre-planned absence in order to receive any missed assignments and pertinent information (and so that we know everything is okay with you and your child). All assigned work should be made up during the week following the child’s absence. Any student who is absent more than 5 sessions will be asked to complete a special assignment tied to his/her missed curriculum.

Tardiness may be unavoidable at times. In the event that a student arrives after class has begun, the student should go directly to class and enter without disruption. The teachers will note tardy arrival on their attendance records and, if repeated late arrival necessitates make up work because the student has missed key elements of the course, the teacher will notify the student’s parents.

BEHAVIOR

In the event that a student is disruptive, his/her teacher will inform the student’s parents of the concerns/issues in order to try to gain a better understanding of the situation. If the problem persists over three sessions, the student will meet with the Director of Elementary Education. You will then be contacted by the Director of Elementary Education so that we may jointly determine a further course of action. If necessary, all involved parties will meet to arrive at a mutually agreed upon understanding with regard to consequences and actions. We are your partners and want to work with you to ensure a positive experience for your child, your family, as well as for the other students in the program. In extenuating circumstances, the temple reserves the right to withdraw the student from the program.

MEDICAL POLICIES

HEALTH CONCERNS

Please let us know if your child has any special health needs or medical concerns of which we should be aware. In addition, we suggest you speak directly to your child’s teacher(s) regarding these concerns.

ILLNESS

If your child has been ill, please be sure that he or she has been free of fever for 24 hours or on antibiotics for 24 hours before s/he returns to class. (Illnesses of particular concern include: fever, strep throat and conjunctivitis.) In this way, we can ensure the health of other students and our staff.

If a child becomes ill during school, we will notify the child’s parent(s) and ask that you come to take your child home. In case of a major health emergency, we will notify parents immediately. If a parent cannot be reached, we will transport your child to Children’s Hospital.

MEDICATIONS

We are not allowed to dispense medication without a parent’s written permission. Epi pens can be left in the Education Office with your child’s name on them. Included with the pen should be a written note authorizing Temple Israel staff to use it in the case of an allergic reaction. Please be sure the Epi pen is up to date.

FOOD AND ALLERGIES

The Temple Israel of Boston Religious School is a NUT FREE school. When bringing snacks to school, please be sure that no peanut, tree nut, or walnut products are included in the ingredients of the food. There are several children in the program who have nut allergies.

Snacks are not provided by teachers or staff. If food will be offered at a Religious School program for a holiday or special occasion, families will be notified beforehand.

COMMUNICATION

TO GET INFORMATION:

• We will be holding Parent/Teacher Conferences around February vacation. We request that all parents participate in these conferences and respond in a timely manner when asked to set a time to meet with your child’s teacher. This can dramatically enhance your and your child’s experience here at Temple Israel.

• Teachers will communicate with parents on a regular basis via email. We hope that this will allow for a better understanding of what takes place during school. Please see these e-mails as more than just information but rather tools to be used in order to better strengthen the Jewish education of your children. New words, topics of discussion and special projects will be shared so that they can be utilized in discussion with your family throughout the week and in between sessions.

• A bi-weekly e-newsletter will be sent out with information about upcoming programs and school news.

FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

• Call, speak with, or e-mail your child’s teacher: We want to hear from you because you are a critical piece of the communication chain.

• Call, speak with, or e-mail the Assistant Director of Education: If you have been unable to resolve your concern in your contact with your child’s teacher and/or you want more information, contact Bridgid Goggin at bgoggin@tisrael.org, or at 617-566-3960.

• Call, speak with, or e-mail the Director of Education: If you still have concerns or would like advice or guidance, Rabbi Jacobson can be reached at 617-566-3960 or sjacobson@tisrael.org.
PARKING, PICK UP AND DROP OFF

PARKING WHEN YOU ARE AT THE TEMPLE
When coming through the breezeway please have your children exit the car with caution, as this is a very busy time on Nessel Way. Parents and/or those picking up the children on a regular basis should procure a Red parking pass from Irina at the Reception Desk. This pass allows you to park from 3:30 pm on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons and from 8:30 am on Sunday mornings.

If you plan to be at the temple on these days earlier than 3:30 pm or earlier than 8:30 am, take a regular parking ticket when you arrive in the garage (as the Red card will not work other than the above mentioned times) and have it validated at the front desk. We can only validate parking passes for the time you are at Temple Israel.

WHERE TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD
Sunday mornings:
Dismissal for all grades is at 12:00 p.m. Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade students should be picked up from their classroom after TI Tribes. Grades 3-7 will be dismissed to the lobby after TI Tribes.

Tuesdays and Thursdays:
All children will be dismissed to the lobby unless you are waiting outside your child’s classroom. We suggest that all parents park in the garage and pick their child up in the atrium, as this will elevate congestion on Nessel Way.

Early Dismissal:
If your child needs to leave early, they must get a yellow slip from the Education Office before they go to class. To receive a yellow slip, parents can either send a signed note with the child the day of, or email Bridid at bgoggin@tisrael.org at least 24 hours in advance. A student cannot be dismissed from class or permitted to leave the building without a yellow slip.

DR. ARNOLD L. SEGEL LIBRARY CENTER
The Dr. Arnold L. Segel Library Center is located next to the Slater Lounge on the first floor of the synagogue, and includes the Waterman Adult Library, Ellen & Harold Wald Children’s Library and the Dr. David & Leona F. Karp Audio-Visual Center. Ann Abrams, librarian, will gladly assist you with your library needs. The library’s collection includes fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children on topics ranging from Art to the Zohar (Jewish mystical text), plus numerous cds and dvds. Temple members may borrow materials and are welcome to volunteer to help with library programs, such as the annual book fair and Joy Ungerleider Jewish Book Month Program.

Please also feel free to utilize its resources for job-hunting, creating resumes, researching, or finding a quiet space to read a book. We have several computers, access to reference databases, wireless access, and a librarian with over 20 years of experience in helping folks find information.

You can access our library collection anywhere! Please visit our web-catalog, library.tisrael.org