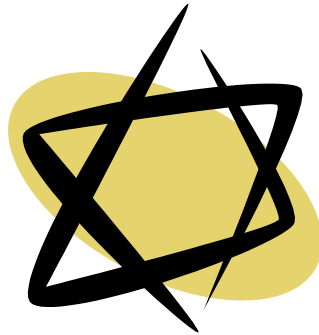


**TEMPLE OF ISRAEL
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
FAMILY HANDBOOK
2016 - 2017**



*Preparing our children
for lifelong Jewish living
and learning.*

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Welcome to the Temple of Israel Religious School

The Temple of Israel Religious School is welcoming, warm and nurturing, fostering a love for Jewish living and learning. Blending the informal with the formal, our commitment is to provide high quality instruction in an environment that is conducive to Jewish self-identity. Our students obtain the tools with which they will be able to pass on our rich heritage.

This handbook contains important information and policies regarding the operation of the Temple of Israel Religious School. Keep this book as a resource and refer to it throughout the school year.

Sunday School Schedule

Kindergarten through 7th Grade.....9:30 - 12:00 noon

Mazel Tots.....9:30 – 11:30 am

8th - 10th grades – Post B’nai Mitzvah Program.... 10:00 - 12:00

Confirmation Class – 12:00 – 12:30

Hebrew Classes

4th - 7th grades - Thursday.....4:30 - 6:00 pm

Mission Statement

The Temple of Israel Religious School introduces students to topics including Hebrew language, Jewish Holy Days, Bible study, history and culture, Israel, mitzvot, prayer, ritual and life cycle events. Our goal is to provide students with the tools they need to participate in a Jewish community, and to spark their enthusiasm for continuing their Jewish learning and involvement throughout their lifetimes.

Parental Involvement

The purpose of our school is to educate your child. To do this we need your input, feedback and cooperation. We encourage parents to make an appointment to observe in the classroom, accompany children on field trips, join at special performances, attend family education workshops, assemblies and activities. Your children want to know that you feel that their time spent in Religious School is important. If you have problems or concerns, feel free to contact the Director of the Religious School. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend services.

Electronic Devices and Cell Phones

Electronic devices shall not be used in class, except under the direction of the teacher. Please be sure your child is aware that students in violation of this policy will have their devices confiscated by school officials. Those devices will be secured and released only to parent/legal guardian. Temple of Israel assumes no responsibility or liability for loss or damage

Attendance, Tardiness and Promotion

Regular attendance is considered one of the most important elements of any successful education program. All students are expected to attend all Religious School/Hebrew School on a regular basis and are required 80% of all class sessions to be promoted to the next grade. Sunday classes start at 9:30 and Thursday Hebrew classes begin at 4:30. Students are expected to arrive **promptly** for both sessions and parents are expected to be prompt for pickup.

Promotion from one grade to another is **NOT** automatic. Promotion to the next grade is determined by the following:

1. The student demonstrating satisfactory academic progress,
2. The student completing course material for that grade,
3. The student attending the minimum requirements of Shabbat services,
4. The student attending a minimum of 80% of the classes scheduled.

If there is a question about promotion eligibility, Hebrew school exit examinations will be given.

Family Service Attendance

Family services are held the third Friday of each month – with the exception of those months in which a holiday falls on this day. **We require that all students attend 75% of Family Services each year. Older students may substitute regular Shabbat services to meet this requirement. Please arrive on time and stay for the entire service to meet attendance requirements. Attendance will be monitored.**

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

All students at the time of Bar/Bat Mitzvah, must be registered and actively participating in Religious School and Hebrew school for at least three (3) consecutive years or demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge, to be determined by the rabbi. Parent(s) must be members of the Temple in good standing. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah should be viewed as a step in the Jewish maturation process and not as a termination of one's Jewish studies. Please refer to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook for more specific information.

Teen Program/Confirmation

Students are expected to be enrolled in the Teen Program upon entering their 8th grade academic school year. This program is a three year program (8th – 10th grade) where upon their 10th grade year they will also have the opportunity to fulfill a supplemental Confirmation class taught by the Rabbi, culminating in Confirmation at the end of 10th grade for those who have successfully completed the above requirements.

Tzedakah

One of our objectives is to have our students feel and act upon their responsibility to the larger Jewish community. Tzedakah in the form of small change is collected in class daily, according to what is comfortable for each student/family. Each class participates in deciding where the funds will go. Acts of *Gemilut Hasadim* (Loving Kindness), giving of yourself and your time, are also encouraged in our program through many special projects.

Field Trips

Many of our classes will be taking field trips to places relevant to class study. You will be notified in advance of any field trip plans. Be sure you have a "Field Trip Approval Form" signed prior to any trip. Please pay careful attention to the times listed on the notices since they might occasionally differ from customary school arrival or dismissal times. We may, at times, need parent chaperones for these trips, and would appreciate your assistance.

Behavior and Academic Problems

It is important that the time our students spend in Religious School be both positive and productive. If your child is having difficulty, either academic or behavioral, the teacher will notify you directly by telephone or in writing. Should the concern continue, a conference will be arranged. **We will not allow a child to remain in the classroom who displays behavior that is disruptive to the class.** Should we need to call you to pick up your child early because of disruption, we appreciate your cooperation in picking him/her up promptly and helping us avoid a recurrence of this misbehavior. Unacceptable behaviors may include, but are not limited to: disrespect, bullying, cyber-bullying, verbal and/or physical abuse, and destruction of property.

Inclement Weather

Decisions regarding closing due to inclement weather will be made by the Religious School Director in coordination with the chairman of the REC and the Rabbi. For Sunday classes, any closings will be passed along by your teacher. The general rule for Thursday Hebrew classes will be: if secular schools are closed due to weather, or, if during the school day, after-school activities are cancelled due to the threat of bad weather, then the Hebrew School will also be closed.

Medications

The Temple cannot be responsible for administering any medications to any students. Please do not send medications with your child to school, either prescription or over-the-counter types. Please administer your child's medications at home, before your child comes to Religious School.

Progress Reports

Reports on your child's progress will be issued two times per year. The purpose of these reports is to inform parents of their child's strengths and weaknesses. Parents are free to ask for a teacher conference at any time during the school year.

Visitors

If your child wishes to bring a visitor to class, please discuss this with your child's teacher beforehand and provide emergency contact information for the visitor. Please remind both children that they are expected to be attentive in class.

Important Names, Numbers and E-mails

☆ Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky	762-0000	rabbipaul@temple-of-israel.org
☆ Sherry Grooms, School Director	367-3913	grooms.shjm@gmail.com
☆ Cheryl Dickman, REC Chair	599-8908	cheryld6868@gmail.com
☆ Temple Office	762-0000	templeoffice@temple-of-israel.org
☆ Temple Website		www.temple-of-israel.org